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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By
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NAICC
2014 President

Looking Forward

As I write this it is hard to believe that another year has passed, and that we are closer to the Annual Meeting in Reno, January 21-25th than we are to the past field season (at least for some of us)! Of course some of our members are in the field year round, but for those of us in the northern climates, the ground is frozen hard (frozen to 24" here now) and staff are working hard to wrap up reports and notebooks from the 2014 season.

The NAICC Board has been very busy as well. In October we held our fall board meeting in St. Louis, MO, site of the 2017 NAICC Annual Meeting. The Board was happy to see that the hotel has plenty of space and a great layout for our meeting. We also had a great time in the surrounding area, visiting some excellent restaurants and taking in the panoramic views at Ballpark Village, a short walk from the hotel.

While we enjoyed the opportunity to get together, we enjoyed the productivity

of our meeting even more. In addition to working on preparation for the upcoming 2015 Annual Meeting in Reno, the Board also focused on strengthening the Alliance for the future.

When surveyed, our members have routinely responded that that NAICC involvement and monitoring of government affairs is one of the primary benefits they realize from membership in NAICC. Over time the NAICC has grown to represent not only crop consultants, but also independent crop researchers and quality assurance personnel. With this growth we have realized that although we typically have the same big-picture issues, the two groups sometimes have different areas of interest. Effective immediately our GAC will be comprised of three subcommittees, the first two being crop consultants and researchers/QA. The third subcommittee is comprised of the organizers of our annual Crawfish Boil on the Hill event, held in conjunction with our hill visits each year. For more details, see the article "Government Affairs Committee Update" by James Todd, Past President and GAC Chair for 2015, in this issue of *NAICC News*.

We have also initiated a new committee called the State Affiliate Relations Committee (SARC). The SARC will be comprised of NAICC members who have shown leadership in their own state associations or have experience working

with various state associations. The goals of this committee will be to liaise with state consulting associations to ensure NAICC is aware of issues affecting crop consultants in various states, to create more involvement in NAICC from state associations, to ensure that state associations have an avenue for open dialogue with NAICC, and where appropriate to cooperate on common issues and even to help establish new state organizations if there is an interest and desire for assistance.

Another goal that I set out with this year was to establish standard operating procedures for committees so that committee structures, mandates, procedures, reporting and goals are more clearly identified and available. To that end, in October the Board reviewed each NAICC committee and identified goals that the Board would like to see accomplished in the coming year. In the process, we also created what we are calling an "NAICC Calendar" document for use by futures boards and Presidents to identify and schedule key activities throughout the year. Debra Keenan, President-Elect and I are putting the finishing touches on those SOPs now and they will be circulated to committee chairs (and available to members) prior to the annual meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone the Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO in Reno January 21-25th!

Look for Ballots

NAICC voting members received an email with information on how to access their electronic ballot for 2015 candidates. Please take time to study the information you receive and make informed

voting decisions. Cast your ballot by January 2nd to ensure that the process moves smoothly and efficiently. Members without an email address will receive their ballot by mail.



Welcome to Reno!

Site of the 2015 NAICC Annual Meeting

The “Biggest Little City in the World,” Reno is located in the western part of Nevada near the California border. It offers first-rate attractions, hotels, golf courses and casinos that rival its southern counterpart, Las Vegas. Reno is also a popular destination for families. Galena Creek Park offers nature trails that even young children can navigate, plus organized educational events for families.

The Peppermill Resort Spa Casino is the perfect venue for the 2015 Annual Meeting. The hotel is divided into two main towers separated by its beautiful lobby. The newer tower, the Tuscany Tower, is the location for all NAICC meeting activities. The 600 Tuscany Tower suites combine old-world splendor with sophisticated, contemporary hotel amenities including original hand-painted artwork, spacious, elegant marble bathroom with his and her sinks, and European soaking tub and separate marble enclosed shower. The Peppermill Tower rooms are neatly appointed and set the standard for lodging in Northern Nevada. The casino and most restaurants and nightlife are located in the Peppermill

Tower. Descriptions and photos of the two towers can be found at <http://www.peppermillreno.com>. The Peppermill also updated the hotel's air filtration system since our last meeting in 2012.

Reno is home to a variety of recreation activities both seasonal and year-round. In the summer, Reno locals can be found near three major bodies of water: Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River, and Pyramid Lake. The Truckee River originates at Lake Tahoe and flows west to east through the center of downtown Reno before terminating at Pyramid Lake to the north.

Skiing and snowboarding are among the most popular winter sports in and around Reno. There are 18 ski resorts, including eight major ones, located as close as 11 miles and as far as 98 miles from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, including Northstar California, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Alpine Meadows, Squaw Valley, Sugar Bowl, Diamond Peak, Heavenly Mountain, and Mount Rose. Other popular Reno winter activities include snowshoeing, ice skating, and snowmobiling.

Register Now for the 2015 NAICC Annual Meeting

Register today and save!

- Go to www.naicc.org to begin the registration process. Click on the links on the meetings page or type in the links listed below.
- Register for the meeting at <http://naicc.org/meetings/2015-annual-meeting>.
- Register for booth space at the AG PRO EXPO at <http://naicc.org/member-center/exhibitor-registration>.
- Reserve your hotel room at <https://aws.passkey.com/event/11421422/owner/7268/home>

- Print and return the GLP or apparel forms to the NAICC HQ via email (allisonjones@naicc.org) or fax 901.861.0512.
- Download the Annual Meeting app at www.eventmobi.com/NAICC15 or scan the QR code to below.
- Come and enjoy Reno!



Pollinator Study Training Workshop-Reno NAICC 2015 Monday, January 19th 6:00-7:30 pm

Open to NAICC Meeting Attendees

Program hosted by Bayer CropScience and Syngenta Crop Protection

Workshop Organizers - Tom Gould, TJ Mayer, and Fred Rice

Program will include:

1. Background and Workload Projections
2. Standard Manual Techniques for Collection of Pollen and Nectar Matrices
3. Novel Manual Techniques for Collection of Pollen and Nectar Matrices
4. Using Bees to Collect Pollen and Nectar Matrices
5. Challenges in the Laboratory

Help Raise Money for The Foundation's Educational Programs and the Jensen Memorial Scholarship Fund!

To raise money for educational programs and the Jensen Memorial Scholarship, the Foundation is sponsoring a raffle and a silent auction at the annual meeting.

Current raffle prizes include:

- \$1000 Cabela's gift card – sponsored by Grady Coburn, Ph.D.
- \$1,000 Visa gift card - sponsored by the NAICC Executive Board
- iPad - sponsored by Sandy Mackie and Bayer CropScience
- Pair of designer cowboy boots – sponsored by DuPont Ag Products
- \$400 gift card – Debra Fitzgerald and Loarn Bucl

Have a great idea for an additional raffle drawing? Please contact allisonjones@naicc.org to donate a prize.

Let's make the silent auction every bit as exciting as the raffle! Help make the silent auction a success by contributing worthy items. All you have to do is drop the item off at the FEAE table near registration, along with a description of the donation and its value.

Attendees Can Go Home With Brand New Laptops

NAICC is raffling three new laptops to be awarded during the Saturday morning breakfast session at the Annual Meeting in Reno, NV. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$10 each and can be purchased at the registration desk starting Wednesday, January 21.

Proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will go to the NAICC general fund to help offset costs for educational purposes such as speakers for the Annual Meeting and Focus on Precision meeting and the Crawfish Boil on the Hill reception held each year in DC for our Congressmen, Senators and their staff plus our representatives from USDA, EPA and commodity/ag groups.

Three sponsored laptops will be featured in the educational sessions complete with the sponsor's logo. Two additional laptops also displaying sponsors logos, will be at the NAICC registration desk. Sponsorships of \$500 for the educational session laptops and \$250 for the registration laptops have been provided. Thanks to the generosity of Coastal Ag Research, Covance Laboratories and ICMS, all five have been sponsored!

NAICC New Members Campaign and Boot Camp-2015

SIGN UP TODAY! All new NAICC Voting, Provisional and Associate members who join NAICC by January 22, 2015 will receive complimentary 2015 Annual Meeting registration (includes convention meals)! New Members are invited to the Wednesday evening New Members' Reception on the 21st and also to our New Member Boot Camp on Thursday, January 22.

The New Member Boot Camp is a great way to introduce your new employees to the educational opportunities that NAICC has to offer. Members can also vie to become the NAICC TOP RECRUITER! NAICC members who sign up two or more members are eligible for the Top STATE Recruiter award and the member who signs up the most new members will be crowned TOP RECRUITER for 2015. All winners receive a plaque and recognition at the Awards luncheon on Friday, January 23. It's never too late to recruit!

To join NAICC and take advantage of these great offers, go to www.naicc.org, click on the Member Center tab and then click on the appropriate membership application. Register for the meeting using the registration form on the NAICC website. New Members can enter NEWMBR to receive complimentary registration and meals.

We look forward to sharing our Annual Meeting experience with you.

2015 GLP Training Offered at Annual Meeting

The Applying GLP Fundamentals for Research and Quality Assurance Professionals workshop will be held Tuesday, January 20, 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. Space is still available.



Happenings on the Hill

NAICC Submits Comments to the Joint USDA/EPA Pollinator Task Force.

As part of the U.S. Government's efforts to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators, the Pollinator Health Task Force solicited stakeholder input on best management practices including pesticide risk mitigation, public-private partnerships, research, education opportunities, pollinator habitat improvements, and other actions that the Task Force should consider in developing a Federal strategy to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels. EPA and the USDA hosted two listening sessions in order to solicit stakeholder input to the Federal strategy.

Highlights from the comments sent by NAICC include:

- The neonicotinoid class of insecticides is very important to a number of the crops our members advise growers on. Our members believe that these insecticides should be used with care to ensure the overall health of pollinators and other beneficial insects. Furthermore, NAICC members believe that without the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, the overall success of IPM on many crops would be jeopardized. Therefore, ensuring the overall health and numbers of pollinators is of the utmost concern when making a recommendation.
- NAICC members stand by the fact that there has been no demonstrated, extraordinary negative effect on bee health associated with neonicotinoid-based insecticides when they are used properly and according to label directions. The allegations of widespread harm to pollinators contradict nearly two decades of responsible use of these important pesticides on many millions of crop acres worldwide. We urge EPA to continue to allow the responsible use of these important pesticides.
- There is no doubt that when used improperly, pesticides can be harmful to bees. Independent crop consultants

help ensure that the growers they work with apply crop protection products strictly according to the label directions. The labels are written under supervision of EPA according to requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In the process, potential environmental and health hazards are carefully evaluated, and necessary mitigation measures are taken.

- NAICC members are very concerned with protecting the environment in which they live and work. Pollinators play a very significant role in this environment and ensure that our growers are able to feed the world. NAICC supports increased practical research focused on arthropod pests, pathogens, nutrition, pesticides, bee biology, genetics, and breeding. Additionally, NAICC believes in wise stewardship of bee protection and crop protection products.

EPA

The EPA and USDA held two pollinator issue webinars in November. There were numerous participants from various sectors, and production agriculture and related crop protection company representation were in the minority. Participants included organizations such as the Monarch Butterfly Association, food safety groups, etc. A member of an autism group attempted to tie seed treatments to autism. This particular presenter volunteered that they received funding to address this issue from the Natural Resources Defense Council. A commercial beekeeper stated one of the problems is "crop consultants" and "the target is on their backs".

In November, EPA issued a news release that producers who have been producing higher soybean yields in the Mid-South and apply neonicotinoid seed treatments should not claim the application has enhanced yields. EPA has stated there are little or no benefits to growers who apply the seed treatment versus those who use no pest control. The Ontario Government, in a recent decision, announced that it is taking steps to reduce the use of neonicotinoid seed treatments. This announcement came as Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency announced that bee death incidents reported during planting were down 70% in 2014 compared to 2013. In Ontario, the reported incidents in 2014 declined by 79% in 2014 compared to 2013.

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In Memorial: Bob Mack

Long time NAICC member and friend Bob Mack passed away on October 11, 2014, after a long battle with cancer. Bob was the NAICC representative for Helena Chemical Company until his retirement in 2012. He is survived by his brother John and wife Barbara; niece Haley and nephews Taylor and Ryan; many friends and associates in the agricultural research, academia and chemical industry.

Bob was born on April 24, 1954, in Gary, Indiana. He graduated from Merrillville High School in 1972 with a track scholarship. Nicknamed "White Lightning," Bob earned a History degree at Ball State University, a bachelor degree in Agricultural

Science at Purdue University, and a Master degree in Weed Science at Mississippi State University. In his second year of study for his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska, Bob accepted a position with Helena Chemical Company based in Memphis, Tennessee. He worked for Helena Chemical Co. for over 22 years where he became Manager of Research and Development for Helena Products Group.

Bob was a highly respected member of the agricultural community, particularly in the South and Midwest. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

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NAICC Asks EPA to Withdraw its “Waters of the U.S.” Proposal

NAICC joined with more than 300 trade associations and chambers from 50 states representing a wide range of industries to voice strong concerns with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ flawed proposed rule to dramatically expand the scope of federal authority over water and land uses across the U.S., and called for the proposal to be withdrawn. The effort was led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

As the groups’ comments state, “The proposed rule is really about the Agencies’ overreaching attempt to replace longstanding state and local control of land uses near water with centralized federal control. In light of the overwhelming evidence that the proposed rule would have a devastating impact on businesses, states, and local governments without any real benefit to water quality, the Agencies should immediately withdraw the waters of the U.S. proposal and begin again. The current proposed rule is simply too procedurally and legally flawed to repair.”

The comments detail several examples of the impacts of the proposed rule, including:

- Maps prepared by EPA show the rule could expand federal jurisdiction over waters from 3.5 million river and stream miles to well over 8 million river and stream miles;
- The rule would make most ditches into “tributaries.” Routine maintenance activities in ditches and on-site ponds and impoundments could trigger permits that can cost \$100,000 or more;
- These permitting requirements would likely trigger additional environmental reviews that would add years to the completion time for ordinary projects;
- Even if a project can get a permit, firms will often have to agree to mitigate environmental “damage” with costly restoration/mitigation projects;
- The proposal would likely also result in more stringent storm water management requirements, which would affect retailers, companies with large parking lots, “big box” stores, etc.

Clean Water Act:

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have announced they will present an updated economic analysis underlying the proposed waters of the U.S. rule. An EPA policy adviser stated that the update would not result in any recalculation of the costs and benefits associated with the rulemaking process. The EPA will update to correspond with any changes that are made to the proposal along with new information presented during the comment period. The policy adviser went on to say that “It is not a recalculation. It is updating with new information”.

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www.naicc.org

Government Affairs Committee Update

by James Todd, Todd Ag Consulting, LLC

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is one of the most important committees to NAICC members. Surveys indicate that one of the primary reasons for joining NAICC is the legislative influence of our organization. This fall, the NAICC executive board determined to strengthen the GAC to better deal with specific issues that concern our members and enhance the overall effectiveness of our visits to Washington, D.C.

GAC Subcommittees Increase Legislative Effectiveness

The GAC will now be comprised of three subcommittees, including the GA-Crop Consultant Subcommittee, GA-Research Consultant/QA Subcommittee, and the Crawfish Boil on the Hill Subcommittee. The GAC will provide oversight for all and consist of Subcommittee Chairs plus one additional member from each subcommittee. In addition, NAICC Executive Vice President Allison Jones and NAICC Government Affairs Assistant Glenn Luedke will serve on the GAC Committee.

This year, I will serve as the Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee. Steve Hoffman will serve as the GAC-Crop Consultant Subcommittee Chair. Dennis Hattermann, Ph.D. will serve as the GAC-Research Consultant/QA Subcommittee Chair. Bill Cox and Ray Young will serve as the Crawfish Boil on the Hill Subcommittee Co-Chairs.

The NAICC Executive Board also seeks to increase the involvement and interaction with State Affiliate Organizations. The Board believes that one of the great benefits NAICC offers to its state organizations is its collective voice in Washington, D.C. To increase collaboration with our State Affiliate Organizations, the GAC Crop Consultant Subcommittee has asked each State Affiliate to appoint a representative to serve on the committee. NAICC would like for these State Organizations to help identify key issues affecting crop consultants and their clients, as well as identify key contacts in Washington, D.C.

The GAC and its respective subcommittees will begin identifying key issues affecting our members in the next six weeks. We will then research and develop NAICC’s positions on these issues in preparation for the Executive Board’s visits to the Hill in March 2015. During the committee meetings at the Annual Meeting, these positions will be fine-tuned and final position statements will be drafted. This will allow the GAC more than a month to prepare the NAICC Executive Board for their Hill visits in March.

If you are interested in serving on one of these important subcommittees, please feel free to contact any of the sub-committee chairs or me. If you have government related issues or concerns that you would like the GAC to address, please contact me as well. I welcome your input and participation.

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EPA

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The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would bar the EPA from moving forward with new rules unless it makes public all scientific and technical information it used to develop them. An amendment passed that would direct the EPA to make available online all scientific and technical information before it proposes or finalizes regulations.

EPA-Pesticide Lawsuit

Environmentalists are appealing a federal district court ruling that rejected a years-long mega suit related to pesticides and are attempting to force EPA to review the effects of numerous registered pesticides on an estimated 100+ endangered species. Some within the environmentalist group believe they may be able to negotiate a potential settlement with the EPA and resolve litigation.

EPA-Pesticide Approval FOR GM Crops

A group of environmentalists have threatened to sue the EPA over the "EPA's unbelievably foolish" decision to approve the use of decades-old herbicides on new genetically modified crops and impose new weed resistance management requirements that address concerns regarding that new uses would tend to increase the spraying of pesticides and increase weed resistance.

EPA-Pesticide Drift

EPA has announced a new "voluntary" Drift Reduction Technology (DRT) program to encourage the use of verified, safer pesticide spray products that would reduce exposure and pesticide movement and reducing cost by preventing product loss. The EPA reports that up to 10% of ag pesticides drift or do not reach the intended crop (estimated to be up to 70 million pounds with an estimated value of \$640 million). The DRT program encourages manufacturers to perform tests on their technologies (nozzles, shields, drift reduction chemicals, etc.). EPA encourages manufacturers to label products that conform to DRT technologies. There are four ratings and the products must demonstrate a minimum 25% reduction in spray drift reduction compared to the standard. Over time, the DRT program would move to wider use of low-drift technologies and drift reduction ratings could appear as early as fall 2015.

EPA-Removal Of Inert Ingredients In Pesticides

Several environmental groups have petitioned the EPA to remove approximately 72 chemicals from the EPA list of substances approved as inert ingredients in pesticides. The Center for Environmental Health, Beyond Pesticides, Physicians for Social Responsibility and others petitioned EPA to make the change, even though the non-active ingredients added to pesticides are not currently used in pesticides now on the market. EPA is requesting public comment on the proposal. The petitioners stated they want to be certain the 72 ingredients are not added to any pesticide products unless completely cleared by the EPA.

DATA PRIVACY

A group of major farm organizations and providers of ag technology announced they have arrived at an agreement on

data privacy and rules of security that will promote the use of innovative, technology-driven tools and services to increase the productivity, efficiency and profitability of American agriculture. The new guidelines give assurances that the move to the next generations of ag technology will take place in a rapid and timely manner.

Highlights Of The Agreement:

Ownership: Farmers/ranchers own the information generated on their farming/ranching operation. It is the responsibility of the owner to agree upon data use and sharing with other stakeholders who have an economic interest, i.e. tenant, landowner cooperative, owner of the precision ag system hardware and/or technology providers. The contracting farmer/rancher is responsible that only the data they own or have permission to use is included in the account with the ag technology provider.

Collection, access and control: An ag technology providers' collection, access and use of farm/ranch data should only be granted with consent of the farmer/rancher.

Notice: Farmers/ranchers must be notified their data is being collected and how the data will be disclosed/used.

Third-party access/use: It must be revealed who may have data access beyond the ag technology provider and how they will use it.

Transparency/consistency: Ag technology providers shall notify farmers/ranchers their intended purposes regarding the collection and use of farm data.

Ag technology provider: The provider(s) should explain the effects and abilities of the data owner to opt in/opt out or disable the availability of services and feature offered.

Portability: Within the context of the agreement and retention policy, data owners should be able to retrieve their data or storage or use in other systems, with the exception of the data that has been made anonymous or aggregated and is no longer specifically identifiable.

Data availability: Ag technology provider agrees they should provide for the removal, secure destruction and return of original farm data from the ag technology provider and any third party who shared the data after a pre-agreed period of time.

Market speculation: Ag technology providers will not use farm data to illegally speculate in commodity markets.

Liability and security safeguards: The ag technology provider should clearly define terms of liability.

OSHA

The U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia issued an opinion supporting OSHA on regulating businesses that handle and process grain and other agricultural products that create dust. The case was a challenge to OSHA's revised

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EPA

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Hazard Communications Standard which states that grain dust is a “hazardous chemical”. Workplace requirements have already been established by OSHA outlining the dangers of grain dust. The 1987 rule governing “dust” around grain elevators, feed mills, flaking mills, etc., etc., clearly stated the facilities were to control “fugitive” dust which was defined as combustible dust particles of a certain size. Congress had already directed OSHA to not monitor grain handling facilities with 10 or fewer employees. Several petitioners objected to the ruling. The three-judge panel admitted it was difficult to understand the meaning of “grain dust”. OSHA’s rule and the Court of Appeals made it clear combustible dust is a hazardous chemical and make it clear that employers must control “fugitive” dust which may become combustible and as a result must be treated as any hazardous chemical release.

FAA

The NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) agreed to follow guidelines of the FAA regarding the federal regulations application to UAV’s (drones) in a court case. The NTSB, which hears appeals of FAA enforcement actions, ruled that small drones are a type of aircraft and fall under existing FAA rules. The recent ruling strengthens the position of the FAA as that agency attempts to cope with the surge in the use of unmanned aircraft. Some

are calling for cockpit training. Canada is expected to issue a blanket approval for all commercial operations that that use drones weighing less than 4.4 pounds as long as they comply with certain safety regulations such as altitude limits and no-fly zones around airports, etc.

LABOR

Recent White House initiatives will not offer anything encouraging regarding the labor challenges faced in the agricultural industry. Farm organizations have expressed their disappointment and are calling for a flexible visa program that would ensure long-term access to a growing need and allowing foreign-born workers to enter the U.S. The request for action requests an overhaul of the outdated agricultural visa program and develops rules that give experienced agricultural workers a way to gain legal status.

GMOs

The USDA is in the process of developing potential solutions for growers whose business is interrupted by GMOs. Several models have been developed and include the establishment of a fund from the biotechnology industry or a tax-payer subsidized crop insurance system. USDA has the option of activating the “Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture” (AC 21) to further investigate the issue.



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