

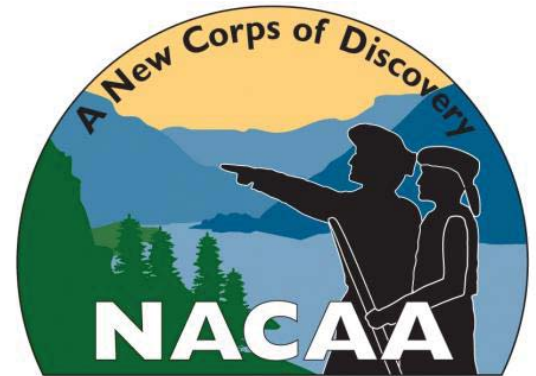
The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume CXXI No. 1 March, 2009

Mark Your Calendar - September 20-24, 2009 Portland, Oregon NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference

Prepare to dazzle your senses with Oregon's diversity of natural beauty and agricultural production September 20-24, 2009.



2009 Portland, Oregon

The **Pre-conference Livestock Tour** starts in Boise, Idaho allowing participants to see a greater diversity of livestock production and geography for a better representation of Oregon than would a tour centering around the conference site.

Professional Improvement Tours will be conducted on Thursday, September 24 rather than the traditional Wednesday.

Full and varied programs are offered for **Life Members, Spouses**, and our **Sons and Daughters**.

The headquarters hotel for the conference is the DoubleTree at Lloyd Center, located directly across the street from the Lloyd Center Mall, Oregon's oldest and still largest mall. (Ice skating is open year around at the Lloyd Center.) Other hotels include the Red Lion Conference Center, (directly across from the Oregon Conference Center), the LaQuinta Conference Center (a short block away from the Center), and the Courtyard by Marriott. All four were selected to offer a range of pricing and comfort levels to our visitors.

The area offers easy transportation to and from the airport via Portland's famous light rail system known as the MAX. A quiet twenty minute ride delivers you to the host hotels and makes stops at the **Oregon Conference Center**, home to the 2009 AM/PIC. Additionally, the MAX provide free service to the main shopping and dining experiences in downtown Portland, a short hop across the Willamette River.



See you in Portland!



NACAA

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(217)794-3700

Registration edition of "The County Agent" will be mailed by May 25, 2009 - and registration will run from June 1, 2009 - July 15, 2009.

A link for on-line registration will be available no later than June 1, 2009 on

www.nacaa.com

Challenges We Must Face

As we tick off one by one the items on our list of spring-time Extension duties, let's make sure that we take time to assess our progress and refocus as needed on our long range objectives. That is sometimes easier said than done.

In the 1880's, railroads pushed across Arizona in the north and in the south bringing people, freight, and opportunities to the state. Consider cattle for example. Texas had plenty to go around and Arizona had a lot of open space. Carloads upon carloads of them were placed on the range. Along with the cattle came many an experienced hand.

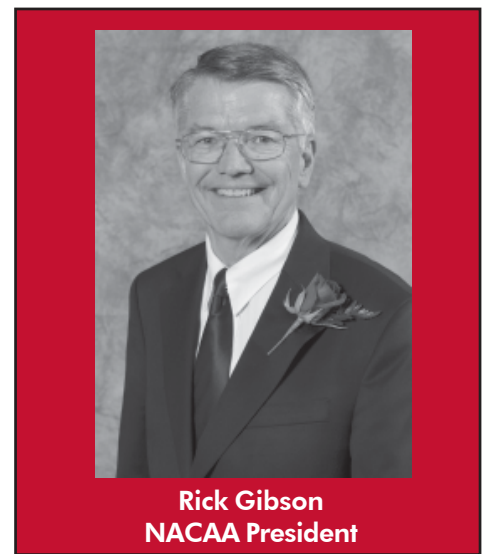
The records show that there were two types of hands. The regular cowhand was paid \$30 per month, given a string of horses for work, and provided board, usually beef, biscuits, and beans. The other type of hand, a most coveted position apparently, was the rider of the rough string.

For the extra wages of \$40 per month, these riders were required to bring in a specified number of wild horses, broken to saddle, and ready to work. Most accounts say the required number was about 30 head per month. These hands had to find them, catch them, gentle them, and turn them into the remuda to get their wages. If they failed, they were out of a job. Many are said to have wanted these jobs. Many are said to have been shipped off after a brief trial, some crippled for life. Apparently not just anyone could do the job.

One day a long time veteran of the rough string was asked if he had ever found a horse that he couldn't ride. He thought for a while, mulling the question over. With a twinkle in his eye he replied, "No, but I've been on a few where I didn't know exactly where I was going to get off!" In Arizona, where juniper trees, malpais rock, and jumping cholla are common, that is saying a mouthful!

Well, just like then, life today has its challenges. Many times, when we begin, we do not know where the end will be. Twists and turns in the road sometimes force us to readjust mid-journey and take a new path. In most cases, however, a short stop to assess progress coupled with a refocus on the long term goal, will usually keep us moving in the right direction.

I know many of us are facing economic challenges, and the questions that come from uncertain times. Shortfalls of funding, dwindling grant opportunities, layoffs, and other chal-



Rick Gibson
NACAA President

lenges often crowd out much of what in the long term is really important as we strive to maintain focus on our Extension assignments. Sometimes the consequences of these external challenges are completely out of our control. Sometimes, however, by working our way carefully through the obstacles, we can generally ensure that we reach our goals and complete the tasks to our satisfaction.

You may be wondering about NACAA, our professional improvement association, and how well it is riding out these economic storms. Let me particularly address how the current economic turmoil is affecting the organization, and the 2009 AM/PIC. Here is what we know.

The NACAA board of directors discussed these very topics at their annual spring board meeting. Specifically, what will be the impact of the current economic climate on the 2010 NACAA operating budget, and also the budget for the 2009 AM/PIC? Let me first say that I have nothing but admiration for the NACAA fiscal committee led by Fred Miller, past president, and composed of our treasurer, Paul Wigley, our president-elect Phil Pratt, and board members Chuck Schwartau and Alan Galloway. Policy chair Steve Munk, executive director Scott Hawbaker, and vice president Stan Moore also participated and provided excellent input. Through their work, I am pleased to say that we have in place a balanced budget for the AM/PIC and for our next fiscal year!

In general, it appears that we will be down in our membership about 100 colleagues from last year. This has resulted in a corresponding decrease in membership dues. The good news is that our donors, for the most part, have not backed off in their support for our organization. If we follow the budget outlined by the fiscal committee, and providing the economy doesn't unexpectedly fall completely apart, we should be able to weather these storms

just fine. This is not to say that individual states have not seen catastrophic change, and that something unforeseen could happen, but right now, as a whole, NACAA looks to be in a solid position.

Well, how about the 2009 AM/PIC? There is no question that the economic downturn has affected the collections from local donors in Oregon. In a way, it has been a perfect storm, if I can use that term. On the one hand, western states hosting AM/PIC events have historically struggled for local donor support. On the other, the epic economic problems of this year have made it difficult for our Oregon hosts to collect expected, and sometimes promised, local resources. Together, both of these issues have led to a need to do some tightening of our collective belts. With that said, the Oregon team, working with our fiscal committee, has developed a balanced operating budget that we believe will allow us to have a wonderful meeting come September.

What kind of changes will we see this year at the AM/PIC? Well, first off, when you receive your next edition of *The County Agent*, the AM/PIC registration issue, you will notice that registration fees will be somewhat higher than in previous years. There will also be a small fee for professional development tours. These increases will help us balance the budget and pay for the tour buses.

In addition, some of the amenities that we have come to expect in the past may not be extended this year. I doubt that we will see a handbag, a briefcase, or a notebook gift at registration. You and I will probably need to purchase more of our own meals while we are in Oregon. We may not see as many sponsored breaks between sessions. While we will miss them, I must also say that there is much to be excited about!

First of all, the general sessions, the committee professional improvement opportunities, and our very own special DSA Awards Banquet that we have come to expect and respect are all firmly in place. I am told that the number of posters presented for judging in the poster session this year will be significantly higher than in previous years. The spouse's programs and the sons and daughter's programs will match their usual excellence. The Life Members will be excited about the plans set for them. In short, all of the key elements of our AM/PIC will go forward as usual, and they will be of the quality that we have come to expect. In short, I believe that it will be a meeting that you will long remember. Please plan on coming!

Now, finally, we started off talking about the challenges that you and I face in our day-to-day jobs, the uncertainties of Extension work that sometimes we can control, and

sometimes we cannot. In these uncertain times, it seems to me that it becomes even more important to maintain ourselves at the "cutting edge" of preparation through constant professional improvement. In this way we can do the best job for our employers, and for our clientele. The flexibility that comes from being up to speed in our areas of expertise may often make or break us as those charged with cutting the budget search for places, and people, whose loss would bring the least impact. Our professional improvement efforts, I am thinking, can sometimes make the difference in these decisions.

Let us then concentrate on continual professional improvement. Plan to take advantage of the opportunities in Portland, but, just as important, plan to take advantage of the professional improvement opportunities that are not part of the AM/PIC. If you do not see something that interests you, submit an idea for one that does. The committees are working hard to provide online and extra-AM/PIC opportunities that all members can access, whether they attend the national meeting or not. As we take advantage of these opportunities, we strengthen not only ourselves, but NACAA as well.

Like the old rider of the rough string, we may not always know where we will get off of our own particular broncs, but, with skill, planning, and continual reassessment, we can often pick our own spot. See you in Portland!

Publication Deadlines

The County Agent

May, 2009 Issue

AM/PIC Issue

Deadline for articles: April 20, 2009

Mail Date: May 20, 2009

October, 2009 Issue

AM/PIC Recap Issue

Deadline for articles: September 28, 2009

Mail Date: October 15, 2009

January, 2010 Issue

Committee Directory

Deadline for articles: November 15, 2009

Mail Date: December, 15, 2009

An Opportunity for Animal Science Professionals

Do you consider yourself an animal science professional? Are you seeking additional recognition of your animal science expertise, continuing professional development, documented ethical standards, and increased public confidence? If so, the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) may be for you. ARPAS is the organization which provides certification of animal scientists through examination, continuing education, and commitment to a code of ethics. ARPAS membership has always been available to county extension educators. However, in recent years the NACAA Animal Science Committee has provided NACAA membership with the opportunity to complete the certification exam during our annual meeting / professional improvement conference (AM/PIC). ARPAS exams will again be offered to NACAA members during the 2009 AM/PIC on Wednesday, September 23, 1:30 PM (location to be announced in the AM/PIC program). Exams are also available on an appointment basis during the AM/PIC. Additional information, including sample exam questions and recently released study guides (beef cattle, dairy cattle, horse, and sheep), are available on the ARPAS website (<http://www.arpas.org/>).

All successful certification and licensing programs are targeted to serve and protect the public's interest. Modern agriculture is becoming more complex. More government regulations and controls require that practicing professionals establish accountability by means of registry and certification programs. In today's business climate, producer and industry clients want assurance they are getting advice from certified professionals who stay on the cutting edge. By completing the requirements of registration, maintaining your continuing education units, and adhering to the code of ethics, ARPAS registration provides you with a new level of recognition to help distinguish yourself to your clientele as a Professional Animal Scientist (PAS). Members also receive the *Professional Animal Scientist* journal. ARPAS membership is required to publish in the *Professional Animal Scientist*.

ARPAS is a society formed to strengthen and promote professional and ethical consultation and teaching for animal scientists and animal product specialists through profession certification. It is a self-governing, self-supporting organization with affiliation with the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), American Meat Science Association (AMSA), American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), Equine Science Society (ESS), and Poultry Science Association (PSA).

Levels of certification for Professional Animal Scientist (PAS) are based on degree, experience, examination, and Continuing Education Units (CEU's). A key component of qualifying for membership in ARPAS is passing a comprehensive examination. Currently, ARPAS offers

qualifying exams in 12 species or product areas: aquaculture, beef cattle, companion animals, dairy cattle, horses, laboratory animals, poultry, sheep & goats, swine, meat science, dairy product science, and poultry products. Each exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions that represent a random draw from a data bank of questions for that area of specialization. In addition to sample questions, study guides for beef cattle, dairy cattle, horse, and sheep can be found on the ARPAS website.

Annual membership dues are \$85 (electronic journal only) or \$130 (electronic journal plus printed copies). A \$25 non-fundable per specie exam fee is required. The first \$25 will be applied to your membership fee. College transcripts are required to complete the application. To maintain registration, 16 hours of CEU's are required each year. One CEU equals one hour of participation in an approved educational event. Up to 16 hours may be carried to the following year. In my experience, for extension educators, meeting the CEU requirement is not difficult.

Professional certification programs have two major objectives. One is to provide professional recognition to members for their professional expertise and achievements. The other is to provide assurance to the public being served that they have confidence that the certified professionals providing professional service for them have a high level of professional expertise, are professionally current, and practice a high level of professional ethics.

We are experiencing increased interest in both the private and public sectors for professional certification. Some universities are now requiring graduating animal science seniors to complete an ARPAS exam. We have experienced increased interest among extension professionals as we have administered the ARPAS exam to as many as 15 county extension educators at each of the last four NACAA AM/PIC. Check out the ARPAS website. If you have questions please feel free to contact the ARPAS office or myself. To register for the exam attend the Animal Science Committee meeting on Monday afternoon of the AM/PIC or email me prior to the meetings. Join the growing ranks of extension animal science educators that have received recognition of their animal science expertise through certification with ARPAS.

Submitted by: Randy R. Mills, PAS
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Animal Science Pre-AM/PIC Tour

Randy R. Mills, PAS

Chair, Animal Science Committee

The Animal Science Committee would like to remind our colleagues of the opportunity to participate in a unique professional improvement opportunity, the pre-conference Animal Science Tour. Application deadline is April 28, 2009. Please refer to the December 2008 issue of *The County Agent* (page 3) for eligibility and entry information. Entries can be submitted online at the NACAA website (<http://www.nacaa.com/awards/>).

The pre-conference tour will be held Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19. Please be advised the tour will break from its regular format, in that it will begin in Boise, ID on Friday morning, delivering participants to the convention site in Portland, OR Saturday evening. Please take this into consideration when planning travel arrangements. The revised format will provide participants the opportunity to experience the livestock industry of eastern Oregon, which would not be possible if we started the tour in Portland. Due to travel distances, the professional improvement tours during the AM/PIC will not be going into eastern Oregon. This will be the one opportunity to experience agriculture on the eastern side of the state during your visit to Oregon. A draft tour itinerary is posted on the convention website at <http://www.nacaa.com/>. This itinerary will be continually updated as details of the tour are confirmed, please check back for updates.

The Animal Science committee looks forward to hosting you on this professional improvement opportunity and the Oregon delegation looks forward to showcasing the Oregon livestock industry. If you have questions, please contact Randy Mills (randy.mills@oregonstate.edu), Chair of the Animal Science committee or your regional Animal Science Committee vice-chair.

Former NACAA Secretary Watson Dies in Florida

James N. Watson, NACAA Secretary - Treasurer (1962-1965) died in Jacksonville, FL, December 26, 2008. Mr. Watson was 91 years old at the time of his death. During his life Mr. Watson received many recognitions and honors for his outstanding work as a County Extension Agent/Director and as a community service volunteer. One of his last recognitions was the recipient of the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents Hall of Fame Award (2006). He also received the NACAA, DSA Award early in his career. A Memorial Celebration of Life Service was held at the Avondale Methodist Church in Jacksonville, FL, January 24th in honor of the splendid life Mr. Watson lived.

Going Green!

In an attempt to "Go Green" - and potentially save NACAA resources, NACAA is offering members an option to "Opt-Out" of a hard copy version of "The County Agent" magazine. The NACAA Board of Directors plans to continue printing - but want you to be the one to make the decision as to whether you want to view the magazine on-line at nacaa.com instead of a printed version. If you are interested in an electronic version only - please log on to nacaa.com, member database, edit member information - and check online only.

The County Agent

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Minnesota Agents Take Study-Tour To Brazil

NACAA Educational Foundation Assists with Scholarship Funding

A group of 13 NACAA members and 10 guests traveled to Brazil Nov. 10-19, 2008 to study agriculture, agricultural education and renewable energy. The tour was across the Brazilian states of Sao Paulo and Parana. These are two of the most developed and oldest agricultural production areas in Brazil. These states also lead the country in ethanol and bio-diesel production, sugar cane and orange production. NACAA and Extension staffs were required to Blog about the trip as part of the reporting requirement (www.extension.umn.edu/Brazil/).

This trip is a primary example of how the NACAA Educational Foundation can assist with funding for professional improvement opportunities. 20% of the overall budget (\$12,000 in scholarships) was awarded to 12 NACAA members to assist with the expenses.

The trip itinerary included stops at the following locations:

Tuesday - 11 November – SÃO PAULO / MOGI / SÃO PAULO (B/L)

Meet with Mrs. Carolina Costa member of UNICA - The Union of Industry of Sugar Cane (UNICA) is the largest organization representing the industry of sugar and bioethanol in Brazil. Its creation in 1997, resulted from the merger of several industry organizations of the state of Sao Paulo, after the deregulation of the sector in Brazil The association is expressed and acts in line with the interests of producers of sugar, ethanol and bioelectric, in Brazil and around the world. There are more than 100 companies linked to the UNICA, and they are responsible for more than 50% of ethanol production in Brazil.
www.unica.com.br

Thursday -13 November – PIRACICABA (B/L)

Day dedicated to a visit at ESALQ, discussions with teachers and professionals - The School of Agriculture Luiz de Queiroz is a unit of the University of Sao Paulo dedicated to teaching, research and extension services in areas related to agriculture, agricultural and related sciences. The campus of Esalq is located in the city of Piracicaba. Esalq was founded in 1901 by Luis Vicente de Sousa Queiroz, the Luis de Queiroz. www.esalq.usp.br

Friday - 14 November – PIRACICABA / MATÃO / MARÍLIA (B/L)

Depart to Matão
Visit at a Citrus Company
Visit to Marchesan

Saturday - 15 November – MARÍLIA / BANDEIRANTES / LONDRINA (B/L)

Depart to Londrina
Visit to a row crop farm on the way (Bandeirantes, PR) –
www.agroluta.com.br
Visit an Agronomic University –
Discussion with teachers and professionals

Sunday - 16 November – LONDRINA (B/L)

Visit to a beef cattle farm – São Francisco Farm – 2400 ha with crops and beef cattle in feedlot system, 800 animals.
Visit to a dairy farm – Monte Alegre Farm – 180 ha with 80 animals in lactation

Monday – 17 November – LONDRINA (B/L)

Visit at IAPAR - “The Agronomic Institute of the Paraná - IAPAR - is an institution of farming research which mission is to generate and to spread out scientific and technological knowledge for the supported development of the farming paranaense. The IAPAR has its

headquarters in Londirna-Paraná and is present in all the Experimental regions of the State through Polar Regions of Research, Stations, fields of cooperation with agriculturists, demonstrative cooperatives and units. The research of the IAPAR had resulted in improved varieties, definition of adequate technologies and the performance in programs directed toward supported development of the farming paranaense.” www.iapar.br
Visit to Embrapa Soy – “Embrapa Soybean is one of 40 research units of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation. Its contributions to the Brazilian soybean agribusiness, places Embrapa Soybean as a world reference in the development of technologies for tropical areas. Its mission is “to provide competitive technological solutions for sustainable soybean development through generation, adaptation and transfer of knowledge and technologies, for the benefit of the society. Embrapa Soybean is proud to show among its major contributions, the development of germoplasm adapted to areas of low latitudes, the biological control of caterpillars and stink bugs, as well as techniques for soil management and conservation.”
Visit to a machinery retail – New Holland

Day 09 – Tuesday – 18 November – LONDRINA / SÃO PAULO (B/L)

Visit to a grain Cooperative
Depart to São Paulo
Overnight at São Paulo

To recap the blogs that were reported about the trip go to:
www.extension.umn.edu/Brazil/

Snapshots of Brazil



National Association of County Agricultural Agents

September 20-24, 2009 - Portland, Oregon

94th Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00 am Pre-Conference Livestock Tour
(Boise, ID)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm NACAA Board Meeting

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm First Timer Orientation and Reception

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Taste of Oregon Dinner
Courtesy Montana & Wyoming Agents

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00 am Pre-Conference Livestock Tour
(In transit from Boise, ID)

7:00 am Pre-Conference Horticulture Tour

8:00 am NACAA Board Meeting

12:00 noon - 8:00 pm Registration

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration for 4-H Talent Revue

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm State President Rehearsal for Flag Ceremony and Opening Rehearsal

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Parents' Orientation for Sons and Daughters Program

6:15 pm - 6:45 pm National Leadership Rehearsal for Sunday Program

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Opening Session and Inspirational Program –

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 am - 9:00 pm Registration

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Commercial Exhibits & NACAA Educational Exhibits Set Up

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Scholarship Selection Committee

9:00 am - Noon Regional Directors and Vice Directors Workshop

9:00 am - 1:00 pm NACAA Poster Set Up

9:00 am - Noon Nominating Committee Meeting

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Past National Board Luncheon

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm NACAA Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Luncheon

1:00 pm - 6:30 pm Computer Technology Center Open

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Commercial and Educational Exhibits Open

1:00 pm - 6:30 pm NACAA Poster Session Display

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm State Officers Workshop

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Program Recognition
Council Workshop

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Extension Development
Council Workshop

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Professional Improvement
Council Workshop

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Life Member Committee Meeting

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm NACAA Educational Foundation Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting

8:30 pm - 9:30 pm Ice Cream Social

9:00 pm State Pictures

10:00 pm Oregon Meeting

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

6:30 am - 7:45 am Voting Delegates Breakfast (Meal by Invitation & Ticket)

7:00 am - 7:00 pm Computer Technology Center

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration

9:00 am - 6:00 pm Commercial and NACAA Educational Exhibits open

8:00 am - 12:00 noon NACAA Poster Judging

8:00 am - 10:00 am General Session

8:30 am - 4:30 pm 4-H Talent Revue Rehearsal

10:00 am - 10:20 am Break

10:30 am - 11:40 am Trade Talk Concurrent Sessions

11:45 am - 1:15 pm First Time Attendee Luncheon

11:45 am - 1:15 pm PRIDE Luncheon

11:45 am - 1:15 pm Professional Improvement and Search for Excellence Luncheons

11:45 am - 1:15 pm Exhibits, Poster Session-meet the authors

11:45 am - 1:15 pm Educational Luncheon
Seminars (pick up tickets at registration)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Committee Workshops for all NACAA Members	7:00 am - 8:30 am	National Committee Members Breakfast
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Life Members Business Meeting	7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Computer Technology Center
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Leaders Meeting	8:30 am - 10:00 am	NACAA Policy Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Break & Donor Recognition	8:30 am - 10:30 am	General Session
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Regional Meetings and Candidate Presentations	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration
4:45 pm - 7:00 pm	Got to Be Oregon Dinner – 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	10:45 pm - 12:15 pm	Educational Luncheon Seminars
9:00 pm	4-H Talent Revue –	1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists Certification Exam
9:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Ice Cream Social-	3:30 pm - 4:40 pm	NACAA Board in President’s Room
9:30 pm - 11:00 pm	State Pictures	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	DSA & AA Recipients, Hall of Fame Recipients, NACAA Board Members, Region Directors, Past Officers, Special Assignments, Special Guests, Council Chairs, Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Assemble for Banquet
10:00 pm	Oregon Meeting		Annual Banquet

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

6:30 am - 7:45 am	Administrators’ Breakfast
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Achievement Award Recognition Breakfast
6:30 am - 7:45 am	Poster Session Breakfast
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Life Members Breakfast
7:00 am – 4:30 pm	Computer Technology Center Open
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Commercial and NACAA Educational Exhibits open
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	NACAA Poster Session Open
8:30 am - 11:30 am	Delegate Session
8:30 am - 11:30 am	Extension Development Council Seminars
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	Communication Awards Luncheon
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	State Presidents and Vice Presidents Luncheon
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Search for Excellence Luncheons
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Professional Improvement Council Seminars
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	JCEP Seminar presented by JCEP Traveling Team
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Commercial Exhibits and Poster Session close and take down
5:30 pm	States Night Out
7:00 pm	Silent and Live Auction Preview
8:00 pm	Live Auction
10:00 pm	Oregon Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:30 am - 8:00 am	Assemble for Breakfast and Professional Improvement Tours
8:00 am - 6:00 pm	Professional Improvement Tours
10:00 pm	Oregon Meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:00 am - 5:00 pm	NACAA Board Meeting
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00 am - 12:00 pm	NACAA Board Meeting
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The Grow'n Growers of San Juan, Texas, sell their organic produce to eager customers just north of the Mexican border. The women credit the program with helping them fight depression as well as poverty.

Learning to dream and grow in South Texas

Dreams can be unrealistic when you live eight miles north of the Mexican border, says extension agent Barbara Storz.

“When you are really, really, really poor your dreams are from a novella—of a prince on a white horse coming to save you. There are no realistic dreams of things you could actually accomplish,” she says.

Dreams of fresh local food, for example. The farms around McAllen, Texas, produce the biggest variety of fruits and vegetables in the state, but until two years ago, local residents didn't have access to fresh produce. It was all trucked away by the big packing houses.

Then Storz organized a group of low-income families, mostly women, into the Grow'n Growers of San Juan, Texas. Now they raise about 50 varieties of crops including

bok choy, collards, eggplant, tomatoes, spinach, colored Swiss chard, grapefruit, limes, oranges, herbs, broccoli, cauliflower, Chinese and Indian vegetables.

White collar workers who used to speed by their community on the way to and from McAllen, now brake for their monthly market days. Some customers drive 70 miles from Brownsville for the fresh organic food. One woman has bought a residential lot next to her home and started a CSA. A man has turned the property behind his tire shop into another CSA. A woman sells pastured eggs from her farm. All of the families involved are enjoying an improved diet as well as an upwardly mobile sense of self.

It all started when Storz helped design a park behind a community center and Head Start facility. The county commissioner, Hector Palacios, asked if there was anything he could do in return. She requested help in starting a

farmers market and community development project. She needed land for a demonstration garden and a room for presentations. He arranged for a bit more than an acre to be set aside for that use. A few weeks later Storz was asked for a materials list so construction could start. This was in 2007.

She immediately called Heifer International and told them about the gift from the county commissioners. Heifer responded with technical assistance, donated seeds and travel expenses to other enterprises to see successful farming and marketing. Twenty seven families came to the first meeting, and 17 stayed through the first-year program to learn raised-bed vegetable gardening. The city of McAllen donated compost. Heifer provided a grant to pay for lumber, weed cloth and tools. Additionally Heifer and the SARE state sustainable ag coordinator's office partnered to sponsor a pastured poultry workshop in Spanish, with help from the Texas Health Department and ATTRA.

In February 2008, the Grow'n Growers launched their farmer's market. Customers responded to the fresh, local organic produce, and the Grow'n Growers program was declared a success. A community had learned to dream. As the 2009 classes started, 15 of the first-year families returned to join the newcomers. This season's advancements include installing drip irrigation with the help of Master Gardeners. There are tomato cages and row covers for everyone in the group. Along with crop production, this year classes include finance management, nutrition, cooking and marketing. English classes are offered twice a week. In the future they hope to hold the market two or three times a month.

Come summer, 36 low-income children will attend a one-week camp in the certified wildlife area and butterfly garden with classes taught by Grow'n Growers members and Master Gardener volunteers. The day camp includes a nutritious lunch. It's essential to reach the children because attitudes are formed so early, says Storz.



“These people bring their fears of government from Mexico,” she adds. “During our first season one woman asked another if I was really going to let them keep the money they made at the market. This was after I had been teaching them classes twice a week. Now she is the first person to stand up and brag when Heifer sends someone to look over the project.”

As for the future, Storz sees a need for more funds and people to help.

“A new park is opening about 10 miles away,” she says. “Commissioner Palacios wants to put in an outdoor

classroom and demonstration garden in an even lower income neighborhood. It's difficult to imagine a neighborhood lower on the income scale than this one, but I am sure I will find a real determination to succeed on the part of the people, once we give them the tools to make a few real dreams come true.”



This article was reprinted with permission from the Southern SARE “Common Ground” newsletter, Spring, 2009.

Field Day Program for 2009 Underway - QUALISOY PARTNERSHIP

Greetings!

By now, it is my hope that you are familiar with QUALISOY due to the many partnerships we've had with the National Association of County Ag Agents (NACAA). If not, QUALISOY remains to serve as an industry coalition working with all sectors of the soybean value chain to help market and promote trait-enhanced soybeans. We are happy to announce the third year of our field day partnership program with NACAA and county extension specialists.

For the past two years QUALISOY has sponsored field days and agronomy days with extension agents to discuss trait-enhanced soybean opportunities. The program has been a huge success and we are looking to continue and build on that momentum.

The first trait in the QUALISOY pipeline to hit the market was the low-linolenic soybean. Low-linolenic soybeans reduce linolenic acid content and require no hydrogenation, the process that creates trans fats, to provide a highly functional oil. With the development of low-linolenic soybeans, the soybean industry has made a commitment to hear consumer demands and is willing to meet them. Low-linolenic soybeans also represent the first attempt to truly segment the soybean and make it less of a commodity crop. This year we'll also be discussing high-oleic soybeans which will be introduced into the market in 2009, with a full-scale launch in 2010. Oils with increased-oleic properties can be used in industrial baking applications, a 6-8 billion pound per year market for soybean farmers.

QUALISOY is again offering to partner in a Field Day/Agronomy Day program with NACAA. The partnership would be with extension officers and county ag agents in areas where low-linolenic and high-oleic soybeans are available for planting and in counties where new traits are being tested. Ideally, we'd like to partner with agents that already have low-linolenic or increased-oleic soybeans in their test plots or that have test plots within a 25 mile radius of elevators and processors that are handling low-linolenic and other trait-enhanced soybeans. Our goal is to encourage more farmers to consider growing new soybean varieties.

QUALISOY will donate \$500 toward the cost of the field day/agronomy day and, in return, would request that a QUALISOY representative be allowed to attend the field day to distribute literature, host a raffle for participants and have a 5 to 10 minute speaking opportunity to talk about trait-enhanced soybeans. Ten sites will be selected for the program based on applications. Agents who participated last year may apply again, but preference will be given to new sites/locations.

If this is an opportunity you would like to pursue, please fill out the attached form for consideration. If you have questions about the program, or QUALISOY in general, please give me a call at 314-746-1907 or email me at hethm@osborn-barr.com. Applications are due by April 30, 2009.

Thank you!

Mandy Heth

QUALISOY Staff

www.qualisoy.com



The 2009 Field Day Program applies to members in the following states: Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Michigan.

Application Form for 2009 Field Day Program

Extension Office Name: _____

Contact: _____

Location: _____

Address for sponsorship check: _____

Distance from a low-linolenic processing or elevator location: _____

Do you currently have low-linolenic or increased-oleic soybeans in your test plot? _____

Are you willing to allow a QUALISOY representative speaking time? If so, how much? _____

When will your field day/agronomy day take place? _____

What is the average attendance to your field day events? _____

Please describe your typical field day event: _____

Will QUALISOY be able to hold a drawing for a prize in the \$100 range at your event? _____

Is a booth appropriate for your event? _____

Please provide any other pertinent information pertaining to your event below:

*Please return all completed applications to either Scott Hawbaker at FX: (217) 794-5901 or nacaemail@aol.com or to Mandy Heth at FX: (314) 726-6350 or hethm@osborn-barr.com by April 30th.



Nominees Sought for Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Awards

Call for applicants in five categories to be honored at 2009 Farm Progress Show in Decatur.

DECATUR, ILLINOIS — Born Feb. 12, 1809, this year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Lincoln demonstrated his commitment to agriculture by establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the land-grant college system. To honor his dedication to agriculture, the Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Awards committee is seeking nominees for 2009.

Recipients of the bi-annual Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Awards will be honored at the Farm Progress Show on Sept. 1, 2009. Each will receive a 23-inch statuette of Honest Abe made by renowned Lincoln sculptor John McClarey.

Nominations and applications are due June 26 for five award categories: ag education, technology, agri-business, an individual agriculturalist, and an ag legislator. Awards will be presented to individuals, companies, businesses, organizations, or educational institutions that exhibit exemplary leadership and achievement in the five categories.

2007 Winners

While living in Decatur, Lincoln began his career in politics and was nominated as a presidential candidate in 1860. Decatur's agricultural tradition continues as the lifeblood of this community. The inaugural winners were announced during the 2007 Farm Progress Show, at the Decatur show site.

Agri-business: John Huston's commitment to the beef industry earned him the agri-business award. He served as president of the National Livestock and Meat Board and executive vice president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Agriculturalist: During John Block's service as secretary of agriculture, he convinced President Ronald Reagan to end the highly unpopular Russian Grain Embargo. His role in shaping the industry earned him the agriculturalist award.

Education: Dr. Jim Evans is best known for establishing the Agricultural Communications Department at the University of Illinois. For this contribution, he was awarded the Abraham Lincoln National Agriculture Award for Education.

Legislative: Former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert was honored with the legislative award. His extensive list of achievements includes grain warehouse regulations, the Water Resources Development Act, and persuading President George W. Bush to sign the 2002 Farm Bill.

Technology: During his presidency of the National Corn Growers Association, Leon Corzine was instrumental in the success of the Renewable Fuels Act. Corzine won the technology award for his dedication to renewable fuels.

Nomination and application forms are available online at www.farmprogressshow.com. For more information, contact Kim Bauer at (217) 424-2779 or kbauer@decaturil.gov; or contact Cindy Laegeler at (217) 875-7211, ext. 577 or claegele@richland.edu.

HISTORY CORNER



Thought as a member of NACAA - you might be interested in this photo - copyright unknown - Harry S. Truman Library

Title: President Truman with
National Association of County Agriculture Agents.

Date: July 8, 1947

People pictured: Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972 - with members of NACAA

Accession number: 59-1325

Southern SARE invites Professional Development Pre-proposals

The Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Professional Development Program is requesting pre-proposals for projects of one to two year(s) duration that provide training in sustainable agriculture for agricultural professionals and educators who serve farmers and other interested people in USDA's southern region.

Obtain the call for pre-proposals at <http://www.southernsare.org>

Submission deadline is June 5, 2009. Awards will be made in February 2010.

There is no funding cap for projects. To fund a broad portfolio of projects, priority will be given to those in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

SARE is an inclusive program and encourages pre-proposals from land grant and non-land grant universities, colleges, USDA agencies, community-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

The Southern region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

NCR-SARE Announces 2009 Call for Professional Development Program Preproposals

The 2009 North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program's (NCR-SARE) Professional Development Call for Preproposals is now available online at <http://sare.org/ncrsare/PDP/pdp.htm>

The PDP provides funds for professional development projects that provide sustainable agriculture training to agricultural professionals and educators in the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), other governmental agencies, and educators in the profit and non-profit sector serving the food and fiber system. Projects can be two to three years in duration, and funding level is capped at \$75,000 for each project, but projects requesting less than full amount are encouraged. Approximately \$400,000 will be available for funding projects.

The deadline for preproposals is 4:30 pm CDT on Monday, May 22, 2009.

Any questions regarding the North Central SARE PDP program should be addressed to Paula Ford (pford@ksu.edu, 785-532-5328) or Linda Kleinschmit (LindaKL@ksu.edu, 402-254-3310).



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- Master of Agriculture
- Master of Science in Agricultural Education
- Master of Science in Horticultural & Turfgrass Sciences
- Master of Science in Crop Science
- Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education (joint degree with Texas A&M University)

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ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

2009

Portland, Oregon.....September 20-24

2011

Overland Park, Kansas..... August 7-11

2010

Tulsa, Oklahoma.....July 11-15

2012

Charleston, South Carolina.....July 15-19

The County Agent

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The County Agent - NACAA, 6584 W. Duroc Road,
Maroa, IL 61756 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker