



July 2019

It is still summer! But are you counting down to cooler days? Let us know on Facebook or Twitter using #NAICC19Summer. Pictures are welcome!

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL by Glenn Luedke

FDA

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is pressing the FDA to step up the pace to establish a new regulatory process for producing hemp products. The comments outlined how federal agencies must be proactive in writing the rules that will assist in the success of the industry. NASDA emphasized the need for a set of guidelines that all states can follow and that consistency be the center of well-defined rules and regulations. In addition, NASDA expressed concern that there is confusion in the retail arena defining hemp products and inconsistent terminology. NASDA stated they want a seat at the table when the guidelines are written.

SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE

The Federal Reserve Chairman reported that banks (those well-versed in ag trends and ag lending) remain in a strong position in order to continue lending to farmers and ranchers. In the report, it was noted that farm income has dropped nearly 50% since 2013 and that the default rate hit its highest level in seven years in the first quarter of 2019. It was also noted that some of the big Wall Street banks are pulling back on ag related lending.

AG RESEARCH

Public institutions have historically played an important role in developing new agricultural technologies and were at the ready to see commercialization success and adoption by producers. Public investment levels in research and development increased through the early 1980s. Since

then, according to USDA, the growth rate in the public sector has been declining. In 2003, private sector investment was slightly higher than public sector investment. The total amount spent by private agricultural and food R&D doubled between 2003 and 2014 while public R&D continued to fall. The USDA report indicates that in 2010, private R&D funding for agricultural inputs alone surpassed the level for all agricultural research (also includes research in areas not directly related to livestock and crop production). Currently, public research funding tends to lean toward areas with large social benefits (environmental protection, food safety and nutrition). The report notes that private agricultural research efforts are more often complimentary, rather than competitive.

EPA

EPA has issued long term-approval for the insecticide sulfoxaflor. The EPA decision includes requirements for updated product labeling and crop-specific restrictions and pollinator protection language. A decision in 2015 by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the registration of sulfoxaflor, stating there was insufficient data regarding the effect on bees. In 2016, EPA re-evaluated the data and approved registrations that did not include crops that attract bees. To ensure that the product can be used by growers, EPA reviewed numerous additional EPA studies on sulfoxaflor's effect on bee colonies and potential for bees that are exposed after an application. (EPA conducted additional (new) Tier II assessments, and based on those assessments, EPA restored the remainder of the previously approved issues, added several new uses and removed some of the application restrictions from the 2016 registration). Farmer producer/commodity groups, retailers, manufacturers and consumers welcomed the decision. An official in EPA's Office of Chemical Safety Pollution Prevention stated that the decision indicates the EPA is willing to commit to making decisions that are based on sound science.

EPA has announced they are extending the public comment period for the ESA (RE: A draft revised method for assessing pesticide risk to endangered and threatened species) until August 15, 2019. Comments need to be directed to EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0185 at www.regulations.gov. EPA's objective with the draft revised methodologies is to deliver a more sustainable process for assessing pesticide impacts on endangered and threatened species that is efficient, protective, transparent and scientifically defensible.

The Pesticide Policy Coalition (PPC) is currently conducting Capitol Hill round table discussions with Congressional staff regarding FIFRA.

USDA

Legislation has been introduced to give USDA authority over agricultural guest workers and eliminate minimum wages for those farm workers set by the Labor Department each year. (A federal judge ruled earlier this year against producers challenging mandatory pay rates, which are intended to protect U.S. ag workers from being underpaid or displaced by foreign workers).

House/Senate members continue to press for solutions to climate change and members of various House/Senate committees have accused USDA of suppressing climate change information. USDA continues to defend its 500-plus research papers released in 2018. Groups (in and out of agriculture) are questioning if there is enough publicly financed agricultural research relating to climate change. Most agree that science, not politics, direct the research.

USDA Welcomes New Crop of Foreign Service Officers

Bryan and Diane Boroughs are pleased to announce that their son Benjamin is now one of the 12 new officers who will serve American agriculture around the globe as members of the Foreign Service. Ben Boroughs from Cimarron, Kansas is assigned to the OAA in Buenos Aires, Argentina and will begin his new position in August. [Foreign Service Appointment](#)

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we report that Dave Genereux passed away on Tuesday, July 2. David grew up in a family of 19 children near Terrebonne, Minnesota and he graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston in 1980 and North Dakota State University in 1982. He started working for Centrol Ag Consultants of Twin Valley in 1983. He will be missed. [David Genereux Obituary](#)

Agronomic Advisory by Mark Kottmeyer

Providing Information and Observations From the Field [July 12, 2019](#)

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ENROLLMENT 2020

Enrollment is open for the 2020 Leadership Program until November 1st. If you are interested (or know someone who would be) click on [Leadership Program](#) for more information and an application. You can also email our Leadership Committee Chair Bree Goldschmidt bree@moarkag.com or Allison Jones AllisonJones@NAICC.org. If you are interested in being a host location for a Leadership candidate, please contact Allison for more details.

Have a Hot! Topic?

If you have any hot topics that you would like to appear in the newsletter or a News Short, please email to Lisa at lwheelock@greatlakesag.com. What is important to one NAICC member is important to the organization!

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NAICC

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

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