EXECUTIVE BOARD PLANS FOR FACE TO FACE ANNUAL MEETINGS

2022: Orlando, FL  January 25-28, 2022  Rosen Centre Hotel
2024: San Antonio, TX  January 15-19, 2024  Marriott Rivercenter
2025: Monterey, CA  January 20-24, 2025  Monterey Conference Center

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

by Rick Kesler, NAICC Governmental Affairs Liaison

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change is everywhere in the current administration. Regardless of how you feel about climate change personally, climate “solutions” is a huge push by the Biden administration and is being talked about throughout the government. Carbon sequestering is seen as a possible new revenue stream for growers, and farmers are hearing that from all sides right now. Is this an opportunity for crop consultants to offer advice to their growers? Are you currently engaged in discussions with your growers on possible ways they can best take advantage of carbon credits? NAICC had a good session about carbon sequestering and credit trading which you can access in the NAICC ACADEMY by clicking HERE.

The USDA is working to ramp up the Conservation Reserve Program and other areas to make it attractive for farmers to deal in carbon credit. US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack says despite the threat climate change poses, it has the potential to positively change the direction of US agriculture and create prosperity in rural communities. “Opportunity number one is to take the lead in this issue of sustainability, regenerative practices, climate change, soil health and basically show the way to the rest of the country. We can step up first, we can step up fast and we can be successful.” For the full article click here: Vilsack Creating Revenue Streams.

USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

The deadline for public comments for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was extended to April 23. This was done to encourage agricultural producers to
comment on proposed revisions to 23 national conservation practice standards. They are seeking opportunities to increase flexibility and incorporate new technologies to help farmers and ranchers better protect natural resources on their working lands. (Allison and Rick sat in on USDA virtual sessions outlining proposed revisions.) The Biden administration also sees this as part of a “whole-of-government” effort to combat the “climate crisis”. For more information, please click on \textit{NRCS USDA CPS PORTAL}.

**FIFRA REFORM (NEGUSE/UDALL BILL)**

The Protect America’s Children from Toxic Pesticide Act, commonly referred to as \textit{FIFRA Reform} or the Neguse/ Udall bill, is a hot topic for the Pesticide Policy Coalition (PCC) of which NAICC is a member. Along with RISE, the PPC is in the middle of contacting every Democratic, and some Republican, members of Congress. It is looking more and more like Senator Cory Booker, NJ, will be the sponsoring member to introduce the bill into the Senate. Virtual meetings were held with staff members from both Booker and Neguse in April to discuss the bill and show support for FIFRA as currently written. (NAICC sat in on these.) The calls were a little anti-climatic though since both staffs claimed that they were new and had no real knowledge of the bill. A second call on both offices is being strategized to interact with more senior members of the staffs and to make them more impactful.

**FARM BILL and PRIA 5**

Planning is already underway for the new \textit{Farm Bill} and also for the \textit{Pesticide Registration Improvement Act} (PRIA). Both will expire in 2023, and a two-year head start is necessary. PRIA 5 will continue to help fund EPA registration efforts/staffing so that they can better meet their mandated deadlines for new product registrations. Private industry now funds much of this and efforts are underway to work with NGO’s to secure more PRIA funding from them.

**NAICC ACADEMY**

Thank you to all who attended the various webinars in the \textit{NAICC ACADEMY}. And a huge thank you to all our speakers, moderators and coordinators from all segments of our membership and GAIAC. If you missed any of the webinars and would like to purchase any replay, please contact \texttt{AllisonJones@NAICC.org}

\textit{Thank you} to all of our \textit{NAICC ACADEMY} sponsors. We could not have done this without you!
The IR-4 Project is hiring a quality assurance auditor to join its Raleigh-based headquarters at NC State University. Reporting to the quality assurance manager, the auditor will be an integral member of the IR-4 Project Quality Assurance Unit. This position will be responsible for performing various types of quality assurance audits of raw data and reports to assist in ensuring the quality and integrity of IR-4 Project submissions to the EPA. Preferred candidates will have experience in a GxP environment, excellent investigative decision-making skills and strong attention to detail. Learn more and apply HERE.

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app on your phone, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Foundation For Environmental Agriculture Education" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

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Check out our promotional video highlighting our plans for 2021 and beyond.

The agenda for AgChem Summit 2021 is here! The theme for this event, coming to Durham, NC, July 21 - July 22, 2021, is Integration: Making Innovation, Technology and Science Work Together.

Register now to attend as an in-person or virtual attendee. The Super Early Bird price will expire April 30, 2021.

PERC is pleased to announce the availability of two new resources.

Spray Drift Resource Library
Educators, always looking for new ways to explain and promote drift-mitigation strategies, requested this collection. It includes videos, publications, and guidance for a variety of sectors.

Worker Training Flipchart (WPS) in Haitian Creole
This is the first EPA-approved training material for farmworkers in this language. It includes English and Haitian Creole training language for the instructor, side-by-side. A video is coming soon!

Also available is the list of the projects PERC plans to undertake in 2021. Thanks to everyone who let us know about needs and gaps last fall. Please note that this list is subject to change pending emerging priorities.

If you have any questions, then please direct them to PERC.

Buy and Sell Equipment on the NAICC Website
Have something to sell? Looking for a specific piece of equipment? Check out the NAICC Member Marketplace. Log in to Members Only portal on the NAICC website and scroll down to the NAICC Member Marketplace. Choose Items for Sale or Items Wanted. It is just that easy.