



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

A Look Back On 2023

By Clark Poppert

2023 is coming to an end, and I am finishing my term as the NAICC president. This year as president has been an enjoyable one that was highlighted by working with a great executive board. Many significant things have happened in the past year, and I felt it would be appropriate to look back and search out the most important occurrences of the year.

The summer's drought expanded eastward and affected much of the Corn Belt. The western regions of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and the Dakotas saw substantial improvements as did the western third of the U.S.—with only a small amount of Washington becoming drier. The southern tier of the country faced worsening drought conditions from Arizona to Alabama as Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina all fell into conditions warranting a severe drought notation in areas. Southeast Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri went from bad to worse, and the yields in these areas were down when compared to normal. The drought in these areas was labeled as extreme to exceptional. Overall, the U.S. did improve dramatically throughout 2023.

WOTUS was the big agricultural newsmaker out of Washington, D.C., this year. In my opinion, this was a landmark ruling in favor of agriculture. I wrote about this subject in last month's article with The Scoop official magazine of The National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) is the national society of agriculture professionals who provide research and advisory services to clients for a fee. For more, go to www.NAICC.org. the main takeaway was that the Supreme Court ruled against WOTUS and stated the policy had too much overreach and power of the intermittent streams and non-navigable rivers in the U.S. This was welcome news for the American farmer and all of U.S. agriculture.

Commodity prices concern some growers as we approach the end of the year. Corn prices have fallen from close to \$6/bu. to \$4.75/bu. as I am writing this. Weather concerns in Brazil have some of the markets looking bullish, but that outlook changes from week to week. Soybean prices start around \$13.90/bu. and are currently at \$13.95/bu., though they did drop to \$12/bu. over the

summer. Wheat prices have continued a steady decline throughout the year. We had two nice spikes this summer around harvest, but they again declined from approximately \$8/bu. to \$5.75/bu. in mid-November.

It has been a pleasure to write NAICC's column this past year. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a profitable 2024.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

By Keith Jones

A NEW SPEAKER, and IT'S DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN

One of Yogi Berra's most popular "Yogi-isms", "It's Deja vu all over again", came after Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle hit back-to-back home runs during the 1961 season. While I know by quoting Yogi Berra, I am seriously dating myself, I can't think of a better way to introduce this month's Happenings on the Hill. As I expected could be the case, the quest to find a new Speaker of the House ran through three weeks, and four nominees before the restive Republican caucus offered a unanimous vote on Mike Johnson of Louisiana. But the new Speaker now finds himself buffeted by forces virtually identical to that of his predecessor; preventing a government shutdown while trying to find the votes for passage of a funding vehicle to do just that.

WHAT DOES MIKE JOHNSON AS SPEAKER MEAN FOR A NEW FARM BILL

Speaker Johnson introduced over the weekend, a novel two-step "clean" continuing resolution (CR). Clean CR's are temporary spending bills that allow government operations to continue at the previous year's funding levels without policy riders that could negatively affect their passage. The two-step "laddered" approach, a construct of the House Freedom caucus, has never been used to implement broad funding although Congress did pick up the idea in 1992 to resolve funding on a narrow foreign policy issue related to Israel.

To Johnson's credit, he did listen to his Ag district members by including in this CR a one-year extension to September 30, 2024, of the 2018 farm bill, as well

as funding for all “orphan” (i.e., those without budget baseline) programs, including \$100,000 for USDA’s AMS pesticide use survey. And the inclusion of the farm bill extension was applauded by both Senate and House Ag Committees in a “four corners” press release on Sunday.

With Johnson’s hardliners remaining vocal No’s on the package, in part due to status quo funding levels and a lack of cuts and changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the new Speaker was searching for a lifeline by Tuesday. But House Democrats signaled their support assuring passage of the CR, paving the way for a bipartisan vote of 336 to 95. The Senate will pick up the bill as soon as it can procedurally do so.

The presence of a one-year extension doesn’t mean the next Farm Bill’s path has been made any easier.

Some believe that because the far-right members of Johnson’s caucus have given the new speaker a wide swath of grace at the present, the CR’s January 19 expiration date on USDA/FDA appropriations and February 2, for others like DoD, only creates more a volatile moment in early 2024, just when a House Farm Bill could be potentially underway in earnest.

While I don’t expect that either chamber will take a full year to write the farm bill, I do continue to see the passage of the next farm bill continuing to be one of the most difficult in recent memory, with a 2024 passage not fully assured.

Beyond what I predict will be an intense back and forth on SNAP, another sticking point in the passage of what I am now calling the 20XX farm bill will be whether Senator Stabenow is willing to give up some Inflation Reduction Act funds devoted to conservation programs to help Senator Bozeman in his desire for an increase in reference prices.

So far, she hasn’t indicated she is willing to do so given the over-subscription of all NRCS programs and the Administration’s intense focus on Climate-Smart Agriculture.

And as the shrewdest negotiator in the Senate, she certainly will not show her hand until she absolutely must do so.

Further, with land prices setting new regional records and used equipment prices remaining strong, some long-time students of farm bill history are beginning to wonder if there will be the grassroots clamor needed to pass a bill in 2024.

Adding to the intrigue is whether a brand-new speaker with an inexperienced staff can execute strategies that take a nod from the Freedom Caucus playbook and still be successful in an otherwise all-Democratic Washington. We'll find out, and I predict it's going to be an up-and-down ride in the meantime.

NRCS TOOLKIT

Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2024

Article 1: Funding Opportunities

Producers Encouraged to Apply Now for USDA Conservation Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging agricultural producers and forest landowners to participate in voluntary conservation programs and adopt climate-smart practices in fiscal year 2024 as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which help a wide variety of producers, including urban and organic producers.

For fiscal year 2024, NRCS has \$3 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds to invest in [climate-smart mitigation activities](#). This year, NRCS expanded the list of those activities as well as expanded priority areas for ACEP for grasslands, wetlands, and farmlands at risk of conversion. Learn more about those expansions in our [Sept. 28, 2023, news release](#).

Additionally, for the fiscal year 2024, NRCS has over \$2 billion in Farm Bill funding available to producers for priorities like organic and urban agriculture, soil health, water quality and quantity, and wildlife habitat development. This

extensive amount of funding will be used to meet producer demand for our oversubscribed programs, maximize climate benefits, and help producers address their natural resource challenges.

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round. To apply for fiscal year 2024 funding, apply by your [state's ranking date](#) by contacting your [local NRCS office](#).

NAICC EMERGING & EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY SESSION

There is still space available for the NAICC Emerging & Evolving Technology Session that will be held Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter.

Get more information [HERE](#)

2024 ANNUAL MEETING GAIAC WORKSHOP

Understanding Mechanisms and Environmental Factors Involved in Value-added Benefits of Biostimulant Products

January 16, 2024, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, San Antonio TX

Objective:

Define and explore the categories of biostimulants by MOA and factors (environmental/stress or target crop-based processes or deficiencies) that are influenced or need to be present to generate the claimed response.

Abstract:

As advisors to producers of agricultural commodities or those who develop and market value-added products into crop production markets, understanding the documented or theoretical added value of those inputs is critical.

This workshop will review factors involved in generating the value-added responses attributed to biostimulants and other biological products marketed to increase yield or enhance quality. Speakers from Accademia, Industry, and Agricultural Advisors will share their experiences working with this growing segment of crop production technology in commercial field production or small-scale studies.

More information [HERE](#).

VISITING SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio: Not Just a City, but a Color!

By Karla R. Jensen

If you haven't visited San Antonio, you'll want to take the time to peruse all the exciting attractions in this diverse city. Polishing up on such rich history and culture makes us believe that this upcoming grand NAICC adventure in San Antonio isn't just a city. It's also a color. San Antonio is a captivating setting alive with spirited characters, enchanting stories, flavorful tastes and smells, tradition and treasures, and vibrant colors, both inside and out. A rainbow of culinary delights to awaken your palette awaits. Bring your boots, your bravado, and your brood because the only thing better than experiencing this city alone is to revel in this rainbow of recreation with friends or family.

NAICC has provided an extensive list of the top 100 things to do in San Antonio. If you want to know what wonderment might be most exciting for you, we'll showcase a few stand-out attractions.

[Continued Here](#)



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](#) – \$250

[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

The graphic displays the NAICC Academy logo on the left, which includes a green shield with a leaf and the text 'NAICC ACADEMY'. To the right, the text 'THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS' is written in green. Below this, a collection of sponsor logos is arranged in a grid-like fashion. The logos include: Bayer CropScience (with a Bayer cross logo), eKonomics™ (with the tagline 'THE BUSINESS OF CROP NUTRITION'), LANGE (with the tagline 'RESEARCH + CONSULTING'), SGS (with a vertical line), Tidewater Agronomics, Inc. (with a green 'TA' logo), Great Lakes Agricultural Research Service, Inc. (with a blue globe logo), Servi Tech (with a red and blue logo), Agrauxine by Lesaffre (with a green leaf logo), Ag Services (with a green leaf logo), BELCHIM (with a green leaf logo and the tagline 'CROP PROTECTION'), and I-State Agricultural Research (with a red outline of the state of Indiana).

TRIVIA QUESTION

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

Which US state consumes the most turkeys at
Thanksgiving?



Submit your answer [HERE](#)

Last Month's Winner



Congratulations

Jennifer Jarrell

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*,

Laurie Bennett, Amalia Easton, Rachel Lightfoot, 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,
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