



WEBINARS

The Educational Committees and Outreach Education Committees are working to pivot their Annual Meeting presentations and trainings to webinars and are targeted to begin in mid-January 2021. Currently the Research Education Committee is producing an efficacy training session while the Research Education Outreach Committee is planning to offer GLP training. The QA Education Committee is putting together sessions covering virtual audits, key data archiving/scanning/e-signatures, plus a session on equipment. The Consultant Education Committee plans to offer production and technology sessions that are key to crop consultants and growers. More details coming in December.

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>.

LEADERSHIP CLASS TO CONTINUE INTO 2021

Due to the disruption of normal activities in 2020, the current NAICC Leadership Program participants have the option to continue to serve through 2021 or withdraw and apply another year. Roger Bowman, Summer Theus, Derek Potratz have the option to participate in Modules 2-4 in 2021. Module 2 is the annual Crawfish Boil on the Hill and Congressional visits in Washington, DC in March. Module 3 entails summer/fall visits to other NAICC members and Module 4 will be "graduation" at the January 2022 Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

AWARDS POSTPONED FOR 2021

The NAICC Executive Board agreed to postpone awarding any accolades in 2021. This decision was based mainly on the fact that there will be no 2021 Annual Meeting where the awards are given in front of the membership. Any applications received for the Consultant of the Year, Service to Ag, Service to NAICC, and Top Recruiter will be saved for next year's process.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

by Rick Kesler, NAICC Governmental Affairs Liaison

Interim Decision Issued on Paraquat

EPA has taken proactive steps, outside of the standard registration review process, to ensure paraquat is used in a manner that is safe and consistent with the label directions. This includes a [safety awareness campaign](#) and [changes to labels and product packaging](#) to stop improper uses. Additionally, [specialized training for certified applicators who use paraquat](#) was released earlier this year to ensure that the pesticide is used correctly. EPA is continuing to evaluate the effectiveness of these measures as the agency works to complete the required registration review process. Learn more by [clicking here](#).

Dicamba Approved for Over-the-Top Use 2021 and Beyond

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it will approve three of the new dicamba formulations for over-the-top use for five years. The herbicide is labeled for use in soybeans and cotton with the trait that confers tolerance to dicamba. The specific formulations include Xtendimax, VaporGrip Xtra, Engenia and Tavium. The registration starts next year (2021) and runs through 2025. To read the article [click here](#).

USDA Transition Team in Progress; House and Senate Leadership Elected

While the nation's election ballots have yet to be certified, officials in Washington are hard at work putting the 2021 leadership teams into place. Biden has announced that Robert Bonnie will lead the USDA transition team. Bonnie served as undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA during the Obama Administration and currently is part of Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. [Click here](#) to see the USDA transition team as well as all transition teams.

At press time, the House Democrats are in the process of electing Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House; Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader; James Clyburn, Majority Whip. The following are all running for Assistant Speaker: Katherine Clark, David Cicilline and Tony Cárdenas all running for Assistant Speaker. The House

Republican Leadership was reelected November 17, with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Whip Steve Scalise, and House Republican Conference Chairwoman Liz Cheney.

In the Senate, Senate Republicans unanimously reelected Republican Leader Mitch McConnell. John Thune serves again as GOP Whip; John Barrasso as Conference Chairman; Roy Blunt leading the Policy Committee, and Joni Ernst again as Conference Vice Chair. Chuck Schumer re-elected Democratic Leader and Dick Durbin continues as Whip. Patty Murray was re-elected as Assistant Leader, Debbie Stabenow leads the Democratic Policy & Communications Committee, and Elizabeth Warren and Mark Warner remain as Conference Vice Chairs.

New Rule Makes Enhancements to Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the final rule for its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The rule updates USDA's flagship program as directed by the 2018 Farm Bill and integrates feedback from agricultural producers and others. A stakeholder briefing was held on Friday, October 23. One of the changes for 2021 was the removal of the requirement to fully implement a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) by the end of the EQIP contract period. Growers would still need a nutrient plan, but the full plan wouldn't need to be completed by the end of the contract period. A recording of that session can be viewed at [this link](#) and the USDA Press Release can be found [here](#).

USDA Announces Updated Conservation Practice Standards

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has completed and published updates to its set of national conservation practice standards, which offer guidelines for planning, installing, operating, and maintaining conservation practices used by farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners nationwide. Fifty-eight standards have been updated or revised since August. [Read the News Release.](#)

Rule Change Helps Producers Implement More Conservation Activities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the [final rule](#) for its [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#). The final rule better aligns CSP with NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through common applications, contracting operations, conservation planning, conservation practices, and related administrative procedures. A stakeholder briefing was held on Friday, October 9. One of the rule changes was that "Soil Health" was added to the program. A recording of that session can be viewed at [this link](#). More from USDA can be found [here](#).

Pesticide Policy Coalition & FIFRA Reform Bill

Mexico/Glyphosate: Mexican government continues to be divided on positions and what actions to possibly take. Farm groups in Mexico indicating that there could be decrees on glyphosate and GMO corn in the next couple of weeks. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is holding stakeholder meeting regarding this and USMCA where CropLife America (CLA) will raise the Mexico issue with them.

California is in the early stages of a new proposition process to put warning labels on 22 substances including Glyphosate and neonics. The warning would be for reproductive and developmental health and could entail a long and drawn out battle.

Neguse/Udall FIFRA reform bill: Under the direction of CLA, educational visits with Hill staffs are underway so that they understand FIFRA and asking them to stay off bills like this. The visits are more than just covering the basics and they are trying to pin offices down on positions. These meetings are now moving out of the ag sector and into offices representing more urban settings where RISE will take the lead with the legislative staffs.

FEAE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2021

Application deadline is December 1, 2020.

Only about a week left to submit the [FEAE Scholarships](#). NAICC's Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education (FEAE) is providing **five scholarships** (sponsored in part by Belchim Crop Protection and Wilbur Ellis) to undergraduate and graduate students that are pursuing a degree in a major or discipline closely aligned to crop production and meet the additional qualifications. Please pass along the link below to anyone (or their parent/guardian) who you think would qualify.

[FEAE Scholarships](#)

[Printable Information](#)



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.**

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