I can’t believe it is already September. In California harvest is in full swing and it will continue through the fall and early winter. As most of us say in our business, “Now it’s crunch time”. Now is the time to harvest crops, ship samples, prepare reports and start preparing for the winter crops as the great circle of agriculture continues.

To keep you updated on what is happening with NAICC, the Annual Meeting program is being finalized. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be in Orlando at the Buena Vista Palace. The dates are January 27-30. Dan Moser and the Annual Meeting Coordination Committee, plus the subcommittees have worked diligently to make this meeting great. The crop consultant’s program has a full slate of topics ranging from employee management and Crop & Soil Science issues to Governmental Affairs and emerging technologies. The research consultant’s side is packed with regulatory and evolving technologies. The research consultant’s side is packed with regulatory and evolving technologies.

Update on The Annual Meeting Program

I would like to thank everyone who has been working to make the 2016 NAICC Annual Meeting a success; I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando.

Wish I knew When I Started QA.

I know Dan Moser and his chairs; Matt Eich for CEC, Matt Winslow and Kathy Richards for REC, and Angela Dawson for QA have all been working very hard on making this great meeting. I for one am grateful for their dedication and commitment.

When things start to wind down for all of you, I would like to encourage you to think of ways you can serve NAICC and our members. How can you as an individual contribute to NAICC?

NAICC has so many resources that they can draw from within our membership, and I feel the more we have the better off we will be as an organization. NAICC has a great team in place; the Board, the Committees, and the members, and all of us together make up a great influential organization. NAICC needs everyone to make us progress and push forward.

As I am coming into my ninth month as President of NAICC, I am still humbled and amazed at all of the networking that our members have. I see it even more now in the role as President. I would like to encourage everyone if you served on a committee this year, then recommit yourself to work on the goals that were created for your committees. Also think about how else you may want to serve and encourage others you know to serve. It is the ideas of the individuals that make the whole organization so successful and strong. The Board will be traveling to the fall board meeting in Chico, CA where we will be recommitting ourselves to accomplish the goals we set for ourselves.

If you have not served on committees in the past I would like to encourage you to do so. I know Dan Moser, President Elect, will soon be contacting members to chair committees of NAICC for 2016. I know after I became involved I felt humbled and honored to the wealth of knowledge at my disposal.

I would like to thank everyone who has been working to make the 2016 NAICC Annual Meeting a success; I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando.

Three ways to participate:

Future Leaders – complete application and return by September 1

Present Leaders – complete an application, host a participant at your facility and/or donate to the Leadership Scholarship program

Past Leaders – Host a program participant at your facility or donate to the Leadership Scholarship Fund
WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS

EPA has announced the Office of Management and Budget is reviewing the overhaul of Worker Protection Standards. The current plan is to release the planned changes (set in 2014) in October 2015. The rule would increase farmers’ obligations to their field workers/employees. Annual pesticide training is a requirement. Establishment of rules for no-entry buffer zones in areas treated with pesticides are required along with notification of workers of their legal rights relative to pesticide exposure. The new rules would prohibit children under the age of 16 from handling most pesticides.

EPA PROPOSED PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION RULES ANNOUNCED

On Thursday, August 24, the EPA announced the proposed Pesticide Applicator Certification Rule. The proposal revises the applicator training standards and requires states to adjust their standards/guidelines to comply. The new rule (280 pages) lists applicator training guidelines and the completion of a written test is a requirement for specialized certifications engaged in “high risk” application methods. The test covers the following areas: understanding label requirements, application equipment (selection, maintenance, flow rate, etc.), drift and other areas. The prepurchase proposed rule can be found at http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/epa-proposes-stronger-standards-people-applying-riskiest-pesticides. The prepurchase version is a document that EPA is submitting for publication in the Federal Register. While the Agency has taken steps to ensure the accuracy of this prepurchase version of the document, it is not the official version of the document for purposes of public comment or judicial review. Please refer to the official version of the document that will appear in a forthcoming Federal Register publication and will have a 90 day comment period.

EPA is proposing stronger standards for pesticide applicators who apply “restricted use” pesticides. These pesticides are not available for purchase by the general public and require special handling. Application of these restricted use pesticides must be by a certified applicator or someone working under the direct supervision of their direct supervisor. EPA stated the goal of their action is to reduce incidences of harm from misapplication of toxic pesticides and ensure a consistent level of protection among states. In addition, EPA is proposing stricter standards for certified applicators and that all applicators to be at least 18 years of age. Certification would need renewal every three years. EPA is also proposing additional specialized licensing for certain methods of application that can pose greater risks if not conducted properly, to include fumigation and aerial applications. According to the EPA, “those working under the supervision of certified applicators would now need training on using pesticides safely and protecting their families from take-home pesticide exposure. The change would also reduce burdens on applicators who work across states lines. The program promotes consistency across state programs by encouraging inter-state recognition of licenses”. EPA is calling for public comment which ends November 23, 2015.

WOTUS

Judge Blocks Implementation of WOTUS in 13 States

Since publication of the Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule in the Federal Register, numerous lawsuits were filed challenging the regulation, and several parties sought preliminary injunctions to delay implementation of the rule. On August 27, the District Court for North Dakota found granted the request of a number of States and issued a decision preliminarily enjoining the Clean Water Rule. Under the order issued by the District Court of North Dakota, the parties that obtained the preliminary injunction are not subject to the new rule, and instead continue to be subject to the prior regulation. In light of the order, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will continue to implement the prior regulation in the following States: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

United States District Courts in Georgia and West Virginia denied the requests for preliminary injunction as challenges to the Rule could only be brought in the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit.

The rule is effective on August 28 in all other states. The Agencies are evaluating these orders and considering next steps in the litigation.

NPDES PESTICIDE GENERAL PERMIT REPEAL

The Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works approved Senate Bill 1500-The Sensible Environmental Protection Act of 2015. The thrust of S. 1500 addresses the duplicate regulations of pesticide applications and clarifies that FIFRA provides sufficient regulatory review of pesticides and that CWA permits are not necessary. Agricultural organizations support S. 1500 and support the theory that all pesticide applications should be carried out in accordance with the requirements of all federal and state pesticide label requirements. The label is law and requires strict compliance. Coordination with the House is required.

SPENDING BILL

The House Appropriations Committee has commenced preparing the 2016 F/Y Ag Spending Bill. The Bill is said to contain approximately $143.9 billion in both discretionary and mandatory spending. The amount is $3.2 billion below the White House budget request. The Bill includes reductions in NRCS programs, decreased funding for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program ($300 million) and a decrease in the annual enrollment of new acres in the Conservation Stewardship Program by 2.26 million acres. Also included was a policy provision that would delay the enforcement of the Conservation Compliance link to crop insurance for the 2016 re-insurance year.
FOOD LABELING

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 (HR 1599) by a vote of 275-150. The bill pre-empts states patchwork efforts to mandatory labeling of GMO products and create a USDA certification of non-GMO free products. Four amendments were proposed but all were defeated. Agriculture groups applauded the measure and stated the bill allows a consistent and transparent food label that is founded in science.

EPA

The House passed HR 427—Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act. The bill would subject major rules issued by EPA and other agencies to Congress for approval before they could take effect. The proposal faces uncertainty in the Senate and the White House has threatened a veto. Supporters state this is a way to restrict environmental policies they oppose such as EPA’s pending power plant climate rules and CWA jurisdiction rule.

REGULATORY REFORM

House and Senate groups may delay until 2017, efforts to pass a comprehensive regulatory reform package that a newly elected administration might support. The House/Senate groups will, however, continue to push newly drafted bills that would allow regulators to end EPA overreach with climate, water and additional rules.

House and Senate committees with EPA oversight have held hearings on several regulations that some congressional delegates oppose. A bi-partisan resolution in the Senate in May would create a select committee on regulatory review and would give EPA critics a unified course to pursue reform legislation. Resolution 17 would establish a joint select committee (15 House/15 Senate members) that would be charged with making recommendations to the Congress/Senate on regulatory reform measures and would include a proposal for a standing committee that would have the power to review and if deemed necessary, block pending rules.

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES/POLLINATOR ISSUES

The Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has elected to not make a decision regarding placing the monarch butterfly on the endangered species list until 2018. (Environmental groups requested 12 months ago that the monarch butterfly be placed on the endangered species list). FWS officials stated the assessment is extremely complex and has only limited resources. The Endangered Species Act requires FWS to make a listing determination within 12 months after receiving a petition that it decides has merit.

Environmentalists are asking the EPA to place restrictions on glyphosate in order to protect declining monarch butterfly populations. EPA is considering possible approaches that would restrict the use of glyphosate but balance a landowner’s need for weed control. CropLife, pesticide producers and producer groups are backing voluntary measures that would improve habitat. Several state and some federal agencies are supporting industry arguments that herbicide restrictions may appear to be counterproductive. USDA has urged EPA to study the risks and benefits of weeds/weed control and is requesting more research into areas that affect monarch habitat.

Friends of the Earth (FOE) have requested the EPA to provide documents they believe will prove their claim that undue pressure from the pesticide industry influenced the EPA to protect pollinators from acutely toxic pesticides, though industry is urging EPA to withdraw the plan because of a lack of scientific backing. FOE wants to know how often EPA and the Office of Pesticides Programs met with pesticide manufacturers groups. Pesticide manufacturer groups deny any undue influence.

2016 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO

The 2016 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO will be held at the January 27-30 in Orlando, FL. Visit http://www.buenavistapalace.com/guestrooms-en.html to see the beautiful property which is located across the street from Downtown Disney! The online hotel reservations site is https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=1249009&hotelID=6579. You can also make reservations by calling 1-866-397-6516. The deadline to receive the NAICC discount is 5:00 p.m. Eastern on December 24, 2015.

Registration information for the meeting and AG PRO EXPO will be available in late September.
A letter from the UK

By Allen Scobie, Bridgend Consultancy Services Ltd., Brechin, ANGUS Scotland

In 1996 the European Union (EU) introduced legislation to regulate the amount of nitrogenous fertiliser farmers could use on arable crops. This was as a direct measure to reduce the level of Nitrogen in Drinking below 50mg/l. The UK government introduced this as Nitrogen Vulnerable Zones (NVZ’s). Initially farmers and their advisors thought that it would not cause any real problems but over time it became obvious that this legislation would prove a heavy burden for farmers and their advisors.

Des Moines Water Works Clashes with Iowa Farmers

When I read this article in the spring of this year I could hear alarm bells ringing in my head saying “Oh no! This is going to happen in the USA too” You have probably already figured out that NVZ’s would incur a bit of extra form filling but maybe I can share some thoughts with you about how bad something like this can get.

Farmers in EU countries have had their land assessed to decide whether their farming operations might pose a threat to water quality. It will not surprise you to hear that most of the best farms in the best arable areas have ended up in these NVZ’s and here are some of the compliance measures imposed on farmers.

- Complete a nutrient management plan stating cropping plans and amount of proposed nitrogen fertiliser.
- The maximum amount of nitrogen fertiliser a grower can apply to the crop is decided by looking up a series of tables in a document produced by government scientists.
- It might not surprise you that the nitrogen recommendations calculated by these scientists have proved sub optimal. I have many friends in academia but, if I was a farmer and I wanted someone to manage the crops on my farm, I would choose another farmer or a consultant. I would not choose a university professor. Many growers tell me that their yields have remained static since the implementation of NVZ’s.
- If the farm is a livestock unit they also need to calculate the amount of N supplied by the animal manures and deduct it from the total inorganic nitrogen.
- Random Farm audits are carried out to check that the amount of fertiliser bought and on farm stocks tally with the amount used and the amount stated in the nutrient management plan.

There was a government study conducted recently in the UK to see why farm yields had not improved in the last decade or so. Some of the guys involved in conducting the study were same people who wrote the Nitrogen requirements for crops under NVZ rules. They did not make the connection and no, I did not make this up!

Just when we thought it could not get any worse, the water companies in the UK complained about an autumn herbicide for winter wheat and barley called Isoproturon. The government banned Isoproturon so farmers turned to using Chlorotoluron instead. The government banned this also. Both products are readily available in other European countries. We are now using Pendimethalin but for how long before this gets picked up in water too. Several reservoirs, and lakes (called lochs in Scotland) have had problems with algal blooms and there are discussions going on to find out how to tackle this problem. If the government decides that farmers are applying too much phosphate fertilisers we may get PVZ’s.

I wrote this article on a plane flying back from the Ukraine. Ukrainian farmers can’t seed canola because the fields are bone dry. The corn leaves are curling up and soy leaves are turning yellow a month earlier than normal so that does not bode well for crop yields. I called Karenina on my lay over at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris (France not Texas!) and she told me it’s raining at home. So Scotland has too much water and Ukraine does not have enough. We and our farmers deal with adverse weather conditions on a daily basis but it would be useful if we could be allowed to get on and farm to the best of our abilities without interference from governments and utility companies.

Wishing you all good luck for harvest.

www.naicc.org
EPL Bio Analytical Services (EPL BAS), Niantic/Harristown, IL, is once again a finalist for the annual AGROW - Best Supporting Role Award. This award recognizes the company that has contributed most to the global crop protection industry through the provision of support services. Judges look for a company that offers outstanding client support, excellence in service provision and a willingness to go the extra mile for its customers. The competition this year was particularly competitive because there were significantly more entries for the category. Finalists in other categories include Dow AgroSciences, Syngenta, Marrone Bio Innovations, DuPont Crop Protection and Bayer CropScience.

Vice President of Quality and Compliance, Michelle Smith adds, "EPL Bio Analytical Services is so honored to be a finalist and attend the 2015 AGROW Awards in London this year. Since 1987, EPL BAS has provided globally recognized Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) compliant contract analytical laboratory support for crop protection regulatory submissions, and safety and nutrition evaluations of feed and food ingredients. In 2014, we dramatically expanded our ISO 17025 Scope of Accreditation and our molecular biology lab. We also continued to demonstrate leadership in the agricultural industry through the implementation of methods and processes for data generation and assessment in pollinator health studies in collaboration with others in the agricultural industry. EPL stands for Excellence, Passion and Leadership in the Ag industry and being considered for this award adds to the sense of accomplishment and pride that our employees take in the services that we provide in agriculture."

**About EPL Bio Analytical Services**

EPL Bio Analytical Services (EPL BAS) is an award winning, Good Laboratory Practice compliant (GLP), ISO 17025 accredited analytical contract lab. Our vision is to be the "most trusted analytical laboratory in the Ag industry". EPL BAS serves the global agricultural industry by analyzing feed and food ingredients, organic products, genetically enhanced crops, bio-pesticides, plants, algae, plant protection agents and crop chemicals. With the goal of providing safe, healthy abundant food while protecting and improving the environment, EPL BAS uses advanced innovative technology in the areas of nutritional chemistry, agricultural chemistry including residue and product chemistry and molecular biology to provide excellent, timely support for the feed, food, fiber, and fuel industries. We don't have an Ag Division …because we are Ag!

*If you are a Sustaining Member of NAICC and would like to be highlighted in the Spotlight on Sustaining Members section, contact Allison Jones at AllisonJones@naicc.org.*

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**NAICC Product Support Policy**

NAICC Sustaining Members provide a great resource for our crop and research consultants, and we appreciate their support of and interaction with ag professionals. In return, NAICC offers support for the technology, equipment and services and has a policy for advocating on their behalf in front of USDA and EPA.

Below is the official NAICC Policy for Supporting Products.

1. Letter of support must be approved by two-thirds of the Legislative Advisory Committee, and Executive Vice President (prior to submission to the Executive Board for approval.)

2. A letter must accompany request for support from the manufacturing company completely explaining the situation and explaining needs, safety, etc.

3. NAICC must receive a letter from the producers association backing up the situation, explaining needs, safety, etc.

4. Request for support must be made from three NAICC members that are not members of the Executive Board or the Governmental Affairs Committee.

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Show your NAICC pride by adding a tag line promoting your profession and the Alliance. Below are a few suggestions. Voting Members – if you would like to use the NAICC logo and need a jpg file, email allisonjones@naicc.org. Sustaining Members can also request the NAICC Sustaining Member's logo (shown above).

1. Proud Member of NAICC Since ___
2. Proud Member of (logo) Since ___
3. (just logo)
4. Join me in Orlando in January 2016 for the NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO
   http://naicc.org/meetings/2016-annual-meeting/
Meet Annette Leslie
Chairperson of the Research/QA Education Outreach Committee

Annette has Midwestern roots, settling in Des Moines Iowa at the age of 9. She started her adult life as a Cosmetologist, owning “Annette’s Family Hair Designers” in a small town northwest of Des Moines. When she was raising two children, she decided to go back to college and received a degree in Biology from the University of Northern Iowa.

In 2001, a year after graduating she started her Quality Assurance career as a contract QA Auditor with Quality Associates Incorporated (QAI). She was placed at Pioneer in Des Moines Iowa to continue the implementation of the Regulatory department’s newly established GLP program. In 2005 Annette joined Pioneer as a full-time Quality Assurance Specialist, continuing the GLP efforts and finding top talent to build the Quality Assurance Unit. Annette became a Registered Quality Assurance Professional (RQAP) in 2008 and has served as an internal auditor for ISO-9001, BIO-ETS and BQMS for Pioneer. Annette has successfully built QAU teams for Pioneer in Iowa, Delaware and India and established a GLP site at Pioneer’s research stations in Chile and France.

Annette currently focuses her QA expertise on Pioneer’s Contract Research Organizations (CROs), both field and laboratory. As a liaison with the CROs, Annette provides them with the dedication and attention they deserve, from GLP consulting and training to on-site inspections. In addition to this focus on CROs, she works with various Pioneer Research divisions, providing data integrity training to ensure they are producing quality data for Pioneer.

Because of Annette’s involvement with NAICC, several years ago she was asked to be a part of a GLP/GM working group. The goal of the working group is to publish a white paper to be used by the agricultural biotechnology industry to clear up the confusion of US EPA GLP terminology on Genetically-engineered crops. This white paper has taken many twists and turns and is still being debated by its members and the crop community.

Annette has been a member of SQA and MWSQA since 2001 and was a member of the Biotech Specialty Section of SQA. Annette became a member of NAICC in 2013 after many years of full engagement at the annual conferences. Annette has been a presenter nearly every year for the QA sessions since 2008. Because of her involvement and dedication with presenting for the QA sessions, Renee Daniel asked Annette to join the planning committee for the pre-conference training and QA sessions. After 2 years of planning and presenting the Basic GLP session (with Angela Dawson of EPL and Tracey Froggatt of Dow), she was ready to take on a more committed role as Chair.

Thanks to Lisa Wheelock-Roney, Annette agreed to chair the Research/QA Education Outreach Committee for the upcoming 2016 NAICC conference. In 2016 Annette expects to have the same great success as 2015 proved to be. They are aiming to have another record attendance while offering 3 unique training sessions that provides something for everyone. A must have Basic GLP session, a Refresher GLP session and an always popular hands on session that will focus on field sampling techniques. For the first time, NAICC will have online registration for this GLP training, sign up early so you can secure your spot and meet Annette!

Under Construction—Buena Vista Palace

Last month, the NAICC headquarters received notice that the Buena Vista Palace, site of the 2016 NAICC Annual Meeting and Ag Pro Expo, is under new ownership and will be renovating the lobby/bar area, ¼ of sleeping rooms and swimming pool over our convention dates. HOWEVER, the hotel assures us that this should not negatively impact our meeting. According to the letter received:

• The Ballrooms and first floor convention space will remain open and free from renovation. These areas are expected to remain completely functional and free from any construction disturbance.
• During the period of the lobby renovation (September through February), the hotel will have a completely functional front desk established on the lobby level, away from the renovation but immediately accessible to guest areas.
• As the guest rooms will be renovated by tower (and not by floor), noise disturbances will be minimized.
• A three-meal restaurant and one80 sports bar will be open and continue to serve our guests.

Note from NAICC: The hotel is directly across the street from Downtown Disney which has numerous restaurants, stores and entertainment options. A new walkway over the street is being completed this fall.

• During the pool renovation (September - June 2016), the hotel’s Spa Pool will remain open for use for all guests. In addition, we have made arrangements with a neighboring hotel to allow our guests to use their pool and pool bar during the closure.

In addition, the NAICC Executive Board negotiated the following concessions to compensate our members for the construction that will go on during our meeting.

• Reduce sleeping room rate to $150
• Complimentary President’s Reception on Thursday night
• Discounts on drinks at bar for members wearing name badge

Since the pool will be cordoned off by a temporary wall, we recommend you reserve your sleeping room in the main towers of the Buena Vista Palace. You must request a tower room when calling for reservations (1-866-397-6516) or indicate this in the comments section of the online form at https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=1249009&hotelID=6579. Remember there will be other guests in the hotel too so tower rooms may be sold out if you wait until the last minute to reserve your room.

www.naicc.org
**NAICC Dues Renewal**

Starting with the 2016 NAICC dues renewal process, dues renewal notices will be sent only via email. You can still pay by credit card or mail a check. However, renewing online is the most efficient way for the NAICC HQ to handle your renewal as the payment is tied to the database. You will also be able to update your directory listing when you renew your dues.

PLEASE go to naicc.org and edit your profile to update your email address. If you have forgotten your username, please email allisonjones@naicc.org. Watch your email for dues renewal notices in mid-September.

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**Nominations Open for Consultant of the Year**

**Deadline is October 30, 2015**

Do you know an NAICC member who has demonstrated exemplary performance this year? Consider nominating him/her for 2015 Consultant of the Year (COTY). Once again, BASF is generously sponsoring the recognition of three NAICC leaders to be honored at the 2016 Annual Meeting. 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 October 30, 2015.

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**Richard L. Jensen, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship Applications**

Applications for Richard L. Jensen, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarships are available at http://thefeae.org/jensen-scholarship/. We encourage you to share the application with your summer employees or college students working toward an Ag degree. Students working for NAICC members qualify for preferred status.

Three scholarships are provided by NAICC’s Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education (FEAE):

- One $3,000 award is given to a deserving third-year student in Agriculture with a major in Crop Production or allied subject.
- Two $1,500 awards are given to deserving college students in Agriculture.

Application deadline is November 1, 2015.

The mission of the Foundation for Environmental Agricultural Education is to catalyze innovative education and training for current and future professional crop management practitioners including researchers and crop consultants.

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**Position for:**

Principal Field Investigator
Requires Bachelors degree
In Biology, Chemistry, or Ag.

Resume to: Pat Jones
Excel Research Services, Inc.
4545 N. Brawley Ave., Suite 105
Fresno, CA 93722
pjones@excelresearch.com

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Watch your mailbox and email for the 2016 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO in October. Remember, to register on-line so we can easily match your payments with the database.

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**Watch your mailbox and email for the 2016 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO in October. Remember, to register on-line so we can easily match your payments with the database.**