



## 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

### One Season Winds Down As Another Gears Up

By Clark Poppert

We have entered the time of the year where the crop is maturing, and harvest has started in some areas. Other areas are finalizing irrigation and getting the last cutting of alfalfa baled. Contract Researchers are finishing trials and hosting visits from sponsors. As members of the agricultural workforce, it is time that we can catch our breath and surmise what worked and did not work in 2023.

In the crop consulting world, most of the crop season is behind us and we turn our attention to 2024. Planning where to grid sample, zone sample along with composite sampling is our primary focus. We have evaluated all the herbicides and insecticides that were used this year. Yield, standability and harvestability are what is left. There is still plenty to learn from 2023, but much of the knowledge has been acquired from the experiences of this year.

September starts the meeting season as we visit with seed and chemical companies as they share information of their new chemistry and new genetics. The meeting that I anticipate more than any other each year is the NAICC Annual Meeting.

This year, the meeting is in sunny San Antonio, Texas at the Marriott Rivercenter, January 15-20, 2024. From what I have seen, the facilities at the Marriott are first class and the program that is being created for you is topnotch.

In addition to the four pre-meeting workshops (see related article), NAICC is hosting the Field Researcher Capability Poster Session on Tuesday evening. For more information, [click here](#).

Also, a large part of our meeting is about giving back. My wife, Valerie selected the SAM Ministries as the NAICC Community Service Project for 2024. 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 wishlist on Amazon. Click [here](#) for more details on items needed. Please bring your items to the registration desk in San Antonio. Our spouses/guest will take these items to SAM Ministries as well as help them inventory items.

I cannot wait to see all of you in Texas this upcoming January.

## HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

### HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

By Keith Jones

#### **Will there be a shutdown?**

At the time of this writing, September 14<sup>th</sup>, speculation is swirling over the distinct possibility of a government shutdown with only 11 Congressional days left before the end of the fiscal year on September 30<sup>th</sup>. At the present, there is a good deal of frustration in both chambers of Congress over the lack of a workable deal to prevent a shutdown. While many observers, including myself, think Congress will find a way through the current mess, it is prudent to review what happens to federal agencies in the event of a lapse of funding.

Under the Antideficiency Act (initially passed in 1884 and amended in 1950), federal agencies cannot spend or obligate any money without an appropriation (or other approval) from Congress. During a lapse in fiscal year appropriations the government enters what is commonly known as a “government shutdown.” During this shutdown, the administration, distribution, and funding of federal grants and other activities will be impacted.

Agencies are generally prohibited from signing new grants or contracts during a government shutdown. However, applications will be processed normally, but stored for retrieval until after the shutdown. Grants that help preserve essential functions or the “safety of life” are always protected and therefore funded.

Grants.gov will remain accessible and the Grants.gov contact center will be open during regular business hours. However, many agencies mention in their contingency plans that staff will not respond any inquiries received, including about upcoming deadlines, proposal preparation, and applications during the period of a government shutdown; they will be deferred until normal operations resume. In addition, the review process for grants will be delayed.

First and foremost, every agency has different procedures and protocol, as well as issuing their own contingency plans. Here are links to contingency plans for USDA <https://www.usda.gov/shutdownplans> and EPA <https://www.epa.gov/lapse/agency-contingency-plans-event-lapse-appropriations> .

## **OTHER NEWS**

Also, this week, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resolved longstanding litigation covering over 1,000 pesticide products, allowing EPA to fulfill its obligations to protect endangered species while conducting reviews and approvals of pesticides in a safe and protective manner.

In 2011, the Center for Biological Diversity and Pesticide Action Network (Plaintiffs) filed a complaint in Federal Court in California against EPA alleging that it was violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when it registered or reevaluated the registration of 382 pesticide active ingredients, which was ultimately reduced to 35 active ingredients covering over 1,000 pesticide products containing one or more of these active ingredients. This became known as the “megasuit” because of the number of pesticides it covered. The settlement entered by the Court this week resolves all outstanding claims.

This agreement and the prior partial settlement include obligations for EPA, which are familiar to NAICC members. Those actions include development of the Vulnerable Species Pilot project VSPP and the recently released Herbicide Strategy.

## **WHERE DOES NAICC FIT INTO THE EPA PILOTS**

Last month, I represented NAICC in an ESA stakeholder call that discussed concerns contained within both pilots among registrants, grower groups, researchers, and other interested parties.

Within the herbicide strategy, NAICC members should begin to focus on the practical implementation challenges of the proposed conservation practice mitigations. These practices collectively known within both proposals as a “recognized conservation program” must, in my mind, pass the coffee shop and kitchen table “laugh test” if EPA is to achieve its ultimate objective to reduce potential impacts from the agricultural use of herbicides while helping to ensure the continued availability of these important tools.

EPA plans to use these practices as proposed mitigation options to reduce spray drift, runoff, and erosion and thereby reduce the potential exposure of these chemistries to endangered species. As envisioned by EPA, these mitigations will be used in its pick list and point scoring system. NAICC is expressly mentioned in both pilots as having the capacity to assist with on-the ground implementation of these mitigation practices.

I therefore strongly encourage each of you, time permitting, to review the information within the document “The Application of EPA’s Draft Herbicide Strategy Framework Through Scenarios that Represent Crop Production Systems” for regional and crop suitability.

For your convenience, here’s a link to the documents within the herbicide pilot. [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

And finally, NAICC, working with other interested parties, was successful in obtaining a 30-day extension of the comment period for the Herbicide strategy. The comment period now closes on October 22, 2023.

## **EMERGING AND EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY SESSION**

### **NAICC EMERGING & EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY SESSION**

**The NAICC Emerging & Evolving Technology Session will be held Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm at the San Antonio**

**Marriott Rivercenter.** This is a great way to advertise new products and services and is the only session designed specifically for and by NAICC members to showcase new technologies during the NAICC Annual Meeting!

**Highlights:**

NAICC Sustaining and Voting Members, as well as AG PRO EXPO Exhibitors, have the opportunity to give a brief, energizing synopsis of a product or technology to a full crowd of professional ag consultants, researchers, and industry representatives. Past topics have included new crop protection products under development, new uses of current chemistries, new equipment and software. The technologies presented are developed by Sustaining Members, Exhibitors, or our own NAICC crop and research consultant members. If it is new, our members want to hear about it!

This is a great opportunity to increase your visibility and a simple and inexpensive way to reach thousands of growers through these professionals. It is also an opportunity to invite interested parties back to your booth for a more in depth look at your product. Yet another way to stretch advertising dollars!

**Fees:**

- Each NAICC Sustaining or Voting member will be granted one (1) abstract submission at no charge.
- A \$500 fee will be charged for each additional abstract submission.
- A \$500 fee will be charged for ALL abstract submissions made by non-members.

**Deadlines:**

October 18	100 word abstract due to NAICC
October 23	Committee meeting to select papers
By October 27	Companies notified of acceptance
By December 8	PowerPoint slides due to NAICC

### **Abstract Submission:**

Deadline: October 18, 2023

Abstract Document Specifications: To be eligible for consideration, your abstract must meet the formatting and word count requirements that are specified in the [requirements document](#).

## **NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Researcher Capability Poster Session**

The Researcher Capability Poster Session will be held on Tuesday, January 16, from 5:00 pm – 8:00 p.m. in the Pearl Ballroom on the 3rd Floor of the Marriott. Click [here](#) for more information. Sign up to showcase your company on the annual meeting registration form [here](#). The cost for a poster is \$35.

### **TSP Training for Seasoned and New Technical Service Providers**

TSP Orientation will begin Tuesday, January 16 at 8:00 am and will cover everything you need to know about becoming a TSP. Charlotte Brewster, National TSP Program Manager at USDA-NRCS will lead this workshop and cover the basics of the TSP program including conservation plans under NRCS, the products, and expertise needed. Wednesday will continue with how to complete the TSP application with hands on registration, so bring your laptop.

Current TSPs, whether you have been registered for 1-10 years, will join the group on Wednesday morning (time to be determined) and learn about program changes implemented since 2021, as well as deliverables, and new requirements for implementing Conservation Planning Activity (CPAs), Design and Implementation Activity (DIA), and Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs). The cost for the 8-hour workshop over 2 days is \$165. Continental breakfast will begin each morning at 7:30 am. The cost for the 2-hour updated session is \$50. See the details and sign up on the annual meeting registration form [here](#).



## FEAE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### FEAE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education (The FEAE) is on a mission to support the next generation of Ag professionals. The FEAE provides five scholarships each year to students (graduate and undergraduate) who major in Crop Production or an allied subject. To find out more on these scholarships and how to apply, all interested students should visit our Foundation website below. The deadline for application for next year's scholarships for the 2024 school year is December 1, 2023. Learn more click [here](#).

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

### LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

NAICC Leadership Program NAICC Leadership Program's purpose is to help ensure agricultural sustainability by facilitating the growth of new leaders within NAICC.

The NAICC Leadership Program (NAICCLP) consists of five modules designed to broaden the participant's knowledge of NAICC and develop the participant's leadership abilities.

Click [here](#) to learn more and apply. Applications Due November 1, 2023.

## CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS

### NOMINATIONS OPEN

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

Since 1993, when the Consultant of the Year (COTY) award was established, NAICC has sought to honor a few crop consultant members each year who have illustrated leadership within and outside the organization. In 2022, the COTY was expanded to also include 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 a complimentary registration package for 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. Service Awards One of the highest honors within NAICC is receiving the Service to NAICC or the Service to Agriculture Award. The purposes of the Service to NAICC and the Service to Agriculture Awards are to honor someone for distinguished service within the agriculture industry and also to recognize outstanding contributions and dedicated service to NAICC, the American farmers, and agriculture practitioners. It is given to someone who goes beyond the call of duty to help promote agriculture, and specifically someone who has a direct impact on NAICC.

Please send nominations to Marketing Committee Chair Kenzie Bickhart at [kbickhart@cmsagresearch.com](mailto:kbickhart@cmsagresearch.com) or [AllisonJones@naicc.org](mailto:AllisonJones@naicc.org).

### CONSULTANT VS SCOUT

As NAICC members and staff talk to policymakers in Washington, DC, about the effect our members have on production agriculture, we make sure they know that our members do more than just scout fields. [Here](#) is a paper the Governmental Affairs Committee put together for our Washington interaction.

### ART IN AGRICULTURE

Part Three

## **Agriculture Strikes a Chord**

By Karla R. Jensen

### **Article 3 Art in Agriculture Series**

You may already have an understanding that agriculture influences art, but the most subtle and relevant of these might be found in our music. Music touches and influences nearly everyone. Performers have long been singing about farms, country life, county fairs, tractors, rain, and crops, plus a whole lot more. From Johnny Cash to Luke Bryan to Guns and Roses, we can't ignore the fact that art mimics life. Many singers and songwriters grew up on farms and used their experiences and their roots to make a statement about what they believe is not only the good life, but the best life.

John Denver sang "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" (1974), which crossed both the Billboard Hot 100 and the Country Music charts. The group Alamba encouraged us to sing along with "High Cotton" (1989) which was a throwback expression about living well and being comfortable. Tim McGraw "Where the Green Grass Grows," shows a commitment to living the country life, which is a better alternative, he believes, than city living. Garth Brooks added sex appeal to the farm and farming with "That Summer" and fan favorite "Alabama Clay," and more, like "Learning to Live Again." Luke Brian unveiled, "Here's to the Farmer," (2016), a major nod to the agricultural lifestyle.

Themes of humble existence, stamina, good work ethic, and nostalgia strike a chord with many. Lyrics overflow with poignant examples of the farmer's solitary existence, hometown pride, neighborly sentiments, and more. The resilience of the working middle class rings true. Rightfully so, as in visual arts, agriculture should be a topic because it is and has been an important part of our heritage. Performers use their platform to salute simpler times and the beauty of the land our spirits long to witness.

Not all artwork nor all music reflects the positive aspect of farming culture. "Rain on the Scarecrow" by John Mellencamp (1985) took a closer look at farm foreclosures and loss of the farm. These tough times inspired artists to discover a remedy for the problem, which included a novel benefit concert called Farm Aid. John Mellencamp, Willie Nelson and Neil Young organized the first Farm Aid in 1985. Bob Dylan is attributed to suggesting a fundraiser to keep families on

their farmland at a Live Aid Concert. The first Farm Aid took place on the campus of the University of Illinois, with forty acts. The concert, with many blues, rock and country entertainers, continues to raise awareness and money even today.

Last year's Farm Aid focused on climate change, granted over a million dollars to farmers, farm organizations and advocates, and influenced policy makers on Capitol Hill. The Farm Aid Hotline accepted over 800 calls from family farmers. Dollars also were distributed to help farmers in areas of natural/climate disasters. Although topics of concern have changed over the years, the nuance of care and concern for farmers and agriculture remains.



*Farm Aid founders include John Mellencamp, Neil Young and Willy Nelson, among others who performed in the first Farm Aid Concert in 1985. The concert is still ongoing and will turn 40 years old in 2025.*



## 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:

Originally, Amazon only sold what kind of product?



Submit your answer [HERE](#)

Last Month's Answer:

Sugar Beet



Congratulations

James Steffel

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 Lighfoot, Walter Albeldano

If you would like to submit an article or have a suggestion for the *NA/CC News*, please contact [Karla Jensen](#) 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](tel:423-884-3580) Email: [AllisonJones@naicc.org](mailto:AllisonJones@naicc.org)

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