



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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FROM THE PRESIDENT

NAICC Makes Marketing Simple

By Clark Poppert

Want to add efficacy research to your crop consulting tool kit? Existing CRO looking for more trials? Any QAs or labs wanting to expand their services to a larger audience? Then NAICC has made marketing your services simple!

The NAICC Allied Industry Committee has developed the **Field Research Capability Poster Session** to create face-to-face opportunities for contract researchers, consultants, labs, and QAs who are offering field research or

support services and want to market their capabilities to manufacturers, management companies, sponsor companies, and others who may be interested in contracting work. This session will be held Tuesday, January 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Marriott Rivercenter in conjunction with the 2024 NAICC Annual Meeting & AG PRO EXPO.

The Allied Industry Committee's purpose is to develop methods through which Sustaining Members can recommend ways that NAICC and industry can work more closely on projects they have in common. This committee also identifies areas of mutual concern and provides an avenue of communication.

Designed as a "poster session", participants will showcase their company, field sites, and capabilities through a 36X48 poster to be on display around the ballroom. Participants will be available next to their poster to visit with those interested in learning more about their capabilities. Anyone who is a member of NAICC and registered for the 2024 Annual Meeting may participate in the poster session. All posters can also be submitted as a pdf and be accessible through the NAICC website.

A minimal fee of \$35 will be required to place a poster to cover the costs of easels, blank poster boards and fasteners provided by NAICC. Registration will be part of the annual meeting registration process opening in late August. A poster template in Power Point will be provided to each participant to facilitate the development of posters. More details about the submission will be available at a later date and on the registration site.

Anyone registered for the Annual Meeting can attend the poster session. Rumor has it there will be a free drink ticket for all attendees!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the NAICC headquarters at allisonjones@naicc.org.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

By Keith Jones

Mid-July finds DC not only engulfed in typical hot and humid summer weather but also in an increasingly pessimistic view of Congress' ability to manage two looming September 30th deadlines: expiration of the Farm Bill and keeping open the doors of the Federal Government. With twenty-four legislative days away from the end of fiscal year 2023 and 48 legislative days away from the end of the calendar year, Congress still has a to-do list that would challenge the most functional.

Actions this week by the House Freedom Caucus (HFC) in attaching amendments to the historically bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act has set the House on a collision course with the Senate, and serving as a likely proxy for the path of the twelve House appropriations bills as well.

The appropriations bills, even before final passage, appear to occupy two different worlds.

That is because of the House and Senate's vastly different political lens. HFC members are adamantly holding to fiscal year 2022 spending levels or below, with the Senate equally adamant on adhering to numbers consistent with the Biden/McCarty debt ceiling agreement.

This approach has created a \$9B gap between the House and Senate Agriculture appropriations bills. The House slashes USDA and FDA budgets by 30%, while the Senate provides the agencies with 2% more funding. The enormous difficulty in reconciling both dollars and policy within all twelve bills by September 30th makes talk of a government shutdown well within the realm of possibility.

While the Farm Bill's September 30 expiration gets media attention, those of us who have worked on these bills know that December 31st is the real "drop dead date" as producers need to know program specifics well before the start of the next planting season.

But with all due respect to House and Senate Committee leadership and staff, it is hard to see, at this point, passage of a Farm Bill in the next two months, especially with resolution of broader funding issues remaining and the compressed floor schedule. The Congressional Budget Office's \$1.5 trillion

Farm Bill price tag is sure to attract criticism from the HFC, and others. Congress, therefore, may find an extension necessary for both practical and political reasons to move debate well past a potentially very partisan late summer and early fall.

REGULATORY ISSUES UPDATE

WOTUS

On June 26, EPA released a statement on the Supreme Court's May decision in *Sackett v. EPA* regarding the Biden Administration's Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. In the statement, EPA said it is amending its rule to comply with the Court's decision with a final rule expected by September 1, 2023.

EPA RULE ON PLANT INCORPORATED PROTECTANTS

EPA's May 25th final rule on the use of plant incorporated protectants (PIPs) is meeting sharp opposition from agriculture interests, led by the specialty crop sector. In a letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, fifty organizations including NAICC, are calling for regulations that recognize the product, and not the process used in development of new varieties, as the desired regulatory objective.

Here is why. Advocates argue that when gene editing (e.g., CRISPR) accomplishes what otherwise could have been accomplished using conventional breeding, the resulting product should be treated the same as the conventional bred variety. With the rest of the world, including the EU, moving toward treating gene editing as an extension of conventional breeding, EPA, and to a lesser degree USDA, are treating them as GMO-light in the final rule, putting breeders and growers potentially at a competitive disadvantage.

The expected report language in the upcoming Interior Appropriations bill and the letter to the Committees are an attempt to apply pressure on EPA to make modifications to the rule. At a minimum, if this nudging is not successful, I would expect to see Farm Bill action to address the issue.

EPA VULNERABLE SPECIES PILOT PROJECT

On June 21st, EPA announced, its [Vulnerable Species Pilot Project](#), as a part of its overall April 2022 workplan to address its ESA obligations for actions taken under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

The pilot plan has raised significant concerns among agricultural and public health interests because of language inconsistency between the white paper and the technical support document, a discounting of product risk, i.e., the assumption that pesticide use equals species jeopardy, and the complexity embedded in an all products, all uses approach.

EPA has requested comments by August 6, 2023, on the three documents within the pilot project docket.

- The plan or draft white paper
- The technical support document, and
- StoryMaps which are seventeen maps that identify the habitat and range of the twenty-seven pilot species (some StoryMaps include multiple species)

EPA identifies NAICC, along with other certified agricultural specialists, federal and state agencies, and State extension programs in the white paper at pg. 23, and in the technical support document at pg. 50. This identification is in the context of developing an appropriate suite of mitigation practices and the implementation of a recognized conservation program. Under EPA's approach, lands managed with a site-specific runoff and/or erosion plan implemented in conjunction with the identified organizations, would require no additional runoff/erosion mitigations beyond those contained in the conservation plan.

Within this area of the technical support document, EPA has specifically asked for feedback on the types of experts, conservation programs, and appropriate criteria that could be relied on to ensure mitigation practices are effective, particularly in reducing offsite transport to be protective of the species.

However, commenters should provide EPA with feedback on a wide range of issues. EPA needs feedback on whether the agency has properly addressed critical assumptions within the FIRFA/ESA intersection including the plan's overall feasibility, whether adequate staffing exists within U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the desired level of local and regional interaction, and

whether the proposed mitigations are sufficient to address the realities of diverse production systems, crops, and geographies in the U.S.

A FUTURE WITHOUT GLYPHOSATE

A Future Without Glyphosate - Executive Summary

New research confirms the importance of a critical crop protection tool growers use every day—glyphosate—to our agriculture system, economy, and environment. Read the highlights from @AimpointRsrch: <https://bit.ly/3CMbT5I>

Click [here](#) to read more.

SAVE THE DATE!



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome New Member Jacob Richburg!

By Hope Jones

NAICC welcomes Jacob Richburg as a new member! He is from Plainview, Texas, is a first-generation farmer and the owner of Richburg Research. He specializes in working with corn, cotton, grain sorghum, wheat, and pasture. He provides efficacy and GLP services.

He told us that having great mentors and employers who were willing to teach him is what inspired him to be where he is today. When asked what the most challenging aspect of his job is he explained that it is the weather. “We pretty much live in a constant state of drought and high winds. This can make trial establishment and spraying very difficult.” Thank you, Jacob, for being a part of the growing membership of NAICC!

ART IN AGRICULTURE

Art in Agriculture Series

Article 1: Art Inspired by the Land

By Karla R. Jensen

You'd be surprised by how many avenues you can explore to discover the many forms of Art in Agriculture. Once you start looking, there's no end to the ties between these two very diverse subjects. Art in Agriculture essentially means Art inspired by the land. And this is not a new phenomenon. Historically, agriculture has been and always will be, we hope, inspiration for artists and artisans to create. Because at its very source, farming and agriculture invade the senses; sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. All the things we love about food production, raising animals, holistic living and legacy building can often be found in a piece of visual art, a poem or story, sculpture, architecture, photography, a delicious meal on the table, or even a performance in music or on stage. Art in Agriculture appeals to both the artist

and the scientist; a unique creature not unlike most of us that have ventured into and reveled in the wide world of agriculture.

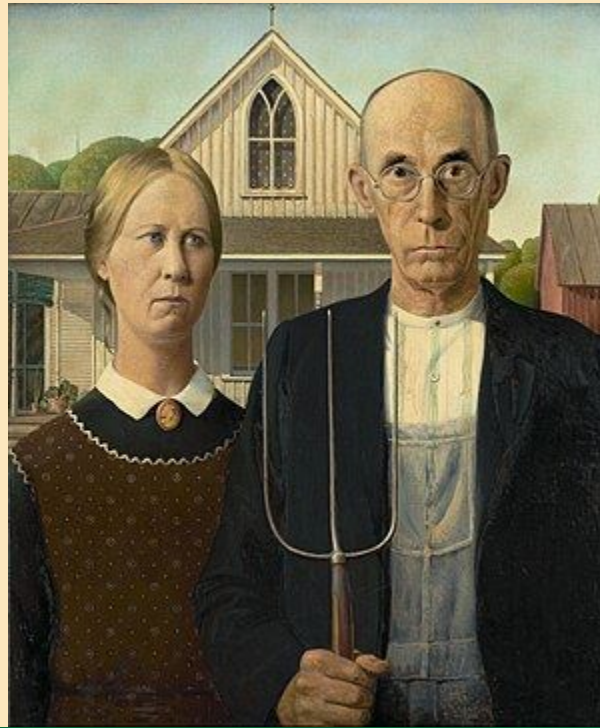
Art inspired by the land is everywhere. In Sister, Oregon, you can apply for an Artist in Residence at Pine Meadow Ranch Center for Arts and Agriculture. In New York, you can participate in Arts and Ag classes in the Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park. You can view photography and videos through a decade-long collaborative media project called Homegrown Stories. An artist, Jeff Caplan, focused an entire photography exhibit on “The Middle-West,” with images of the Midwestern landscape, agriculture, farming and Midwest culture. Even MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, offers curriculum in their Art, Culture and Technology Program as part of their Art and Ag studies.

Many artists who delved into the Art in Agriculture topic allowed themselves to be influenced by the land, the people, the food, the forms. Most of these artists have a lot to say about agriculture. In their artist statements on how they incorporated farming and food and animals into their work, they somehow make astonishing revelations that define where we are at as a society.

At Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, a Minnesota artist, Nik Nerburn, spent time around hay bales, “to make contemporary art in a rural context.” He discovered a great deal. “Spending time around hay bales means spending time around the massive system of food production that dominates our rural landscapes and makes urban life possible.”

What else could possibly be on the ground floor of urban life other than farming and agriculture? This makes total sense to artist and scientist. The world has always revolved around these most essential components to sustain life. Is it any wonder that we should then, in turn, contemplate through art the wonders of seeds, vegetation and soil, planting, harvest, rain, and tools? Not to mention animals, sunshine, education, birth, death and sustainability? We can't not focus on this when our very souls depend on all of it.

Watch for more articles about Art in Agriculture in future NAICC newsletters.



FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATION SUPPORT TOOL

Sneak Preview: Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST)

On July 27 at 10am (CST) the Agricultural Laboratory Testing Association (ALTA) is hosting an educational webinar about the FRST database and web-based decision support tool currently being developed to improve soil-test-based phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) fertilizer recommendations for crop producers in the United States. You can register for the webinar by clicking [here](#).

Title: Sneak Preview: Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST)

Author: Greg Buol, North Carolina State University, FRST Project

Time: July 27th, 2023, 10am CST (Virtual)

Abstract: This sneak preview will look at the FRST database and web-based decision support tool currently being developed to improve soil-test-based phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) fertilizer recommendations for crop producers in the United States. FRST has developed a PostgreSQL database to serve as a repository for past and future crop soil fertility trial data. The

database stores trial (single and multi- year), crop, soil, and soil test data. To facilitate data import into the database, FRST has created a Microsoft Excel data template for data entry. The support tool provides access to the database and a set of tools to assist scientists in managing and analyzing data related to soil test correlation and calibration. Data can be filtered based on nutrient of interest (P or K), crop, state, soil series, year, soil sample depth, and soil nutrient test procedure. Trial data locations matching a set of criteria are displayed using a United States county map. Interactive tables and charts are provided to review site-year data and evaluate crop response to soil test data. Beta testing by public and private sectors is planned for late summer 2023, followed by general use availability in mid- to late 2024.



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

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

What sports-related movie was the first to win an Academy Award?



Last Month's Answer:

The Feet



Congratulations

Toni McCormick

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

Submit your answer [HERE](#)

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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