



## **MEMBERSHIP DUES DEADLINE DECEMBER 31, 2020**

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**RENEW MEMBERSHIP**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MAKES PLANS FOR 2021**

With an overwhelming majority of votes, the current NAICC Executive Board was re-elected and will serve an additional year in 2021. Thank you to all who voted and to the dedication of our Executive Board members.

The fall Executive Board meeting was held via Zoom on November 3-4. The Board covered a great deal of issues affecting NAICC and its members and came away with a plan for 2021. In addition to the general President and Staff Reports, correction and approval of the minutes and review of 2020 Action Points, the Board acted on several key issues.

Angela Dawson reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial statements and reported that NAICC has reserve fund in the amount of \$725,000 and that this is more than enough to cover NAICC's financial obligations even after canceling the 2021 Annual Meeting. She also noted that interest income was down due to market fluctuations. Dawson presented the 2021 draft budget. She reviewed the estimated income from the NAICC Academy webinars to be \$28,000 with the possibility of another \$5000 in sponsorships of the webinars. (see related article in this issue). The expenses for the webinars are roughly around \$3000. She also noted that there are some board members who still have airline tickets from the cancelled DC trip this past March that can be used for the March 2021 trip. After lengthy discussion, the budget was approved with a deficit of \$56,000.

Sandy Mackie updated the Board members on the FEAE activities and noted that over 90 applications were received for the 5 available scholarships.

The majority of the time on the first day of the meeting was used to finalize the webinars being offered January 18- March 15, 2021. As of today, there will be 19 topics covered in the first offering of the NAICC Academy. Details on specific workshops are coming soon.

The board approved the Leadership Committee's recommendation to allow the 2020 participants to move their activities to 2021. The first activity will be to travel to Washington, DC with the Board and Governmental Affairs Committee members if meeting restrictions are lifted and Congress is in session. President-Elect Grant McMillan is in the process of appointing committee chairs for 2021. If you are interested in serving on a committee please contact Grant at [Mcmillan@icms-inc.com](mailto:Mcmillan@icms-inc.com) or Allison Jones at [allisonjones@naicc.org](mailto:allisonjones@naicc.org).

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## **SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR NAICC ACADEMY**

NAICC is proud to offer sponsorships to NAICC members who would like to support the NAICC Academy. All sponsors will be acknowledged during EVERY webinar and in promotional email blasts. There are three levels of participation; Partner, VIP and Elite. Each comes with their logo on NAICC webinar webpage and recognition on social media and the *NAICC News*. In addition, VIP and Elite sponsors will receive one complimentary webinar registration. Elite sponsors are rewarded with their logo on the webinar sponsorship slide, legacy recognition through recorded videos available on the webinar page and one complimentary spot in the New and Emerging Technology Session that will be one of 19 webinars and will be free to attendees. More information will be sent to the NAICC Membership in the coming days.

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## **HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL**

by Rick Kesler, NAICC Governmental Affairs Liaison

One of the goals of NAICC Government Affairs is to work closely with other associations and leaders in the ag industry to expand our reach and multiply our voice. Over the past several years, we reached out to many different associations and educated them on the role of consultants in agriculture and on the activities of NAICC. Those efforts are bearing fruit and NAICC is now seen as an organization that many other groups reach out to for input into issues of joint interest. Below is a summary of some of the issues that your Government Affairs team was active on over the past year.

### **NAICC SUBMITTED FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON IMIDACLOPRID TO U.S. EPA**

Input was gathered from the American Soybean Association (ASA), the National Cotton Council (NCC) and extension entomologists from the University of Virginia and the University

of Georgia along with input from our own members. A final decision by EPA is expected in Q1 2021.

### **RESISTANCE RISKS TO LEPIDOPTERAN PESTS OF BT**

NAICC's comments shared members' experiences with those products and pests and the recent development of resistance to Bt PIP products. The comments pointed out that particular attention is given to early detection based on unexpected injury (UXI) in the field, implementation of mitigation actions and use of refuges to maintain the durability of Bt PIPS. NAICC agreed with EPA's proposal to establish a system to categorize UXI reports as Practical Resistance to facilitate improved communications among stakeholders and timely implementation of mitigation actions around the UXI location based on standardized BMP's. NAICC also recommended the development of a regional body of diverse stakeholders be established to review reports of UXI and promptly complete the process to determine validity for practical resistance classification. NAICC also asserted that growers need more options and better availability of non-Bt varieties to use to satisfy refuge requirements. Furthermore, the Bt refuge requirements in the south need to be simplified and take into account equipment sizes and planting windows to encourage better compliance.

### **NAICC JOINED CROP LIFE AMERICA (CLA) ON LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMP EXPLAINING THE RISKS OF MEXICO POTENTIALLY ADAPTING A PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE IN PESTICIDE REGISTRATIONS**

Mexico denied imports of glyphosate in 2019 and their Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources stated that they wanted to move Mexico away from a risk based system based on science (similar to the U.S.) to a hazard based system (similar to the EU). Mexico is currently focused on glyphosate, but they have a list of 200+ products that this could expand to where the next step could be the lowering of MLR's which could have a big impact on trade with the U.S. The situation is ongoing and being watched closely.

### **NAICC JOINED THE NATIONAL AG AVIATION ASSOCIATION (NAAA) IN A LETTER TO EPA REQUESTING A 90-DAY EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PARAQUAT**

Paraquat is currently under EPA review with many label changes proposed by the agency to limit worker exposure. One of the changes is to limit aerial application only to cotton defoliation. Many of our members consult in areas where Paraquat applications by air to other crops are important and NAICC signed on to a letter with NAAA requesting a 90-day public comment period extension. Please contact Steve Hoffman or James Todd with any concerns related to these potential changes to the Paraquat label as NAICC will be submitting comments soon. NAICC also encourages individuals to submit their own comments during this comment period.

### **NAICC SUPPORTED CROP LIFE AMERICA (CLA) BY SIGNING ON TO A LETTER THAT WAS SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OPPOSING**

## THE NEGUSE/UDALL FIFRA REFORM BILL AND SUPPORTING FIFRA AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN.

The proposed FIFRA Reform Bill would significantly change key parts of FIFRA. If enacted, this legislation would in effect replace EPA's science-based risk/benefit system with a more European Union (EU) type hazard-based process. CLA is in the process of individual virtual calls with the staff of every member of Congress explaining the risks of this type of shift. These calls are ongoing and NAICC has participated in approximately 10 of them.

### OTHER ISSUES NAICC IS FOLLOWING:

**Dicamba:** The U.S. Ninth Court of Appeals vacated EPA's dicamba registration this past spring. On October 28, EPA approved new five-year registrations for two dicamba products and extending the registration of an additional dicamba product. These products are for over the top (OTT) applications of dicamba products—XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology and Engenia Herbicide—and extended the registration for an additional OTT dicamba product, Tavium Plus VaporGrip Technology. These registrations are only for use on dicamba-tolerant (DT) cotton and soybeans and will expire in 2025, providing certainty to American agriculture for the upcoming growing season and beyond.

**Chlorpyrifos:** EPA is taking the next step in its regulatory review of chlorpyrifos, an insecticide used for a large variety of agricultural uses and non-agricultural uses. On Dec. 4, the EPA proposed measures to reduce the risks identified in the agency's [September 2020 draft risk assessments](#) to better protect human health and the environment. As outlined in the proposed interim decision (PID), EPA is proposing:

- Label amendments limiting application to address potential drinking water risks of concern.
- Additional personal protection equipment and application restrictions to address potential occupational handler risks of concern.
- Spray drift mitigation, in combination with the use limitations and application restrictions identified to address drinking water and occupational risks, to reduce exposure to non-target organisms

**Plant Biostimulants:** EPA has published a draft guidance for plant regulator products including plant biostimulants. This group of products is expanding and there is confusion in the marketplace on whether an individual product would trigger FIFRA and need to be registered or if it may be exempt from registration. The guidance does not constitute rulemaking by EPA and is intended to provide clarity regarding current agency requirements. Click [Draft Guidance for Plant Regulators and Claims, Including Plant Biostimulants](#) to see full guidance draft.

### ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

On December 16, the Fish and Wildlife Service submitted several things to the Federal Register.

- The Definition of Habitat should be based more on scientific terms.
- Would only need one element of several to consider it Habitat.
- But it must be Critical Habitat. (*I looked up Critical Habitat for the Endangered Species Act, and it is defined as “A habitat area essential to the conservation of a listed species, though the area need not actually be occupied by the species at the time it is designated.”*)
- They submitted making Monarch butterflies Candidate Species for Endangered Species.
- They submitted that pesticides, esp. insecticides, are one of many contributing factors to the decline of Monarchs.

### **EPA ADMINISTRATOR**

President-elect Biden has reportedly nominated North Carolina’s top environmental regulator to be the next administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **BIDEN INTRODUCES CLIMATE TEAM AND HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR NATIONAL RESPONSE**

President Elect Joe Biden has announced the nominees for his climate team. The team includes his picks for EPA Administrator, Michael Regan; Interior Secretary, Congresswoman Deb Haaland; Energy Secretary, Jennifer Granholm; Council of Environmental Quality Chair, Brenda Mallory; National Climate Advisor, Gina McCarthy; and Deputy National Climate Advisor, Ali Zaidi. Biden says the team will be ready on day one because there is no time to waste. He says there is a need for a unified national response to climate change. Vice President Elect Kamala Harris says the team will help make their climate plan a reality and will confront the crisis head-on.

Thanks to everyone for helping make a very challenging year also a successful year for NAICC. On to a bigger and better 2021!

Rick, James and Allison

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## **CPCC CEUS FOR 2020**

The NAICC Certification Board’s recommendation to suspend or reduce the required number of 2020 CEUs due to the lack of meetings in 2020 because of the pandemic was approved by the Executive Board. Current Certified Professional Crop Consultants will report all 2020 CEUs acquired but will have the option to indicate on the online form or in writing that they were not able to obtain all of the required 36 CEUs. To report 2020 CEUs, go to <https://naicc.org/submit-ceus>.



## 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.

### NAICC

**Your professional society representing the nation's crop production, research consultants and quality assurance professionals.**

National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants

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