



IN THIS ISSUE

[From the President](#)

[Happenings on the Hill](#)

[Bring Your Donations](#)

[NAICC Academy Webinar](#)

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



**Online registration is closed for our 2024 Annual Meeting. Please visit
Registration 1 desk to register on-site.**

See you in San Antonio!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Debra Stroschein

2024 NAICC President

I am honored to lead NAICC into 2024. I have been a contract researcher in California for 30 years, and I have my crop consultant license for California in all categories. I am also a third-generation farmer in southern California, farming mainly alfalfa. My family has been farming in Blythe since 1943, and I currently farm 1400 acres. With this experience, I see what agriculture faces today from many perspectives, which is daunting.

As I watched my dad farm and all the stresses of farming over the years of managing the risks and constantly trying to deal with things that were out of his control, I learned farming wasn't easy, but it was something he loved to do, and he had a passion for it. The American Farmer still does the job that they love to do with the full passion that my dad had until the day he died. Now, I inherited that passion and drive. I remember the good and the bad. The alfalfa market in California was at an all-time high in 2022, but so were the inputs, so our farming skills were put to the test. We had to fight the input costs as well as the drought. The other crops in California were at an all-time low in return. There were supply chain issues with materials not being available, which was another major concern for the farmer. This held true across the United States. All states were having the same issue.

As 2023 moved around, the same issues are still here. Fertilizer prices seemed to level off and demand lowered a bit. But the drought was still a concern. Consultants were the saving grace. Having an independent crop consultant on your team is valuable. As a grower, I value the assistance the consultant gives me with looking at the changes in the laws, researching the correct tools, and making sure I have the right product at the correct rate and at the right time.

Who knows what 2024 will bring us, but I am glad that I have a consultant on my team to help me navigate my way through the rough roads. I know California is supposed to have an El Nino year, so let's see what Mother Nature throws at us. There is not anything we cannot do. My father always said the farmer is not just a farmer today; he or she is a scientist, a computer expert, an engineer, a mechanic, a mathematician, and sometimes a psychiatrist. We just have to have the correct tools, and I feel one of the correct tools is having an agricultural advisor assist you.

We invite you to attend the 2024 NAICC Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO. Here you can network with the crème da la crème of the crop consults, contract researcher, and quality assurance professionals from all across the US and the world.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

By Keith Jones - Government Affairs Liaison

Hill Action

By the time you read this update, the NAICC annual meeting will be well underway, with January 2024 almost half over. The House and Senate have consumed their first days of January in a search for a viable path to keep the government open and functioning, given the looming January 19th expiration of four FY'23 appropriations bills and the February 2nd expiration of the remaining eight bills.

At the time of this writing, a top-line amount for another continuing resolution (CR) has been agreed to, sort of, depending on who you ask. Because neither party has an interest in a shutdown, I believe there will be an agreement on a CR with a March expiration date to give the Appropriation Committee's staff the 4-6 weeks they will need to wrap up negotiations on the individual spending bills. Otherwise, rules contained within the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 mandate an across-the-board 1% funding cut, which defense hawks and others will never let happen.

So how does this Appropriations timing impact the next Farm Bill? Chairman Thompson, at last week's Pennsylvania Farm Show, said that March is the soonest he will be able to get legislation to the floor. His statement includes at least three weeks for the Committee's action in noticing the bill, marking it up and passage out of the Committee.

But here is where it gets tricky. Because floor time is such a precious commodity in both House and Senate, do not be surprised if the CR vote compresses the House's March floor schedule. Keep in mind that Mr. Thompson will not want to go to the floor with a Farm Bill until the CR votes are well in his rearview mirror.

Further, with the '24 Presidential campaign kicking into high gear within the next few weeks, I cannot see any major floor action in the House after March, so Mr. Thompson's floor window is narrow and may close before he can get the bill to the House floor. Finally, with a new CBO Farm Bill baseline due in May, the calendar does not appear to be friendly to Mr. Thompson and his staff. The new baseline would require a time-consuming reexamination of the assumptions within the legislative text to ensure consistency between the two.

Regulatory Update

EPA briefed both House and Senate Ag Committees on the status of FRIA v implementation this week. In discussions with those attending, I conclude the biggest takeaway from the briefing is that while the agency has made solid progress in boosting FTEs from a low of 494 to 563 currently, that number remains about 40 FTEs short of FY'22 staffing levels.

Additionally, below are three EPA pesticide-related dockets of interest with respective comment closing dates.

Draft BE of 11 Rodenticides' Effects on Endangered Species – Closes February 13, 2024

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0567/document>

ANPR for Public Comment to Seek Additional Information on Use of Pesticide Treated Seed and Plants – Closes February 29, 2024

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0420-0001>

Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program to Assess Human Endocrine Effects of Pesticides Closes - February 26, 2024

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0474-0005>

SAM Ministries and FEAE Silent Auction

DON'T FORGET YOUR DONATIONS FOR THESE TWO CHARITES:

2024 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

This year, we are collecting items for families in need. This can be anything from a one-pot meal kit, small items that fit in your suitcase, or choose from their wish list on Amazon. [Click HERE](#) for more details on items needed. Please bring your items to the registration desk in San Antonio. Our spouses/guests will take these items to SAM Ministries as well as help them inventory items.

FEAE SILENT AUCTION

The Foundation's (FEAE) Silent Auction. Proceeds go toward instrumental educational programs that benefit our industry at large. Be a part this fun event by donating a unique item or by being the winning bid of a one-of-a-kind items from donated from throughout North America and Europe. You are sure to have a great time checking out the intriguing array of items and then protecting your bid to make sure your item of choice goes home with you! Please contact Michelle.Hoffman@indepthagronomy.com for more information and a description of your auction items.

[Click here for more information on these NAICC events and more.](#)

Download the NAICC Annual Meeting APP



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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



TRIVIA QUESTION

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

Karla Jensen, *Chair*, Jo Gillilan, *Co-Chair*,

Laurie Bennett, Amalia Easton, Rachel Lighfoot, Walter Albeldano

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

What is the name of the weather phenomenon that originates following a thunderstorm, characterized by a wall of blowing dust and dirt that can reach as high as 10,000 feet?

Submit your answer [HERE](#)



Last Month's Answer:

Monterey, CA



Congratulations to last month's winner:

Brent Petersen

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