



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](#)

[2023 NAICC Awards](#)

[NAICC Equipment Auction](#)

[Cotton Consultant of the Year - Hank Jones](#)

[New Member Spotlight](#)

[NAICC Academy Webinar](#)

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

NAICC Starts 2023 with Three Exciting Meetings

By Clark Poppert

The 2023 NAICC Annual Meeting was held January 26-28th in beautiful downtown Nashville, Tennessee at the Nashville Omni. The site was only two blocks from the famed Broadway Street which housed live bands up and down the bustling sidewalks. Great food was in abundance all around the area and many landmarks were visited, including The Ryman Theater, Grand Ole Opry and The Jack Daniels Distillery. There was more to the Annual Meeting than sightseeing, the meeting was also educational for all categories of our membership.

NAICC celebrated its 45th anniversary in Nashville, and it was one for the record books. The AG PRO EXPO was sold out, and we even had to house one exhibitor in the main foyer. There were 827 attendees for the convention, which surpassed the old record of 772 in San Antonio in 2020. Each of the last 5 years the attendance has risen with the exception of 2021 when we were coming off of Covid and 538 attended in Orlando. 115 people attended the full-day Efficacy Research Training, 54 attended the GAIAC/NAICC Bio stimulants Workshop and 152 attended the GLP Training before the meeting.

NAICC began 2023 with a great start, including 115 new members already for this year. We have a lot of plans for 2023 and continued with the Focus on Consulting workshop, February 21-22, in Bloomington, MN. Next, it's on to Washington, DC where the Executive Board, the Governmental Affairs Committee members, and staff will canvas Capitol Hill and visit several Federal Agencies to discuss the Farm Bill as well as multiple regulations that are in the process of being implemented. We will conclude our trip with the 25th Annual Crawfish Boil on the hill, March 22. NAICC is hard at work for our members!

2023 NAICC AWARDS

AWARDS GIVEN TO OUTSTANDING NAICC MEMBERS

The Friday President's Luncheon at the NAICC in Nashville included several prestigious awards given to outstanding NAICC member recipients. The Consultant of the Year, established in 1993, went to William "Bill" Schaumburg, Tilth Agronomy, in Appleton, WI., while Service to Ag Award was bestowed upon Dr. Gary Hein, University of Nebraska. Special recognition went to Grady Coburn for his 45-year membership in NAICC. Clark Poppert and Grant McMillan both received honors for their enthusiastic top recruitment efforts.

With 19 years as an Independent Crop Consultant, Bill Schaumburg earned his degree at UW-Madison in Agronomy and Dairy Science. He is a certified Crop Advisor and past President of the Wisconsin Assoc. of Professional Ag Consultants. Bill has been an NAICC member since 2006 where he attended his first annual meeting in Atlanta. Tilth Agronomy employs 13 full time

consultants and 15 summer interns. Their main territory is Northeast Wisconsin. Originally, Bill grew up on a dairy farm in Seymore, WI. Bill is married to wife, Kelly, and they have four children. He also keeps busy watching his daughter's dance competitions, coaching his sons on the baseball diamond, and cheering the Packers, Badgers or Brewers. Congratulations Bill!

Dr. Gary Hein is a pioneer in research at the University of Nebraska. He received his undergraduate degree from Concordia College and both his masters in Entomology and Ph. D. from Iowa State. As Professor at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Gary has been responsible for directing and managing the Doctor of Plant Health Program. His work has allowed practitioners to integrate broad training to diagnose and solve plant health problems and maximize economic, environmental and social sustainability. Gary worked closely with NAICC and the Foundation to develop this program. Professor Hein is retiring soon and should be proud of his accomplishments and dedication to Ag and to NAICC.

Dr. Grady and Ms. Barbara Coburn were invited to the stage to be recognized for forty-five years of NAICC membership. Grady served as Past President in 1986 and has since chaired and served on many committees. He has been a mentor to many other NAICC members and has been the only active member who retained membership in NAICC for 45 years. This is a remarkable milestone to be recognized.



EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

March 9th, 2023

Exclusive for members of NAICC

Watch your email for further information!

CALLING ALL AG RESEARCHERS & CROP CONSULTANTS!

On March 9th, NAICC is having an equipment consignment auction to help ag researchers and crop consultants sell and purchase equipment.

The work that we do is specialized and so is the equipment that we use!

Sign up for the consignment auction now by visiting [National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants \(hibid.com\)](https://hibid.com)

COTTON CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR - HANK JONES

Cotton Consultant of the Year Hank Jones of RHJ Ag Services

Congratulations to NAICC Member Hank Jones of RHJ Ag Services, Winnsboro, LA. Hank Jones recently was named Cotton Consultant of the Year. Jones is all about teamwork and building relationships, as outlined

recently in an in-depth feature in Cotton Farming Magazine. Jones shared his history and passion. He attended college and received a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy Degree from Louisiana Tech and then pursued his Masters of Entomology from Louisiana State University. He founded his consulting company in 2016 after learning the ropes at another ag consultant business.

Hank Jones loves working with his farmers and treats their enterprises like his own, he admits. He advises on everything from soil sampling, varieties of pesticide recommendations and irrigation solutions to fertilizers and growth regulators. Early on, Hank worked towards boll weevil eradication. He showed interest in regulatory issues at the state and federal levels and enjoyed mentoring young people in agriculture. At the same time, he carries out his passion, Hank also remains involved in his church, community and is devoted to his family.

His professional networking is evidenced in that Hank is well-liked and respected by other crop consultants in the business and university experts in the Mid-South. His knowledge of crops and farming practices ranks at the top of his game.

Jones admits he was fortunate to be welcomed as a newcomer by more experienced crop consultants familiar to NAICC including Dr. Grady Coburn, Mr. Harold Lambert, Mr. Ray Young, Dr. Roger Carter. He assimilated their quality traits as leaders and forged ahead. He especially took on the mantra of working with his customers, industry reps, businesses as teammates, all striving for the same great outcome for success. Jones is a graduate of the LSU Ag Center Agricultural Leadership Development Program and multiple associations.

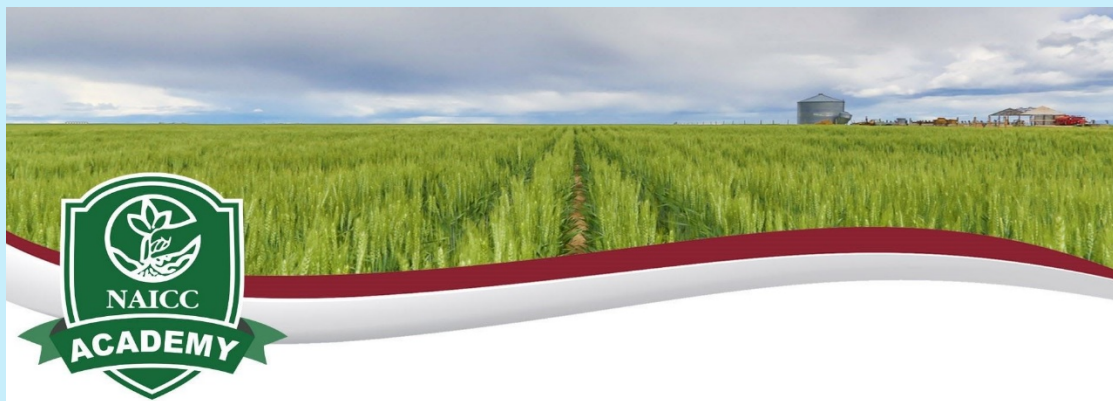
To read the full story about Hank Jones, 2022 Cotton Consultant of the Year, see the most recent issue of [Cotton Farming](#). The tribute includes endorsements from his clients around the state. Way to go, Hank!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ivan Cuvaca, ISK Biosciences Corporation

By Karla Jensen

For Agricultural insiders, most understand that a career in agriculture requires hard work and perseverance. So does NAICC newcomer, Dr. Ivan Cuvaca. Ivan serves as the Herbicide Development and Technical Services Manager for ISK Biosciences Corp., Concord, Ohio. Ivan says his parents had the most influence on him to enter this kind of field. “My parents have always been hardworking,” relates Ivan, who is driven and spends a lot of time at his desk. “I find it challenging to know when to stop (working).” There’s always emails to check and more to accomplish, but he reveals, “When I leave my desk, I can do less complex tasks.” Cuvaca attended Kansas State and has worked as a regional agronomist and research scientist. He enjoyed his first NAICC in Nashville in January. “I’m already looking forward to the next NAICC,” said Ivan. “It was such a great experience, and I enjoyed every bit of it.”



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 2022 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**](#)



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



TRIVIA QUESTION

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

Who is the longest running active member of NAICC?



Submit your answer [HERE](#)

Last Month's Answer:

Cumberland



Congratulations

Martha Collier

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 *NAICC 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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