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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By
Orvin Bontrager
NAIACC
2010 President

Back to Basics

I am becoming more aware of the need to continue reviewing many of the basics of weed control and soil fertility with both new and experienced employees and colleagues.

For example, controlling weeds with glyphosate exclusively is rapidly becoming very poor weed management. As Dr. Michael Owens, Iowa State University weed scientist, stated at the 2007 NAIACC annual meeting in Atlanta, "Clean fields do not necessarily mean good weed management."

I learned the various major herbicides and their modes of action from one of the

best, Dr. Morris Merkle of Texas A&M University, in the mid 1970's. At that time we had about six or seven major, different herbicide classes -- based on their mode of action -- for weed control. Today we still have only about eight. The ALS-AHAS inhibition products came out after I started as a crop consultant. There are many weed species already resistant to that chemistry. It is imperative we are trained and stay informed about the various chemicals and how they work in the plants to manage weed resistance by using multiple modes of action.

It is obvious, when driving through the country soon after spring planting, that many growers are still relying on glyphosate exclusively for weed control. As crop consultants we have a primary role with our clients to influence weed control decisions. Weed competition studies show the need for early control.

Precision Ag has made great strides in accurate placement of various soil fertility nutrients. There is nothing wrong with this science and method of nutrient placement. But once again, as consultants, we need to be able to identify and manage the correct nutrients for proper crop growth. I believe

this management tool can be lost in the bells and whistles of GPS/GIS technologies.

For example, having the correct nitrogen rate on a precision basis can be very important and cost effective. But if the wrong forms of nitrogen fertilizer are broadcast and allowed to lie on the residue and are lost from NH3 volatilization, one has gained little from the precision work. Basic agronomy such as knowledge of how chemicals and fertilizers react in the soil is still very important.

Several years ago, a supplier was utilizing a dry zinc fertilizer product in precision placement, but that particular dry zinc doesn't build the soil test values, even though it may be just as effective the first year as the standard products used in the past. The value of the grid/zone soil sample work and fertilizer placement would be lost in the long run. To be the most cost effective, we want to build up the low testing micronutrient areas and not have to reapply year after year.

Let's not lose the pest management and agronomic basics as we use the new technologies that are becoming a standard part of modern crop production.

Bills Introduced to Protect Producers from Threat of More EPA Regs

Two bills have recently been introduced by House and Senate Ag Committees in an effort to ensure pesticides used consistent to Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registration should not be subject to a costly, redundant and unnecessary permit process under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Ranking congressional member Frank Lucas and six of his colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee introduced H.R. 6087.

Since passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency has interpreted the act to exclude

lawful pesticide applications regulated under FIFRA from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

However, in January 2009, this practice was overturned by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in *The National Cotton Council of America, et al., v. United States Environmental Protection Agency*. The court ruled the EPA did not have the authority under the CWA to exempt application of pesticides. Last year, Rep. Lucas joined several of his colleagues and supported a petition to the Supreme Court to hear the case, but the petition was rejected.

H.R. 6087 would make clear that producers who are in compliance with the require-

ments of FIFRA do not need to obtain Clean Water Act permits.

Congressman Lucas said he urges all of his colleagues to join in supporting H.R. 6087 to address the "enormous regulatory burden" that these new regulations impose on farmers, ranchers, foresters, mosquito-control districts and States.

Similarly, S. 3735 was recently introduced by U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-GA.).

The bill makes it clear that producers in compliance with requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) do not need to obtain

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NAICC's Upcoming Meeting "Where the West Begins"

See you in Fort Worth in January!

This year's NAICC meeting will long be memorable, in part due to its setting -- Fort Worth, Texas -- steeped in western heritage and unrivaled artistic offerings. A city that started as an army outpost is now a sophisticated, cultural destination which offers something for everyone, from the sports aficionado to the arts lover.

What's more, you'll find the Fort Worth hosting its legendary Stock Show and Rodeo while we're in town! The event, which runs January 14 - February 5, draws world leading livestock and cowboys, along with plenty of good old fashioned fair food and fun.

What else will you find in Fort Worth?

The city's legendary Stockyards National Historic District begs to be explored, with a twice-daily cattle drive to thrill visitors year-round. Top country music performers play the stage at Billy Bob's Texas, the "World's Largest Honky-Tonk," and live rodeo takes place every weekend at Cowtown Coliseum, home to the world's original indoor rodeo. The Coliseum, built in 1907, was completed in just 88 working days!

In the Stockyards National Historic District, you'll also find the Livestock Exchange Building, which was built in 1902 and is known as "The Wall Street of the West." It was designed to house the many livestock commission companies, telegraph offices, railroad offices and other support businesses of Fort Worth's livestock industry in the early 1900s.

Downtown you'll find the Heritage Trails, a series of twenty-two bronze sidewalk markers, concentrated on Main Street from Heritage Park to the Fort Worth Water Gardens. These markers tell the story of Fort Worth's history, people, places and events.

Want to see how the cattle barons lived? Visit Thistle Hill, which, built in 1903, is one of the Southwest's best preserved Georgian Revival Mansions. Or check out the Ball-Eddelman-McFarland House, built in 1899, a premier example of Queen Anne-style Victorian architecture.

If shopping and dining are your thing, you'll find plenty of options in the 35-block Sundance Square. This entertainment dis-

trict located across from the Renaissance Worthington Hotel is home to a collection of restaurants, live music clubs, theatres, shops, exciting nightlife and the beautiful Bass Performance Hall. Looking for a true Texas souvenir? Shopping for handcrafted cowboy boots, hats, clothing and souvenirs is abundant in the Stockyards.

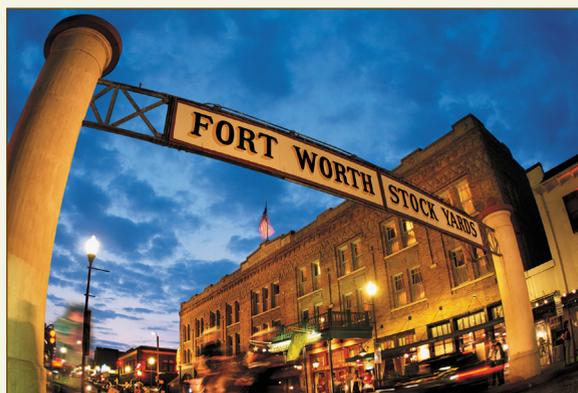
If its museums and arts that you're after, you'll have plenty of options in Fort Worth. The Fort Worth Cultural District is home to five wonderful museums in a relaxing, park-like setting. Check the calendar at the Bass Performance Hall, as Fort Worth takes pride in delivering a wide array of celebrated performances, from ballet to live theater, symphony to opera and local performing arts groups.

Looking for a sportier option? With 230+ days of sunshine a year, Fort Worth is a paradise for sports and outdoor recreation. You'll find NASCAR and IndyCar at Texas Motor Speedway, football at the new Cowboys Stadium and major league baseball just next door at the Rangers Ballpark.

Fort Worth may be the only city in the world where you can catch a competitive rodeo year-round and the whole town goes purple when Texas Christian University's on a winning streak.

The city also offers great weather for golf, and the climate keeps the links lush year-round. Runners, walkers, and bikers will love Fort Worth's parks, especially the greenbelt along the Trinity River, and its trails weaving in and out of scenic areas throughout the city. And the top-ranked Fort Worth Zoo is always a hit.

When the sun goes down, Fort Worth really comes alive. Downtown, Sundance Square provides sidewalks filled with people on the town, enjoying the many Fort Worth nightlife op-



portunities such as nightclubs, restaurants, movies, and live theaters. Up north in the Stockyards, there's always plenty of fun brewing in the Western-style saloons. From roadhouses to refined concert halls, you'll find Fort Worth delivers plenty of entertainment in the form of national and local musical acts.

So what are you waiting for? Pack your boots and get your reservations ready for a truly western Annual Meeting experience. Visit www.naicc.org for details on meeting and hotel registration. For more information on the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, visit www.fwssr.com, and www.fortworth.com for more insight on Fort Worth's events, restaurants, shopping and attractions. See you there!

Join Us In Fort Worth!

2011 NAICC Annual Meeting
January 19-22, 2010

The Worthington Renaissance
200 Main Street

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Phone: 817-870-1000

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dfwdt-the-worthington-renaissance-fort-worth-hotel/>



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Clean Water Act permits. The bill will protect public health and safeguard the environment by ensuring that producers are in strict compliance with FIFRA while simultaneously eliminating duplicative regulatory obligations that would be imposed if Clean Water Act permits are required.

During the more than 35 years since the enactment of the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency has never required a Clean Water Act permit for the application of FIFRA-registered farm chemicals. The FIFRA Paperwork

Reduction Act will prevent EPA from doing so in the future.

With regard to S. 3735, American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman said, "American Farm Bureau Federation strongly supports legislation introduced today by Senators Lincoln and Chambliss to remedy the harmful effects of a court decision that puts farmers at risk of unnecessary and burdensome regulation. This legislation does nothing more than clarify what has been the situation for nearly 40 years – that lawful application of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and

Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) does not trigger regulatory requirements in other programs.

"Congress must step up and take action to clarify the questions raised by a flawed court ruling that, if left to stand, will have ramifications for farmers and ranchers around the country. Farmers know the label on each chemical they use is the law of the land and that they must use chemicals properly. Having additional regulations and bureaucratic red tape will not improve food safety or the environment. We commend the senators for their leadership on this important issue."

Help us Honor Our Members! Send in Your COTY Nominations

BASF generously helps us honor three exemplary leaders within our industry each year through the Consultant of the Year Award (COTY). And to do so we need your help. Send in your nominations for individuals who have gone the extra mile to deliver service, set examples for upcoming consultants, support their community and more. You may nominate yourself!

You'll find a nomination form below or at <http://www.naicc.org/join/Coty.pdf>; please submit it to the NAICC headquarters by October 29, 2010.

The Marketing Committee will then select the 2010 COTY winners, and they will be honored at the Annual Meeting in Fort Worth. Winners will be rewarded with plaques and special recognition during the NAICC President's Lunch and Awards Ceremony (held in conjunction with the NAICC Annual Meeting). The winners will also receive editorial recognition in *Ag Professional* magazine and in NAICC News.

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Facebook!**



Friends, neighbors, schools, libraries and more have gravitated toward Facebook. Let's face it; it's one more way to connect, from near or far. So it makes every bit of sense that NAICC has joined the Facebook community; we want to take advantage of the networking and information-sharing opportunities it affords our members. Next time you log onto Facebook, become a FAN of NAICC. Take a minute to find us and use this online community to help your business flourish!

www.naicc.org

QA Corner

EPA ALERT! Test Substance Storage Temperature Limits Exceeded

By Dr Stu Mertz, QA Representative on NAICC Newsletter Committee, & President, PEAK Quality Consulting, Inc, Cary, NC

At the NAICC Networking Dinner Jan 22, 2010, I "interviewed" Frances Liem and Mark Lehr for additional items to report in this Newsletter. First, I was curious why F. Liem had not given any "Alerts" (e.g., like those at the 2009 NAICC meeting) during her talk "EPA Regulatory Update – EPA Inspections, Findings, Etc." She did not think "Alerts" were appropriate for the Researcher Session; whereas, in prior years she provided "Alerts" during a QA Session. It is recommended that the 2011 Program Committee seek EPA "Alert-like" guidance as appropriate anywhere during the program; it is very valuable information to both Researchers and QAs alike.

Secondly I inquired if there were any items EPA would like to "alert" QAU's and Researchers to. Mark Lehr stated that during the past couple of years, he had three instances in which the Test Substance Storage temperature went above the maximum storage temperature on the "label." The affect on study integrity was not addressed in the study records. This was written up each time by EPA. In a future Newsletter, discussions with EPA investigators on labeling of surfactants and of a missing expiration date on test substance will be reported.

AUGUST 2010

Support NAICC by Volunteering for a Committee

What better way to support the Alliance, effect change within YOUR organization and be a part of the leadership than volunteering for a 2011 committee? Incoming President Dennis Hattermann is putting together committee assignments for 2011 and is inviting all NAICC members to get involved! Committees meet face-to-face once a year at the Annual Meeting and periodically via conference call throughout the year. To volunteer contact NAICC headquarters at JonesNAICC@aol.com or 901/861-0511.

Donate your time to NAICC by volunteering to serve on one of the following committees:

Allied Industry (open to all Sustaining Members!)

Annual Meeting Coordination

Consultant Education Subcommittee

Research Education Subcommittee

Quality Assurance Education Subcommittee

Certification Board

Crawfish Boil On The Hill

Educational Outreach

Ethics and Grievances

Governmental Affairs

International Outreach

Marketing

Membership, Recruitment, Retention & Rules

Membership Services Subcommittee

Newsletter Involvement Subcommittee

Nominating



Prairie dog stealing lunch from a farmers hay field across the road.

Photo credit: John Hecht, Crop Quest, Colwich, KS

DID YOU KNOW?

NAICC members are highly educated, experienced professionals. Of our members:

54% Bachelor of Science

28% Masters Degree

17% Doctorate Degree



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