



IN THIS ISSUE

[Crawfish and Washington, DC](#)

[NAICC DC Opportunities Outplay Baseball](#)

[Happenings on the Hill](#)

[NAICC Leaders Meet with Biostimulants Council in Washington, DC](#)

[Retirement: Can We Ever Really Retire](#)

[Free Webinar Series Focuses on Managing Weeds, Invasive Plants](#)

[Nominate a Consultant, Researcher or Quality Assurance Member to Receive the Consultant of the Year Award](#)

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



Crawfish and Washington, DC

By Mark Tumej

Hmmm, now that seems like an unlikely combination, doesn't it? Well, that's what I thought some 12 years ago or so when I first became a part of NAICC. I quickly learned that CBOH *meant* Crawfish Boil on the Hill, but never really *understood* it until a few weeks ago. As a relative newbie to the Executive Board and a first timer to CBOH, I was both uncertain as well as excited at what might unfold during the three days in Washington, DC with fellow Board members, Government Affairs Committee members, our Leadership Program participants, and NAICC staff.

Weeks before the trip, Allison Jones provided us all with a great deal of information to better prepare us, as well as a request for each of us to reach out to our own Senators and Representatives to schedule appointments to meet with them. (Now that's an interesting story all by itself.) Individuals were assigned to teams, and those teams were given a schedule of the meetings we had set up. Carefully drafted talking positions had been generated on several pertinent issues, ranging from Waters of the US (WOTUS) to Endangered Species Act (ESA), IR-4 funding, pending FIFRA changes, and more. As a group, we were educated on these issues, which were detailed in professionally prepared binders, that we could share with those we were meeting. (On a side note, Laurie Bennett, Grant McMillian, Dennis Hattermann, and I represented "Team Dennis" and ended our efforts in DC with the most meetings scheduled by any team! A record that I am sure will be challenged next year!)

The finale of our time in DC was of course, the Crawfish Boil. Some 250-300 individuals joined us, including Representatives and staffers to celebrate! We were told by many that this was the first time post-COVID that an event like ours had occurred! We were there not only to celebrate, but to deepen personal and professional connections, and even to explain further what NAICC was about to those who were curious.

I left my time in Washington with a feeling of great satisfaction. First, a renewed pride and respect for NAICC, comprised of people who take it upon themselves each year to identify pertinent issues that affect Agriculture to share with our DC Representatives, without any personal or corporate financial gain realized. We're not paid lobbyists, nor do any of us profit from selling products or services through this effort. We do it for a shared goal...the betterment of Agriculture in the US.

Secondly, I left with a greater respect for our Legislative system. Although many would argue that it is flawed, it still serves as representation for the people of this country, as evidenced by the sincere reception we received by our Senators/Representatives and their staffs.

And finally, I am thankful and proud of the other members representing NAICC that I came to know a bit better through this joint effort. What a fun, passionate, unselfish group of individuals we have representing our organization! Thanks to all!

NAICC DC Opportunities Outplay Baseball

By Laurie Bennett

DC Leadership Trip 2015... flights cancelled due to winter weather mix... Strike ONE

DC Trip 2020... COVID struck... cancelled... Strike TWO

DC Trip 2021... COVID again... never scheduled... Strike THREE... BUT...

FINALLY, I am OUT to DC! This years' experience was well worth the wait!

The opportunity to meet, collaborate, and boil crawfish with members on the MOUND in DC was a STRIKING experience. After this trip, I truly appreciate the positive influence that NAICC has on agriculture on the Hill... We DO Make a Difference!

Happenings on the Hill

By Rick Kesler

During March 28-30, NAICC members made their annual trip to Washington, DC to discuss issues impacting agriculture with key players on the Hill. Prior to the trip, six position papers were developed that outlined the key issues. These papers dealt with; 1) The Endangered Species Act (ESA), 2) FIFRA Reform – the Protecting America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act, 3) Worker Protection Standards (WPS), 4) Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), 5) IR-4, and 6) Carbon Markets/Sequestration. More on these papers in upcoming newsletters. [Click here](#) for the NAICC Position Papers.

It was a busy three days for the twenty-three NAICC members that made the trip. We were divided into six different groups for the Congressional and Agency calls led by Dennis Hattermann, Steve Hoffman, Allison Jones, Debra Keenan, Rick Kesler, and James Todd. A full twenty-five bi-partisan congressional offices were called on. These included both Senators and Representatives from thirteen different states. [Click here](#) for a complete list of visits made in DC.

Besides Hill visits, NAICC members also met with several government agencies and ag associations. Meetings were held with USDA plus two different meetings with EPA. Topics of

concern included, ESA, FIFRA Reform, the consultant exemption with WPS, support for increased IR-4 funding, and support for an increased budget for EPA to help them meet FIFRA/ESA mandated registration deadlines.

Ag associations that NAICC met with included, American Soybean Association (ASA), National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), National Cotton Council (NCC), Crop Life America (CLA), Responsible Industry for Sound Environment (RISE), Ag Retailers Association (ARA), The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Issues were discussed at all of these looking for common ground or opportunities where NAICC might be able to partner more closely going forward to develop a stronger more unified voice supporting NAICC's positions.

During the week, NAICC received many compliments on our visits while in DC. Several of the legislative staffs, agencies, and associations commented that the Position Papers were very well developed, and they all liked the QR codes attached to each one. Some of the congressional staffers were impressed by the clear voice and organization of the Position Papers and wanted to know which DC lobbying firm we used. (Ha. The answer of course was our own dedicated members and staff.) One of the Congressmen actually made phone calls during our IR-4 discussion on increasing their budget to find out why this hadn't been funded yet. Several asked us to find out more information about specific issues and get back in touch with their offices. There have also been two follow-up meetings with EPA since we got back from DC.

All-in-all, it was a rewarding CBOH trip with a close-up look at this nation's federal government in action. Private citizens can come together to make a difference.

NAICC Leaders Meet with Biostimulants Council in Washington



On Tuesday March 29, leadership from NAICC met with Ed Thomas, Vice President, Government Affairs at the Fertilizer Institute (TFI) and David Beaudreau, Policy Director of the [TFI Biostimulants Council](#) to learn about this important and growing part of the ag input sector. Ed and David provided historical background on the industry, regulatory challenges with plant biostimulant products in registering them at the state level and bringing them

efficiently to market. The Biostimulants Council has worked at the state level with the American Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) as well as with federal officials at USDA and EPA to address and resolve some of these ongoing challenges.

As a quick recap for each, [AAPFCO](#) has taken steps recently to define what a plant biostimulant is. USDA has highlighted plant biostimulants in a recent [USDA Ag Outlook Forum](#) as an example of innovative agricultural technologies that will play a greater role in the future of agriculture. EPA is working to [finalize a guidance document](#) outlining the types of claims that would fall in and outside of their jurisdiction under the FIFRA law. Additionally, the plant biostimulant industry is working diligently to develop standards to evaluate plant biostimulant products for their safety, efficacy, and composition.

NAICC was pleased to learn more about the status of several initiatives underway relative to the plant biostimulant industry and looks forward to staying in communication with the Biostimulants Council. [Click here](#) for more details on biostimulants and the Biostimulants Council.

Retirement: Can You Ever Really Retire?

The NAICC Newsletter Committee has a series of articles on members who have recently retired from contract research or consulting. Our first article features two industry and NAICC leaders, Sandra and Rick Carringer.

How did you get your start in this industry? We were both working for Monsanto in St. Louis in 1991 and decided we needed a change. An opportunity became available for both of us to join American Agricultural Services, Inc., and we took it. In 1998 we decided to leave American Ag for various reasons. At that time, we had no intention of staying in the contract research business, but we received numerous calls from industry contacts wanting us to manage studies for them. As a result, we started The Carringers, Inc. (TCI) with just the two of us. We initially planned to stay small and only take on what the two of us could handle, but after a few years, the demand became too much so we asked Daryl Wyatt to join us. Michelle Baillargeon joined the team a few years later, then TJ Mayer, Amy Phillips, and Katie Dallstream!

In 2007, we created a sister company, Carringer Agricultural Research Service, Inc. (CARS), to provide project management services to the seed industry. We did this so Rick could serve as Study Director for these



Rick and Sandra Carringer

Editorial note: Rick and Sandra Carringer were recently inducted into The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's 2022 Hall

types of studies. Initially, most of these studies were conducted in South America (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile), but more recently we have significantly increased the number of studies in the US and have expanded to South Africa. Carringer Agricultural Research Service has two additional highly qualified Study Directors, Brian Potter and Renan Gravena, as well as Quality Assurance Director Angela Dawson.

Please tell us about your notable

accomplishments/achievements: Probably our most notable achievement has been identifying and hiring the best employees, who joined us in successfully completing more than 700 residue studies over the last 24 years. Another achievement is our success in doing difficult studies, such as a GLP coffee residue study in Vietnam or a GLP banana study in The Philippines. We have also helped several researchers start their own successful contract research businesses.

What contributions to NAICC have you made and how many years were you a member?

We have been members of NAICC since the early 90s. The Carringers, Inc. has been a sustaining member for quite a long time, but we cannot remember when we started. Both Rick and Sandra have served on various committees over the years and participated in programs at the annual meeting. NAICC has been instrumental in the success of businesses like TCI, CARS, and our field contractors.

What are your plans for retirement? We are not totally retired. We retired from The Carringers, Inc., but we are still active in the day-to-day operation of CARS and plan to continue for a couple more years at least. Having said that, we do have a bit more free time and plan to spend time with our children and grandchildren, and do some traveling.

of Distinguished Alumni. The alumni were honored for their meaningful contributions to the commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

Click the [AmazonSmile](#) image for a direct link to support the FEAE from your mobile device or computer.

FEAE

FEAE provides five scholarships each year to deserving students with a major in Agriculture. To learn more and to apply, visit the [FEAE Scholarship page](#).



NAICC

Free Webinar Series Focuses On Managing Weeds, Invasive Plants

USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Weed Science Society of America collaborate on new series

WASHINGTON — The USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) today announced the launch of a free webinar series focusing on current research and advancements in managing weeds and invasive plants.

“ARS scientists have worked in a wide range of agricultural and natural ecosystems that include agronomic and horticultural crops, pastures, forests, rangelands, wetlands and riparian areas,” said Steve Young, USDA-ARS National Program Leader for Weeds and Invasive Pests. “Our scientists have made contributions to discoveries in the newest fields of robotics and genetics as well as the traditional and fundamental subjects of weed-crop competition, physiology, and integration of weed control tactics.”

By collaborating with WSSA, ARS scientists aim to highlight the important research that has contributed to the development of sustainable practices to control weeds and invasive plants.

“WSSA is excited to host a series of webinars to highlight the contribution of ARS scientists to our discipline,” said Stanley Culpepper, WSSA president. “Their efforts to advance the knowledge of managing weeds and invasive plants is a crucial component of long-term management success.”

Presentations will be given by USDA-ARS weed science research experts started in April. The webinars will occur every Tuesday from 2-3p.m. ET and include an interactive Q&A session.

[Link to Dates & Times](#)

Nominate a Consultant, Researcher or Quality Assurance Member to Receive the Consultant of the Year Award

Since 1993, when the Consultant of the Year award was established, NAICC has sought to honor a few crop consultant members each year who have illustrated leadership within and outside the organization. Beginning in 2022, the COTY will expand to also include the Research Consultants and Quality Assurance Professionals. There will be one award for each of the three categories: a CCOTY (Crop Consultant of the Year), a QAPOTY (Quality Assurance Professional of the Year) and a RCOTY (Research Consultant of the Year). NAICC is excited to recognize each of the main membership groups that contribute to our great organization.

The award winners must be NAICC members of good standing who are nominated by another NAICC member. Their applications are evaluated based on career information,

involvement in ag-related organizations, honors and awards, and also community involvement and educational background.

The recipient of the COTY will receive complimentary registration package to the next annual meeting. This will include meeting registration, convention meals, a plaque, and recognition in the NAICC News and The Scoop magazine.

To nominate a NAICC member, click [HERE](#) to access both an online application and a form to print.



Buy and Sell Equipment on the NAICC Website

Have something to sell? Looking for a specific piece of equipment? Check out the [NAICC Member Marketplace](#). Log in to [Members Only](#) portal on the NAICC website and scroll down to the NAICC Member Marketplace. Choose **Items for Sale** or **Items Wanted**. It is just that easy.

TRIVIA QUESTION

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

A balance scale is perfectly balanced when there are three cans of beer on one side of the scale, and one can of beer and one-half pound gold bar on the other. Since all the cans of beer are exactly the same size and weight, how much does one can of beer weigh??



Submit your answer [HERE](#)

Last Month's Winner



Congratulations

Adam Warnke

Warnke Research
Services, LLC

for knowing that the first
cloned sheep was
named Dolly!

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

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
700 Wood Duck Drive, Vonore, TN 37885

Phone: 423-884-3580 Email: AllisonJones@naicc.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

