



# NAICC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT CROP CONSULTANTS

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By  
*James E. Todd*  
NAICC  
2013 President

## Something for Everyone at the 2014 NAICC Annual Meeting

Last month, we gave you a sneak peak of historic New Orleans, host city of the 2014 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO on January 29-February 1. This month, let us preview the meeting itself! With track sessions designed by consultants, researchers, quality assurance and lab quality assurance professionals; this year's meeting truly offers something for everyone. A few highlights:

- Seven Wonders of Corn Growing World
- QA Auditing with Tact and Impact
- Emerging Technologies Session
- The New GLP Inspections Process
- Early Expectations and Current Procedures for Lab QA
- Roundtable Discussions on Soil Sampling and Fertility; Mobile and Office Technology; Business, Customer and Employee Relations; Equipment and Fleet Management
- Looking Forward in Agriculture: Adjuvants, Weather and Equipment
- Electronic: The 'Other' Raw Data
- Managing the Changing Environment: Drought, Weather
- The Future of Seed Traits, Organic and Biological Pesticides

- and Herbicides
- USDA APHIS Requirements for Rookies
- Spray Technology for Drift Management
- How Field Handling of Samples Affects Lab Results
- What QA's Need to Know About Crops
- Precision Ag Implementation
- Business Practices, Ethics and Legalities
- Global Economy
- \*NEW\* Researcher Networking Session: A four-hour block session for research consultants to network with clients, sponsors and other researchers; small meetings and networking opportunities for the 2014 research season.

And then there's the spectacular AG PRO EXPO Trade Show. This year's Expo will feature crop protection manufacturers and formulators, seed companies, contract research firms, precision ag companies, laboratories, equipment manufacturers, media, non-profit professional associations and government agencies. Join over 650 ag professionals who attend the AG PRO EXPO. Better yet, register for a booth and join the show! Look for registration details in this newsletter.

The Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO will deliver plenty of opportunities to interact with clients, sponsors and peers. But wait ... there's more! We're also offering two development opportunities just prior to the Meeting:

- Applying GLP Fundamentals for Research and Quality Assurance Professionals, Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 a.m.-Noon. This half-day training session is tailored to the individual professional depending on his/her current level of knowledge,

offering Basic GLP Training, Advanced GLP Training, or a Practical Field Workshop. Enrollment is limited so sign up early.

- Weed Resistance Meeting, Wednesday, January 29, 8:00 a.m.-Noon. This session will address the barriers to effective weed resistance from the crop consultant's perspective. It will include an introduction of weed, fungicide and insecticide resistance problems, then delve into interactive, problem-solving discussions. Professionals will leave the meeting with workable strategies for resistance management.



Look for your 2014 Annual Meeting program and registration materials in the mail in early November. Register by December 24 and receive a \$50 discount!

You can make your hotel reservations at the Sheraton New Orleans at <http://naicc.org/meetings/2014-annual-meeting/> or by calling 888.627.7033.

*Please note: Meeting registration is NOT open yet even though there is a link from the Sheraton website. Registration will open online in October.*

# NAICC Leadership Program Participants Selected

With its mission statement, To help ensure agricultural sustainability by facilitating the growth of new leaders within NAICC, the NAICC Leadership Program (NAICCLP) develops member leaders to promote NAICC and agriculture in the industry and with key policy makers and enforcement agencies.

Sponsored in part by the Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education, FMC Corporation, and AMVAC Chemical Company, the Program is pleased to announce the NAICC Leadership Class of 2013-14:

**Wes Batten, Principal Investigator, Glades Crop Care, Inc., Jupiter Florida.** Wes is a 1996 graduate of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington with a B.S. in Biology. He specializes in Research Consulting and has worked with Corning, Inc. and the Peace Corps. Now with Glades Crop Care, Wes consults on tomato, pepper, lettuce, citrus, bean, strawberry, sugarcane, corn and cucurbits in Florida and Virginia. A member of NAICC since 2012, he has served in his community through Treasure Coast Waterway clean-up, Rotary Club ride/run/walk, and the Florida Trail Association. Of his desire to participate in the NAICCLP Wes says, "As a former Peace Corps volunteer, I worked at the grass-roots level to extend crop enhancing practices to local farmers and community groups. Upon return to the U.S. and my position with Glades Crop Care, I've had the pleasure to mentor international agricultural students as crop consultants in Florida, helping them strike the important balance between a productive work experience and rewarding personal immersion in U.S. culture. I want to reconnect people with agriculture and help them understand the complexities of U.S. and global food production as fewer and fewer growers feed more and more people every year on less and less land."

**Sandy Mackie, Field Studies Team Lead, Bayer Crop Science, Morrisville, North Carolina.** Sandy is a 1999 graduate of North Carolina State University with a M.S. in Plant Pathology and a minor in Virology. For her Master's, Sandy wrote the thesis, Red Clover Necrotic Mosaic Dianthovirus Origin of Assembly. She specializes in Research Sponsorship and has extensive experience in molecular characterization, bioanalytics, field trials, GLP, QA and chemistry analysis in the U.S., Canada, Spain and Argentina. Sandy has conducted research on cotton, soybeans, canola and corn, and is now moving into rice and wheat. A member of NAICC since 2003, Sandy served on the Allied Industry Committee as a member and two-time Chair, speaker at the First Timer's Luncheon, and is currently working on the NAICC-sponsored GLP/GMO Crop Working Group. She participates in community service through Bayer and works with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Of her desire to participate in the NAICCLP Sandy says, "After three decades in the agricultural industry, I still marvel at the affordability of the four F's – food, feed, fiber and now fuel – delivered to us by our farmers. It is disconcerting that these four F's are taken

for granted by most Americans, with little understanding of how that cucumber ended up in the produce aisle for only 50 cents. In addition to interacting and influencing policy makers in support of ag issues, I would advocate mentoring young people and educating them on the four F's so that we can get them excited about careers in agriculture."

**Michelle Mitchell, Research Director, Coastal Research Services, Paso Robles, California.** Michelle is a 2005 graduate of California Polytechnic State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Science and a minor in Horticulture. She specializes in Research Consulting and consults on leafy vegetables, fruiting vegetables, grapes, citrus, avocado, cotton, onions, strawberries, cucurbits, brassica vegetables, wheat, barley, beans and peas in California. A member of NAICC since 2001, she served on the Researcher Education Subcommittee for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Michelle is a member of the Farm Bureau and serves her community through the Parent Teacher Association at her children's school. Of her desire to participate in the NAICCLP Michelle says, "It seems that the general public, media and our elected officials often have uniformed opinions and beliefs about how our food is grown and raised. In my own small way I try to educate friends and acquaintances about my field and the larger topic of food production. By participating in the NAICCLP, I hope to reach many more people with the message that our food is safe! Our science is sound! And that their kids (and mine too) can have a healthy, long life with bountiful food."

These three exemplary NAICC members will now develop their leadership skills. They are currently conducting one-day field visits with NAICC members within their areas of knowledge and expertise:

- Wes with Lee and Steve West, Arizona, October 15-18
- Sandy with Blaine Viator and Grady Coburn, Louisiana, October 14-17
- Michelle with Steve Hoffman and Sue Bellman, Wisconsin, September 9-12 (watch for details of her trip in an upcoming issue of *NAICC News*)

The three will also be actively involved in the January Annual Meeting, participating in NAICC committee meetings and workshops, and speaking at the Plenary Session. Please look for them during the meeting and give them hearty congratulations!

In 2014, Wes, Sandy and Michelle will travel with the NAICC Executive Board to Washington to meet with key policy makers. We are all fortunate to have this Leadership class representing NAICC.

# 2014 Ag Pro Expo, January 29-31

## Register Your Booth Now

Want to connect with potentially every attendee at the 2014 Annual Meeting? The most effective and efficient way is by hosting an Exhibit Hall booth at the AG PRO EXPO! The Exhibit Hall is the central hub for all NAICC Annual Meeting activity including attendee meals, refreshment breaks, special events and evening activities. Your booth will be right in the middle of all the action – how easy is that?

This year, we expect more than 70 leading crop and research consultant booths on the Expo floor. Don't miss out. **The deadline for NAICC member registration is November 8, 2013. After this date, we open the floor to non-members.**

### Registration details:

- NAICC Sustaining Members receive a discounted fee of \$600 for exhibit booths; all others, \$900
- One complimentary registration is included with booth fee; additional registrations are available (\$250/member; \$350/non-member)
- All registrations include registration packet, name badge, Exhibit Hall meal tickets and admission
- Registration after November 8 deadline is first come, first served

Leave a lasting impression on agricultural decision makers – go to <http://naicc.org/meetings/2014-annual-meeting/> and register your booth today!

## Laboratory's QA's – We Meet Again!

By Kathryn Hackett-Fields, RQAP-GLP

Building on last year's success, QA professionals responsible for monitoring laboratory operations, analytical data and report accuracy will enjoy a 90-minute session at the 2014 NAICC Annual Meeting. Please join us on Thursday, January 30, from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Fasten your seatbelts as we travel from the 1970's to the present! Beginning with a ramble through sections of FDA's Preambles to the GLP regulations, we will examine the roots of the Preamble

(and the EPA's) expectations of QA. In the process, we will touch on QA of electronic data and study file reconstruction techniques, and end with an open discussion of audience questions and situations.

Expect to leave the session with an updated roadmap for performing inspections and audits, GLP-compliant "reconstruction" of study data, and specific guidance from discussion with some of our Agency friends and peers. Submit questions or "case studies" in advance to Kathryn Hackett-Fields at [Qualistat@aol.com](mailto:Qualistat@aol.com).



## National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants ANNUAL MEETING & AG PRO EXPO

January 29 - February 1, 2014

Sheraton New Orleans • New Orleans, Louisiana

For information call: (901) 861-0511 • [www.naicc.org](http://www.naicc.org)

## QA Corner:

by *Stuart M. Mertz, Ph.D., RQAP-GLP*  
*PEAK Quality Consulting, Inc.*

Don't wait! There are just a few seats still available for the "EPA Workshop on Good Laboratory Practices" on October 8-11, 2013, at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel in Pleasanton, California.

The workshop is taught by EPA Regulators Francisca Liem, Mark Lehr and Daniel Myers, and includes a hands-on mock facility inspection. View the brochure at <https://onec.ncsu.edu/upload/EPAsGLP2013-2.pdf> and then register for this highly-rated course at [www.go.ncsu.edu/glp](http://www.go.ncsu.edu/glp).

## Nominations Now Open for Consultant of the Year Deadline is November 30, 2013

Do you know an NAICC member who has demonstrated exemplary performance in 2013? Consider nominating him/her for Consultant of the Year (COTY). Once again, BASF is generously sponsoring the recognition of three NAICC leaders to be honored at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Winners will receive complimentary hotel, airfare and registration!

Nomination forms are available at <http://naicc.org/member-center/forms-applications>. All nominations must be received by November 30, 2013. And yes, you may nominate yourself.

### NAICC Annual Meetings

2014

January 29 - February 1

Sheraton New Orleans • New Orleans, LA

2015

January 21 - 24

Peppermill Resort & Spa • Reno, NV

2016

January 27- 30

Lake Buena Vista Palace • Orlando, FL

## Membership Renewal

It is NAICC membership renewal season. Look for your packet in the mail. What better way to network with the nation's leading crop and research consultants than to renew your membership in the only association for independent crop and research consultants and field and lab QA professionals. Online renewal is open now for all categories of membership. Hard copies of the renewal form and invoices will be mailed by October 1.

While you are renewing, why not sign up your employees or encourage a colleague to join NAICC. Members who recruit the most members from your state are eligible to be named TOP RECRUITER! A variety of membership levels are available. Go to <http://naicc.org/member-center> to see the many advantages of membership.

## Committee Volunteers: The NAICC Needs You

NAICC's success lies in its secret weapon: our members. As this season slows down, take time to consider sharing your talents and skills with ag peers worldwide in 2014. There is a place for you to serve! Please review the committee listings below, determine the best fit for you, and contact President Elect Gary Coukell at [coukell@icms-inc.com](mailto:coukell@icms-inc.com) or NAICC headquarters at [allisonjones@naicc.org](mailto:allisonjones@naicc.org) to volunteer.

### NAICC Committees:

- 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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