The NAICC Is Going Strong!

From its humble beginnings in 1978 as the dream of a handful of consultants to what it has become today, how did they say it in those cigarette commercials, “You’ve come a long way baby.” For those of you who don’t remember cigarette commercials, congratulations, we need “younger” people in this organization because none of us work forever. The Alliance really took a giant leap forward when we made a push for more researchers to join the group in the late 90’s. Although we are in the same industry, most researchers and consultants do different things. As a result, we have separate sessions at our Annual Meeting now for crop, research and QA consultants but there is some overlap. Both the research and the crop consultant groups can do efficacy studies for instance and consultants can get efficacy work or recommendations from researchers and vice versa. And there are a good number of members who consult on crops as well as perform GLP studies!

We also have recently added QA consultants. These folks already work hand in hand with the researchers so the interaction in our meetings is natural. This group continues to grow since they only recently began their sessions track in our annual meeting. One of my goals as president this year was to bring the groups closer together and to get them interacting more frequently. This is happening to a certain extent but there is a lot of room for improvement. This benefit will never be realized as much as it could though since we have different clients and do different things day to day. Just don’t forget that there are benefits to interaction that are going underutilized. I don’t think we all realize the extent of these potential benefits. In asking consultants what they get out of our annual meeting, a common response is that they learn how crops are grown and maintained in different areas of the country. Since research consultants work with all crops in all parts of the country and world, the information gathered by interacting with crop consultants could be very beneficial.

Our Government Affairs Committee and our new D.C. legislative assistant, Glenn Luedke, are keeping us increasingly informed and engaged in what our lawmakers are doing in Washington. We are definitely having a bigger voice in D.C. Our Crawfish Boils on the Hill are seeing 6-8 legislators every year in addition to the usual staff and people from various agencies. Our financial condition is still strong with $339,000 in reserves, and we are generally staying under budget. We continue to develop our website making it more useful for our members. If you have any ideas for improvement of the website, let me know. We continue to add new members with seven in the few months since our last Annual Meeting in Fort Worth. These new members are all crop consultants except one who is a researcher. That’s good. My guess is there are a larger percentage of crop consultants who are not members than research consultants. Based on some recent feedback I have gotten from consultants as to why they are members of NAICC, all crop consultants could benefit significantly from membership they just don’t know it. Spread the word.

We are making an effort to build more into the program for laboratory scientists and to attract more of them to our annual meeting since they have a lot in common with the research consultants. These groups interact professionally on common projects and both could benefit from face to face interaction. Adding more laboratory scientists to our group will be a multiyear effort.

FEAE is looking for new ways to bring scholarships to young consultants and students in the very important role of mentoring. This is very important to the health of our profession so if you are an older consultant, please take the time to mentor a young person showing interest in being a consultant in any of the areas under the NAICC umbrella.

The NAICC is an organization that continues to amaze me. This is due to your hard work, influence and participation. Keep up the good work.

EPA Regulatory Updates & GLP ALERTS

By Dr. Stu Mertz, PEAK Quality Consulting, Inc. and Renee Daniel, Perspective Consulting Inc.

The EPA presentations at our Jan 20, 2011 Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, TX are not able to be posted on the NAICC website this year. Highlights are summarized here for Field Sites and Analytical Labs from Frances Liem’s presentation: “2010 EPA Regulatory Update: EPA Inspections, Findings, ETC…”

Totals: 83 inspections; 230 data audits including new areas of human (6), biotech (6), and nanotech (10) studies.

No. Inspections (% Total): 21 (25%) Field Sites, 13 (16%) Analytical Chemistry, 26 (31%) Product Chemistry, 7 (9%) Antimicrobial Efficacy, 7 (9%) Insecticide Efficacy, 1 (1%) Ecotox, 7 (9%) Tox, 1 (1%) Other.

Findings: F. Liem complimented Field Sites (FS) and Analytical Labs (AL) on their good rate of compliance.
• 100% of AL had NO Findings
• 100% of FS had NO HIGH LEVEL Findings
• 76% of FS had NO Findings (24% or 5 FS had lower level Findings)

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September 2011
The 10 GLP Violations (Findings, F) at FS were:
- 3F, Subpart B – Lack of GLP training; QA reports were not sent to SD and Mgt.
- 1F, Subpart E – Lack of SOP for rounding to significant figure.
- 3F, Subpart G – Protocol not approved by sponsor; Raw data copied from previous applications; Field record showed incorrect actual application rate.
- 3F, Subpart J – Error in final report on receipt date of test substance; Sponsor approved of discarding report.

Six Study Rejections were finalized (prior year inspections) from 2 labs - Product Chemistry & Insecticide Efficacy - for lack of raw data, log records and documents to support final report.


GLP Alerts

#1. Changes in GLP Program: Retirement of 3 inspectors. Remaining inspectors are Elmer Griffin, Mark Lehr, Dan Myers, Frances Liem.
#2. Multisite studies: 1 Study Director, 1 Protocol, 1 Final Report.
#3. Multisite study – Location of Study Director can be anywhere: Test Facility, Sponsor, Test Site (field site, analytical chemistry lab, etc.), or Management Company.
#5. Test Substance in a seed study is the pesticidal substance.
#6. Draft final reports are not required to be retained (F. Liem’s EPA Update at SQA Annual Meeting 3-30-2011).

DISCUSSION on GLP ALERT #5. Renee Daniel and several other NAICC Board members held further discussion with F. Liem on March 15, 2011 and obtained the following clarifications from F. Liem:
- SOPs and protocols for GMO studies should clearly indicate that the test substance (TS) is the "gene name" (i.e., the substance that is the active ingredient).
- All events ("gene names") need to be listed on the master schedule as the TS. Listing “corn”, for example, is not compliant since the corn seed is the carrier.
- Seed envelopes or other primary containers need to be labeled with:
  - TS-all events or codes that can be traced to a protocol or other written document, and Expiration date that reflects earliest expiration (e.g., if germination (carrier) is only expected to be good for 1 year but TS has a longer expiration date, the label expiration date must be one year or less).
- Primary containers (e.g., envelopes) need to be retained as the TS container.
- Retaining reserve samples of the test substance with the carrier (e.g., corn seed) meets GLP requirements (vs. retaining the test substance by itself without carrier).

Be sure to attend the 2012 NAICC Annual Meeting for further EPA Regulatory Updates and interpretations of GLPS for biotech studies.

First Field Crops Rust Symposium to be Held in San Antonio

Field crops rust diseases have become more important in recent years. Specifically, new concerns have surfaced with diseases such as wheat stem rust, new races of wheat stripe rust, southern corn rust, soybean rust, and sugarcane rust which demand the scientific community make strategic advances, rapidly, and on multiple fronts.

To facilitate these advances, the American Phytopathological Society has created the first Field Crops Rust Symposium to be held December 14-16, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas. Make time for this important event – registration and housing are now open. The primary purpose of this symposium is to "circle the wagons” among the scientific community and compare notes, exchange ideas, and forge new relationships.

The symposium program committee, chaired by Erick DeWolf, Kansas State University, has developed a program that will encourage cross pollination of ideas and discussion among the field crops rust scientific community. The keynote will be given by Philip Pardey, University of Minnesota, concerning “Rust Diseases Within the Larger Context of Food Security.” The lecture will help the audience understand the fundamental issues related to food security and the hazards impacting global food production.

Registration is now open, and early registration fees still apply. Find more information and the full program schedule online www.apsnet.org/fcrs. The Field Crops Rust Symposium is targeted at the scientific community, but commodity leaders, crop consultants, and others will also benefit from attending. Be a part of this symposium, be a part of the solution.

Consultants of the Year Nominations Needed Now!

NAICC and BASF are honoring three exemplary leaders within our organization through the Consultant of the Year Award (COTY). Please send in nominations for those who set the bar at its highest (and remember, you may nominate yourself!).

You’ll find a nomination form at http://www.naicc.org/join/Coty.pdf; please submit it to the NAICC headquarters by October 28, 2011.

Winners receive complimentary Annual Meeting registration, hotel and airfare to the Reno meeting. They will also be honored at the Awards Luncheon in Reno.

Bring on Committee Involvement in 2012!

As you wind down from another busy season, consider your skills and interests and which NAICC committee they might best fit. By being active in one of our many committees, you’ll maximize your membership benefits, and it’s the best way to make the Alliance louder, bigger and better for all of agriculture!

If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees, please send an email to JonesNAICC@aol.com.

- Allied Industry
- Annual Meeting Coordination
- Consultants Education Subcommittee
- Research Education Subcommittee
- Quality Assurance Subcommittee
- Certification Board
- Crawfish Boil on the Hill
- Education Outreach
- Consultant Subcommittee
- RC/GLP Subcommittee
- Ethics and Grievance
- Government Affairs
- International Outreach
- Marketing
- Membership Recruitment, Retention and Rules
- Membership Services Subcommittee
- Newsletter Subcommittee

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NRCS to Develop New Regional Payment Schedules for EQIP and 595 IPM Standard

By Peter Werts, IPM Institute of North America

For FY 2012, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proposing to regionalize and consolidate fifteen eligible practices and cost-share rates for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), including the 595 IPM Standard. EQIP 595 protects natural resource concerns by providing farmers with access to technical assistance and cost-share payments for IPM.

This new NRCS strategy is designed to streamline procedures, reduce costs and improve consistency of implementation. In the past, NRCS state conservationists have been responsible for establishing eligible practices and payment rates with input from state technical committees and others. This approach allowed for a wide variety of state and crop-specific IPM practice scenarios designed to meet needs in the states to protect soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans from the impacts of pest management activities.

Under this new strategy, newly formed teams in each of eleven USDA Economic Research Service regions will be taking on this task, and be limited to a maximum of eight practice scenarios and payment schedules for the 595 IPM Practice Standard. It is unknown how the changes may impact states with existing cost-scenarios for IPM and these changes may also create new opportunities for growers and crop advisors to work together in states, which have had historically under-developed or non-existent programs for 595.

In a recent statement to State IPM Coordinators and IPM specialists, the NRCS & IPM Working Group announced these pending changes and suggested a concept as one way opportunities might be created to address resource concerns through IPM for a broad range of growers and practices:

1) Basic IPM - tree fruits
2) High Level IPM – tree fruits
3) Basic IPM - veggies
4) High Level IPM – veggies
5) Basic IPM - commodity crops
6) High Level – commodity crops
7) Basic IPM –High value, high IPM cost crops , e.g., cranberries in the northeast region
8) High Level IPM - High value, high IPM cost crops

Where:
Basic IPM = Address natural resource concerns with monitoring and suppression based on threshold exceedence. Implement mitigation strategies for pesticides identified as having high risks using Windows Pesticide Screening Tool.

High Level IPM = Basic IPM plus advanced and potentially more costly prevention and avoidance, e.g., pheromones for mating disruption, to eliminate high risks to resource concerns.

IPM and specialty crop expertise have often been under-represented on state technical committees. Historically, less than 2% of the $1.3 billion in annual EQIP funding has been invested in IPM. Since 2006, our Grower Incentives for IPM Working Group (http://nrcs.ipm.msu.edu/) has been working to increase access to EQIP for IPM, with funding from the North Central, Northeastern and Southern Region IPM Centers. The NAICC has been an active participant in the working group, providing valuable insights on IPM to the Group. NAICC members interested in joining our listserv can contact pwerts@ipminstitute.org. Under the current federal budget situation, EQIP funding may be reduced, adding to the importance for the IPM community to work together to ensure IPM continues to be an engaging opportunity in EQIP for growers.

Questions or comments, please contact Peter Werts, IPM Institute of North America, pwerts@ipminstitute.org.

Come Join Us In RENO!

NAICC ANNUAL MEETING AND AG PRO EXPO
January 18-21, 2012
Peppermill Resort Spa Casino • Reno, Nevada
For information call: (901) 861-0511 • www.naicc.org

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**Have you considered a contract research career in Australia?**

Peracto’s business is growing and we need more great people to help us cater for the needs of our clients.

We conduct contract research from 14 locations throughout Australia and New Zealand across a huge range of crops from cool temperate to tropical. Job roles include conduct of efficacy and residue trials, study direction, project and client management, and QA.

This is not for short term roles but for those looking for at least two years working with us.

If you are interested in a career move to Australia visit [www.peracto.com](http://www.peracto.com) to learn more about us and then contact Ian Macleod [imacleod@peracto.com](mailto:imacleod@peracto.com) for more information.

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**Happenings on the Hill**

**NPDES Deadline Approaching**

At a recent meeting of the NPDES coalition, of which NAICC is a member, there was discussion about the October 31, 2011 deadline for acquiring NPDES permits. EPA has indicated that they will not ask the courts for an additional extension in order to have these permits ready for implementation in each state. However, there is no indication that they will be ready when the deadline expires. EPA plans to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) who has released a Reasonable & Prudent Alternative (RPA) to Pesticide General Permit. EPA also does not plan to seek public comment before the final document is released.

While there is no official word on how EPA is preparing the states or users for implementation; it was reported that perhaps EPA will delay enforcement until January 9, 2012. In the meantime, the coalition is still encouraging the Senate leadership to move HR 872 to the Senate floor.

**IPM Credential**

NAICC Governmental Affairs Committee and Certification Board members and staff are working with the IPM Institute on an IPM credential that, if approved, would be an addition to NAICC’s CPCC designation. Stan Winslow and Phil Cochran, chairs of the GAC and Certification Board respectively, and Allison Jones, NAICC EVP will attend a meeting on September 27-28 in Chicago to discuss performance objectives and examinations for the IPM credential. In addition to NAICC, the CCA and the Association of Applied Ecologist are part of the coalition.

**Labor Department Focuses on Child Labor**

The Labor Department has proposed new child labor regulations that seek to prohibit farm workers under 16 from operating almost all power driven equipment and set other new rules prohibiting young workers from contact with pesticides, timber operations and storage bins. The regulations would only apply to hired farm workers and not change the child labor parental exemption, which allows children freedom to work on farms owned and operated by their parents. One of the effects is expected additional paper work. Some fear the new rules may make it difficult for teens to work on farms and that will affect their desire to work in agriculture.

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**NAICC ANNUAL MEETING AND AG PRO EXPO DATES**

**JACKSONVILLE, FL**

January 23-26, 2013
Hyatt Jacksonville

January 29- February 1, 2014
NEW ORLEANS, LA
Sheraton on Canal

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