



NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT CROP CONSULTANTS

A Professional Society Representing the Nation's Crop Production and Research Consultants and Quality Assurance Professionals

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the President](#)

[Happenings on the Hill](#)

[A Look at Safety](#)

[New Academy Sponsors](#)

[New Member Spotlight](#)

[NAICC Academy Webinar](#)

[Trivia Question - Win a \\$50 VISA Gift Card](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Clark Poppert

March 20-22, the NAICC Executive Board along with members of the Government Affairs Committee met in our nation's capital to visit with agriculture/commodity groups, government agencies and representatives that serve on key agricultural committees. We presented positions papers on our top three issues, the Endangered Species Act, the 2023 Farm Bill and IR-4.

The Endangered Species Act is a great piece of legislation but needs to be more detailed in its geographical scope. In the past, whole counties were excluded because of an endangered species. Although it might only be found in a small area of the county, the entire county was zoned to be excluded. In some areas this has been reduced to smaller areas but still can be reduced to a smaller partition with the help of GPS while ensuring the safety and the long-term

habitats of the species in question. The vast majority of our members use GPS on a daily or weekly basis and have the expertise to assist the EPA in georeferencing and mapping these areas to the correct size.

The Farm Bill which is reportedly to be completed in late 2023 should not present many surprises for the agriculture community. One pressing interest was that no negative changes be made to the crop insurance section of the bill. Our group met with NRCS, several Senators and Representatives regarding streamlining the Technical Service Provider process to be easier to become a TSP. Several bills have been introduced on this topic and we continue to follow the progress.

The IR-4 project is heavily supported by the NAICC. Funding increases are needed for IR-4 to reach its potential and complete the work that it was set out to do in the 1970s. Without additional funding this will not be possible.

WOTUS was discussed with the representatives and commodity groups and is still a large point of contention in the agricultural community. WOTUS is an acronym for Waters of The United States is an example over government overreach that would control the vast majority of the waterways and wetlands in the US. Congress voted on a resolution on March 9th to overturn WOTUS with a bi-partisan vote of 227 to 198. Later in the month on March 29 the Senate voted 53-43 in favor of overturning. WOTUS includes wording that is vague and inclusive and leaves too much material for interpretation. President Biden plans to veto the resolution and it appears that there are not enough votes to override his veto. This resolution had very little chance of making it through the White House but is a statement that should be heard by the current administration. The real test for WOTUS will be the outcome of the US Supreme Court hearing the case of Sackett vs the EPA which should be released later this year. Since then, an injunction to block the implantation of WOTUS was made by a federal court in Texas that also included Idaho. Then in mid-April a federal judge in North Dakota issued an injunction against the implementation of WOTUS in 24 additional states.

For more information on the NAICC position papers please visit the NAICC website. [2023 Position Papers](#)

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

By Keith Jones - Government Affairs Liaison

#Plant23 is likely to be rolling for you this week as crop insurance early plant dates and warm and dry enough soils in many places in the eastern and central Corn belt will move planters into fields and test plots.

Here in Virginia despite a week of near record temperatures, our abnormally dry spring and historical April cold snaps have softened growers' enthusiasm for early planting.

Enthusiasm for a metaphorical planting of the seeds of #FarmBill23 has not diminished however among the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Last week, the Senate Ag Committee announced its tentative spring hearing schedule.

These hearings will be the first of the 118th session occurring at the Senate subcommittee level so they will go well beyond the broad strokes of previous Farm Bill hearings with witnesses drilling down into legislation specifics. The tentative schedule is:

- April 19: Subcommittee on Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics and Research focused on nutrition.
- April 20: Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry and Natural Resources focused on conservation.
- April 27: Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade focused on crop insurance.
- May 2: Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade focused on commodity crops, and,
- May 17: Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy focused on rural broadband.

On Tuesday, April 18, the House Ag Committee's Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry will host a hearing to review USDA's efforts in preventing and responding to animal disease.

Despite the full April hearing schedule in both Committee's, most farm policy observers and farm press will be laser focused on the Wednesday, April 18, House Ag Full Committee hearing with EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. Committee members will be ready with a wide range of questions, particularly on WOTUS, and pesticide policy.

Finally, on Monday, Speaker Kevin McCarthy is likely to unveil a set of proposals designed to move the Republican caucus forward in its debt ceiling negotiations with the White House. Expected in that set of ideas is an expansion of the age bracket for people who must meet work requirements within existing rules on accessing SNAP nutrition benefits.

As discussed before, Senate Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow has said such a measure is a non-starter, and with the initial response from Senate Republicans decidedly non-committal, this attempt does not appear to have an easy path forward.

A LOOK AT SAFETY

By Laurie Bennett

Can YOU Hear Me Now?

We all realize that noise exposure in agriculture impacts all age groups from youth to older adults – not just the typical workforce age population. Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) which is a permanent impairment resulting from exposure to high levels of noise and of course affects many NAICC members.

NIHL can result from either a one-time exposure to noise (burst) or from repeated exposure to loud noises over time. According to the American Hearing Resource Foundation, one in ten Americans has hearing loss that affects his/her ability to understand normal speech. Hearing loss can be caused by illness or biological issues but can also result from exposure to noise that is too loud.

What is Too Loud?

Any noise that leaves you with a ringing in the ears or a temporary reduction in your hearing is TOO LOUD!

If you are in a noisy location and you must raise your voice above a normal speaking voice just to be heard, the noise is TOO LOUD!

TYPE	Daily Activities	Speech
NORMAL Hearing		Let's talk about a field of corn.
MILD Hearing Loss	 Difficulty hearing some speech and whispering	Let's talk about a field of corn.
MODERATE Hearing Loss	 Difficulty hearing group conversations	Let's talk about a field of corn.
SEVERE Hearing Loss	 Difficulty hearing TV, radio, a person talking	Let's talk about a field of corn.
TINNITUS	 Ringing and/or buzzing in the ears	 Noticable in quiet settings.

How is Noise Measured?

The loudness of sound levels are measured in units of “decibels”, abbreviated as dB or dBA.

Sound levels are measured with sound level meters. While these units are expensive, there are now many smartphones apps that can provide an estimate of sound levels.

Sound levels under 85 dBA are generally thought of as “safe,” although there is some risk of hearing loss for prolonged exposures to 80 dBA.

How Can You Protect Your Hearing?

Reduce Sound levels and isolate yourself from noise when possible. For example, pull running equipment outside rather than running the equipment inside an enclosed area. Do not park running equipment too close to where the staff is working.

Use personal protective equipment during exposure. Since purchasing newer, quieter equipment is not always an option, use hearing protection when working in noisy settings. The earmuff style offers the best protection and is easy to use. Expandable ear plugs are the next best option but these require proper insertion to be effective: roll them up, insert into the ear, hold in place while they expand to fill the ear canal.

How to Wear Soft Foam Earplugs

To get the best protection from your soft foam earplugs, remember to roll, pull, and hold when putting them in. Use clean hands to keep from getting dirt and germs into your ears!

1. Roll

Roll the earplug up into a small, thin “snake” with your fingers. You can use one or both hands.

2. Pull

Pull the top of your ear up and back with your opposite hand to straighten out your ear canal. The rolled-up earplug should slide right in.

3. **Hold**

Hold the earplug in with your finger. Count to 20 or 30 out loud while waiting for the plug to expand and fill the ear canal. Your voice will sound muffled when the plug has made a good seal.

4. **Check the fit** when you're all done. Most of the foam body of the earplug should be within the ear canal. Try cupping your hands tightly over your ears. If sounds are much more muffled with your hands in place, the earplug may not be sealing properly. Take the earplug out and try again.



Sources: Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health and
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/content/earplug.html>

INTRODUCING NEW ACADEMY SPONSORS

We are thrilled to announce two new NAICC Academy Sponsors.

Agrauxine

At Agrauxine, we deliver high performing biological solutions for pre-seed to post-harvest. We leverage our expertise and knowledge gained from decades of practical experience to consistently innovate and lead the way. Our focus on a better and more sustainable tomorrow results in a product line built for success today. Our reliable and consistent product performance has earned us trust – an essential asset that we never take for granted. Please visit us at www.agrauxine.us.

I-State Ag Research

I-State Ag Research is an independently owned agronomy consultation and research firm. Owner Brandon Kessler is passionate about agriculture, agriculture research and education. Raised on a crop/livestock farm in south central Indiana, he worked in agriculture most of his life. Brandon stated that NAICC has provided him with great opportunities to network, train and meet lifelong friends. The organization leaders have accepted and inspired him since day one. The GLP

and Efficacy trainings he has attended have been invaluable and he is proud to support NAICC's Academy.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome New Member Anthony Myers

By Laurie Bennett

Anthony Myers with Alpha Ag Research from Sanborn, Iowa is one of NAICC's newest members.

Anthony grew up in the agriculture sector and throughout his collegiate years, worked in the agriculture research arena. Anthony states, "Alpha Ag Research provides me the unique opportunity to continue research efforts with an outstanding team." Anthony stated that collecting, organizing, and delivering information in ways that appeal to all clients' needs in an efficient and effective manner can be one of the most challenging aspects of his job. Anthony also stated that this challenge can be very rewarding and looks forward to being part of NAICC.



NAICC ACADEMY WEBINARS

Click on the links below or go to <https://naicc.org/naicc-academy> to sign up!

2022 On-Demand Webinars

[Basic GLP Training](#) – \$125

[Carbon Markets 101](#) – \$75

[Inside Out – What Goes on Inside the Mind of an Auditor?](#) – \$75

[New Technologies in Agriculture](#) – \$75

Free Videos

Worker Protection Standards:

[How to Comply](#)

[WPS Training Videos](#)

2021 On-Demand Webinars

[2021 Hot Topics in Midsouth Ag](#) – \$25

[2021 Hot Topics in Midwest Ag](#) - \$25

[Efficacy Research Workshop](#) – \$100

[GAIAC Presents: Fall Armyworm/Precision Ag/Business Management](#)– \$75

[Nutrient and Carbon Trading](#) – \$25

[Virtual Auditing – Sponsor and CRO Perspective](#) – \$50

[What's the Deal with GLP Equipment?](#) – \$50

Become an NAICC Academy Sponsor

NAICC is looking for 2023 Academy Sponsors. Gain exposure for your business by having the opportunity to showcase your Company's name and products/services in front of over 700 independent crop, researcher, and quality assurance consultants. This is a great way to make the most of your advertising dollars while giving back to our organization and allowing members alike to further educate themselves on our great industry other professional development topics.

[Sponsorship Information](#)



TRIVIA QUESTION

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

What is the unit of measure for the loudness of sound?



Submit your answer [HERE](#)

Last Month's Answer:

Yellowstone



Congratulations

Gabby Nikolich

You are the winner of a \$50 VISA Gift Card!

Thank you to the Newsletter Committee for putting this issue together:

Rachel Lightfoot, *Chair*, Amalia Easton, *Co-Chair*,

Laurie Bennett, Jo Gillilan, Karla Jensen, Renee Minion, Walter Albeldano

If you would like to submit an article or have a suggestion for the *NA/CC News*, please contact [Rachel Lightfoot](#) or [Allison Jones](#).

NAICC

Your professional society representing the nation's crop production, research consultants and quality assurance professionals.

National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants

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