



A professional society representing the nation's crop production and research consultants

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By
Nathan Goldschmidt
NAICC
2018 President

40 Years and Going Strong

It's been about a month now since the 40th NAICC Annual Meeting in sunny Tucson! If you are like me, you went home to someplace cold. Fear not, it will be miserably hot soon, and we'll all be waist-deep in crops! For those of you who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you missed out on the largest meeting NAICC has ever had. There were 734 individuals registered, which shatters our old record of 701 registered for the 2017 meeting in St. Louis.

Our time in Tucson was packed with interesting meetings including a dicamba drift/volatilization update, insect resistance workshop, and a session focused on communicating ag to those not involved in agriculture. Robert Saik delivered a

very timely keynote address titled, "Know GMO." There was much more on the program and certainly something for everyone. Check out the proceedings at <http://naicc.org/2018-annual-meeting>.

NAICC also saw two more participants graduate from the Leadership Program: Amalia Easton and Bree Goldschmidt. The program begins and ends with the NAICC Annual Meeting, which constitutes Modules I and IV. Participants meet with the Leadership Committee and past participants of the program, take part in committee meetings, and assist FEAE with their fundraisers. Module II takes place in Washington, DC, where they participate in Hill meetings and the Crawfish Boil on the Hill. During Module III, participants visit NAICC members as part of networking visits. These visits take place with members both within and outside of the participants' areas of expertise.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in applying for the NAICC Leadership Program, please go to www.NAICC.org or contact AllisonJones@naicc.org for more information.

The 2018 Annual Meeting Coordination Committee is already hard at work planning next year's meeting in Savannah, GA. Our President-elect, Matt Eich, is the overall chair of that committee

and has been working closely with Daniel Fowler, Eric Flora, Lori Rodaway, and Jennifer Jarrell to develop the program. As spring approaches, we are all busy planning for 2018 and hoping for good weather. NAICC continues to be active throughout the spring and summer months under the management of the Executive Board and Allison Jones.

The Certification Board has been busy evaluating NAICC's certification program and making sure it is applicable and beneficial to those certified. As a reminder to our CPCC members, CEUs are due April 15 along with confirmation that you have received the revised Pesticide Safety Training for WPS.

In March, the Executive Board and representatives from the Governmental Affairs Committee will travel to Washington, DC, to host the 21st annual Crawfish Boil on the Hill. While in DC, we will canvas Capitol Hill making stops at the offices of our Congressmen and Senators as well as visiting USDA, EPA, many of the commodity groups and other ag partners. All NAICC members are invited to attend the Crawfish Boil on the Hill, March 14th from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm in the Longworth Cafeteria.



Leadership Program Graduate Bree Goldschmidt of Fisk, MO



Leadership Program Graduate Amalia Easton of Bagley, IA



Happenings on the Hill

Glenn Luedke, NAICC Legislative Assistant

Broadband

The Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018 was introduced and received strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate. The Act creates the Task Force for Meeting the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. Within one year, the task force is expected to bring together public and private stakeholders to evaluate current programs affecting broadband internet access on agricultural land, identify existing gaps in coverage and develop policy recommendations that will address the deficiencies. In addition, the task force is charged with developing specific steps the USDA, FCC and other federal agencies can take to address gaps in coverage.

Infrastructure

A priority of the White House is to pass an infrastructure bill as soon as possible. This plan has wide bi-partisan support in the House and Senate. During preliminary meetings, a \$.50/gallon gas tax was proposed, but not readily welcomed. An increase in the federal gas tax is still being considered and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is recommending a \$.25/gallon increase. Federal funding, an estimated \$200 billion at this point, has been discussed. Part of this funding would be used to reward states and localities that raise taxes or other revenue to fund infrastructure projects in their jurisdictions. Grants for projects in rural areas are also being considered.

GMOs

FDA has approved a Chinese developed experimental genetically modified strain of rice. This new strain of rice is banned in China. US rice growers do not want the rice to enter the United States. FDA joined the EPA in informing the Chinese University rice developers that, based on the information the University submitted, they had no follow-up concerns or questions regarding human or animal feed that could be derived from the rice. The Chinese are looking for test plots in the U.S. to grow the rice. U.S. rice producers are concerned that since FDA and EPA do not object to that strain of rice, it could be grown elsewhere, milled and imported into the U.S.

Farm Bill

Both sides of the House and Senate are gearing up for some major battles over Farm Bill legislation. Foremost, will be debate on the

Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP). USDA issued a statement that calls for “working as a pathway to self-sufficiency, well-being and economic mobility for individuals and families”. USDA did not state if they are planning to change the law or decrease funding for the program. (The Humane Society of the United States is requesting that Food Stamp recipients be allowed to use Food Stamp benefits for pet food.) Reliance of farmers/ rancher’s dependence on government is another issue and plans are to cut subsidies. Other major items of debate will be cutting the number of regulations and closer monitoring of trade issues that impede agricultural exports. The current law ends September 30, 2018 and subsidies begin to phase out at that time. Gridlock is guaranteed and the SNAP program is already a front burner issue sure to receive the most debate.

Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act (HR 953) Over one-hundred fifty organizations signed and sent a letter to the House Ag Committee Chair and Ranking Member requesting support for HR 953 and that it be included in the 2018 Farm Bill. HR 953 addresses duplicate regulations and provides certainty to impacted natural resources, public health and the nation’s farmers and ranchers.

EPA

Agricultural groups, public health officials, lawn care and pest control professionals, pesticide registrants and numerous other organizations jointly sent a letter to Senate Leaders urging the re-authorization of PRIA (Pesticide Registration Improvement Act). Under current law, the pesticide industry pays over \$40 million annually in pesticide registration and maintenance fees. These fees supplement appropriations and reduce costs to tax payers. Failure to reauthorize would cause a loss of over \$40 million to EPA.

The White House has announced the establishment of an interagency working group to coordinate Endangered Species Act consultations for pesticide registrations and registration review between EPA, Department of the Interior and the Commerce Department. The USDA, Council of Environmental Quality and Office of Management and Budget will also join the group.

The EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have elected to delay the effective date of the WOTUS rule by two years. This action allows for the current administration to implement replacement rules. The Supreme Court ruled that the Administration had to delay the effective date by ruling that the appeals court that originally put a hold on the rule lacked the jurisdiction to do so. The EPA Administrator has stated that a new proposal that defines WOTUS under the Clean Water Act will be issued in April or May. A final rule is expected by the end of the year.

NAICC Honours Patrick Stephenson and Jim Steffel With Service Awards

The purpose of the Service to Agriculture and Service to NAICC Awards is to honor someone for distinguished service within the agriculture industry and also in recognition of outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the American farmer, agriculture practitioners and NAICC. 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.



Patrick Stephenson - Service to Agriculture Award

Patrick Stephenson is the recipient of the 2018 Service to Agriculture Award and is someone who is active in agriculture all over the world. His passion for the industry has been illustrated by his involvement at the government level and through the role of Chair of the Association of Independent Crop Consultants (AICC). This position led to him becoming Co-Chairperson of the Global Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants involving 13 countries.

Patrick's company, Arable Advisor, is an Independent Agricultural Consultancy company operating from Pickering, North Yorkshire. The business covers over 18,000 acres and is involved with all aspects of 'on farm' advice. In addition, the business has extensive experience of agricultural impact assessment work across the UK in relation to major transport routes and the utility industry.

Patrick has attended the NAICC Annual Meetings since 2007 and has become a key player in NAICC's expansion into many countries. He has served on the GAIAC committee since its inception and has encouraged others from other countries to participate as well.

Each year we look to Patrick to entertain us on Friday evenings and model the latest fashions depicting that year's theme. Thank you, Patrick, for your service to Agriculture and being a loyal supporter of NAICC.



Jim Steffel - Service to NAICC Award

Jim has been an active member of NAICC since 1996. In these 21 years, he has served as NAICC:

- President
- Director
- Chair of the Leadership Committee
- Chair of the Research Electronic Data Task Force - back in the 90's when we were all learning about electronic notebooks
- Member and/or Chair of the following committees - Membership Recruitment, Retention and Rules Committee, Nominating Committee, Awards Committee, Grievance & Ethics
- And has attended every meeting since 1996 and has been an exhibitor since 1999.

Jim truly has a heart for NAICC. In addition to serving in all the capacities I just listed, Jim has attended the Crawfish Boil on the Hill since 2005 and canvassed Capitol Hill with the Board and Leadership candidates. Jim's contacts at EPA and USDA are invaluable to NAICC and he has worked tirelessly on educating EPA on resistance management, PRIA and researcher issues, and most recently, the lack of EPA audits for new researchers.

Jim is Vice President and Director of Research for LABServices which he owns with his wife Ann. Jim encourages his staff to volunteer their time to the NAICC as well as work on NAICC issues on company time. Thank you, Jim, for your Service to NAICC.

Three Recognized For Leadership In Consulting

Since 1993, NAICC has honored members who have leadership within and outside the organization. Award winners must be NAICC members of good standing, they must be nominated by another NAICC member and their application must include career information, involvement in ag-related organizations, honors and awards, community involvement and educational background. NAICC is extremely grateful to BASF for continuing to sponsor the Consultant of the Year (COTY) program. Through the company's efforts, the following are receiving the 2017, NAICC Consultant of the Year Awards.

Marvin Ebach is a crop consultant with Centrol of Twin Valley, MN. Marvin specialized in general agronomics in soybeans, corn, sugarbeets, wheat, barley, sunflowers, seed traits and weed resistance. He has been a crop consult for 30 years and consults in the Red River Valley of the North, on the border between North Dakota and Minnesota, and is a very successful consultant covering over 1.3 million acres.

As a member of NAICC, the Ag Consultants of North Dakota and the Cass County Seed Production, he is active in promoting agriculture in his community and on a national scale. Marvin is a Certified Professional Crop Consultant-Independent and a Past President of the Cass County Seed Improvement. According to Dennis Berglund who works the Ebach, "Marv is a great crop consultant who truly wants to help his growers and always considers how his actions and decisions will affect them. He really tries to maximize the profitability of each of his growers. He has incorporated precision ag into his consulting workload; he is a solid team player and an individual standout. He is very professional and is a valuable resource (both technical and moral support) for the rest of our company."

Galen Frantz has 36 years of consulting experience focusing on pest management in fresh produce, Quality Assurance, Thrips identification and management, IPM Research, food safety education and consultation, and Third Party Food Safety Auditing. Galen is with Glades Crop Care, Inc., in Ft. Myers, FL. He works in FL, CA, PR, VA, MD, SC, GA, IN on over 20,000 acres of tomatoes, peppers, cucurbits, snap beans, and potatoes.

Galen is both a Certified Professional Crop Consultant-Independent as well as a Professional Crop Consultant-Research. He also won the Florida Horticultural Society President's Industry Award in 1998 and 1999. He also was bestowed the Florida Entomological Society Achievement Award for Industry in 1991 and the USDA Certificate of Appreciation in 1991.

According to the information submitted with Galen's application, "Besides day-to-day consultation with clients, Galen has become the go-to guy on questions from the staff of 28 field scouts as well as the "right hand" of Dr. H. Charles Mellinger, the company's director of technical services. Along the way, he has taken



From left: Steve Hoffman, Galen Frantz, Marvin Ebach, David Willis, Nathan Goldschmidt

on responsibilities of quality assurance officer for residue studies carried out under the Good Laboratory Practice Standards by our contract research department, as well as project manager for grant funded research projects. These research efforts have resulted in 54 publications over the past 27 years, including our Thrips Knowledgebase, which has been available on-line for over 15 years, and which has been included in Thrips training programs at the University of Florida as well as a Food Safety Toolkit, produced for the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and deployed to over 300 agricultural entities in Florida. Throughout his career, Galen has carried a sense of mission to make the world a better place. We feel that the scope and depth of his stewardship and environmental responsibility have benefitted a wide-reaching community spanning the continent, thereby making him most deserving of this award."

David Willis is the owner of Agassiz Crop Management, Inc., in Thief River Falls, MN. Here he consults on Sugar beet, dry bean, corn, soybean, sunflower, canola, small grain. He serves his clients through field inspection, Conventional and VRT soil testing, GIS field analysis & mapping, fertilizer and pest control recommendation, crop loss assessment and expert witness.

David is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the American Phytopathological Society, the NAICC and the Agricultural Consultants Association of North Dakota for more than 25 years. Willis is a Certified Professional Crop Consultant-Independent and was the 19th person to become a CPCC-I. A member of NAICC for 27 years, Dave served on several committees, including Membership Services, Consultant Education, Education Outreach and Ethics. He also served NAICC Executive Board as NAICC Secretary and currently serves as a Director on the Executive Board.

Steve Hoffman sees David as "a consummate professional. He has been an independent crop consultant since the industry started in the upper Midwest. He is a leader on issues that affect his clients and agriculture in general. He is always willing to contribute for the betterment of his profession."

IPM Symposium, March 19-22

Pollinator protection, biopesticide technology, and resistance management will be featured at the 9th International Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Symposium, March 19-22, 2018 at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland USA. The symposium is the premier global event for networking with leading scientists and learning the latest technologies for effectively managing pests.

<https://ipmsymposium.org/2018/registration.html>

The NAICC membership directory is updated for 2018 at NAICC.org. If you indicated on your renewal form that you would like to receive a printed copy, they will be mailed mid-March.

NAICC Mourns Loss of Member Mike Crittenden

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden passing of NAICC member Mike Crittenden. Mike is survived by his wife Shana and two children. Mike was a partner of Mid-South Ag Research and an active board member of Farm Bureau. He was a member of NAICC for over 4 years and participated in the Annual Meetings. Mike actively participated in agricultural research for the purpose of advancing the sustainability and productivity of American agriculture.



Mike was a native of West Memphis and attended West Memphis Christian High School. He graduated from Arkansas State University with a degree in Agricultural Business. He enjoyed fishing and watching sports. As a dedicated father, Mike loved cheering on his sons' sports teams. An educational fund for Mike's two sons has been established at Fidelity National Bank in West Memphis as the "Shanna Crittenden Educational Fund".

Continuing Education Units Awarded For NAICC Annual Meeting

Certified Professional Crop Consultants will receive 25 CEUs for the meeting in Tucson. CEUs will automatically be awarded and put in your file.

RQAP Reregistration Points: For those who have attended the annual conference this year, the Society of Quality Assurance Council has approved the entire NAICC meeting for a maximum of 3.1875 GLP/non-GCP and 3.25 non-GLP/non-GCP re-registration units. Specific information on how the units are awarded can be found on the SQA website under the "Education and Career" tab.

The **Certified Crop Adviser** Program has awarded the following CEUs:

Nutrient Management – 2

Crop Management - .5

Soil & Water – 1

Personal Development – 8.5

Pest Management – 5

The sign in sheets have been submitted to the CCA headquarters.

California Department of Pesticide Regulations (CDPR):

Pesticide Laws/Regulations – 5

Other – 6

Registration sheets from the Annual Meeting in Tucson have been submitted to the CA office.

NAICC Moves to Quarterly Photo Contest



The 2018 first quarter NAICC Photo Contest will be held in March.

The current theme is: First Signs of Spring

Upload your photo at: <http://naicc.org/photo-contest-upload-form/>

Photos must be uploaded no later than 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2018 to be included in the current contest. Please submit no more than 3 photos per person.

By submitting contest photos, you agree to give NAICC permission to use your photos as marketing and/or advertising for the organization.

The NAICC Photo Contest winner for January's theme of Weather was:

Storm a Brewing
By Matt Eich

Congratulations for winning the gift card with a great photo!



Honorable Mentions for January's contest are photos by Linda Goldschmidt and Jeff Miller.

All photos submitted can be viewed at <http://naicc.org/photo-contest/>



2018 NAICC Annual Meeting - Tucson, AZ



Two of our faithful exhibitors



International Outreach Luncheon/Mixer

Keynote Speaker Robert Saik



FEAE President Dennis Hattermann, Ph.D.

Passing of the gavel - 2017 President Steve Hoffman and 2018 President Nathan Goldschmidt



40 Year Members Grady Coburn, Ph.D. and David Wilde

2018 Global Alliance of Independent Agricultural Consultants (GALAC) Board of Directors

NAICC MEMBER PROFILE



Name: Dan Moellenbeck
Company Name: DM Crop
Research Group, Inc.

Location (City, State): Polk City, IA

Years as a NAICC Member: 1

How did you end up working in agriculture, research/quality assurance/consulting, or your current position? In other words, what inspired you to be where you are today?

I grew up on a family farm so working in agriculture seemed an obvious choice. As an undergrad, a summer job working for an extension entomologist at Iowa State sparked my interest in agricultural research.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

Maintaining our focus on the customer. We can often get so caught up in the day to day operation of our business that we can forget why we are doing the work. Keeping in contact with our clients and focusing on why we are doing a particular study goes a long way in keeping everyone motivated when the summer days get long.

What is the one piece of technology you wouldn't want to be without in your business? GPS navigation. Being able to find a field just by punching the coordinates into my phone has made life much easier.

If your friend, child, mother wanted to follow in your footsteps, what is one piece of advice you'd want them to know? Maintain your life balance. This job will require some long hours. Be sure to have some down time before and after 'crunch time'.

What have some of your contributions to NAICC been (including committee service, board membership, any traditions or programs you've helped to establish, etc.)? I'm new to the organization, but I hope to have a list of contributions in the future.

What is something about you, your job, your hobbies, or your experiences that most NAICC members do not know about you? Collecting insects for resistance monitoring programs has provided a series of interesting stories. I've dodged alligators in Florida, wild hogs in Texas, and a very irate grower in Kansas. I have also been almost licked to death by a charging, but thankfully only overly-friendly, pit bull.

If you could take one week off during your busiest time of year, what would you do and where would you go? I would take my wife and family on a tour of Minor League baseball parks. A night game at Busch Stadium in St. Louis could finish off the week.

What is a favorite quote of yours? No, you never get any fun out of the things you haven't done. Ogden Nash

The correct answer from the December newsletter was Saguaro.

Congratulations to Carla Wells for winning the gift card!

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

What is the name of this well-known Mr.?



Submit your answer here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/FYraLIV9JzPg4sNE3>

One winner will be randomly selected from the correct answers and announced in the next newsletter.

Support
Foundation for Environmental
Agriculture Education.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

Always log onto smile.amazon.com
for your purchases to qualify



National Alliance
of Independent
Crop Consultants

Allison Jones Executive Vice President

P.O. Box 209
Vonore, TN 37885
Phone: 901.861.0511
Fax: 423.264.0071
E-mail: AllisonJones@naicc.org
www.naicc.org

Nathan Goldschmidt, M.S. President

MOARK Agricultural Research, LLC
4809 Hwy FF
Fisk, MO 63940
Phone: 573.967.2100
E-mail: nathan@moarkag.com