

The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

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Two Land Grant University Presidents to Present Historic Centennial Keynote at AM/PIC in South Dakota

Two of the most respected Land Grant University Presidents in the country will team up to present the Centennial Keynote Address at the Opening General Session at the 2015 AMPIC on Monday, July 13, 2015. E. Gordon Gee, President of West Virginia University and Waded Cruzado, President of Montana State University will discuss the critical role which cooperative Extension fulfills as part of the mission of a modern Land Grant University.

Cruzado is an articulate and inspirational speaker on the role of the public university, and has become well-known for her understanding of the Morrill Act, which created the land-grant university system 150 years ago. She is a passionate champion of the land-grant's tripartite mission of teaching, research, and public outreach, as well as the important role which higher education plays in the development of individuals and the prosperity of the nation. In 2012, President Obama appointed Cruzado to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, a USAID advisory council whose primary role is to advise on agriculture, rural development, and nutrition related to global food insecurity.

Gee is among the most highly experienced and respected leaders in higher education in the United States, having been named in 2009 by Time magazine as one of the top ten university presidents in the United States. Gee chairs the American Council on Education's Commission on Higher Education Attainment, and is a Fellow in the Prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest and most prestigious science organization. Gee has been a champion of expanding the role of agricultural research and Extension to solve the world's most pressing problems related to hunger, sustainability, nutrition, and energy.

Gee has served as President or Chancellor for more than 33 years at five different universities throughout the United States, and has a major presence on numerous state and national higher education policy commissions and the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU). Gee also serves on the Board of Trustees of the National 4-H Council.



*E. Gordon Gee,
President of West Virginia University*



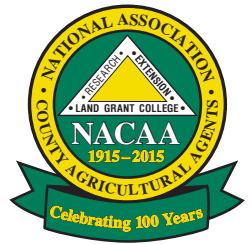
*Waded Cruzado,
President of Montana State University*



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NACAA Comissions 100th Anniversary Illustration by renowned artist Robert Tuckwiller



Acclaimed as a realist, Robert Tuckwiller's artwork depicts the quiet beauty of the natural environment. During his 35 plus year career as a professional artist, he has painted and sold several thousand original paintings and limited edition prints. Tuckwiller's award winning artwork can be found in more than 30,000 private and corporate collections in the U.S. and abroad.

His work for NACAA uses a variety of mountain, field and watershed settings to take us across the past 100 years of Extension.



The National Association of County Agricultural Agents
"Solving problems for 100 years"
2015 Annual Conference | Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Moving from right to left, we travel from early 1900s agriculture to the present day represented by the water quality work in the center to the future represented by the drone. Prints (18" x 24") will be available at the 2015 NACAA AM/PIC for \$15 and will be available for purchase from the NACAA office following the AM/PIC for the same cost plus shipping & handling.

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Leadership in Action



NACAA officers met with USDA Deputy Secretary Krista Harden during PILD Conference in Washington DC in April. Deputy Secretary Harden was very familiar with the work of county agents.

Have Your Cake and Eat it Too..... at the Birthday Celebration at the AMPIC

As part of NACAA's Centennial Celebration at this year's AMPIC in South Dakota, each state association will be provided a birthday cake which they can decorate in honor of their state association. Each state can choose to decorate their cake however they choose. You can highlight your state's agriculture or history, or even your university's traditions!

On Sunday, July 12th, from noon to 4 pm in the lobby of the Sioux Falls Convention Center (near the registration area), each state association will be provided one white frosted sheet cake, measuring 14" x 19". States are asked to bring their own decorating supplies and to have their cake decorated by 4:00 pm on Sunday.

Cakes will remain on display in the Convention Center lobby area until after dinner and the opening program, and will then be served with ice cream following the conclusion of the opening program.

Each state President has been asked to confirm their state's participation so that a cake will be available for each participating state. Registrations should be sent before June 30 to schmidtj@wsu.edu.



Support the 2018 AM/PIC now and take home a unique piece of NACAA history!



**Offer good while supplies last!
(There are only so many bottles in a barrel.)**

Jack Daniel's Master Distiller, Jeff Arnett, and Hall of Fame Member, Larry Moorehead, have selected a special barrel of Tennessee Whiskey for NACAA's own commemorative Single Barrel bottle. Signed by the Master Distiller and customized with the NACAA logo and AM/PIC theme, this bottle is sure to be a NACAA collectible.

Donate \$125 or more to support the 2018 AM/PIC at taaastn.com now, and Larry will deliver your commemorative bottle to the 2015 AM/PIC in Sioux Falls.

Tim Hambrick is Honored by Resistance Fighter Leadership Program

Many people working in agriculture today grew up on farms and knew they wanted to work in agriculture for the rest of their lives. Their stories are a testament that an agricultural lifestyle, though often hard, gives many people a sense of satisfaction they cannot find in other work. But equally inspiring are the stories of people outside the agricultural realm finding within it a sense of purpose and fulfillment. That is Tim Hambrick's story.

Hambrick did not grow up knowing he would work in agriculture. He attended Berea College in Kentucky and chose agronomy as a major. After graduating, he went to work for the Farmer's Home administration servicing farm loans and quickly realized he did not want to spend his life behind a desk. He returned to school, earned his master's degree in agronomy at Western Kentucky University and went straight into the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, where he has remained for 27 years. Hambrick's decision to pursue a career in Extension has been a blessing for both he and the growers he serves.

Currently, Hambrick is the Area Field Crops Agent for Forsyth, Stokes and Davie counties. He is happy, humble and enthusiastic about his work. He likes the idea of public service and when asked what has kept him in Extension for 27 years, he laughs and replies, "Obviously, you have to enjoy the research process and learning new things to stick with it for this long, but the main thing for me is that I like North Carolina farmers."

Preparing for Palmer

Hambrick has seen the agricultural industry face many challenges over the years, including the threat of various types of insecticide, fungicide and herbicide resistance. He has seen the rise of glyphosate-resistant palmer amaranth and realizes it is a very serious threat. Several years ago,



*Hambrick and wife, May Hambrick, at dinner following Syngenta Vero Beach Research Station tour.
Photo courtesy of SteveWilliamsPhoto.com*

Hambrick attended a field day in the Sandhills of North Carolina to see trial studies of palmer amaranth. "It struck me that this was worse than anything I'd seen during my career," Hambrick recalls, "And I got serious about preparing farmers in my part of the state for what was coming."

So when Hambrick spotted palmer amaranth in his area, he responded quickly. He approached the landowner, who was very helpful, and the next year Hambrick hosted a field day on that land. The field day was a huge success. People from seven counties attended to see test plots demonstrating the effects of various herbicides on the weed. "We aren't a palmer hot spot, but there are patches in this area," says Hambrick. "We've had just enough to fuel a real interest in prevention. My job is to slow the spread of palmer here as much as possible, and prepare my growers for how to deal with it."

Becoming a Resistance Fighter

This year, Hambrick's proactive attitude earned him a place in the Syngenta Resistance Fighter® Leadership



Hambrick examines float trays of tobacco in a greenhouse.

Program. The program recognizes the achievements of outstanding agricultural advisors assisting growers with resistance management. Through travel, networking, exposure to industry research and sharing their own experience, members further develop their resistance knowledge while educating others. The program members come from diverse career backgrounds, and Hambrick is the second with a background in Extension.

Hambrick has met several other members of the program, toured the Syngenta Vero Beach Research Station and was honored at the National Farm Machinery Show. The program has reinforced for Hambrick the scope of the resistance problem and reminded him he is not facing it alone. “The lines of communication and the knowledge that this program brings together are a wonderful things,” says Hambrick, “and we all need to work together and pass along the good and the bad to keep resistance manageable for as long as possible.”

Hambrick encourages others to get involved with the program. “What sets this program apart is that it focuses on practical, real-life issues,” he says. “Like anything, you get out what you put in, but I’ve found it to be a wonderful

program and would recommend that anyone who is eligible put in an application.”

How to Apply

Extension agents, consultants and other agricultural advisors helping producers manage resistance in weeds, insects, diseases or nematodes are eligible for the program. The 2015 application window closes on September 15. Please visit www.resistancefighter.com to apply or recommend the program to a worthy agricultural advisor.

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CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

<http://nacaa.com>

For the latest news & information regarding NACAA meetings, membership database updates, award submissions/recognition, NACAA Supporters and the list goes on....and on...and on!

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

October, 2015

Post AM/PIC Edition

Deadline for Articles: September 1, 2015

Mail Date: September 20, 2015

December, 2015

Awards/Committee Directory

Deadline for articles: December 1, 2015

Mail Date: December 23, 2015



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2014-2015 NACAA Report to the Membership

President Mike Hogan, Ohio



Serving as your president during the past year has been a humbling, gratifying, and challenging experience, and will certainly be the highlight of this county agent's career. I thank you for the privilege of serving you in this leadership role.

As President, I can report to you as members that your association is as strong today as it has ever been. In 2015, NACAA experienced a third consecutive year of active member growth. We continue to have the largest and most active membership of any of our peer associations. Our financial picture is positive and our educational foundation is growing. Financial support from donors and sponsors has been maintained, which is an accomplishment in an environment of corporate consolidation and philanthropic belt-tightening. NACAA continues to attract new partners for new recognition and professional development programs for NACAA members.

Legendary Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes used to say that "you win with people" and that is certainly true for our professional association. The primary reason for NACAA's success over the last 100 years is our people. The success of our recognition and professional development programs is due to the scores of NACAA members from around the country who volunteer each year to serve on committees as state chairs, regional vice-chairs, committee chairs, and council chairs. The fact that the NACAA AMPIC has more hours of professional development opportunities than any of our peer associations is a testimony to the extraordinary work of these leaders.

Members who serve in leadership roles as state presidents of their state associations, as regional directors and vice-directors, and as officers of NACAA do amazing work and are also responsible for the continuing success of our professional association.

Our life members also play a role in the success of our association today, and throughout our 100 year history. Over

the last few years, during the planning of this year's AMPIC in South Dakota, I was delighted at the active involvement of our life members in planning the AMPIC. Life members Mahlon Peterson and Randy Knapp of Wisconsin, and Bob Voberill of Nebraska travelled to South Dakota several times over the past few years to assist with AMPIC planning. This level of dedication from life members simply doesn't happen in other organizations.

Our NACAA Executive Director Scott Hawbaker is another of example of how NACAA wins with people. Scott's administrative leadership over the past several years has allowed NACAA to maintain and expand a high level of customer service for our members. I can't imagine serving as an officer of this association without the support, assistance, continuity, and institutional knowledge provided by Scott.

During the past couple of years, I've sometimes felt like Johnny Cash in the song "*I've Been Everywhere Man!*" " You know, I've been to Memphis, Portland, Vegas, San Diego, Washington, Sioux Falls, Mobile.... I've been everywhere man! And everywhere I have gone on behalf of NACAA, I've been amazed at the high esteem in which county agents are held. Nowhere was that demonstrated to a greater degree than in Washington DC when your officer team visited with USDA agency leaders during the PILD Conference this past spring. When we visited with high ranking officials in several USDA agencies, including the Deputy Secretary of USDA, we were greeted with thanks and admiration for the work that each of you does every day. These leaders understand the vital role which county agents play in a sustainable food, fiber, and energy production system in the United States.

While we celebrate our Centennial AMPIC this July in South Dakota, we should also capitalize on this milestone to chart the course for NACAA's next century. While strong and healthy today, our association certainly faces challenges it must confront if we are to continue to be of great value to our membership in the future. I would suggest three issues for us to address seriously in the coming years:

1. Evaluation of our Committee Structure and Organization – as changes occurs in our profession, in the agricultural landscape, and in the people we serve, a need will likely exist for some re-tooling of how we are organized to do the work of our association.
2. Restructuring of the AMPIC – The AMPIC is of great

value to our membership, but this value comes at a great financial cost and in energy and resources expended by host states.

3. Recognizing the Diversity of Our Profession – we simply must re-double our efforts to recognize the need for attracting and accommodating a rapidly diversifying profession and membership.

I would challenge each of you to think about how you can help shape *your* professional association for its next century of success.

See you in Sioux Falls!

**President Elect
Cynthia L. Gregg, Virginia**



Thank you: is defined as an adjective as expressing one's gratitude or thanks and it is also a noun defined as an expression of thanks, as by saying "thank you". This year I have much to be thankful for and appreciative of for NACAA Members. I would like to share some of these with you in this report.

The NACAA President-Elect's job includes working with the Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker on donor relations to support the many professional development activities to help you have a stronger, viable and relevant program for your clientele. The donors and sponsors are extremely valuable contributors to NACAA, through their donations of money, time, expertise, and so much more. We, as members, can learn about new technology, including equipment, crops, ornamentals, animals, water quality, fisheries, natural resources, climate, and the list goes on. NACAA has several donors, who have been a partner for many years. They have seen many changes in the make-up of our organization as well as their own, and through it all the partnership has been strong and unfailing. We have both benefited and become better because of each other. NACAA has a new donor this year and we look forward to forming a strong partnership with them for many years to come. This year NACAA has donations of over \$135,000 this year from our outstanding donors to support our vast array of professional development and improvement opportunities along with awards.

The NACAA Donors help us as members in many ways: 1. Program Development – the members who present at a session share their knowledge with others from across the country. These ideas and topics help expand research, demonstrations, workshops, and networks, which gives so much more back to our local areas. 2. Professional Development – the chance to learn from industry experts and fellow members on various issues, including climate,

plant and animal disease management, nutrition, marketing, soil fertility, equipment, and so much more, this helps us be more knowledgeable on issues that will help empower our clientele. 3. Awards and Recognition – the recognition of a job well done by providing the opportunity to say congratulations on a job making positive strides in research, demonstration, programming, and a member's career as they assist their clientele and coworkers without ever thinking about reward. 4. Help NACAA remain true to the mission. The mission of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), an organization of professional Extension educators, is to further the professional improvement of its members, communication and cooperation among all Extension educators and provide for enhancement of the image of Extension and the development of personal growth opportunities for extension professionals. Donors and Sponsors who support NACAA help make the above mentioned possible.

This year NACAA would like to welcome Bonnie Plants as a National Donor. Bonnie Plants, as you may remember, was a Major Donor to the 2014 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Mobile, Alabama and contributed greatly to the meeting's success. We are excited to begin this new partnership with Bonnie Plants and are looking forward to enhancing the Horticulture Professional Development and Recognition Programs. This year Bonnie Plants is the Sponsor for the Horticulture Pre-Tour and the Search for Excellence in Horticulture Program.

NACAA has many donors, who have been long term partners, reaching significant milestones in 2015. These Donors help provide professional development, recognition, and professional improvement of NACAA Members. This year American Income Life has been a Donor for sixty (60) years. They have been the sponsor of the Achievement Award Program for over forty-seven (47) years as well as an exhibitor in the Annual Trade Show. John Deere has been a donor for fifty-five (55) years. They assist with the Hall of Fame, Outstanding Young Farmer Program, and attend the Annual Trade Show. The United Soybean Board has a twenty-five (25) year history as a donor. They have helped with several programs over the years for example; the Committee Members Breakfast and actively participate in the Annual Trade Show as well. There are two donors reaching the fifteen (15) year anniversary in 2015. Bayer Advanced and SARE have both been active in Trade Talks, Tours, and the Annual Trade Show just to name a few of the venues of their support. It is an honor to recognize the above mentioned donors for all they have done for NACAA and Extension Professionals across the country, so I say a heartfelt thank you to all of our NACAA donors for their support and commitment to the members of NACAA.

So please take a few minutes to go by the Exhibits and visit with the donors present in Sioux Falls. I hope you take the

time to make a new contact, learn something new, and build a stronger network while you are the NACAA AMPIC. Then when you get back home, take a few minutes to write a note to the donor; who sponsor your award, conduct a Trade Talk or Super Seminar on something that will help you educate your clientele back home, and because of the many professional improvement and development opportunities they have assisted with over the years.

In addition to working with donors, this year in honor of celebrating NACAA's 100th year of helping agents and specialists become better at their jobs across the country, the (\$)100 for the 100th was announced. The funds will go to the NACAA Educational Foundation to help the foundation reach the goal of one million dollars by 2025. One of the goals of the Foundation is to support NACAA members with scholarships to attend graduate school, an educational tour, an educational workshop, or a national or international conference to help members educate clientele in their local county, parish, area, region, or state. Thank you to all of you and your state sssociation for your contributions to the (\$)100 for the 100th, in honoring NACAA's past, present and future.

Some other items of interest, the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) added a new organization to the family in February during the JCEP Leadership Conference. Please everyone, when you get a chance, congratulate members of the National Association of Extension Program and Staff Development Professionals. I know everyone will make them feel welcome.

This year the JCEP Leadership Conference was held in Las Vegas on February 10-11. The conference was filled with wonderful leadership workshops and the Keynote Speaker: David Horsager – The Trust Edge, was very good. The JCEP Leadership Conference is open to all members, not only the leadership of your respective states. This year NACAA had a strong delegation, many presented and we had a productive association meeting as well. The regional Directors did a nice job in planning the association meeting, thank you. I hope you think about sharing one of your great leadership programs next year in 2016. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. If I cannot answer your question, I know I can find someone who can answer it for you.

This year the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference was held this year in Crystal City. I, unfortunately, did not get to attend due to family illness. I know the NACAA was well represented at the Conference. I heard the workshops, speakers and overall conference itself was well done. The NACAA has great representation on the planning committee with several Regional Directors. Thank you for all of your efforts planning the PILD Conference on behalf of NACAA. PILD is open to all members and

you also get a chance to visit your elected officials on The Hill. The NACAA Board had the opportunity to meet with our USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture Colleagues. It was a pleasure to work with Bill Hoffman to coordinate this meeting, I am sorry I had to miss it. I know NACAA was in good hands with our representatives: President: Mike Hogan, Vice-President: Mark Nelson, and Past President: Henry Dorough.

I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you to the members of the Virginia Association of Agricultural Extension Agents for their support this year, without their support I would not have the chance to be a part of this amazing opportunity to serve on the NACAA Board. I would like to say thank you to all of you, NACAA Members, as well, for without you there would be no National Association of County Agricultural Agents. I appreciate all of the trust you placed in me when you elected me to the NACAA Board. Please know my door is always open and I am just an email and phone call away.

A special thank you goes to Scott Hawbaker, NACAA Executive Director. He is the constant for NACAA with the donors, our members, state officers, and national board. He does an amazing job for all of us.

Finally, I feel Thank you is in order for the members who came before us, their foresight, leadership and organizational skills helped make NACAA what it is today. I also say Thank you to our current and future members, the next one hundred years is ours so let's make it count with additional foresight, leadership, organization skills, professional development, recognition, networking and more.

The 2015 NACAA AMPIC will be filled with amazing educational and recognition opportunities for all of us. It will be a pleasure to learn alongside you. I am certain I will learn so much from all of you during the many presentations, posters, Trade Talks, Super Seminars, and tours. I know I will have much to share with my local clientele and co-workers who cannot attend. I cannot wait to visit the Trade Show and visit with our donors and sponsors this year. I wish congratulations to **all** of the award winners, in all categories this year. I hope to have a chance to visit with you in Sioux Falls. I look forward to seeing many of you in Sioux Falls to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Again, thank you for all you do!

**Vice President
Mark Nelson, Utah**



My year as your Vice President is almost over and I can barely believe it has passed so quickly. The role of the NACAA Vice President is to work with the three council chairs to oversee all committee activities throughout the year. I have really enjoyed working closely with such dedicated and professional Council Chairs as Mary Sobba from Missouri; Richard Brzozowski from Maine and Kurt Jones from Colorado. Most NACAA members probably aren't aware of the tremendous number of hours the Council Chairs put in each year working on behalf of our professional association. Mary Sobba will be completing her term as the Council Chair for the Professional Improvement Council, and we will welcome Sherri Sanders from Arkansas as the new Council Chair for the Professional Improvement Council.

The 18 National Committee Chairs and 62 Regional Vice Chairs also log many hours carrying out the many NACAA awards and professional improvement programs, and deserve special thanks for their hard work. Like my predecessors, I asked that all national committee chairs and regional vice-chairs communicate on a regular basis with state committee leaders. It was great to receive copies of numerous emails throughout the year between committee leaders at all levels, especially communication engaging state leadership. We should all continuously endeavor to improve communication among all of our leaders and members to ensure we remain relevant and informed.

If you are not currently serving on an NACAA committee as a State Chair, a Regional Vice Chair, a National Committee Chair, please consider doing so. Your professional association works for you because of the volunteer leadership of so many dedicated members. If you want to help improve our association the best way to do that is to get involved. If you know of a younger agent in your state that needs to get involved talk to them and encourage them to sign up to serve on one of the many committees. This is how I got my start in NACAA.

It has been a career highlight for me to have been elected to the position of vice president of NACAA in 2014. I look forward to working closely with the national leadership in the coming years but we cannot do it without your support. I look forward to visiting with each of you at the 2015 AMPIC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota very soon. I would like to thank everyone who has made it possible for me to serve as the NACAA Vice President this past year. Thank you.

**Secretary
Matt Herring,
Missouri**



A little over a year ago colleagues in Missouri encouraged me to consider giving back to NACAA by making a bid for the office of Secretary. Since being elected at the 2014 AMPIC it has been a whirlwind of learning about the Association and the duties of the office. The experience of being the NACAA Secretary is both challenging and rewarding.

As Secretary of the association my primary responsibility is to record minutes of the board meetings and other activities of the association and keep our membership informed through posting minutes to the NACAA website. The board holds meetings before and after the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. We hold winter and spring board meetings and monthly teleconferences. During the meetings I take minutes, but also make audio recordings that I play back to try to capture details I may have missed. Draft minutes are reviewed by the board and then approved at a meeting that is at least two weeks after board members receive the draft minutes. After the minutes are approved by the board they are posted on the NACAA website. Links are also established to board documents. The board decided in 2010 to restrict access to association financial information and so these reports are not available through the website, but can be requested from the NACAA Treasurer.

The Association Secretary serves as the chair of the Internal Publications Committee. This committee is charged with oversight of the content of the NACAA website, The County Agent magazine and the Journal of NACAA. Stephen Brown continues to serve the association as editor of the Journal of NACAA. He has worked with a team of reviewers to edit and evaluate article submissions. June and December editions of the journal are published each year. The NACAA Board recently selected Lee Stivers to be our new Journal of NACAA editor taking over after the AMPIC in 2016. The Board purposely made this selection a year early to allow Lee the opportunity to train with Stephen. We welcome Lee to this role. The Journal provides members an avenue to publish in a peer reviewed journal, and an opportunity to share program and research results that can be used by our membership.

As we celebrate 100 years as an association it is important to recognize the value of retaining historical records of the organization. For many years an agreement with the National Agriculture Library in Washington D.C. allowed the association to store archival records for future use. In the early 1990's this relationship changed and records have not been stored at the library since that time. The Publications

Committee in cooperation with the Board continues to evaluate options for storing important association records with goals of permanent storage, accessibility of records by the membership and cost effectiveness.

Many people have helped me understand the duties of this role in NACAA. My thanks go to the entire NACAA board and Executive Director Scott Hawbaker who have patiently answered my questions about how things work. Richard Fechter and Henry Dorough are my predecessors in this role and have also answered questions and provided guidance as I made my way through this first year. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the membership of NACAA and look forward to seeing you in Sioux Falls in July!

**Treasurer
Alan B. Galloway,
Tennessee**



Like most good things we experience in life, they pass by quickly. This is my third and last report as NACAA Treasurer. Serving as treasurer has been enjoyable and challenging.

The duties have led to a greater understanding of the details involved in the multitude of activities of NACAA members and our many awards and recognition programs. Of course, the most challenging financially is the budget planning process for each fiscal year and annual meeting and professional improvement conference (AM/PIC). The differences in how AM/PIC funds are handled with each state and keeping all involved aware of how expenses are divided is unique each year.

It is my pleasure to report the financial condition of NACAA remains strong. Through the development of the annual budget approved by the voting delegates each year NACAA has stayed in solid fiscal condition. As treasurer I have strived to maintain accurate records, report at least monthly to the NACAA Board and process all payments in a timely manner. In most cases, expense vouchers have been paid within two days of being received, most in the same day.

My commitment as I began as treasurer was to “Watch the Road” financially for NACAA. While we have hit a few bumps along the way, like the losses from Galaxy IV and increasing costs for transportation, food and lodging that impacts everyone especially as it relates to each AM/PIC. On the positive side our membership has been growing, sponsorship of our programs and awards has been solid and our investments have grown well over the past three years.

The NACAA fiscal committee continues to review our financial status and makes adjustments in budget planning

and investments each year to protect and grow our funds and to find better ways to utilize them for the members.

The 2015 AM/PIC is the second where members could use the voucher received by having attended Galaxy IV to receive a reduced registration cost at a future NACAA AM/PIC. 2016 will be the last year of the vouchers. The funds for those vouchers were set aside prior to Galaxy and the incentive was successful in increasing NACAA participation in Galaxy and in turn participation at future NACAA conferences.

After handling the books during Galaxy, last year’s return to a “typical” NACAA AM/PIC was a pleasant experience. The budget planning process for the 2015 AM/PIC has proceeded smoothly as the South Dakota planning committee and members have done an excellent job working with their funding to make this year’s meeting and conference an exceptional experience. It is great to see another AM/PIC come together where members, spouses, children and guests have a good time while learning about another state. Members have opportunities to learn from other members across the country and often along with their family enjoy the local activities.

One pleasure of being treasurer is writing checks to our members being recognized in one of our many awards programs and paying for functions at the AM/PIC where members are acknowledged for their expertise with programs they have provide to their clientele.

I am very appreciative to the Tennessee association for nominating me for treasurer and to the administration of the University of Tennessee Extension for allowing some of my time to be diverted to NACAA duties. It has been a valuable learning experience and a great opportunity to provide service to an important professional association. NACAA is unique in how it values it members and their families and hopefully it will always stay that way.

I sincerely appreciate the trust placed in me by the members of NACAA and I will strive to keep “watching the road” financially during my remaining time as NACAA treasurer.

**Policy Chair
Chuck Otte, Kansas**



The policy Committee has the responsibility of safeguarding the intent of the NACAA By-laws, assist in the preservation of the NACAA professional standards, review reports and proposed actions before they are presented to the Board of Directors and to offer an opinion (when requested) on new measures before action by the Board of

Directors, Committees, and the membership. The Policy Committee also tries to offer a historical perspective, to clarify/interpret policy and propose measures to meet the challenge of change, as well as revise the pages of the NACAA Policy Manual as needed. This may sound like an easy job, but it keeps one busy and on your toes!

Policy Chairs serve for two years and are past National Presidents. This was my second year and I will be handing responsibility of this committee to the very capable Rick Gibson. I've been forwarding files and thoughts to Rick as he prepares for his two year stint at the helm of the Policy Committee.

In recent years we have had many of our past presidents retire shortly after completing their term on the board which tended to keep the membership of the policy committee on the lean side. In recent years we'd been inviting many of the recent past presidents, whether they were active or life members, to sit in on the policy committee meeting at AM/PIC just to have more input. With that in mind, a proposed by-laws change was forwarded to the Voting Delegates at last year's AM/PIC that would make the Policy Committee comprised of all past presidents from the previous ten years plus all active member past presidents no matter how long ago they served. At the present time, Gary Hall is the only active past president that served more than ten years ago. The Voting Delegates did approve the proposed by-laws change and the Policy Committee thanks them for this. The Policy Committee Chair is still an active member, if one is available to serve.

This is an example of how the Policy Committee and NACAA need to be constantly looking at how the changing times are changing the association. The NACAA Board has looked at a lot of changes over the past several years and we have initiated some major re-writing of the Policy Manual to reflect those changes. After the massive rewrite of Section 6 - Committees last year, the Policy Manual review committee (thank you Mark and Janet!) had a somewhat easier task this year as we updated Section 3 - NACAA General Policy.

As we move through each year the Policy Committee Chair is routinely asked for interpretations of policy. Some of these are pretty straight forward but sometime those questions are sent out to the entire committee for a broader perspective or in case someone has more insight and history on a particular topic. I would encourage the membership to feel free to contact the Policy Committee Chair if they ever have questions about why policy says what it says, the history behind some of the policies or just a clearer interpretation of what is meant by a particular part of policy. For the past year, the Policy Committee has been: Gary Hall, Glenn Rogers, Mickey Cummings, Chuck Otte, Fred Miller, Rick Gibson, Phil Pratt, Stan Moore, Paul Wigley, Paul Craig and Henry Dorough. For the coming year we say goodbye to Glenn

Rogers and welcome Mike Hogan to the committee and look forward to Rick Gibson serving as our chair!

As I complete my responsibilities to the Association I want to thank all members and boards I have worked with for their support and assistance. NACAA is OUR association, not just one person's association or the board's association. Anyone who has served in any leadership position in NACAA knows that we are honored and entrusted to the safekeeping of the high ethical standards of our profession and the camaraderie that comes from being a member of NACAA. Thank you for all you do for the people of your county, region, state and NACAA!

**Past President
Henry D. Dorough,
Alabama**



An old proverb believed to date around 1374 says "There is an end to everything, to good things as well." It is the inspiration for the common phrase "All good things must come to an end." And so, my time on the NACAA board comes to an end with the closing of the 2015 AM/PIC in Sioux Falls, SD. It's hard for me to believe it has been 12 years since I first began my volunteer NACAA service as Southern Region Director. Along the way, I have grown both professionally and personally, made some lasting friendships, visited many states I may have never traveled to otherwise, and best of all, I met my wife.

Serving the association as southern region director, secretary and in the presidential rotation has been the most thrilling time in my career. NACAA has so much to offer those who choose to exercise an active membership. I never would have dreamed that included romance. Who would have thought a country boy from Alabama would meet and marry a pretty county agent from New York; Upstate of course. Well, I did at the 2010 NACAA AM/PIC in Tulsa, OK, and now, five years later not only is she still a county agent, she's also my wife. I can truly say NACAA has given back to me a great deal more than I gave to the association.

The role of past president, while important to the association, is a good wind-down period for someone just finishing their presidential year. It's almost a reward getting to participate in some of the activities assigned to the position. The most rewarding activity by far was my opportunity to serve as judge for the National Outstanding Young Farmer program and delivering a keynote speech at their Award Congress in Cherry Hill, NJ. I met some of the brightest and most talented young farmers in the nation and will cherish their friendship for a long time to come. NACAA plays a vital role in this program by members submitting young farmer nominations from across the nation.

Most of the nominations last year came from NACAA members and the number is growing each year. As an incentive, if you nominate one of the top 10 young farmers selected, NACAA will provide you the opportunity to attend the OYF Award Banquet when four national winners are announced. Additionally, if you nominate one of the four national winners you are eligible to receive reimbursement of the registration fee for the next NACAA AM/PIC. You know who those great young farmers are, so visit with them and get their application in today.

As NACAA past president I served as chair of the Fiscal Committee to establish both an annual budget and the upcoming AM/PIC budget, attended the Post-AM/PIC board meeting in Mobile, Alabama, the Winter Board meeting in Sioux Falls, SD, the Spring Board meeting in San Diego, CA and participated in monthly board conference calls.

I also participated as a senior member of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Board of Directors, serving on the JCEP Strategic Planning Committee and as Chair of the JCEP Policy Committee. I attended the JCEP Winter Board meeting which occurs on the front end of the JCEP Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, NV, the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in Washington, DC, the JCEP Summer Board meeting in Portland, OR, and monthly JCEP Board conference calls.

While attending the PILD conference in Washington, DC, I was honored to visit USDA and NIFA with President Hogan and Vice President Nelson to build a common understanding of mission links between local Cooperative Extension offices and USDA, and to build future professional development partnerships between USDA/NIFA and NACAA. We had very productive meetings with various program leaders at NIFA and administrators at USDA, but the most memorable meeting was with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Krysta Hardin. She has a deep knowledge and fondness for Cooperative Extension and the Land Grant college.

All of the remarkable activities associated with NACAA are the result of the dedicated work of the women and men volunteering for leadership roles in our association. The full body of work of this association would not be complete were it not for the time and talent of the entire group of volunteer leaders on the state and national level. Thank you all for your devotion to NACAA.

Each member of your elected Board of Directors plays a unique and significant role in ensuring the smooth functioning of this association. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to serve the past 12 years and create lasting friendships with a diverse group of talented individuals. Among them is our Executive Director Scott Hawbaker. Scott is the one constant from year to year that keeps the association on track and serves as counsel to keep

the president sane. I am deeply grateful to Scott for his guidance and happy to call him a friend.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Alabama Cooperative Extension System administrative team and my colleagues with the Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents & Specialists for their continuous support during my tenure on the NACAA Board. It would have been nearly impossible for me to serve NACAA in these various roles and also keep up with the educational programs at home without all of their support. I am most grateful to them for putting a significant spotlight on Alabama with a “world-class” NACAA AM/PIC in Mobile in 2014; memories I will cherish forever.

I have enjoyed serving NACAA over the past 12 years and I will miss being involved in some of the activities. But as this great time in my career comes to an end, it is only the beginning for others in our association. The poet Maya Angelou once said “Love life, engage in it, give it all you’ve got. Love it with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over, what you put into it.” I encourage you to look for ways to become involved in NACAA’s many leadership opportunities. You truly do get back even more than you give.



**North Central
Region Director
Brad Brummond,
North Dakota**

It has been a fast two years as director. The board continues to reach out to our brothers and sisters in the 1890s and 1994s. It is a hope of mine that we can find a way to attract members from these institutions.

We continue to struggle to find bids for our AM/PIC. We may be looking at a new multi-state model for some regions. I think that this may be where the North Central Region is heading. We need to recruit our new hires into NACAA. Our challenge is to offer benefits and training that they will find of value.

I have always believed that an organization that is not looking to the future and continually changing to meet the new realities is a dying organization. I can proudly say NACAA is an organization that is actively pursuing its future. We must continue to stay the course and be willing to try new things and maybe fail a few times. The future belongs to those who try.

**Northeast
Region Director
Peter Nitzsche,
New Jersey**



As this year's AMPIC comes to a close, so does my term as North East Region Director. The past two years have flown by! It has been a great pleasure to visit states and get to know the membership and the incredible diversity of research and educational programs being offered.

Many of these programs have been occurring despite some very challenging budget times for Extension and in turn NACAA. Fortunately during my second year as Director I got to meet a lot of new members. I believe this new membership means we have turned the corner on at least some of our challenges and gives me great hope for the future of both Extension and NACAA.

In looking to the future, when I was first approached to run for Vice Director and Director, I was concerned that I did not understand all of the roles and duties involved in this position. In order to alleviate any concerns for future candidates for these positions I worked with the Directors and Vice Directors to develop a Regional Directors and Vice Directors Handbook. We all hope this new Handbook is a useful tool for anyone considering these positions and helps them to carry out their roles.

I certainly hope that I have carried out my role as Regional Director to the benefit of the membership in the Northeast. I know that I have benefited greatly from the opportunity to serve as Director. I learned a lot, made new friends and even managed to have some fun now and then. I want to thank all the members of Northeast for supporting me and the NACAA Officers and Board members who served alongside me in this great professional association.

**Southern
Region Director
Michael Heimer,
Texas**



It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the membership of the Southern Region and work with the NACAA Board. The more time you spend involved with this organization, the better appreciation you develop for the tremendous opportunities provided by the NACAA. It is hard to find an organization that can provide Extension Professionals with the depth of

professional development, leadership opportunities, program recognition, and the potential to network with such a diverse experience base. These attributes make NACAA unique. The opportunity to serve as Southern Region Director has bought a new and rewarding dimension to my experience as a county agent.

It has been a real pleasure to represent NACAA at state association meetings that I have been privileged to attend this year. We have strived to enhance communications and strengthen state associations. There are many good members giving leadership to great programs across this nation. Our members make the state associations strong which makes NACAA strong. The professionalism and dedication that defines county agricultural agents across this great nation is alive and well.

The state visits Regional Directors conduct each year give us a chance to visit with members. When we listen to our members, good things begin to happen. An example of this is the conversations ongoing with Extension Professionals from Puerto Rico. Our goal is to one day have these educators establish their own association and be eligible to take advantage of NACAA opportunities. These state visits have allowed me to update members on board actions and NACAA business. State visits provide a better opportunity to get an insight into needs and concerns of our members, that has better prepared me to represent their opinions to the NACAA Board.

I would like to thank the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association for their confidence in me and allowing me to serve the Southern Region. It has been my pleasure to represent NACAA at the state association meetings. Each and every time I come away from each state's meeting impressed with the professional can-do attitude that the agents have not only for their own state association, but also for the national association. Extension professionals look at a problem and turn it into a challenge that can be addressed.

The past year has strengthened my commitment to NACAA and I would like to urge every member to take advantage of the opportunities that the association can provide to them. I would also encourage our members to become more involved in their state and national associations in whatever way possible as I am certain that they will find that their investment in time and effort will be repaid in multiple ways over the course of their careers as a County Agricultural Extension Agent.

The National Association of County Agricultural Agents is celebrating 100 years of service to the residents of this great Nation. The mission of each and every Extension Agent is to help make the lives of our clientele the best that it can be. If we continue to work together, we can make those goals a reality.

**Southern
Region Director
Lenny Rogers,
North Carolina**



My first year as a Southern Region Director has rapidly flown by. I truly have enjoyed attending several of the southern state association meetings. I have attended the North Carolina, Mississippi, Virginia and Tennessee state meetings and have enjoyed representing NACAA at their business meetings, attending their professional development sessions and just interacting with agents from these states. Another duty of mine this past year was serving on the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) planning committee and assisting with that conference in April of this year. The conference went extremely well as we attended many great breakout sessions, conversed with our USDA National Program Leaders, celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the 2nd Morrill Act, and held many rewarding visits with our Congressmen on Capitol Hill.

I truly want to thank the North Carolina Association of County Agriculture Agents for their faith in nominating me for this Southern Region Director position. I will continue to do my best to fulfill my role in this position. I also want personally thank second year directors, Mike Heimer and Pete Nitzche, for direction and helping keep me straight on my many duties this past year.

Finally I want to encourage each of you to become even more involved in our association. The professional development, leadership skills gained, knowledge of other state's activities, and individual friendships far outweigh any sacrifice on your part. If you are not very involved with your own state's association, begin by serving as a district or state committee member, then you'll be ready for a district or state officer. Before you know it, you will be ready to apply for a National Committee member or other National Leadership position.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our 2015 NACAA AMPIC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota this July. There, in many unique ways, we will proudly celebrate the 100th Year Anniversary of NACAA.

**Western
Region Director
Janet Schmidt,
Washington**



Greetings from the Western Region! I am honored to represent the Western Region on the NACAA board. It is a great opportunity

to work with so many talented and dedicated extension professionals, on the board and in the states.

For over 30 years, I have been an active member of NACAA and Washington Extension Agents and Specialist Association. I have served in many leadership roles at state and national levels. It is a rewarding experience to serve on the board and help shape the future of NACAA and the Extension profession. NACAA provides many benefits and opportunities for the membership. One of my goals is to inspire members to take advantage of the many opportunities provided by NACAA, whether it be applying for an award, giving a presentation or being published in the Journal of NACAA.

So far this year I have attended three state meetings in the Western Region with more planned in the future. I appreciate the warmth and hospitality that I have experienced while on these state visits. I also commend the state association leaders for the high quality programs they have planned. I have learned much from all of you! It has been a lot of fun working with the Directors and Vice-Directors as we planned the NACAA component of the JCEP meeting and workshops at the AM/PIC. Our goal was to plan an informative and meaningful exchange of information. The venue was the Tropicana in Las Vegas, which will be the site next year as well. The featured speakers were exceptional, so I highly encourage the states to send their leadership team to the next JCEP meeting. Regarding professional improvement, Alaska will be hosting the Western Region Professional Improvement Conference in Anchorage September 23-24, 2015, at the BP Center. It will be a beautiful setting with time scheduled for presentations, posters and an exceptional tour.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues in Washington for giving me the opportunity to serve as Western Regional Director for NACAA. This opportunity only comes once in a person's career. I also want to thank Washington State University Extension Administration and co-workers for supporting me in this endeavor. Last but not least, a huge thanks to my supportive husband Tim who takes care of our "four-legged" kids while I am traveling and attending meetings.

As always, if I can answer questions or carry messages to the board, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to serving another year as Western Regional Director for NACAA. See everyone in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for the 100th celebration of NACAA!

Professional Improvement Council Chair
Mary Sobba, Missouri



The Professional Improvement Council (PIC) is one of the three Councils that make up the committee structure of NACAA. The purpose of this council is to further the professional improvement of our members. The Council consists of six committees: Ag Economics & Community Development, Agronomy & Pest Management, Animal Science, Horticulture & Turfgrass, Natural Resources/Aquaculture and Sustainable Agriculture.

The educational activities consist of presentations, educational tours, super seminars and even one demonstration planned for AM/PIC. There will be excellent variety of presentations in Sioux Falls. Eighty-four member presentations and three super seminars are planned, so there will be a wide variety of topics.

Animal Science, Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture have planned educational and fun pre-tour educational opportunities. Sustainable Ag is working with North Dakota on a soil health tour, which will begin in North Dakota. This is the first time for this type of tour. Animal Science and Horticulture have tours beginning in Rapid City with a variety of stops throughout the state

Sustainable Agriculture has chosen four new fellows using a new system where each state may nominate two individuals. The committee is planning a hospitality function for members to learn more about the SARE Fellowship program. Watch for details in Sioux Falls for the hospitality room number.

There will be three super seminars this year. The first will be Sunday afternoon sponsored by the sustainable ag and horticulture committees titled “USDA’s Organic Literacy Initiative and eXtension Community of Practice”. In addition, there will be two super seminars on Wednesday. Ag economics has planned “How to Survive the Roller Coaster Markets”. The agronomy committee will sponsor “The Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) in Agricultural Production and Extension”. These seminars will be excellent sources of information, so please attend. Agronomy is also working on a UAV demonstration so watch the email for details.

NACAA is an organization with numerous opportunities for professional development and leadership. One method of involvement is through the committee structure, which provides a way for members to share their talents for the

benefit of NACAA. This next year, I encourage you to try something new with NACAA, apply for a committee position, participate in a pre-tour, apply for an award or something else. This is our organization and we need each member actively involved.

Finally, with sincere gratitude, thank you to the committee chairs and vice chairs and state chairs. I truly appreciate your hard work and dedication. Your efforts in teleconferences, emails and other communications are what make this committee structure successful. I am looking forward to seeing the individuals doing much of this work the past year in Sioux Falls.

Agronomy and Pest Management Chair
Paul Cerosaletti, New York



Committee members:
Paul Cerosaletti, NY – Northeast region
Wade Parker, GA – Southern region
Jeff Anderson, NM, - Western region
Bruce Clevenger, OH – North Central region

This year has been a busy year for the Agronomy and Pest Management committee following a successful AMPIC in Alabama in 2014. Much of our year has been focused on organizing an exciting super seminar for the 2015 AMPIC in South Dakota, **The Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) in Agricultural Production and Extension**. The super seminar will take place on Wednesday July 15, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. We have the following excellent speakers lined up.

Kurt Nolte, PhD, - University of Arizona - Agriculture Agent - The School of Plant Sciences, Yuma County Extension Director, Yuma Agricultural Center Interim Director, Regional Vegetable Production Specialist
Topic: UAV hardware platforms and Image processing

John F. Nowatzki, MS; North Dakota State University - Agricultural Machine Systems Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
Topic: Potential Uses for UAV technology in crop and animal agriculture: The ND State UAV “Proof of Concept” project. This project is demonstrating the use of UAV technology across a broad range of applications in agriculture from crop production, pest management and livestock management.

Bill Verbeten, MS; Cornell University Cooperative Extension – Regional Field Crops Specialist – Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team; Project

Principle; Northwest NY UAS Crop Project.

Topic: Considerations for getting started using UAVs in agriculture and agricultural extension programming.

In addition to these talks our speakers will have several examples for super seminar participants to see of the various types of UAVs that are currently in use.

In addition to organizing this super seminar, the committee was again busy this spring soliciting and reviewing abstracts for oral presentations at the AMPIC in SD. We received twenty one abstracts and will be hosting nineteen presentations on Tuesday July 14 of the AMPIC from 1:30 to 4:00 PM.

Making oral presentations are a great way to contribute to professional improvement offerings of NACAA and to showcase excellent Extension programming. Please consider submitting an abstract for an oral presentation for the 2016 AMPIC in Little Rock AR. Our featured topics for the Agronomy and Pest Management section at that AMPIC will be 1) Water Resource Management in Cropping Systems and 2) Pest Management.

We encourage NACAA members to attend the Agronomy and Pest Management committee meeting at the 2015 AMPIC in SD on Monday July 13 to help us identify professional improvement topics and venues for the future. I would like to thank the hard work and dedication of my fellow Agronomy and Pest Management committee members over the past year, Jeff Anderson, Wade Parker and Bruce Clevenger, in preparing for a great professional improvement offering at the 2015 AMPIC!



**Agricultural
Economics and
Community
Development Chair
Megan L. Bruch,
Tennessee**

The Agricultural Economics and Community Development committee is pleased to help further the professional improvement of NACAA members. This year's AM/PIC will include a Super Seminar and member presentations on a variety of topics important to Extension professionals.

This year's Super Seminar, called *How to Survive the Roller Coaster Markets*, will be offered on Wednesday, July 15 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Explore a different approach to marketing. Ed Usset, Grain Marketing Economist for the Center for Farm Management at the University of Minnesota, identifies common mistakes in grain marketing, such as the reluctance towards pre-harvest marketing and

holding grain in storage too long. Discover that great marketing is not predicting prices, but eliminating mistakes in our everyday decisions. See how eliminating mistakes can create a solid foundation in the development of pre and post-harvest marketing plans. This seminar is made possible by the generous sponsorship of the National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS).

A total of 12 proposals from members were received for Agricultural Economics and Community Development Professional Improvement Council presentations. After careful consideration by the committee, all 12 proposals were selected for presentation at the AM/PIC. Make plans now to join us for these presentations on Tuesday afternoon. Topics will include:

- Increasing Local Food Awareness in Your Community by Paula Burke, Georgia
- Farming: Pencil to Plow by Jessica Flores, Maryland
- A New Approach to Break-even Analysis for Ranchers by Bridger Fuez, Wyoming
- Polk County Fair and Rodeo Association Leadership Development by James Robert Hall, Arkansas
- Farmland Leasing Programming: Blending Legal and Economic Content to Reach Landowners and Tenant Farmers by Peggy Kirk Hall, Ohio
- Naturally Escarosa: Promoting Ecotourism and Agritourism in Northwest Florida by Libbie Johnson, Florida
- Web-based Tools Enhance Crop Risk Management Decisions by Steven D. Johnson - Iowa
- Organizing a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Producer Cooperative by William D. Lantz, Maryland
- Creating Signage that Sells: Tips for Direct Farm Marketers and Agritourism Operators by Megan Bruch Leffew - Tennessee
- Helping Farm Families Plan for the Unexpected by David L. Marrison, Ohio
- Grill It Up – Beef; Consumer Options as Beef Prices Increase by Mark D. Maudin, Florida
- Building Success of Food Hubs through the Cooperative Experience by Roberta Harrison Severson, New York

The members of the Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee are:

Southern Region Vice Chair and National Chair – Megan Bruch Leffew, TN

North East Region Vice Chair – Sandra Buxton, NY

North Central Region Vice Chair – David Bau, MN

Western Region Vice Chair – Del Jimenez, NM

**Animal Science Chair
Ron Graber,
Kansas**



Committee Members:

- National Chair – Ron Graber, KS
- Northeast Region Vice-Chair - Elizabeth Claypoole, NY
- Western Region Vice-Chair – Kellie Chichester, WY
- North Central Region Vice-Chair – Eldon Cole, MO
- Southern Region Vice-Chair – Brian Beer, SC

Each year the Animal Science Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the two-day Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Seminar and Tour. This is a tremendous professional improvement opportunity for our members and a great way to network with colleagues from across the country having similar interests. This year South Dakota members Adele Harty and Ken Olson organized the tour and will serve as our tour hosts.

The tour will begin in Rapid City with some of the highlights including: Mount Rushmore, Blair Brothers - retained ownership focusing on carcass quality traits, Jack Orwick - range sheep production, Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation, R & R Pheasant Hunting, an ethanol plant and Redstone Feeders – confinement feeding.

We have great interest in the tour this year with 34 participants from 18 states planning to participate. Each year the committee seeks sponsorship for the tour with participants funding the remainder. This year we want to express appreciation to our sponsors: South Dakota SARE, Livestock Marketing Association, Merck Animal Health, Newport Laboratories, local meal sponsors and each of the tour stops.

Brian Beer, Animal Science Southern Region Vice-chair, took the lead on the professional improvement seminars. Thirteen of our co-workers will be sharing the results of successful research and Extension programs during the Tuesday afternoon seminars. Topics will focus on livestock tours, dairy employee management, calf marketing, beef reproduction, forage testing and sheep and goat production. The Animal Science committee has made arrangements with the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) to offer certification exams during the AM/PIC on Wednesday afternoon. Contact any member of the animal science committee for more information. In addition, continuing education unit's (CEU's) will be available for those who participate in the Tuesday seminars.

The committee has worked hard to offer other professional improvement opportunities throughout the year. One

method has been to develop electronic training via webinars in collaboration with other professional organizations, i.e. the DAIREXNET webinars.

Another goal of the animal science committee was to update the promotional poster utilized at AM/PIC. Animal Science Western Region Vice-chair, Kellie Chichester from Wyoming, volunteered to complete this task. As a result of her hard work, the committee will have a new poster promoting participation and highlighting past committee activities.

Please join us Monday afternoon for a full committee meeting. We will introduce the new committee leadership and begin planning next year's committee activities.

Thank you to each of the vice-chairs! Each of you contributed great suggestions and ideas and willingly provided leadership, time and lots of effort over this past year. Also a special thank you goes to outgoing Northcentral Region Vice-chair, Eldon Cole (MO) and Southern Region Vice-Chair, Brian Beer (SC), for their contributions over the last four years.

**Natural Resources/
Aquaculture/
Sea Grant Chair
Laurel Gailor,
New York**



Committee Members:

- Laurel Gailor, Committee Chair (NE)
- Libbie Johnson, Southern Region Vice-Chair (FL)
- Todd Lorenz, North Central Region Vice-Chair (MO)
- Katie Wagner, Western Region Vice-Chair (UT)

Following the very successful, first time Natural Resource/Aquaculture/Sea Grant pre-conference educational tour that was held at the Mobile, Alabama 2014 AM/PIC, the committee thought we would try to work on a second opportunity for South Dakota. Unfortunately as they say, *best laid plans of mice and ...* The ideas flowed, the routes were being planned, but the hurdle came with the logistics of finances and other resources. The goal was to keep the cost down for participants but without a substantial sponsor, and a few other strategic elements, we decided to be realistic and focus our efforts toward developing an educational tour for the 2016 AM/PIC in Little Rock, Arkansas. Stay tuned as we will be sharing some preliminary information this summer in South Dakota.

The committee was pleased with the diversity of proposals submitted by the membership. Please join us on Tuesday afternoon from 1:30-4:00 p.m. for the following presentations:

- Educating Homeowners on Stormwater Ponds Through Science Café – M. Atkinson

- Growing Extension Impact with Synchronized Wildlife Food Plot Demonstrations – D. Barber
- Helping Local County and Municipalities Meet Water Quality Goals Through Targeted Training and Tracking Programs – J. Takacs
- Improving Ecological Awareness Using the Bioblitz in Mississippi – B. Self
- Ohio River Basin Wetland Conservation Planning Project – J. Iles
- Web-based Preventative Blowing and Drifting Snow Control Decision Tool – G. Wyatt

Additionally, all members interested in Natural Resources, Aquaculture, and Sea Grant program areas are invited to attend the committee meeting that will be held on Monday from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. The meeting will focus on plans for the 2016 AM/PIC, and any suggestions that you as a member would wish to share with the committee will be welcome. The support from the respective state representatives of each of these areas would be appreciated as well.

Lastly, I have enjoyed working on this committee over the past four years and I am amazed how quickly the time passed. I would like to thank Libbie Johnson, Todd Lorenz, Katie Wagner, and past committee chair Dan Downing for their efforts this past year; additionally, a huge thank you to Mary Sobba for her guidance and leadership during this year. The new committee chair and northeast representative will be shared following the approval of the national board at the 2015 AM/PIC – see you in South Dakota.

**Horticulture & Turfgrass Chair
Bill Sciarappa,
New Jersey**



Committee Members
 Bill Sciarappa, Committee Chair
 Sarah Denkler, North Central Region, Vice chair
 Annette Meyer Heisdorffer, Southern Region, Vice Chair
 Ronald Patterson, Western Region, Vice Chair
 Nick Polanin, Northeast Region, Vice Chair

Our Horticulture and Turfgrass committee looks forward to an exciting annual conference in South Dakota. We have spent considerable time in developing an excellent slate of 22 presenters covering a diversity of Extension topics such as: Commercial Production, Landscaping, Turf, General Horticulture and Master Gardeners. We have planned a

pre-conference tour that will cover the length of the state from West to East. We sincerely thank our sponsor Bonnie Plants and their representative Cheryl Lange for this special opportunity to network with our colleagues for an extended period.

As arranged by our local host and tour guide, Dr. John Ball of SD State will start us off on Friday July 10th in Rapid City around 2-3:00 pm. After settling in our hotel, we bus to the Prairie Berry Winery for dinner and then proceed to Mount Rushmore for a special tour and the Lighting ceremony. Saturday morning we bus to breakfast at the famous Old West Wall Drugstore and cruise through the Badlands. Stopping at the Lakota Tribe Gardens, these original Americans will show us their native plants, medicinal species and permaculture. Time permitting we hope to visit a fruit tree plantation with sweet cherries and melon production before we overnight around Pierre - the capital approximately 150 miles travel.

Sunday morning we may visit Andersons Tree Nursery and a Scottish Links golf course and view a few bison before arriving at Sioux Falls around 12 pm for the NACAA Chairs luncheon. Members and their spouses are invited but seating is limited.

Please join us for the Horticulture and Turfgrass committee meeting on Monday afternoon July 13 where we will discuss horticultural issues and introduce the new committee leadership to begin planning for 2016. On Tuesday July 14 from 1:30 to 4:30 we offer 22 professional improvement presentations ranging from plant diagnostics, specialty crops, water management, pesticide use, pest problems, landscaping, online education and Master Gardeners.

Finally, we offer our sincere appreciation to our regional vice chairs and state chairs as well as the NACAA leaders/organizers/officers, especially Mary Sobba and Scott Hawbaker for their guidance and advice over this past year.

**Sustainable Agriculture Chair
Steve Van Vleet,
Washington**



What an exciting time to be part of the Sustainable Agriculture Committee. Sustainable agriculture has been on a steady increase for many years and the support by USDA-SARE makes the sustainable agriculture programs run by NACAA in a collaborative partnership with USDA-SARE only that much stronger.

This year the Sustainable Agriculture Committee is honored to sponsor a seminar by Betsy Rakola (USDA Organic Policy

Advisor) and representatives with eXtension on “USDA’s Organic Literacy Initiative and eXtension Community of Practice” This seminar will be held July 12th, 2:30 pm at the NACAA AM/PIC

The Sustainable Agriculture Committee not only has professional presentations on sustainable agriculture presented at the NACAA Conference but is also in charge of the SARE Fellows program. 2015 was another exceptional year for the SARE Fellows program with 21 applicants. The NACAA state sustainable agriculture chairs did an excellent job of screening the number of applicants down to two per state. The committee is looking forward to increased awareness of this wonderful program and applicants from every state in 2016.

After reviewing the 21 applications for the 2015 SARE Fellows program, four Fellows have been selected, one from each of the four NACAA regions. The 2015 Fellows are:

Crystal Stewart (NY), Northeast Region

Troy Salzer (MN), Northcentral Region

JJ Jones (OK), Southern Region

Stacey Bealmear-Jones (AZ), Western Region

Each group of four Fellows participates in four sustainable agriculture tours, rotated among the four regions, over a two-year period. Travel costs to the seminar tours are covered by USDA-SARE. In addition to the educational experiences, successful participants of the Fellows Program receive a USDA-SARE library courtesy of SARE Outreach in Washington, DC, and a \$1,500 stipend to be used for program support, materials or hardware after completing the entire two-year program. At the completion of the fellowship, each participant will be expected to conduct an educational or research program within their home state discussing or exploring some element of sustainable agriculture. The fellow will provide a scope of work and budget showing how the funds (\$1,500) will be spent. A final report will be submitted and include a discussion summarizing your learning experiences and a detailed list of specific impacts gained from your fellow opportunity.

The exiting SARE Fellows from 2012 will present on their experiences at the SARE Fellows luncheon on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at the NACAA AM/PIC Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Also, at the luncheon the incoming 2015 SARE Fellows will be recognized. The luncheon is sponsored by SARE.

The sustainable agriculture committee spends a great deal of time reviewing abstracts for presentations at the sustainable agriculture professional improvement seminars in Sioux Falls. This is the seventh year that we have provided professional improvement seminars under the topic of “Sustainable

Agriculture.” The Sustainable Agriculture presentations will be held the afternoon of Tuesday, July 14.

It is my pleasure to serve as the National Chair for the Sustainable Agriculture Committee; much of the success of the Committee would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of its regional vice-chairs. The Sustainable Agriculture Committee work, the SARE Fellows Program and the collaborative partnerships established through NACAA have made a positive impact on me and my career.

The Sustainable Agriculture Committee looks forward to upcoming NACAA conferences and the continued success of the SARE Fellows Program and sustainable agriculture seminars. I would like to give a special Thank You to all the individuals involved in the guidance of the Sustainable Agriculture Committee and for making this professional improvement council a huge success.

**Extension
Development Council
Chair
Kurt Jones, Colorado**



The Extension Development Council’s (EDC) committees -- Administrative Skills, Agricultural Issues and Public Relations, Early Career Development, and Teaching and Educational Technologies – help members improve their skills related to the art and science of Extension practice. This focus on skills and methodologies to conduct Extension work effectively makes NACAA unique from other subject-specific professional organizations.

The Council’s efforts at the 2015 AMPIC include 19 informational seminars on Tuesday morning, July 14. The presentations are part of four concurrent sessions featuring 12 hours of training. There are some exciting and diverse topics that have been accepted. We hope you will join us!

Over the year, educational programming extended beyond the confines of the AM/PIC through one webinar. The Early Career Development Committee offered a “First Timers Webinar” in late April. The Agriculture Issues and Public Relations also conducted an outstanding webinar on GMO’s in March of this year. These sessions are archived and available for those who missed the live broadcasts (see the NACAA website for the URL).

One piece of advice that I received as a relatively new agent was to join NACAA and get involved in committee work. It is something that I have taken to heart, and it has helped me in my career tremendously. I encourage NACAA members to increase your participation in the Extension Development Council’s activities, and offer guidance and ideas on how we

can better to serve your needs. Please share any ideas with your State Committee Chair or Regional Committee Vice-Chair, or attend out Committee Workshops on Monday afternoon, July 13 at the AM/PIC.

Finally, I offer my appreciation to our committee chairs, regional vice-chairs and state chairs as well as Vice President Nelson for their individual and collective leadership and guidance during the past year. I also sincerely appreciate the mentorship of my co-Council Chairs and the previous EDC Chair, Dan Kluchinski, as I have worked through my first year in this role... Thank you!

**Ag Issues and Public Relations Chair
Don McMoran,
Washington**



Hello NACAA! The Ag Issues and Public Relations Committee has been having a wonderful year. We want to thank our outgoing chair Scott Gabbard from Indiana for his great work and leadership on the AI and PR committee as well as existing member Bill Burdine from Missouri and new members Craig Askim from North Dakota, and Meredith Melendez from New Jersey. We also want to thank Wes Smith from Georgia for his special assignment liaison position between the OYF and NACAA.

The 2014 NACAA AM/PIC In Mobile, Alabama included many outstanding professional development presentations focusing on issues and challenges facing Extension today and how they relate to our communities in the future. Each program highlighted a novel way that agriculture faculty provide an impact within the communities where they live and serve.

The National Outstanding Young Farmer Fraternity (OYF) program, sponsored by John Deere continues to be the core responsibility of the Ag Issues and Public Relations Committee. In February of this year I had the pleasure of attending the OYF annual meeting in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. If you haven't had the opportunity to take in this event I highly encourage it. Not only did I have fabulous tours of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but I also had the pleasure of meeting with the best and brightest young farmers (and their spouses) in the United States. Many of them were multi-generational farmers with a deep history, but included one couple that was a successful first generation operation that was state of the art. This year, past NACAA President Henry Dorough spoke at the event. Henry did a fabulous job making the connection between the importance of young farmers and the NACAA.

The Ag Issues and Public Relations Committee hosted a webinar March 18th on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) with speakers Diane Smith from Washington State University and Gregory Jaffe from the Center for Science in the Public Interest ("CSPI"). The webinar was attended by more than 100 active NACAA members and redistributed to thousands via recording. The Ag Issues and Public Relations Committee plans on hosting another webinar before the NACAA AM/PIC about the Monarch butterfly with speakers Erwin "Duke" Elsner from Michigan State University and Wendy Caldwell from the Monarch Butterfly Project.

At this year's NACAA AM/PIC the Ag Issues and Public Relations Committee is pleased to announce six speakers from around the United States will be presenting on topics of leadership, sustainability, disaster and food security. Like our predecessors serving before us, the technology may have changed but there is never a shortage of issues.

NACAA and the Ag Issues and Public Relations Committee has a lot to be proud about supporting the OYF, bringing high quality professional improvement, education and outreach to our members.

Be sure to nominate a Young Farmer from your County this year to be a part of the great OYF tradition. Application forms can be located at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/other_awards.php and are due by August 1st. Thank you for your support; I look forward to seeing you in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the NACAA AM/PIC and in Cincinnati, Ohio for the OYF meeting.

**Early Career Development Chair
Nathan Winter,
Minnesota**



The Early Career Development Committee has been busy during this past year thanks to the efforts of our committee members:

- Amber Yutzy, Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension
- Nick Simmons, Mississippi State University Extension Service
- Edward Martin, The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

The focus of the Early Career Development Committee is to develop professional improvement opportunities that assist members with early career development. The education provided typically involves tools and resources to help an

early career employee to succeed. Presentations at past conferences have included mentoring, promotion, work/life balance, and publishing in professional journals.

One of the educational programs developed by the Early Career Development Committee is educational sessions at the 2015 AM/PIC in Sioux Falls, SD. Six abstracts from members have been accepted for presentation. These topics are applicable to more than just early career professionals. Following is a list of accepted presentations:

Creating Successful Award Applications, And Why They are Important

Jenny Carleo, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Make a Good County Program into a Good National Program with Proper Curriculum Development

Eric Barrett, Ohio State University Extension
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Living the Life of Extension Professionals – The Rest of the Story

David Marrison, Ohio State University Extension
Chris Penrose, Ohio State University Extension
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Express Yourself: How to Give a Presentation of a Lifetime

Heather Weeks, Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

e-VALUE-ation

Kevin Camm, Virginia Cooperative Extension
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Painlessly Publishing in the Journal of NACAA

Stephen Brown, University of Alaska Fairbanks
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The other main product of the Early Career Development Committee was the NACAA AM/PIC First Timers Webinar held on Thursday, April 30th 2015. The purpose of this webinar was to better prepare participants for the 2015 AM/PIC by reviewing the conference program, logistics, and the registration process. Approximately 25 participated in the live presentation and the presentation was also archived. We partnered this year to incorporate more information from the committee working with First Timer's at the AM/PIC. The First Timer's Reception will be held on Sunday, July 12th, the luncheon on Monday, July 13th, and this year the goal is match mentors with first time attendees.

State Early Career Development Chairs and other parties interested in early career development issues are encouraged to attend the Early Career Development Committee meeting at this year's AM/PIC. Our meeting will be held on Monday,

July 13th from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2015 – 2016 year and the 2016 AM/PIC. Please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the committee members. We look forward to seeing you in Sioux Falls, SD!

**Administrative Skills
Chair
Bruce Barbour,
New Jersey**



Four engaging presentations have been lined up for the Administrative Skills sessions at our Sioux Falls meeting! Peer learning, mentorship and promotion committees, visioning and futuring, and a phenomena called the “Extension Domino Effect” are the topics on tap for 2015. Your Administrative Skills Committee exists to improve and enhance the administrative skills of all NACAA members regardless of their level of administrative responsibility.

This year we plan to record the Administrative Skills presentations using a tool called Camtasia which captures the screen presentation along with the audio of the presenter. The compact movie file that results can be shared in many ways, such as website links or storage media. Playback works particularly well on smart phones, particularly if the slides are well designed with not too much data density. This can be a real boon to those of us who occasionally like to take in a webinar while eating lunch in our pickup! The exact method of distribution of these recordings has yet to be decided , so stay tuned on that.

So stop by and see us on Tuesday morning of the AM/PIC from 8:30 to 11:30 am or watch for notice of where to find the recordings sometime after the meeting. Either way we hope you enjoy the program!

The Administrative Skills Committee consists of:

- Ayman Mostafa, Western Region Committee Vice-Chair
- Bruce Barbour, Northeast Region Committee Vice-Chair and National Chair
- Paul Westfall, Southern Region Committee Vice-Chair;
- Chris Bruynis, North Central Region Committee Vice-Chair

Teaching and Educational Technologies Chair Connie L. Strunk, South Dakota



The Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee is excited to help members improve their skills related to the art and science of Extension practice. Some of these opportunities will be taking place in Sioux Falls, South Dakota during the 100th National AM/PIC while some of the other opportunities will take place throughout the rest of the year.

Our committee has been trying to focus on emerging and established technologies which can make all educators more efficient and effective with our teaching and Extension programming.

Plan to join the Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 in Sioux Falls, SD at 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for our educational session. Our session will feature speakers focusing on apps for smart phones, social media, mobile production studios, and virtual learning platforms.

Our committee is excited to share the following presentations with you:

Irrigation Decision-Making Tools for Producers: Four Apps For Smart Phones And Tablets;

iGrow: An Educator's Perspective on Utilizing SDSU Extension's Teaching Platform;

A Team Approach For Utilizing Social Media To Educate Farmers And Ranchers;

Creating Farmer-to-Farmer Networks For Beginning And Small Farmers; and

Field On The Move: Producing Live, Field-Based Educational Workshops Via Mobile, Outdoor Production Studio.

State Teaching and Educational Technologies Chairs and other parties interested in teaching and educational technologies are encouraged to attend the Teaching and Educational Technologies committee meeting at this year's AM/PIC on Monday, July 13, 2015 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2015-2016 year and the 2016 AM/PIC. If you cannot attend, please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the committee members throughout the year.

The Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee consists of:

Connie L. Strunk, National Committee Chair and North Central Region Committee Vice-Chair;

Michele Bakacs, Northeast Region Committee Vice-Chair;
Jerry Clemons, Southern Region Committee Vice-Chair;
Susan Kerr, Western Region Committee Vice-Chair

Program Recognition Council Chair Richard Brzozowski, Maine



The Program Recognition Council (PRC) is one of the three Councils that comprise the committee structure of NACAA. The purpose of this council is to provide a vehicle to recognize and encourage the professionalism, performance and programs of NACAA members. The PRC consists of seven committees: 4-H and Youth; Communications; Professional Excellence; Public Relations; Recognition & Awards; and Scholarship and Search for Excellence. These committees help the NACAA recognize the outstanding work of our members in their respective county, region and state. Each year the committees review hundreds of entries to determine state, regional and national winners. The activities of this council focus on special personal recognition, presentations, programs, posters, professional development and other forms of recognition at the AM/PIC. In July, there will be a wide variety of presentations in Sioux Falls, South Dakota recognizing the great work of NACAA members. I encourage you to attend sessions with the purposeful goal of identifying programs and methods for your possible use. Attending specific sessions is effective way to meet and network with other agriculture service professionals.

Communications Chair Sherri Sanders, Alabama



The communications committee is pleased to report that Bayer Advanced has continued sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2015. Our committee has worked diligently to expedite the judging of all entries in a timely fashion.

We continue to see large numbers of entries in the fourteen communication award categories. The caliber of award entries is outstanding. Our members are producing excellent materials and are to be commended for the quality of their submissions. As a whole, the competition was very close and the quality of submitted items was top-notch. Our numbers were up significantly from last year.

- *Audio recording had 33 entries
- *Published Photo and Caption had 25 entries
- *Computer Generated Graphics had 42 entries
- *Promotional Piece had 93 entries
- *Personal Column had 70 entries
- *Feature Story had 60 entries
- *Individual Newsletter had 48 entries
- *Team Newsletter had 35 entries
- *Video Presentation had 65 entries
- *Fact Sheet had 52 entries
- *Publication had 68 entries
- *Web Site had 41 entries
- *Learning Module had 19 entries
- *Bound Book had 14 entries

I am appreciative to the regional vice-chairs for the communication committee. The regional vice-chairs are: North Central Region Chair David Marrison (Ohio), North East Region Chair Donna Coffin (Maine), Southern Region Chair Tracy Robertson (Mississippi), and Western Region Chair Mark Heitstuman (Washington). I would like to thank Richard Brzozowski and Scott Hawbaker for their assistance throughout the year with questions and concerns.

**Search for Excellence
Chair
Stanley A. McKee,
Pennsylvania**



The current Search for Excellence (SFE) committee is comprised of four regional vice chairs and myself. The regional vice chairs include Amy-Lynn Albertson from North Carolina, Stacey Bealmear-Jones from Arizona, Travis Harper from Missouri, and Greg Strait from Pennsylvania.

The committee held an organizational meeting by conference call in November 2014. We discussed procedures for promoting SFE entry submissions and for scoring the entries to be received. A description of the criteria was posted on the awards section of the NACAA website for consistency in judging entries. During the conference call we also confirmed the division of responsibilities regarding the SFE categories that each would lead. They were as follows:

- Landscape Horticulture – Stacey Bealmear-Jones
- Livestock Production – Greg Strait
- Crop Production – Travis Harper
- Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer – Greg Strait
- Forestry & Natural Resources – Travis Harper
- Farm & Ranch Financial Management – Amy-Lynn Albertson
- Farm Health and Safety – Amy-Lynn Albertson
- Sustainable Agriculture – Stan McKee

The committee held another conference call in March to check in as a team. Each regional vice chair was responsible for organizing a team of judges for each respective category, judging the entries, and reporting the results to me by May 1, 2014. All the entries forwarded by the states were judged before the end of April, and National winners were notified by very early May. The number of completed entries per category was as follows:

- Landscape Horticulture – 12 completed entries
- Livestock Production – 15 completed entries
- Crop Production – 15 completed entries
- Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer/Rancher – 17 completed entries
- Forestry & Natural Resources – 8 completed entries
- Farm and Ranch Financial Management – 4 completed entries
- Farm Health and Safety – 6 completed entries
- Sustainable Agriculture – 11 completed entries

The total number of entries received was 27 higher than last year, but seems to be lower than what it should be. SFE entries are not difficult to prepare and submit, and the program provides a great opportunity for individual and team recognition. Our 2015 winners and finalists will be recognized during their respective SFE luncheons at the upcoming AMPIC. The committee will continue to promote the SFE awards program, and encourage more applications next year.

The new category this year for Forestry and Natural Resources was a solid addition, and received 8 completed entries, which was more interest than typically was demonstrated for Remote Sensing and Precision Ag. There are still opportunities for sponsorship with this new category, and suggestions of potential sponsors would certainly be welcome.

Thanks:

- Thanks to each state chair for their efforts in promoting SFE to their membership and selecting state winners.
- Thanks to each regional vice chair for all their efforts to facilitate the judging of the entries and the other associated tasks of the committee.
- Thanks to Program Recognition Council Chair Richard Brzozowski for his assistance and support during the year.
- Thanks to the NACAA Board for their support of the Search for Excellence program.
- Thanks to NACAA Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker for his support and assistance to me when questions or situations with entries arose. He was always prompt and provided exceptional follow-up.

**4-H Youth
Recognition Chair
Chris Penrose, Ohio**



Almost all agricultural agents conduct some 4-H and youth programs and many of our members have a significant appointment in 4-H. The purpose of the Excellence in 4-H Youth Programming Committee is to recognize those that have developed exceptional programs. This year was no exception. We had 17 entries for awards this year, more than twice as many as in 2012. One task the committee worked on over the past several years was to increase awareness that this is not a 4-H award only, but also includes other youth related programs which is evident from the award winners and the scheduled presentations this year.

The committee was able provide eight awards this year. We have four Regional Finalists, three National Finalists and our National winner is Elizabeth Killinger, from Nebraska. Elizabeth will present her winning program “Nebraska Extension Special Garden Project” at the awards luncheon on Monday, July 13. Award winners will attend the awards luncheon to be recognized. In addition, we have eight state winners that will receive certificates.

Another charge of the committee was initiated six years ago when the committee proposed, and the board approved, the establishment of the Excellence in 4-H Program Workshop. This year we have eight presenting with all four regions represented for the Excellence in 4-H Program Workshop. Members are encouraged to attend the workshop on Tuesday, July 14, from 8:30-11:10 a.m.

Finally, I want to thank the regional directors for their help during the past year: Randy Saner, from Nebraska; Stacie Hritz, from Pennsylvania; Aubie Keesee, from Oklahoma; and Allan Sulser, from Utah. I also want to thank Richard Brzozowski, the current Program Recognition Chair and JJ Jones, the past Chair for all of their help. It has been a pleasure to serve for the past four years.

**Professional
Excellence Chair
Keith Mickler,
Georgia**



In 2015 a key change was implemented within the poster session; the modification, which accepted posters are to be judged during the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC).

Beginning in 2015, only the state winner (from a state poster contest) will be judged during the AM/PIC. For states that did not have a poster judging contest, the state chairs were asked to implement such a contest so to determine a state winner in the two poster categories: applied research and Extension education. We learned that many states had a poster judging contest while on the other hand many did not. The decision was left up to each state on how to implement the change.

Members, when entering their posters had the option to enter their poster as display only, or enter their states poster judging contest; and if not selected as the state winner they could still display their poster during the AM/PIC and their abstract would be published in the proceedings.

This year 117 abstracts were accepted for the AM/PIC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with 37 entries in the Applied Research and 80 entries in Extension Education. A summary of posters and authors will be available during the poster session allowing one to easily locate posters of potential interest.

Posters must be in place no later than 1:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12th through Tuesday, July 14th, 2015. “Meet the Authors Poster Session” will be from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. Monday, July 13th, 2015.

National, regional, and state winners will be formally announced and recognized during the poster session awards breakfast that will be held on Tuesday, July 14th starting at 6:30 a.m. Syngenta Crop Protection will sponsor the 2015 Poster Session Awards Breakfast.

During the awards breakfast the top three posters in each category will receive a cash award, plaque, and ribbon, regional winners will receive a certificate and ribbon, state winners will receive a certificate.

Judging criteria is posted on the NACAA website for participants to consider prior to preparing their abstracts and posters. Poster scores will be made available to all participants at the “Poster Session Awards Breakfast.”

We wish to thank members who have agreed to volunteer their time to judge posters during the 100th NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. Without your help, the mission of judging posters would be near impossible. Thank you to state and regional vice-chairs for a prodigious job in making the poster session happen again in 2015.

Current regional vice-chairs are: North Central Region, Eric Barrett; North East Region, Mike Haberland; Southern Region, Gene McAvoy; and Western Region, Mylen Bohle. The Professional Excellence committee is responsible for organizing and conducting the poster session before and

during the AM/PIC. It takes a lot of dedication and work to make this happen and without the regional vice-chairs and state chairs the poster session would not be possible. NACAA endorses the poster session as a very important method of presenting Extension programming and applied research results to members.

**Public Relations
Chair
Paula Burke, Georgia**



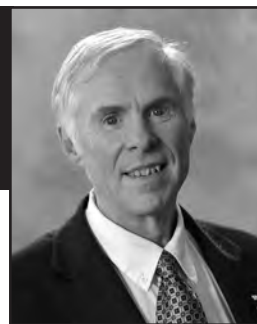
The Public Relations committee is responsible for conducting the Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Awards (A4) program. The A4 program is a great way for NACAA members to highlight educational programs that demonstrate the public relations side of Extension work, as well as enhance the understanding of agriculture in our communities.

The A4 program had 16 examples of outstanding quality and public relations work. There is a tremendous amount of great work that many are doing, some of which would make excellent entries in the A4 program. We challenge all of you to make an effort to enter the A4 Awards program in 2016. Congratulations to Joanna Coles from Kentucky, who is the A4 program national winner. Joanna will present her winning entry during the A4 awards recognition luncheon on the Warren County Agriculture Awareness. Congratulations also go national finalists Tracy Behnken from Nebraska, and Gary Fredricks from Washington. State winners are Rick Miller from Kansas, Libbie Johnson from Florida, Brenda Jackson from Georgia, Mark Blevins from North Carolina, Creig Kimbro from Tennessee, Laura Siegle from Virginia, and Leigh Ann Marez from New Mexico.

A sincere thank you to all of the Public Relations Committee regional and state chairs for their commitment to the committee.

The Public Relations committee is looking forward to having entries from all of the four regions in 2016. The Public Relations committee challenges each of you to submit an entry in the NACAA awards programs especially A4.

**Recognition and
Awards Chair
Stephen E. Hadcock,
New York**



The committee has undergone some transitions this year with some new faces serving as Regional Vice Chairs. We welcomed new Vice Chairs Joni Harper as North Central Vice Chair and Mary Small as Western Vice Chair. Both of these ladies became quickly involved in committee activities. We welcomed back to the committee Ronnie Helmondollar fulfilling the Northeast Vice Chair position. Ronnie is no stranger to the work of the committee and greatly appreciate his experience and input. Continuing as Southern region Vice Chair is Keith Perkins. Keith has provided great leadership in the Southern region.

Making our jobs easier are the many state Recognition and Awards State Chairs. The state chairs helped to make our jobs easier this year with the cooperation and adherence to deadlines set by our committee. On behalf of the National Committee, I extend our sincere thanks to them.

On Tuesday morning, 62 Achievement Award recipients will receive their awards at a Breakfast in their honor. This is the 41st year that NACAA has presented this award with this year's recipients joining 1,988 fellow Achievement Awards winners. The 2015 Achievement Award winners have demonstrated their ability to execute high quality programming for their clientele and gained the respect of co-workers. Achievement Award recipients have accomplished this in less than 10 years. A special thank you goes to NACAA President Mike Hogan and American Income Life's Bill Viar, who will assist with the awards presentation on Tuesday morning.

The Committee is tasked to facilitate the selection of Hall of Fame recipients each year. This is the 10th year for this prestigious award. Four outstanding Hall of Fame winners will receive their awards on Monday's general session. The recipients have received many awards of achievements during their careers and beyond in assisting their clientele, along with fellow agents and specialists of the Extension Programs in their respective states and regions of the country. They have extensive achievements and provide leadership for professional organizations, churches, and humanitarian service organizations. This year's inductees make one proud to be a member of NACAA.

This year is the 77th year to present the Distinguished Service Award. Wednesday evening at the Annual Banquet. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to 60 NACAA members from across the country. These members

were chosen by their respective states to receive one of the highest awards presented by the NACAA in 2015 and join 7,151 past recipients. The members represent two percent of their state membership, providing outstanding educational programming, are respected by their clientele and co-workers, and have worked for more than ten years.

The Committee wishes to express a special thank you to the sponsors of the Awards that will be given during our centennial AM/PIC. Thank you to John Deere and Company for their sponsorship of the Hall of Fame award for the tenth year. We want to express our appreciation for the continued support of the Achievement Awards Breakfast by American Income Life Insurance Company for 42 years and they have provided sponsorship for 47 years overall to NACAA programs. Altria Client Services is the sponsor of the Awards Booklet and the committee wishes to say thank you for your continued support of the Annual Banquet.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation and what an honor it is to serve as Chair of this committee. One cannot but feel pride and the sense of accomplishment when reading the abstracts of this year's recipients. They all are entitled to this recognition and the committee is proud to do what we can to make it happen.

**Scholarship Chair
Dwane Miller,
Pennsylvania**



The Scholarship Committee is charged with the responsibility of promoting the scholarship program by obtaining funds from NACAA members, friends of NACAA, and others interested in the scholarship effort. The committee works with the NACAA Educational Foundation to award scholarships for professional development to NACAA members. Primary activities include: promotion, review, and awarding of scholarships; administering the live and silent auction at the AM/PIC; and soliciting donations to the scholarship program through various means. I would like to say thank you to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their hard work during the past year: Wayne Flanary, North Central Region Vice-Chair; Linden Greenhalgh, West Region Vice-Chair; Donna Hamlin Beliech, Southern Region Vice-Chair; David Handley, Northeast Region Vice-Chair; Charles Moody, Life Member Representative, and all of the state chairs. I would also like to recognize the NACAA Educational Foundation for their help and support of the scholarship program. Through their guidance and stewardship of the investments, we continue to be able to provide funding for excellent professional development activities.

The scholarship committee continues to work with state scholarship chairs to encourage donations to the scholarship program. During the period of June 1, 2014 through May 15, 2015, NACAA members and friends contributed \$21,427.50 to the scholarship program. This represents an increase of over \$14,500 from a year ago - thank you all for your generous support! Why such a drastic increase? One of the biggest reasons is because of a special fundraising campaign. To honor our 100th anniversary, the "100 for the 100th" fundraising campaign has received \$7,876 to date...what a wonderful show of support to honor our organization, while helping to perpetuate the scholarship program! We will continue to receive contributions towards this effort through June 1, 2015. I would like to thank Cynthia Gregg and Frank FitzSimons for their tremendous help in this effort. Other contributions are made through the live and silent auction as well as the cash drawing held as part of the AM/PIC.

The Scholarship Committee would like to recognize the following members for reaching designated giving levels to the NACAA Scholarship Program during the period of June 1, 2014 through May 15, 2015. Certificates of appreciation will be awarded to these members during the regional meetings at the Sioux Falls AM/PIC:

- \$100-\$249**
- North Central Region: Emily G. Adams, Dan Downing, Rebecca Finneran, Heather Gessner, Matt Herring, Gary W. Lesoing, Jon R. Neufelder, L. Andrew Norman, William B. Phillips, Tim Schnakenberg, Dave Stenberg and John A. Wilson
- Northeast Region: Jerry Bertoldo, Brandy E. Brabham, Jenny Carleo, Nicole Carutis, Anita L. Deming, Mike Haberland, Amy A. Rowe, Heather Weeks and David J. Workman
- Southern Region: Carol L. Pinnell-Alison, Lisa A. Kriese-Anderson, Gary Bachman, John W. Branch, Megan Bruch Leffew, Gary Carter, Mary A. Delaney, Nichelle Demorest, Chester Fehlis, George L. Gonzales, Colby Guffey, Libbie Johnson, Samuel M. Johnson, Lance Kirkpatrick, Cyndi K. Lauderdale, Watson Lawrence, Jerri L. Lephiew, Linda K. Mcclanahan, Donald Mcfeeters, Allen Owings, Glenn Roberts, Sherri Sanders, Mary Carol Sheffield, Amanda R. Smith, Hugh Soape, M. Kent Stanford, Gerald L. Thompson, Carla Vaught, Jeffery D. Via and Milford D. Welch
- West Region: Stephen C. Brown, Kellie Chichester and Kurt Jones

- \$250-\$499**
- North Central Region: Craig Askim, Heather Gessner and Gary L. Zoubek
- Northeast Region: Thomas J. Gallagher, Thomas Maloney and Lee Stivers
- Southern Region: Paula J. Burke, Daniel F. Culbert, Russell Duncan, Ray Hicks, Libbie Johnson, Eugene McAvoy, Edwin F. Nolley, Phillip Pratt and Debbie Roos
- West Region: Randy R. Mills and Steve M. Van Vleet

\$500-\$999

Northeast Region: Stephen E. Hadcock
Southern Region: Ricky Ensley and Keith Fielder

\$1,000-\$2,499

North Central Region: Chuck Schwartau
Northeast Region: Robert C. Mickel
Southern Region: Henry D. Dorough, Alan B. Galloway and Delbert E. O'meara

\$10,000-\$14,999

Southern Region: Larry L. Moorehead

The committee would like to remind the membership of the opportunity to submit applications for scholarships. These scholarships can be used for members' professional improvement, which can include funding advanced degrees, tours, seminars, research, or other specialized training.

- All applications are electronically completed on the NACAA website. Deadline for applications is June 1st.
- In order to be eligible for up to \$1,000 in awards, members need to be vested at \$40 in the scholarship program. Members need to be vested at \$100 to be eligible for up to \$2,000 in awards. This contribution must be made before the end of the previous year's AM/PIC to qualify (ex: contribution must be received by the end of the 2015 AM/PIC to apply for an award in 2016).
- Other criteria can be found at the NACAA website under the "Awards" tab.

Vestment in the scholarship program can occur in a variety of different ways. Here are some possibilities:

- Bring items to the silent and live auction at the AM/PIC. You receive credit for the amount the item sells for.
- Purchase tickets (\$20 each) for the cash drawing, held at the AM/PIC. Non-winning tickets receive credit for a donation to the scholarship program.
- Some states have auctions or other fundraisers in which they designate proceeds towards the NACAA Scholarship Program.
- Direct donations by individuals. New this year is the ability to donate online with a credit card! Simply visit the NACAA website and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on "Donate to the NACAA Educational Foundation – Scholarship"

The process of submitting applications is still continuing. All applications that have been submitted by the June 1st deadline will be reviewed by the scholarship committee at the 2014 AM/PIC in Mobile. Please consider bringing an item or two for this year's auction, and taking a chance to win some cash!

**Life Member Chair
Tom Benton,
Texas**



The Life Member Team consists of Doug Warnock, Neil Broadwater and Nate Herenden who serve as Life Member Regional Chairs. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for the work they have done. Russell Duncan and Gene Schurman will be joining the Life Member team next year.

I am looking forward to presenting at the State Officers workshop in Sioux Falls to stress the importance of active life member chairs in each state to keep all life members active and informed. We must remember that that our life members are retired but still are willing to help and support in many ways.

Each year the NACAA Life members who have gone before us are honored at the life member's business meeting with a memorial service. We will conduct a memorial again this year at the AM/PIC in Sioux Falls.

We are still seeking a Life Members program sponsor. The sponsor would have a great opportunity to interact with our membership and have a part of the program and a site in the trade show. If you know of a potential sponsor please let the committee know.

I trust that you have made plans to attend the 2015 NACAA meetings in Sioux Falls. A full schedule of life member activities has been planned by the South Dakota Agents and especially the Life Member Committee. Tours and activities will keep you busy. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Many thanks to the NACAA board for the support given the life members. We are ready to assist you and NACAA in anyway that we can.

**Journal of the
NACAA Chair
Stephen Brown,
Alaska**



More than 30 articles from our members were published in the December 2014 and June 2015 issues of the Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The journal has an acceptance rate of about 50%. The journal is fully searchable by Google or other search engines.

The journal publishes on June 1st and December 1st. Submissions must be electronically submitted by March 15th for the summer publication and September 15th for the winter edition. This means it is possible for authors to have as little as a 2 1/2 month turnaround from submission to publication! More information can be found at: nacaa.com/journal.

The purpose of the journal is to give NACAA members the opportunity to publish in a peer reviewed journal and thereby advance their credentials. Because the Journal of the NACAA does not focus exclusively on research, it is an opportunity for county-based Agents to publish articles on innovative activities, case studies or emerging opportunities. Finally, the journal is an opportunity for first time authors to gain experience and confidence in publishing. As the editor, I am committed to helping any first time author successfully navigate the process.

Thanks to 2014/2015 Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers

- | | |
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Extension Journal Inc. Keith Mickler, Georgia



Myriad of appreciation is extended to the NACAA officers and board for approving my continued mission of representing our association on the Extension Journal Inc. board. Currently I am serving as President for the Extension Journal Inc.

The Extension Journal Inc. offers two products to Extension, *The Journal of Extension (JOE)* and the National Job Bank.

Journal of Extension

JOE is a scholarly, double-blind, peer-reviewed online journal representing the best of Cooperative Extension from across the nation.

All *JOE* submissions are peer reviewed, with high editorial standards and scholarly rigor expected from all papers submitted and from the reviewers. Should your paper be published in *JOE* consider that a colossal achievement.

In 2014 there were 323 submissions, 22 submissions more than in 2013. 2014. Editorial Review Numbers are: 19% (61) rejected; 40% (129) returned for revision; 41% (133) accepted as suitable for review and/or publication.

JOE currently has a 5-year publishing average of 20.2%. For more on the numbers, see the February 2015 Editor's Page, "*JOE* by the Numbers 2014" found at: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2015february/ed1.php>

You can also find the top 50 most read articles for 2014 at: <http://www.joe.org/about-joe-website-statistics.php> they even go all the way back to 2005.

If you are interested in being a reviewer and have **breadth** across several areas as well as **depth** of expertise, please visit *JOE* FAQ # 14: <http://www.joe.org/about-faqs.php#Q14>

National Job Bank

Extension Journal Inc.'s other product is the National Job Bank <http://jobs.joe.org/>. The National Job Bank provides access to a broad range of faculty positions in teaching, research, extension and outreach along with other professional positions involving education, research and/or outreach missions.

The National Job Bank website allows the job seeker to post resumes and cover letters for potential employers to search through and find key individuals for positions they wish to fill.

Please take a few minutes visit *JOE* at: <http://www.joe.org> and National Job Bank <http://jobs.joe.org> websites. You never know what you might come across.

**Executive Director
Scott Hawbaker,
Illinois**



It's been a pleasure to continue serving NACAA this past year as Executive Director. Working with NACAA's Leadership team, AM/PIC host state/region leadership, and NACAA donors is a rewarding experience that I

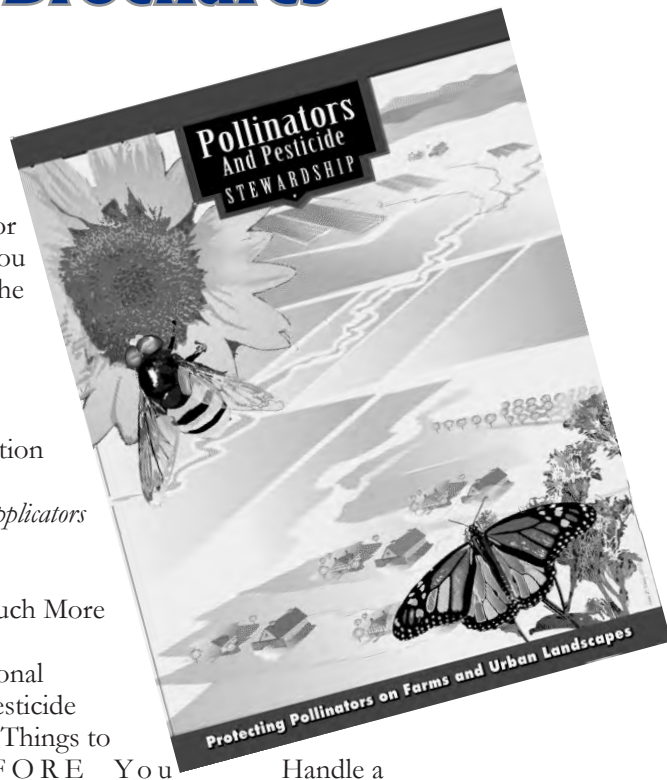
am grateful for. I do my best to "hold down the fort" for NACAA, by assisting members on a daily basis, and spreading the good news about NACAA to potential new supporters.

Throughout the year, if you need assistance regarding NACAA, please don't hesitate to contact me at the office in Illinois at (217) 794-3700 or via email at nacaemail@aol.com

Pesticide Stewardship Brochures

NACAA has partnered with Syngenta on eight general pesticide stewardship brochures and two flyers to assist with pesticide educational efforts. These brochures are not specific to any geography, target site, pest, product, or company. These brochures are available to NACAA members FREE of charge for your use in programming efforts. Enter the number of copies you are interested in next the specific brochure/flyer and submit to the address listed below. Your supply will be sent at no charge.

- ___1) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - English edition
- ___2) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Spanish edition
- ___3) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Aerial Applicator edition
- ___4) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Pest Management Professional edition - *(for commercial, licensed or certified applicators and technicians under their supervision, for treating in and around structures)*
- ___5) The Value of Buffers for Pesticide Stewardship and Much More
- ___6) Pollinators and Pesticide Stewardship
- ___7) Dress for Success! Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide
- ___8) For Pesticide Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators - Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide (English, 2 pages, 8th gr. reading level)
- ___9) For Pesticide Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators - Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide (Spanish, 2-pages, 8th gr. reading level)
- ___10) An Ounce of Prevention! Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Schools and Child Care Facilities – *(discussing all aspects of IPM, including safe pesticide use)*



Available Formats:

Quantities of the actual brochures that will be "well-used" can be ordered free of charge from carol.somody@syngenta.com by emailing this order form or a short note. No PO boxes, please! A copy of this form is also available at: <http://www.nacaa.com/countyagent/PesticideStewardship.php>

PDF versions of the brochures can be viewed or downloaded from the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship (PES) website at <http://pesticidestewardship.org/Pages/Resources.aspx> or from any of the partner websites. Any organization is also welcome to post these brochures on their own website.

Word versions of the brochures can be requested by any organization desiring to modify or extract content. Email carol.somody@syngenta.com to discuss logo swaps with or without content changes. Artwork and photos can be used if conditions of use are met. PowerPoint presentations to go with the brochures are also available upon request.

Pesticide educators are also welcome to use or adapt any content that appears directly on the PES website – it is not copyrighted. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of pesticide safety and stewardship education!

Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



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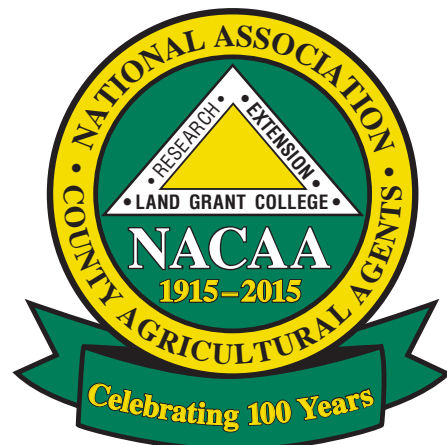


FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NACAA

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PLEASE GO TO

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The County Agent

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

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

2015
Sioux Falls, South Dakota.....July 12-16

2017
Salt Lake City, Utah....July 9-13

2016
Little Rock, Arkansas....July 24-28

2018
Chattanooga, Tennessee.....July 29-Aug. 2

