



A professional society representing the nation's crop production and research consultants

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By
Dan Moser
NAICC
2016 President

Where Has the Year Gone?!

This is my last article as NAICC president. It seems like I just got home from the Annual Meeting in Orlando with a whole year looming ahead of me like a 2000-piece jigsaw puzzle with no edge pieces.

As February rolled into March, the NAICC Executive Board met in Washington, DC. The pieces of my challenge started to fall into place. We had a productive board meeting, successful meetings with the EPA, USDA, Senators, Representatives of Congress, and hosted the Crawfish Boil on the Hill.

Over the summer months, I participated alongside some of the government affairs committee members in discussions regarding recertification of numerous agricultural products and the certification of new compounds as well. The labels are being written to include more restrictive literature regarding application laws. Some of these products will include border restrictions where we cannot spray. This is a restriction that makes it very difficult to control resistant weeds and stop them where they start—in the borders of the fields. We need to continue to be diligent about voicing the Ag industry's need to use these products as they were designed, as across the whole field applications. This

is an ongoing undertaking that will not be resolved easily or quickly.

New certification requirements for applicators become effective in January of 2017. NAICC is trying to facilitate training opportunities for its membership to get trained to become trainers. This is an important business tool because it would make participants in the training offered able to go home and train their employees. Be watching for information to come regarding this in the NAICC newsletter.

In October, I hosted the NAICC Board at Devils Lake, ND. It was a very productive meeting and a good time to pause from our perspective busy seasons and concentrate on some NAICC business. We used this face-to-face time to review

the correspondences with EPA and Industry that had taken place over the summer months, discussed the ongoing plans for the upcoming annual meeting in St. Louis, MO, and reviewed and approved the budget for the 2017 fiscal year.

As 2016 comes to end, I am sad to see my tenure as president end. It has been a great and memorable experience, which didn't end up as daunting and complicated as I had expected. Looking back at the year as a whole gives me the same satisfaction as looking at that completed 2000-piece puzzle. I am excited and honored to pass the gavel off to Steve Hoffman at the Annual Meeting next month.

Annual Meeting NAICC Reminders

It's not too late to sign up for the 2017 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO.

Check out the final program and Annual Meeting App at the link below.

<https://naicc.org/meetings/2017-annual-meeting/meeting-registration>

Annual
Meeting
App
QR Code



HYATT REGENCY AT THE ARCH RATE OF \$129 EXTENDED!

Make your reservations at:

<https://aws.passkey.com/event/14079898/owner/988/home>



Happenings on the Hill

Glenn Luedke, NAICC Legislative Assistant

USDA

Net farm income (cash) for 2016 is forecast at \$90.1 billion and net farm income is estimated to be \$66.9 billion. Both income figures are a decline for the high set in 2013. The decline for 2016 is 16.4%. Rural counties were losing approximately 200,000 jobs per year and rural unemployment was near 10%. Rural counties added over 250,000 jobs in 2014/2015 and rural unemployment has dropped below 6% for the first time since 2007.

Farm Bill: The House Ag Committee has commenced work on the new Farm Bill. Because of the 42% drop in production farm income since the 2014 Farm Bill was submitted, the Chairman of the House Ag Committee stated he doesn't feel it will be difficult to convince the incoming administration of the need of a safety net. He feels a better job of creating an improved understanding between non-ag members of Congress and what they do and the effect it has on prices their constituents pay at the grocery store is needed.

CRP: USDA and the CRP have created a new initiative known as CLEAR. The program was created to assist landowners with the cost of building bioreactors and saturated buffers that filter nitrates and other nutrients from tile-drained cropland. CLEAR may cover up to 90% of the cost to install the new practices through the use of incentives and cost sharing.

Organics: The National Organic Standards Board is debating whether hydroponic operations can or should continue to be certified as organic. Some organic producers do not feel the Standards Board membership composition is following the original intent of the 1990 board makeup guidelines set up by the USDA. The original board composition consisted of 15 members representing growers, handlers, environmental protection, public interest and one member who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organically produced products.

GMO: Labeling issues are expected to receive serious debate. The definition(s) of GMO remains somewhat unclear. Agricultural groups continue to push for "sound science" as the basis for crop protection product labels.

NEW ADMINISTRATION/CONGRESS/SENATE

Major changes are expected and various agricultural commodity groups, producers and consumers are not holding back on what they want or expect.

What to expect:

Fewer regulations and all submitted and some current will have more cost-benefit analysis.

The Farm Bill will have more emphasis on the livestock industry and provide more overall safety nets.

It is expected that food policy activities in the USDA will see more movement to the states. The House will most likely initiate a food-stamp reform bill. Food safety will retain full support but anticipate less emphasis of food policy activism.

Crop Insurance will be under intense scrutiny. Non-agricultural interest groups want the budget for crop insurance expenditures reduced by reducing the premium subsidy. Expect efforts to put a cap on insurance payments.

Health care costs are a major concern for farmers/ranchers/rural communities/small business and the incoming administration and the Congress have pledged they will address this issue in 2017.

Trade agreements may be re-opened and some revisions may be proposed. In 2014, ag exports equaled one-third of total U.S. ag production.

WOTUS/Environmental issues will continue to be at the forefront when EPA issues are addressed. EPA efforts to expand the definitions and controls under the Clean Water Act that relate to WOTUS are drawing great concern when/if fully enacted.

The new administration and Congress will need to decide on the future direction of the Renewable Fuel Standards and other incentives for renewable fuels including tax credits. Congress has become greatly divided over RFS and other mandated energy programs.

Tax reform will be debated and a call for cuts in corporate and individual tax rates is certain. Agricultural interests continue to call for changes in the estate tax laws.

LABOR

In late November, a federal judge in Texas issued an injunction to stop the U.S. Labor Department's new overtime rule. This action will give the incoming administration and Congress the opportunity to reverse or modify the rule. The current administration has the option to appeal the decision. In this instance, the appellate court has previously ruled against the administration on other executive orders and it is predicted an appeal is unlikely.

The incoming administration's agricultural advisory committee has been quoted as saying they understand the unique labor challenges found in the agricultural industry and will definitely include producers in the process of determining the best possible immigration policies. Border security will be dealt with first and after that they will deal with worker and visa issues.

EPA

The EPA is finalizing standards for applicators that are in position to apply restricted-use pesticides that cannot be purchased by the general public. These pesticides require special handling. Only certified applicators can apply the pesticides as well as someone under the certified applicators direct supervision. States are permitted to issue licenses to pesticide applicators with an EPA approved program as long as they can demonstrate the ability to use the products safely. While many states may already have programs including some of the requirements in place, the final EPA action will also update requirements for state programs and for applicators applying for licensing. The program provides flexibility for states to continue use of portions of their existing programs that are equal to the revised rule. EPA will coordinate state plan updates and grant approval of the updated certification plans.

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Refreshment Break

2017 AG PRO EXPO Exhibitor List (as of December 27, 2016)



Adpen Laboratories	ICL Specialty Fertilizers
Ag Leader Technology	ICMS
AGIDEA	International Agricultural Research
Ag Source Laboratories	IR-4 Project Center for Minor Crops
Ag-Quest Inc	IRROMETER Company, Inc.
AgriData, Inc.	Iteris
AGVISE Laboratories	JRF America
Alliance Pharma	LABServices
ALLtech Research and Development	Landis International, Inc.
Almaco	Lange Research and Consulting, Inc.
American Ag	Metos USA
AMVAC Chemical Company	Midco Global
Analytical & Regulatory Chemistry, Inc.	Midwest Chapter SQA
Arysta LifeSciences	Missouri Partnership
Battelle Memorial Institute	Monsanto Company
Bayer CropScience	Netafim
Buckeye Ag Testing, LLC	Precision Study Management
CEMAS	RAM International
Charah	Real Farm Research
Critical Path Services (a knoell company)	Research Designed for Agriculture
Crop Quest, Inc.	Ricerca Biosciences
Dow AgroSciences	Seed Research Equipment Solutions
EAG Laboratories	Sentera
EPL Bio Analytical Services	SGS North America
Eurofins	Smithers Viscient
Excellence Through Stewardship	Soil Works LLC
Farm Dog	Spectrum Technologies, Inc.
Farm Journal-AGPRO	Spensa Technologies
Farm Shots	SST Software
FieldX Inc.	Symbiotic Research
FMC Agricultural Solutions	Syngenta
GAIAC	SynTech Research
GeoShack	UNL Doctor or Plant Health
Golden Pacific Laboratories, LLC	University of ID Food Technology Center
Great Lakes Ag-Research Service, Inc.	Valent USA
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Harvest Master	Western Ag Group of Companies
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SILENT AUCTION

As we prepare for the 2017 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO, be thinking about what exciting items you can donate to The Foundation's Silent Auction. Send your donation ideas to Debra Fitzgerald at fitzgeraldd@iskbc.com.

The EFSA Guidance for Conducting GM Crop Studies

Session sponsored by Bayer CropScience from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16 is OPEN TO EVERYONE

CRO Training and Discussion

Session: Industry Alignment on EFSA Guidance for Conducting GM Crop Studies by the EuropaBio Industry Working Group
Room: Gateway East

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CRAWFISH BOIL ON THE HILL

JANUARY 18TH IN GRAND D

8PM -to- 11PM

TRIVIA NIGHT

Doors open at 7:30 PM

Entry is \$10 per person—Up to 8 individuals per team
Individuals who would like to play but do not have a team are welcome and will be placed on a team upon arrival

Mulligans are available for \$10 per table
(Mulligans give you one free/correct answer per round)

We will also be playing dollar games during trivia,
so be sure and bring some \$1 bills!

RSVP to: Bree Goldschmidt
573.421.0209 bree@moarkag.com

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2017 NAICC Annual Meeting

There are still spaces available for the following:

TRAINING SESSIONS:

To register, go to at <http://naicc.org/meetings/2017-annual-meeting/>

WPS - Train the Trainer - \$75

Attendees will receive a certificate of completion and will have satisfied the requirements to teach worker and handler safety training to employees. This affects consultants and researcher who work with labeled products.

GLP Training for Research and Quality Assurance Professionals - \$150 (prices increase on-site if space available)

Space is still available in all three training sessions: Basic, Refresher, Sampling and Pollinator.



NAICC PRIDE

Show your NAICC pride by adding a tag line promoting your profession and the Alliance. In-coming President Steve Hoffman has issued a challenge to all NAICC Members! The person who promotes NAICC now through the end of 2017 in the most unique way or using the most different types of media will win complementary registration for the 2019 NAICC Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA! Winners will be announced at the Saturday morning group breakfast during the 2018 Annual Meeting in Tucson.

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).

Below are a few suggestions for tag lines on your email, business cards, letterhead, etc.

1. Proud Member of NAICC Since ____
2. Proud Member of (logo) Since ____
3. (just logo)
4. Join me in St. Louis in January 2017 for the NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO
<http://naicc.orgmeetings/2017-annual-meeting/>

These are just a few of the many ways we can promote NAICC and agriculture. Get creative!

Be sure to send a photo or your "NAICC Pride" tag line to AllisonJones@NAICC.org.

Certification Reminder

CPCC certification fees and 36 CEUs are due to the NAICC headquarters by March 1. You may renew your certification when you renew your dues online or mail your check or credit card information to the NAICC headquarters. Go to <http://naicc.org/member-center/ceu-renewal/> to renew and report your CEUs online.

The correct answer from the November newsletter was "Tootsie Roll Pop".

Congratulations to Zenna Burke for winning the gift card!

Answer the following question for a chance to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card:

What is the name of this comic strip cat?



Submit your answer here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/WLbj3mkBBjlyqFAq2>

One winner will be randomly selected from the correct answers and announced in the January newsletter.



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of Independent
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