



NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT CROP CONSULTANTS

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

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MR. RAY YOUNG

Congresswoman Julia Letlow Addresses the House:

Mister Speaker, I ask to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

Mister Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of an outstanding gentleman, Mr. Ray Young.

Mr. Ray was born in Hico, Louisiana in 1929 and grew up no stranger to hard work or getting his hands dirty on his family's farm.

Building a successful agriculture business from the ground up and establishing deep roots in the Ag community, he is known as the nation's longest-tenured crop consultant, a passionate officer in agriculture organizations both locally and nation-wide, and a tireless advocate for Ag in Washington, DC.

(continued)

Read the full transcript [here](#).

The Ray Young Memorial Scholarship Fund

The FEAE has set up a scholarship fund in honor of Mr. Ray.

Please get in touch with Allison Jones at AllisonJones@naicc.org or Michelle Hoffman, FEAE Treasurer, at michelle.hoffman@indepthagronomy.com for information on your donation.

Direct Link to PayPal [here](#).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Debra Stroschein

Since 1993, when the Consultant of the Year award was established, NAICC has sought to honor two or three of its members who have illustrated leadership within and outside the organization. In 2023, NAICC updated the program and created three separate areas for this award: the Crop Consultant of the Year, the QA of the Year, and the Researcher of the Year.

(continued)

Click [here](#) for the full article.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

By Keith Jones - Government Affairs Liaison

I start this month's update with a quick recap of a successful online seminar hosted by EPA on January 25th, only days after the NAICC annual meeting. During this event, NAICC members Matt Eich, Ian Olson, Hank Jones, Matt Winslow, James Todd, and Steve Hoffman (along with Allison and myself) shared with over two hundred participants from EPA, USDA, FWS and State Departments of Agriculture, NAICC's perspective on how EPA's proposed ESA mitigations might work on the ground. More importantly, through this dialogue the audience gained a deeper understanding of the respective consultant's roles in advising producers on the selection and implementation of conservation practices and drift reduction strategies.

This successful engagement was the result of conversations a couple of months ago between Hank Jones and EPA's Kelly Tindall. It is a clear reminder that strategically placed conversations and follow-ups can pay big dividends as we seek to build deeper relationships among Federal and State agencies on the critical issues surrounding ESA mitigations.

Hill News

This week, tensions within the House Committee on Agriculture on finding additional dollars for the next farm bill's priorities spilled into public view in the form of dueling op-eds. See [here](#) and [here](#). While hard farm bill negotiations always occur out of public view, this week's activity was a reminder that fence lines are being set publicly. In the view of some, Chairman Thompson's staff has charted a compelling path for additional dollars. But Ranking Member Scott's reply clearly shows that the gap between compelling and convincing is wide enough to drive a Mack truck through.

Also, on Wednesday, February 14th, at 10:00 am EST, the House Committee will host Secretary Vilsack at its annual "State of Agriculture" hearing. You can listen to it [here](#). With twenty-eight Republicans and twenty-four Democrats around the dais, you can expect a long hearing, and pointed questions.

Regulatory update

Regulatory matters in February are, so far, framed by two issues. The first was EPA's February 7th announcement of the next steps in its ESA/FIFRA strategies; more [here](#). The announcement was in line with expectations arising

from ongoing conversations with EPA. The concept of offsets, however, has limited understanding within the ESA/FIFRA nexus, so it is likely to generate questions.

Later this month, on February 26, I will be representing NAICC at an invitation-only meeting, to hear updates from EPA, USDA, USFWS, NMFS, and CEQ on their progress on ESA-FIFRA work and to hear input from interested parties such as NAICC on whether efforts to provide growers with adequate mitigation options, refining endangered species maps that inform pesticide restrictions, and recognition of existing conservation practices that reduce pesticide drift and runoff are workable.

The second critical February issue was the decision by an Arizona Federal Court on the sixth to vacate, on procedural grounds, EPA's 2020 registration decision that allowed over-the-top applications of three dicamba products, XtendiMax, Engenia and Tavium.

EPA has until April 8 to notice an appeal or leave the court's ruling in place. Until EPA acts, it is unclear what this decision means although EPA will view these products as unregistered unless it appeals the ruling.

Whether EPA appeals or not, it will need to give direction to manufacturers, retailers, applicators, and growers on how to manage existing stocks. That is why within 24 hrs. of the court decision, end users were urgently calling on EPA to use its FIFRA authority to quickly issue a flexible and inclusive order on use of existing stocks during the next growing season.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Anne Phillips NAICC New Member Spotlight

By Karla Jensen



“I’ve always wanted to understand how plants worked,” declares Anne Phillips, now a plant scientist and microbiologist with NewLeaf Symbiotics in St. Louis, Missouri. “This inspired me to pursue research at college and eventually graduate school through the help of amazing

mentors.” Phillips joined NAICC as a first timer this January in San Antonio. She earned her PhD from Washington University. “Now my goal is to bring sustainable agriculture solutions to farmers and to always be learning!” added Anne. She also believes there’s always more to learn about the field of agriculture. When she’s not in the lab, she enjoys exploring St. Louis, eating at new restaurants, and hiking on nearby trails.

NEW LINKEDIN GROUP

New Group for GLP CROs and Consultants to Connect

By Lisa Wheelock-Roney

For me, the Annual NAICC Meeting always provides a wealth of information and ideas to implement here at my facility in Wisconsin. But now that I’m back on the farm, I feel I need to ask some more questions and get feedback from my fellow CROs and QAs. Many expressed to me at the Meeting they also felt the same way.

I am pleased to announce the creation of a LinkedIn Group that serves to connect professionals at Contract Research Organizations and related consulting services who are involved in EPA/OECD GLP studies. Although the focus is on compliance, all disciplines and roles are welcomed (QAs, SDs, PFIs, etc.). This is a place to ask questions, network, and discuss relevant information. If topics rise to the level of requiring a coordinated response by major Sponsors and/or by EPA, the group administrators will anonymously submit them to the QA Education Committee of NAICC for response.

Click here to join: [GLP CROs and Consultants](#)

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TRIVIA QUESTION

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

Who is the 2024 Researcher of the Year?

Submit your answer [HERE](#)

Last Month's Answer:

Haboob



Congratulations to last month's winner:

Amber Parcell



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

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

Karla Jensen, *Chair*, Jo Gillilan, *Co-Chair*,
Amalia Easton, Rachel Lighfoot, Walter Albeldano,
Chrystal Johnson, Director of Member Services, and Kim Bourgeois, Board Liaison
If you would like to submit an article or have a suggestion for the *NAICC News*, please
contact [Karla Jensen](#) or [Allison Jones](#).

NAICC

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

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