



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT CROP CONSULTANTS

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**



By  
*Gary Coukell*  
NAICC  
2014 President



## EPA Moves to Remove WPS Exemption for Employees of Certified or Licensed Crop Advisors

In 1992, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations called the Worker Protection Standards (WPS) to increase protection of agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from the potential risks associated with exposure to crop protection products.

However when the WPS was issued, Crop Advisors/Consultants were classified as handlers and subject to standards burdensome for performing crop advisor activities (as opposed to handlers who have direct contact with pesticides and pesticide containers). Following the release of the WPS, NAICC worked with other associations to address the burdensome requirements of being classed as handlers, and in 1995 an exemption was given to state licensed or certified crop advisors, and NAICC's certification programs were accepted by EPA as satisfying the certified crop advisor requirement.

In the exemption, certified crop advisors and employees under their direct supervision are exempted from certain parts of the WPS, provided the certified/licensed crop advisor meets conditions set by the WPS to protect employees such as preventing entry to treated areas during application, restrict activities to crop advisor tasks only, determine and communicate PPE requirements, inform people under their supervision about the pesticides applied, method, REI, time of application, tasks to undertake and how to contact the certified/licensed crop advisor.

In the intervening decades, certified crop advisors/consultants and their employees have followed these requirements and have been able to safely scout crops to ensure that the pesticides being applied are working, are necessary, and are being applied in the correct manner. The WPS exemption has allowed quick and brief re-entry to collect crop samples to test for food safety purposes, and has allowed Researchers to collect efficacy data and residue samples required for regulatory approval. The ability to effectively scout fields following pesticide applications has enabled the proliferation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices by providing growers with accurate and timely information about pest populations and pesticide efficacy. Implementation and promotion of IPM practices has allowed crop consultants to make the best recommendations for the conditions observed and in many cases to recommend a pesticide with less residual when pest pressure or populations don't warrant it, and to recommend against pesticide applications when not warranted.

Over the same period, EPA and industry have worked together to improve pesticide labelling to better protect workers,

and regulatory requirements have resulted in new chemistries that present lower risks to workers, the environment and to food safety.

### The Proposed Changes:

The WPS Proposed Revision also includes changes for better training of agricultural workers, pesticide handlers, applicators, farm workers, crop consultants and their employees such as training workers and handlers (and employees of certified/licensed crop advisors) every year (vs. current 5 year requirement), expanding training to include information on reducing take-home exposure and retaining training records for two years. Such changes make sense and have the support of registrants and users.

However, despite certified and licensed crop consultants and their employees having an excellent track record for safety, and the diligence of crop advisors over the past 18 years in following the requirement of the WPS exemption, one of the Proposed Revisions is to remove the WPS exemptions for employees directly supervised by a certified or licensed crop advisor.

The NAICC feels strongly that this change is unwarranted, would deter the implementation of IPM practices and lead to the use of more toxic pesticides and spraying on intervals rather than application and product selection based on information from crop advisors and their employees, would hinder the conduct food safety inspection and testing programs with regard to fresh produce, would negatively impact the ability of researchers to collect pesticide efficacy data and residue samples, and would impact the ability of crop advisors and their employees to service grower needs in a cost effective manner.

*Continued on next page.*

April 2014

## 2014 NAICC Annual Meeting Breaks Records

Good times – and great networking – were definitely rolling in historic New Orleans in January! Despite Mother Nature’s best attempts, the majority of NAICC members were able to safely travel to this year’s Annual Meeting. The results were outstanding:

Record **attendance** – 665 crop consultants, contract researchers, QA professionals, industry partners, government and university representatives.

Record number of **exhibitors** – 75!

A superior slate of speakers and **topics** covering a diverse range of expertise and issues including:

- Sampling and Soil Fertility
- GLP/OECD Update
- How to Audit With ‘Tact and Impact’
- Mobile & Office Technology and Equipment and Fleet Management
- Adjuvants
- Development of Herbicide Tolerance Traits in Soybeans and What the Future Holds
- Electronic Data Auditing
- Emerging Technologies
- Weather/Climatology:
- Organic and Biological Pesticides
- What QAs Need to Know About Crops
- Spray Technology
- Precision Ag
- Business Practices, Ethics, and Legalities
- Reconstruction of a Study from the Raw Data

Perhaps the best closing event in Annual Meeting history – King James and Queen Lacey (Todd) graced the crowd with their spectacular entrance enhanced only by the arrival of Patrick Stephenson (in costume). The King and Queen were escorted by Princesses Alison Viator and LeAnn Maston and the Court Jesters Blaine Viator and Gary Coukell. All festivities were sponsored by a generous donation by Rick Kesler and FMC Corporation.

For the 80 members forced to stay home by the polar vortex (and for all NAICC members, actually), a thorough overview of the Annual Meeting is available at < <http://naicc.org/meetings/2014-annual-meeting/>>. Thanks to everyone for participating and making this meeting the go-to event of the year!

## President’s Column

*Continued from page 1.*

### What to do:

Crop advisors, consultants and researchers need to read the WPS Proposed Revisions that pertain to certified and licensed crop advisors and their employees, and consider the impact on our industry, production agriculture, their businesses and their employees. Submit comments through the website prior to June 17, 2014 at 11:59 PM ET, or to an association that represents your interests (such as NAICC and/or ASA). NAICC members: please complete the NAICC survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NAICC-WPSProposedRule> – to provide your input to NAICC.

The Proposed Revisions can be found at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0184-0119>. In the pdf version (link at top right), the sections directly affecting crop advisors and their employees are on pages 15503-15504.

## U.S. Agriculture in a New Policy Environment NAICC Keynote Address

“Where are we going and who is going with us?” was the pointed question posed by Dr. Vincent H. Smith, Professor of Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, Montana State University, during his keynote address at the 2014 Annual Meeting. In light of the new policy environment for U.S. agriculture, Dr. Smith believes that farm subsidies will likely remain at or above current levels and continue to flow in roughly the same amounts to the same crops. He does not foresee farm bill incentives for land use changing much either.

Displaying the breadth of knowledge he holds in all things agricultural, Dr. Smith broke down the current landscape for NAICC members:

- Corn yields are up 33%, increasing an average of 2 bushels a year. Prices now more than double their levels in the early 2000’s.
- Soybean yields are up 29%, increasing from 34 bushels in 1996 to 44 bushels in 2012. Prices doubled from \$7/bu to \$14/bu or more between 1996 and 2013.

- Wheat yields are up 18%, increasing from 40 bushels to 47 bushels (no GMO wheat planted for sale in the market place). Prices now more than double their levels in the early 2000’s.
- Cotton yields have increased by about 25% and prices have been volatile with no obvious long-run trend.
- Rice yields increased by 38% and prices doubled from \$7/bu to \$14/bu or more between 1996 and 2013.
- Peanut yields have more than doubled with prices, in nominal terms, similar to the mid 1990’s.

A key issue moving forward says Smith, is whether the Renewable Fuels Mandate will be enforced or, effectively, abandoned. He thinks that the answer will be revealed soon.

# Annual Meeting Recognition and Awards

## CONGRATULATIONS! NAICC 2014 Consultants of the Year!

Established in 1993, the Consultant of the Year (COTY) award honors members who have demonstrated leadership inside and outside the NAICC. It recognizes the entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and creativity of the crop consultant and acknowledges consultants who achieve high standards of environmental responsibility. COTY winners are NAICC members of good standing with applicable education and work experience, Ag organizational involvement, and community involvement.

Thank you, BASF, for your continued sponsorship of the COTY program. Thanks to your generous support, we are able to provide complimentary registration, convention meals, airfare and hotel accommodations for our 2014 COTY winners. And they are:

### ADREW VRBKA, SERVI-TECH, INC.

Andrew joined Servi-Tech 10 years ago in Geneva, Nebraska. He is a successful consultant on approximately 15,000 irrigated acres per year. Andrew specializes in irrigated corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa, as well as soil fertility, irrigation management, strip and no till management.

Andrew is on the forefront of the Precisions Ag team with a focus on grid and zone and sampling, variable rate nitrogen and other fertilizer recommendations. He helps other Servi-Tech consultants with variable rate fertilizer recommendations and variable rate seeding.

A Certified Crop Advisor, Andrew led the NAICC Education Committee and successfully developed the program for the 2014 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. He is well respected among independent crop consultants and fellow Servi-Tech employees.

### TIM MOLINE, CENTROL, INC.

Tim is winner of the Team Player Award with Centrol Crop Consulting in Marshall, Minnesota. He is a successful consultant on approximately 40,000 acres, specializing in corn, soybean, and alfalfa.

Tim excels in technology and played a key role in developing Centrol's Precision Ag Program. He is extremely passionate about his career and takes great pride in his unbiased approach in helping growers maximize productivity and profit. Tim is a mentor for new consultants.

In addition to his membership in NAICC, Tim is a CPCC-I and a member of his local church council.



*Tim Moline (far left) and Andrew Vrbka (second from right) were selected Consultants of the Year for 2013.*



*Grady Coburn accepts his second Service to NAICC Award. Dan Bradshaw was also give this award but was not able to attend due to weather.*

## SERVICE TO NAICC

### DAN BRADSHAW AND DR. GRADY COBURN

This annual award honors distinguished service to NAICC and its members. It is given to someone who goes beyond the call of duty because of his/her love for the Alliance. We honor two gentlemen this year, the second time both have been awarded this honor. In 1999, Dr. Grady Coburn and Dan Bradshaw were among eight Charter Members still active in NAICC throughout its 20 years of existence. Today, these two men are the only Charter Members still active. It is with great pleasure that the NAICC honors Grady and Dan with this prestigious award.

## SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE

### HAROLD COBLE

This annual award recognizes outstanding contributions and dedicated service to agriculture and its practitioners. The NAICC is pleased to award Dr. Harold Coble the honor for 2014. Dr. Coble has been involved with agriculture for over 40 years and recently retired from USDA's Agriculture Research Service after 14 years. Coble became a good friend and ally of the NAICC while serving as the National IPM Coordinator. Prior to that, he served 30 years as a Professor of Crop Science at North Carolina State University and actively worked with the North Carolina Agriculture Consultants Association. Dr. Coble recently opened Coble Agronomics as an Agronomist. Due to a prior commitment, Dr. Coble was unable to attend the annual meeting.

## QA Corner: When Things Go Wrong ...

by Kathryn Hackett-Fields

So, there we were in January, looking forward to the NAICC Annual Meeting and letting our feet wander the warm and welcoming sidewalks of New Orleans. Then we got slammed with the Big Un-Easy. I had shipped my Laboratory QA presentation materials to arrive a day in advance – good planning! However, the delivery was delayed until the next day.

The plan was to explore sections of the Preambles to the very first GLP regulations of FDA, getting into the weeds to trace the roots. Having selected pages in hand, participants could effectively combine reading and listening as the Agency's view of comprehensive monitoring was presented. Next, a transition to application and discussion ... as planned. Well, the outcome was very different. I was disappointed, but it didn't qualify as a disaster.

A disaster would have been the whole group of participants heading for the lobby bar. Instead, we made it through. That's what professionals do when things go wrong – they learn what they can from the situation.

Here are some points that I learned:

1. The materials were sent before the storm's size and path became known. A second heavy bag and the wait for unloading would have been a lot less convenient but much more rewarding. *If it's going to make a difference, give priority to that fact and make an extra effort.*
2. Some of my materials were on a USB drive, so at least I was able to print the discussion pages for the group. *Back it up, just in case. A file, a critical tool or part, extra "whatever matters."*
3. The second part of the session didn't require the Preambles. Discussion was good and ideas for next year's session were generated. *Work with what's at hand and keep a positive mindset.*
4. Many folks couldn't get to the meeting at all. The entire region was affected for days, but luckily our hotel's guest rooms had heat! *Accept the situation and count your blessings.*
5. All of us at the NAICC Annual Meeting have different roles. All of us work to assure that people in the USA and around the world will have safe, abundant food. While my session got a bit derailed, our collective efforts made for a very worthwhile time of education, networking and fellowship.

*Always remember the "big picture." Failure is simply a tool to help us improve the next time.*

## Focus On Precision

by Jason Fussy, Chair Education Outreach Committee

Building on the momentum of the Annual Meeting, over 150 members gathered for the Focus on Precision meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota, in mid-February. Once again, Mother Nature made it a challenge, but the event was perfectly placed between two Midwest snowstorms so a great number of exhibitors and sponsors were able to join us!

Dr. Raj Khosla from Colorado State University delivered the keynote address on his findings on grid sampling and zone management. Warren Formo, Minnesota AgWater Research Center, shared his insight on the possibilities of upcoming restrictions pertaining to the Nutrient Reduction Strategy in Minnesota. Dr. Bianca Moebius Clune, Cornell University, gave an uplifting and informational overview of Adapt N along with recent data collected in 2011-2013 relating to the program being used in the field.

Dr. Kevin Price, Kansas State University, discussed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and its potential uses in agriculture, which invited many questions. Tissue testing, the variability of tissue testing, and the possible uses or misuses of information he collected over several years were presented by Dan Kaiser, University of MN.

Members were particularly interested in Wisconsin consultants Paul Sturgis, Steve Hoffman, and Bill Stangel, who shared their experience working together to change agency rules and regulations. Their results could be used as guidance for prospective actions taken in other states!

Clint Engram from Mapshots gave a summary of potential future uses of tying all your information together for data

management. Representative from Pioneer (Field 360) and Monsanto (Field Scripts) then gave their view on how the consultant will be included in decision making for their current seed prescription programs.

Following these presentations, a panel discussion of consultants discussed Field 360 and Field Scripts. It brought mixed reviews from the audience; they could see the potential of working together but also felt that they are left out of the equation when seeding prescriptions are being processed. It was a very valuable discussion.

Round Table Discussions amongst consultants were a big hit. Many consultants had the opportunity to network with other consultants from across the country that they had never met. This session always leaves many desiring more time to network with others.

A survey sent out after the conference provided great insight on the success of the conference as well as things that could be changed for future conferences. Stay tuned for location and date of next year's conference.

View the Focus on Precision presentations at <http://naicc.org/meetings/2014-focus-on-precision/>. Thanks to all members of the EOC committee for all their hard work in making this conference a success. Many thanks to Lance Otto of MNICCA, Michelle Hoffman of WAPAC and Gina McClintock of IICCA for your help with registration and logistics for this event!



## Happenings on the Hill

Each issue of the *NAICC News* will now include the Governmental Affairs report prepared by Glenn Luedke, NAICC Legislative Assistant. Many thanks for Glenn for his years of service to NAICC.

### DATA PRIVACY

The American Farm Bureau has issued a statement stating they are concerned about data collection, property rights and who owns the data collected from the farm level. Farm Bureau's position is that growers should have a say in who controls the data and should be compensated when their data is sold. Farm Bureau opposes federal agencies using drones for regulatory enforcement, litigation and as a sole source for natural resources inventories without the consent of the landowner. NAICC board members discussed this issue with policy-makers on Capitol Hill last month and will continue to monitor the issue.

### FARM BILL

The recently passed Farm Bill provides nearly \$4 billion in funding for programs that benefit U.S. fruit and vegetable production; block grants for research, pest and disease mitigation and trade, and \$125 million was set aside for citrus research. Over \$75 million was set aside for specialty crop block grants. The grants are administered by the USDA via agriculture departments for local and regional efforts to enhance producers' ability to compete in the marketplace and provide consumers with safe and abundant food supplies. This grant includes support for programs that include such things as pest and disease control, new and improved seed variety development, enhanced food safety, research support through standard and green initiatives and to increase specialty crop consumption and nutritional knowledge.

The Congressional Budget Office has announced the projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Bill:

Food & Nutrition-80%  
Crop Insurance-8%  
Conservation Programs-6%  
Commodity Programs-5%  
All other-1%

House Committee Budget Chair Ryan proposed an additional \$23 billion cut from crop insurance on top of cuts already detailed in the 2014 Farm Bill. The Ryan budget proposal also calls for an additional cut of \$125 billion to the SNAP program and would turn the program into a block grant program. Major farm organizations have declared the proposed cuts to the Crop Insurance program "dead-on-arrival".

The USDA has announced that \$48.1 million has been allocated for funding of Pest & Disease Management Programs. The USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service solicited suggestions from the public and private sector that would provide direct impact in the management of pests and diseases. A total of 383 projects are being funded. Project selections were based on criteria that supported six specific goals. Submissions were also based on expected impacts of the project, technical approach and how the submissions would compliment existing USDA programs and previously funded projects designated in the 2008 Farm Bill.

The organic food industry received an economic boost in the recently passed Farm Bill. A provision clears the way for the USDA to establish a checkoff program for organic food that would mirror checkoff programs already in place for 20 or more individual commodities. In addition, the bill exempts organic producers from checkoff programs such as milk and other commodity programs.

### GMO

Over 3,900 comments were directed to the recent USDA call for input over whether organic and genetically engineered crops can coexist. Grower and biotech groups have stated "the status quo is just fine-our organizations feel that coexistence is working and multiple product and cropping systems are thriving". Critics, however, didn't hesitate to point out at least 400 reported instances of cross contamination. The Center For Food Safety stated that despite repeated requests from the public to prioritize the development and implementation of contamination prevention measures, the USDA has chosen to limit the public when identifying ways to improve communications and collaboration. The CFFS continued by

stating "the USDA decision reflects the governments clear bias toward the advancement of GE agriculture over everything else". U.S. Senator Tester (MT), an organic farmer, stated USDA must listen to the needs of traditional producers so they are not squeezed out by large agricultural corporations.

Anti-GMO: Ballot initiatives have been announced in Hawaii. The petition is asking voters be allowed to vote on the consideration of the temporary suspension of growing GMO crops. (Temporary in this case is supposed to mean until the public health inspector's office completes a study that would examine the effect of widespread testing of GMO crops and associated pest control uses.) 8,500 registered voter signatures are need by 3/31/2014 in order to have the vote on the November ballot.

### AGRICULTURE LABOR REFORM

The American Farm Bureau issued a statement regarding ag labor reform issues that focus strictly on immigration enforcement. The statement indicated that food prices would increase 5%-6% over a five year period and cut US food and fiber production values by \$60 billion. Farm Bureau and others continue to call for a plan that enforces immigration laws, redesigns the guest worker program and offers skilled workers currently working in agriculture to earn a status adjustment. Under this recommendation, there would be little or no effect on food prices and farm income would drop less than 1%. The hardest hit food sector under an "enforcement only" scenario would be fruit production, estimated to drop 30%-61%, vegetable production would drop an estimated 15%-31% and livestock production would decline 113%-27%.

### TAX PROPOSALS

Tax proposals announced by the House Ways & Means Committee have drawn mixed re-action from ag groups. Tax reform is needed to keep US producers competitive in the global marketplace. One section of the proposal includes a requirement that businesses with gross receipts of \$10 million + use the accrual method of accounting. The Ways &

*Continued on next page.*

## Happenings on the Hill

*Continued from page 5.*

Means Committee pointed out that the bill specifically excludes agriculture (this is a major change from earlier drafts that included agriculture in the required shift from cash-to-accrual accounting methods). This provision spares ag producers from an estimated \$4.8 billion increase in taxes. Some “red flags” are still disturbing to producers, i.e. the elimination or reduction of some key accounting methods and depreciation deductions. This item, if not eliminated or the tax reduced, would offset the benefit of a lower income tax rate.

### EPA

EPA and USDA released a comprehensive report approximately one year ago and as a result, several pesticides will now include a honey bee and pollinators protection advisory box. The new EPA bee box will be on pesticide labels, promoting increased awareness of bee health and proper pesticide use. The new label will prohibit use of some neonicotinoid pesticide products where bees are present.

On March 25, the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a proposed rule to clarify protection under the CWA for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources. The statement: the Waters of the U.S. proposed rule will benefit businesses by increasing efficiency in determining coverage of the CWA. A 90 day period

for comment was announced. The EPA states the proposed rule attempts to keep all ag exemptions in place, exempts 53 conservation practices from permitting requirements and narrows agency jurisdiction over irrigation and drainage ditches. This ruling is said to be a vast improvement for the rice industry. The announcement does, however, appear to expand EPA's jurisdiction by clarifying that seasonal and rain-dependent streams are protected and wetlands near streams and rivers are also protected.

EPA officials want to allay concerns over ag exemptions in the CWA that could be affected by an upcoming proposed rule that will spell out what “waters of the U.S.” actually means in the CWA. Ag groups are concerned about the breadth of the proposal as more bodies of water could be considered as falling under federal regulations. An example is dry creek beds that only flow in heavy rainfall events and could be classified as navigable. Roadside and field ditches could also be included. An assistant administrator at EPA has stated EPA wants to see ag producers use more cover crops. EPA has been doing monitoring of watersheds where use of cover crops is widespread. However, the EPA official stated it is too early to report water-quality benefits. Overall, more discussion will be held with ag groups and some of the fears by ag groups may be overblown.

In mid-March, the House Ag Committee passed by voice vote a bill that would permit farmers to spray pesticides without a permit in or near navigable

waters if the chemical has already been approved for sale under FIFRA. This action would allow farmers to circumvent a current EPA permit rule that has been in place for two years and said by supporters of the bill to be “redundant and unnecessary”. The legislation came about as a result of a 2009 ruling by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that ruled that commercial pesticides are pollutants when used in, near or on waterways as a method to control weeds and other pests. EPA later finalized a general permit in October 2011 that requires applicators to comply with the NPDES, which amounts to regulating chemical usage under the CWA.

The EPA has been petitioned to accelerate a proposed review of rules for glyphosate use. The petitioners are concerned that the heavy use of glyphosates is devastating the monarch butterfly population. Under current law, the EPA is required to ensure that a pesticide will perform its intended function without unreasonable negative effects on the environment. The EPA has the option to perform an administrative review if evidence is presented that a product raises “prudent concerns of unreasonable adverse risk”.

The EPA has released two draft “guidance” documents outlining how it will assess the impacts of pesticide spray drift that migrates from fields to the environment and surrounding communities. The draft describes how spray drift will be evaluated by the EPA for ecological and human health risk assessments.

## Certification Nation Featuring NAICC's Certified Professional Crop Consultants (CPCC)

Drum roll, please! May we introduce Certification Nation, a new series that spotlights consultants who earned CPCC certification through the NAICC program. This month we feature **Larry Appel** of Appel Crop Consulting, Inc., in Grant NE. Larry has been consulting for 30 years and enjoys the challenge of the ever-changing world of weed and insect resistance, which according to Larry, “is not only challenging but fun trying to keep ahead of them”.

He works using IPM on weed, insect, disease control, soil sampling/fertility recommendations, and irrigation scheduling. He also specializes in efficacy trials on western bean cutworm, wire worm and corn rootworm.

When asked why Larry supports NAICC and the CPCC

program, he reflected by saying, “Years ago when Furadan was undergoing review by the government I went to Washington D. C. to testify for the continuation of the use of Furadan on corn. I remember being asked by a congressman if I was a member of NAICC. He felt it was very important that I was, so he could be confident in what I was saying. Unfortunately Furadan was turned down by other means.”

Appel chose to earn certification through NAICC because, in his words, “The Alliance members are regarded as the best in research and consulting. I also value the variety of people and expertise among NAICC members. NAICC is the best place to be listed as a member because of the wide spectrum of people who choose NAICC members with whom to work each year.”

# State of NAICC...

Each issue of the NAICC News will have a brief listing of things that the NAICC Executive Board and/or staff are working on for you, our members.

## MARCH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OVERVIEW

NAICC Executive Board and Governmental Affairs Committee members canvassed Capitol Hill in March and spoke with over \_\_\_policy-makers. They also hosted over 250 people at the 17th Annual Crawfish Boil on the Hill.

Treasurer Nathan Goldschmidt led the board in approving the 2014 budget at the March board meeting. The board is currently discussing ways to increase our investment income, and looking for ways to reduce expenses such as finding lower rates charged to NAICC for credit card acceptance, purchasing rather than renting computer equipment at the convention and discussing whether or not continue to print an Annual Meeting preliminary program or just email it and have it available on NAICC.org.

The Executive Board reviewed all Committee Reports submitted for 2014. Approval and changes were sent back to the committee chairs who are contacting committee members and preparing for a great 2014!

Finally the Executive Board reviewed all invitations or activities for 2014 that make up the NAICC travel budget. The following items were approved for 2014:

- Continue membership in the Pesticide Policy Coalition
- NAICC members will attend three state association meetings to encourage NAICC membership
- **Gary Coukell** will represent NAICC at the AICC Meeting in the UK in January 2015
- **Renee Daniels** and **Jim Steffel** will attend a meeting in DC sponsored by CropLife regarding GLP Audits and OECD acceptance of US trials
- NAICC will become an official Associate member of the Global Alliance of International Ag Consultants for \$250 annually. NAICC will also allow GAIAC to send an email to our members inviting them to take advantage of a complimentary membership for 2014. A complimentary membership will also be offered to any new NAICC members for one year.

## 2014 NAICC Annual Meeting

### Awards Luncheon



*Kathy Richards accepts the Overall NAICC Top Recruiter Award for her co-worker Mike Beevers.*



*Accepting the Top Recruiter plaque those recruiting two or more from their state for Paul Groneberg is co-worker Bryan Smith (far right) and for Wayne Olsen, new member Bruce Fulling (second from right). Top Recruiters not pictured are Dan Ramsdell and Blaine Turner.*

*Photos continued of the following pages.*



National Alliance  
of Independent  
Crop Consultants

Allison Jones

Executive Vice President

Gary Coukell, M.Sc. P. Ag.

President

Melanye Lunsford

Managing Editor

349 E. Nolley Drive / Collierville, TN 38017  
Office: 901.861.0511 Fax: 901.861.0512  
E-mail: AllisonJones@naicc.org  
www.naicc.org

ICMS

Box 67 Station Main,  
2375 Saskatchewan Avenue, E.  
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3B2  
Office: 204.857.2723 Fax: 204.239.4478  
Mobile: 204.857.2723  
E-mail: coukell@icms-inc.com