

## County Extension Agents Learn What Sustainable Agriculture Means to Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Kentucky – For the many Cooperative Extension agents who are focused on applying their area of expertise to their locality, learning and growth can come from stepping outside what's familiar. So discovered a group of eight Extension agents on a recent trip to Kentucky, where they set out to learn what sustainable agriculture means to the Bluegrass State.

Participating in a unique training program known as the Sustainable Agriculture Fellows program, the group spent four days in the Lexington area touring family farms, horse-breeding operations, tobacco farms, Kentucky State University's aquaculture research facility, a food co-op, livestock processing and marketing facility, and the University of Kentucky's research farm. Such a lineup gave the group the opportunity to see how the overarching concepts of sustainability are being applied to one state's unique agriculture.

“We saw the movers and the shakers in the industry. They use every opportunity available to them to diversify and make the business more profitable,” said Nathan Winter, an Extension educator with the University Minnesota. “This was a great opportunity to learn more of what they are embracing.”

The program, sponsored by SARE and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), introduces county agents to sustainable agriculture concepts and challenges them to assess strengths, weaknesses, and relevant applications in current agricultural systems. A major component involves tours such as this one, aimed at exposing agents to the huge diversity of sustainability in practice.

This spring's program brought county agents to Kentucky, and was hosted by the University of Kentucky.

“The goals of this learning experience are to deepen the understanding of sustainable agriculture and to catalyze changes in an Extension agent's work,” said Lee Meyer, Kentucky SARE state coordinator at the University of Kentucky. “Some may already know a lot about



*A group of county Extension agents tours poultry houses during the SARE Fellows Tour in Lexington, KY. Photo taken by Candace Pollock, Southern SARE.*

sustainable agriculture, but we don't think that they know a lot about the challenges and opportunities facing farmers in Kentucky. We hope that digging into our unique situation will help them get insights that they can take home and use in their programs.”

Meyer said he wanted participants

to question what it really means to be sustainable by focusing on two main themes: how Kentucky's tobacco industry supports sustainable concepts, and how non-traditional ag industries (aquaculture, equine, tourism) contribute to sustainable agriculture.

“We wanted to take Extension agents to see farms and businesses that weren't necessarily seen as sustainable farms,” said Meyer. “One of their tasks was to assess the sustainability of each operation based on their own definition of sustainable agriculture, and then ask what can be done to improve sustainability and what challenges exist.”

Maud Powell, a small farms specialist at Oregon State University, said that seeing how Kentucky agriculture is scaling up will help her when working with small farmers who only manage about 10-20 acres.



*A group of county Extension agents and University of Kentucky staff visit the University of Kentucky Horticulture Research Farm during the SARE Fellows Tour. Photo taken by Candace Pollock, Southern SARE.*



*Todd Clark with Clark Family Farms exhibits float bed tobacco plants. Float beds are used to grow seedlings before they are transplanted to the field. Photo taken by Candace Pollock, Southern SARE.*



The group takes a lunch break during the SARE Fellows Tour. The program introduces Extension agents to sustainable agriculture concepts and challenges them to assess strengths, weaknesses and relevant applications in current agricultural systems. Photo taken by Candace Pollock, Southern SARE.

“That just may be the sweet spot for the producers to be working with,” she said.

Sophistication, innovation, value-added, and creativity were just some of the keywords the participants used to describe the agribusinesses they visited on the tour.

“I did not expect to find this sophisticated high-end market in Lexington, and the producers are equally sophisticated to service that market. It doesn’t exist everywhere that producers have the wherewithal to take advantage of local foods,” said Tom Maloney, a senior Extension associate in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. “It was fascinating to see that the consumers and the processors are pulling the farmers and telling them what they need. So often you see producers pushing things and then figuring out how to market them.”



Good Foods Market & Cafe in Lexington, KY marks its produce as either conventional or organic. The food co-op feels it’s important for its customers to know how their food is produced and processed. Photo taken by Candace Pollock, Southern SARE.

Said Marlin Bates, a horticulture specialist with the University of Missouri, “The program definitely broadened my horizons. I may not apply livestock techniques given my horticulture background, but cumulatively it’s nice to know how other ag processes and production practices work.”

And therein lies the benefit of the Sustainable Agriculture Fellows program – the value participants place on it as an opportunity to discover different agricultural concepts and create awareness among their constituents.

“I’m the only ag specialist in our office, so I’m expected to learn here and share with others, even if all of the topics aren’t in my background. It’s good professional development,” said John Porter with West Virginia University.

Brad Burbaugh, located in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at Virginia Tech, agreed that the Sustainable Agriculture Fellows program plays an important role in networking with customers and building relationships.

“Farms used to be closed systems and now, by and large, they are open systems, which has proven successful for people in Kentucky,” said Burbaugh. “We, as Extension agents, represent key resources in that networking and building those relationships.”

The 2012 Sustainable Agriculture Fellows will be learning about sustainable agriculture in Iowa later this year.



Sarah Lovett (right), SARE Kentucky program assistant, and Lara Worden, a NCSU county Extension agent, learn more about the equine industry in Kentucky during the SARE Fellows Tour. Photo taken by Candace Pollock, Southern SARE.

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About the SARE/NACAA Sustainable Agriculture Fellows program. The two-year Fellows program provides a training opportunity that enhances understanding of sustainable agriculture and provides broad-based, national exposure to successful and unique sustainable agriculture programs. Participating Fellows are better able to create new programs that meet the needs of their local clientele. Learn more about the Sustainable Agriculture Fellows program, including biographies of current Fellows.

Published by the Southern Region of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. Funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Southern SARE operates under cooperative agreements with the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University, and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture to offer competitive grants to advance sustainable agriculture in America’s Southern region.

# Galaxy Auction Plans Underway

As you consider the things to pack on your trip to Pittsburgh, remember your live or silent auction items.

Members love to bid on items they consider priceless, unique or can’t find anywhere else. They can be representative of your state, its culture, community and geographical area, a hobby, special interest or skill. The uniqueness, ease of packing, usability and general appeal should also be considered. Below are suggested ideas for auction items.

**Silent Auction** - This event will be part of the Exhibit Hall viewing time. Items are suggested to be valued at \$30 or above. The item or service could be a craft, a collectible, a lesson or outing; something purchased or something old. Other ideas include jams, jewelry, cookbooks, and handmade items. Be creative!

**Live Auction** - This will be an event along with dinner on Wednesday evening. Items suggested are of higher value and may include sporting event tickets, vacation get-away rentals, handcrafted furniture, something autographed by a celebrity, wine and wine tours.

So are you willing to donate an item or service to the auction? If so, as part of the registration process, you can complete the Donor Form found at <http://www.cvent.com/events/galaxy-iv> Go under Special Events tab (on far right) and click. The silent and live auction details are there.

This form can be downloaded as well. Please follow the submission directions. We encourage folks to include a picture

or certificate of your items. Please be prepared to put a dollar value for the item.



## Other Auction

**details** - Times/location for Item Drop Off during Galaxy Sunday (9/15) 5:00-8:00 pm at registration table. Breakfast time on Monday (9/16) prior to tours and pre-conference workshops. Volunteers will be there to help direct members. Deadline item drop-off is Monday at noon at Show Office B.

Are you not able to attend Galaxy and still like to send an item? If this is the case, please check with your state contingency on who’s able to attend and try to arrange for your item to be sent along with a colleague. Another option, send your item to: NACAA at 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756 and NACAA will make sure to get your item submitted.

Remember this exciting, fun-filled and important event is the fund raising effort for the NACAA Educational Foundation. **Proceeds from all items designated for NACAA will benefit the scholarships awarded each year to NACAA members.**

If you have additional questions regarding the Galaxy Auction, please email Jane at [jconroy@maine.edu](mailto:jconroy@maine.edu), chair of the auction committee.

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## The County Agent

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# Galaxy Schedule

## Sunday, September 15, 2013

12:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Galaxy Registration
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	NACAA Council Workshop
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	NACAA Nominating Committee
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	NACAA Vice Directors Mtg.
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	NACAA Scholarship Committee Mtg.

## Monday, September 16, 2013

8:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Galaxy Registration
6:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Professional Improvement Tours
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	First Timers Event
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Life Members Networking Event
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Galaxy Welcome Event on the Gateway Clipper
9:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Dance

## Tuesday, September 17, 2013

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast on Your Own
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	NACAA Achievement Award Breakfast
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	NACAA Committee Members Breakfast
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Galaxy Registration
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Opening Session- Welcome
9:20 AM - 11:00 AM	Keynote Address
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM	Spouse/Youth Seminar - National Aviary
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	NACAA Committee Meetings
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	NACAA State Officers Workshop
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Box Lunch
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	NACAA Search for Excellence Luncheons
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Dedicated Exhibitor Hours
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Poster Session I
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Silent Auction Bidding Begins
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions 1-4
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Dedicated Exhibitor Hours
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	State's Night Out

## Wednesday, September 18, 2013

6:30 AM - 7:30 AM	NACAA Delegate Breakfast
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast on Your Own
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	NACAA Regional Meetings
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Galaxy Registration
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Silent Auction Bidding Continues
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Spouse Tour - Heinz History Museum
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Youth Tour - Carnegie Science Center & Highmark SportsWork
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	National Institute of Food Agriculture (NIFA) Presentation - Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2)

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	General Session & Ruby Lecture Presentation Sponsored by ESP
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	NACAA SARE Fellows Workshop/ Luncheon
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Box Lunch
11:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Life Member Tour - Duquense Incline, Grandview Saloon, National Aviary
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Dedicated Exhibitor Hours
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Poster Session II
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	ESP Ruby Banquet
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions 5-8
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	NACAA Delegate Session
4:00 PM	Silent Auction Bidding Closes
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Live Auction & Dinner Style Reception
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Galaxy IV Dance

## Thursday, September 19, 2013

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Dedicated Exhibitor Hours
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Galaxy Registration
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Poster Session III
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Special/Super Seminars ECOP Session, Part I - The Importance and Significance of Smith Lever to Extension Today
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Special/Super Seminars ECOP Session, Part II-The Skills and Attributes of 21st Century Extension Professionals
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Dedicated Exhibitor Hours
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	NACAA Life Members Luncheon
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	NACAA Professional Excellence Luncheon
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	NACAA Communications Award Luncheon
12:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Closes
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions 9-10
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Association Receptions
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	NACAA DSA Awards Banquet
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM	NACAA Post Banquet Reception

## Friday, September 20, 2013

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Galaxy Registration
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Galaxy Brunch
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Closing Session

# Farm-level Crisis Response

Are your local county producers prepared for a Farm-Level Crisis? The National Pork Board has a resource that can help extension personal assist local producers in the development of an individual farm-level crisis plan. Some Farm-level Crisis Response Key Points to think about:

### Why do I need a crisis response plan?

Crisis Response Planning is important for pork producers today.

A crisis can result from many causes:

- Natural disaster
- Employee issues
- Foreign animal disease

Being prepared can help producers:

- Return to business as usual as quickly as possible
- Make full use of their industry resources
- Maintain customer confidence in their ability to deliver quality product

### What is the Farm-level Crisis Response Plan Template?

It's a step-by-step, fill-in-the-blanks plan created by the National Pork Board to help producers:

- Evaluate areas of vulnerability on their farms
- Build their response teams and access industry support
- Gather the information they would need during a crisis
- Communicate effectively to the people who need to know

### How can I access the Farm-level Crisis Response Template?

The template is available:

- Online in the producer resources section of pork.org
- On DVD/CD
- Can be printed and filled out on paper

The plan is saved to your computer. It is confidential and not accessible by anyone outside your organization.

### How can I get help to complete the plan?

The National Pork Board offers crisis response planning assistance to producers:

- Regional Managers will help producers fill out the basic template
- Communications staff can meet with producers who wish to develop a strategic plan customized for their organization and assist in running a practice drill

A grant program is available to help cover costs, including:

- Professional crisis response planning assistance and response team training
- Meeting and travel costs to bring the core team together



For more information, stop by the National Pork Board booth at the Galaxy Conference as well as plan to attend the Webinar Conference the National Pork Board is hosting for all Extension personal on October 23, 2013 from 10:00 am - Noon. More information on this webinar will be sent via email before October 1st. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the National Pork Board at (800) 456-7675.

# Call for 2013/2014 Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers

Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers are the backbone of our journal. They provide the peer reviews for every paper that is published in our journal (and for many more that are not). Reviewers are expected to review between 3-5 articles a year. This is considered national service and a good addition to your resume or curriculum vitae. The requirements to be a National Peer Reviewer are:

- Desire to help your colleagues in the NACAA

- Have published at least 1 article in a peer reviewed journal (2 peer reviewed statewide Extension bulletins may be substituted)
- Agree to submit reviews in a timely fashion

To apply, send an email to [scbrown4@alaska.edu](mailto:scbrown4@alaska.edu) (Steve Brown) addressing the points above including your subject matter areas.

## Scholarship Selection Process to Take Place at Galaxy IV

Each year during the NACAA Annual Meeting, the NACAA Scholarship Committee meets to review scholarship applications which have been submitted for review and acceptance. This process will take place once again for the 2013 applications during Galaxy IV.

In coordination with the NACAA Educational Foundation (501 (c) 3), the total amount of scholarship funds available for distribution are determined.

As an NACAA member, you are encouraged to apply for professional improvement scholarships. The Educational Foundation was established specifically to administer these funds and allocate annual distributions. In order to receive a scholarship from the Foundation, a list of criteria can be found on-line at <http://www.nacaa.com/scholarship/criteria.php>.

*Some (not all) of the criteria listed include:*

- ♦ Member vestment will be \$40 to qualify for up to \$1,000 scholarship and a vestment of \$100 (an additional \$60 contribution to the scholarship fund) to qualify for an additional scholarship awards from \$1,001 to \$2,000 (no more than \$1,000 in any one year will be awarded). Effective dates for this change will be the 2013 scholarship requests. Each participant must have made this contribution before the end of the previous year's AM/PIC. (If one person within the group has not contributed \$40 by the deadline, it disqualifies the entire group).

- ♦ Study or training must start within 12 months of the AM/PIC where scholarship is awarded or before the next scheduled AM/PIC. The study or training cannot be initiated before application is approved by the Scholarship Selection Committee and the Trustees of the NACAA Educational Foundation.
- ♦ Applications will be judged and funded based on completeness, plan for training, how it will be used/ applied post training, and availability of funds.
- ♦ Award is for individual or group professional improvement which may include advanced degrees, graduate credits, tours, seminars, research or other specialized training.
- ♦ Maximum scholarship is \$1000 per year, & a total of \$2,000 during a member's Extension career. (This amount includes scholarships received as an individual or as part of a group.)
- ♦ Scholarship funds will not be awarded until 30 days prior to study or training begins. It is the recipient's responsibility to advise the National Scholarship Chair if impending date of educational activity changes.

If you have not contributed to the Educational Foundation and wish to be considered for a 2014 scholarship, the deadline to submit your individual vestment would be **September 20, 2013**. Contributions can be sent to NACAA (made payable to NACAA Educational Foundation) - at 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756.

## 2012 Scholarship Grantees

Name	State	Region	Group	Event or Individual	Total Amount Awarded
Chris Bruynis	OH	NC	G	Int. Farm Management Congress - Poland	3,000
Susan Schoenian	MD	NE	G	Int. Goat Conference	2,000
Amber Yutzy	PA	NE	I	Graduate Course	1,000
Nichelle Demorest	FL	S	I	National Extension Master Gardener Conference	1,000
Michael Goodchild	FL	S	I	Annual Energy Fair	550
Elena Toro	FL	S	I	Int. Grasslands Conference	1,000
Michelle Shooter	NC	S	I	Graduate Course	895
Dan Wells	NC	S	I	Statistics 511, Graduate Course	933
Thomas Dudek	MI	NC	I	IPM Essen Show - Germany	1,000
Kevin Gould	MI	NC	I	Ultrasound Certification	1,000
Kevin Heaton	UT	W	I	BATC Meat Cutters Course	1,000

# 2012-2013 NACAA Report to the Membership

## NACAA President Paul H. Craig, Pennsylvania



In 2008 the members of the PA Association of County Agricultural Agents, working cooperatively with the other agent associations in the North East region, proposed to the voting delegates the opportunity to become a full participant in Galaxy IV. How time flies! Here we are less than 50 days away as I write this. The PACAA and NE Agents are excited to showcase their contributions to the conference and many NACAA members from other states have "stepped up to the plate" and provided their expertise and leadership to ensure an outstanding meeting in Pittsburgh, September 16 – 20<sup>th</sup>. I cannot express my appreciation enough to everyone involved.

Early registration numbers indicate that this will be a conference unlike any that I have attended before. At this time there are more than 2300 registrants, from all JCEP organizations. NACAA has 554 registered for the conference, with over 500 signed up for the Thursday night banquet. The tours on Monday have proven to be a highlight for many of the conference registrants with more than 550 signed up. Over 800 will be attending the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game on Tuesday.

If you have ever been to Pittsburgh you know what an exciting city it is. If you have never been to Pittsburgh you will find a dynamic city that has transitioned from a history of steel and heavy industrial manufacturing to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a strong foundation in technology, energy, financial, educational and medical science. Pittsburgh is known as "the City of Bridges" having a record 446 bridges within the city boundary. These bridges cross 3 rivers which meet at the Point, a triangular shaped, heart of the city close to where the conference will be held. Be sure to travel up the incline to Mount Washington for an amazing view of downtown Pittsburgh.

Our national committees have been working extra hard this year to provide our members with the professional development and program recognition opportunities so valuable to NACAA. These dedicated men and women have tirelessly planned and coordinated activities throughout the conference. In addition the Galaxy Planning committee has prepared a program that

will be unlike any conference that I have ever attended. When you see Chuck Schwartau, Mark Tucker, Andy Londo, Karen Vines and Lee Stivers in Pittsburgh be sure to give them a pat on the back for their outstanding leadership and contributions in planning this event.

This year, in Pittsburgh will be an election of the next vice president of NACAA. Three candidates will be running for this office: Liz Felter, FL; Cynthia Gregg, VA and Tim Varnedore, GA. Congratulations to all three for offering their service to our organization.

I would encourage you to review the agenda for Galaxy IV on the website before you arrive. There are so many opportunities for professional development that it may seem overwhelming when you receive your program during registration. One event that has been changed since the on line registration started is the Committee Chair/Vice Chair Recognition event. Originally listed as a luncheon on Wednesday at the David Lawrence Convention Center, this event will now be held on Tuesday morning, 7 -8:30 AM at the NACAA conference hotel, Marriott City Center. All previously registered members should have received a notice of this change. Any national and state committee members are invited but registration is requested. You can make a change to your registration on the Galaxy website if you wish to attend.

I am pleased to report that in 2013 your national association membership has increased by 175 to 3093. This has resulted by the outstanding efforts by state associations to retain, recruit and introduce new Extension hires to the benefits of membership in NACAA, Life members now total 2750.

One opportunity that I am looking forward to is the building association that NACAA has initiated with the Outstanding Young Farmer program. Earlier this year Wes Smith, GA was selected to serve as a liaison with this organization to assist recruitment of applications from NACAA. This year submissions from NACAA have tripled. Thank you for your support. The deadline for submissions has passed but I would encourage every state president to appoint a member to serve locally to nominate at least one candidate from their state next year.

The JCEP Leadership Conference was held in Memphis, TN in February. This conference is evolving to provide outstanding leadership opportunities for members of any

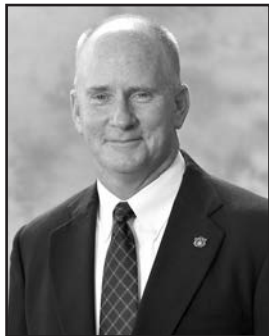
Extension professional association. This year's speaker was Jay Rifenburg whose message on core values, accountability and personal integrity could not have been more applicable for today's Extension educators.

The Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in Washington, DC in April provides development in delivering the Extension message to federal stakeholders. During the conference the NACAA leadership meets with representatives from USDA and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

I would like to also express my sincere appreciation to the members of your national board of directors. These individuals take time out of their busy schedules to provide direction for our organization. I could not be more proud having served with them during the past year.

I also want to thank all of you for your contributions to NACAA. Your involvement in local, state and national activities is what makes the extra effort rewarding. NACAA is a bottom up organization. We need your contributions to continue to make NACAA relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It starts with you and your co-workers. I encourage you to continue to develop your professional growth by becoming active in NACAA. It has been a very rewarding experience for me. Thank you for the opportunity.

**President-Elect  
Henry D. Dorrough, Alabama**



There is an old saying "Time flies when you're having fun." I'd like to add "and the memories collected along the way will enrich your life forever." Serving on the NACAA board the past few years has without a doubt been the highlight of my Extension career. Working this past year as your President-Elect has added to my personal and professional growth beyond anything I could have ever imagined.

Each NACAA job has its unique set of responsibilities and challenges. The NACAA President-Elect is responsible for a number of things, but none is more important than the role of fundraiser; primarily with "New" donors. I set a lofty personal goal for new donors and with the help of a few members was able to identify several likely partners to support NACAA activities at Galaxy-IV in Pittsburgh, PA.

Unlike our traditional AM/PIC, our participation in Galaxy presented several challenges limiting our fundraising endeavors to securing donors supporting award functions and a few activities specific to NACAA. Beyond that and in all fairness donor funds were to go into the general Galaxy pool to sup-

port the unified program. Finding that special niche with new partners for awards and professional development at Galaxy presented a great challenge as most of the programming, outside of NACAA's super seminars and awards were coordinated through Galaxy.

We were able to form a new partnership with Central Pet & Garden to sponsor the Agricultural Awareness & Appreciation Award. Other potential new donors have expressed interest in partnering with NACAA in the coming years.

Each year, you have heard the president-elect sing the praises of our Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker. While I am not much of a singer, I do believe in heaping praise where it is deserved. We are very fortunate as an organization to have someone like Scott serving as our consistent face and voice for our current donors and with the skill of selling "all things special" about NACAA to potential new donors. Scott Hawbaker deserves all the credit for maintaining existing partnerships, identifying opportunities for donor/member interaction within the constraints of this year's Galaxy model and providing the recognition they so properly deserve. Thank you Scott for everything you do for NACAA and for making my job as president-elect a very easy one.

Donor support for the NACAA AM/PIC is paramount to maintaining a relatively low-cost but world-class professional development meeting. New donors are vital to creating and maintaining value of our programs. Because our members are on the front lines and communicating regularly with agribusiness, NACAA developed an incentive program to reward those who nurture fruitful partnerships between new sponsors and NACAA. In essence, members who contact new sponsors contributing \$2,000 to \$4,999 have their AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed. Members who secure sponsors contributing \$5,000 and \$9,999 are rewarded with registration reimbursement and \$500 to attend the AM/PIC. If a member helps NACAA partner with a donor contributing \$10,000 or more, they receive the registration reimbursement and \$1,000 for travel to the AM/PIC. These significant benefits make the effort to help recruit new sponsors truly rewarding for members.

As your President-Elect, I have had the honor of representing NACAA on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) board, participating in monthly conference calls and two face-to-face board meetings. I also attended the JCEP Leadership Conference in Memphis, TN. The conference theme was "Discovering Your Leadership Potential" and featured a dynamic speaker, Jay Rifenburg from Saratoga Springs, NY. His powerful message stressed the link between possessing a solid base of strong and meaningful core values and a person's ability to grow and develop as an individual, parent, spouse, professional and community leader. His lesson was thought provoking and

certainly helped me identify my core values and how they define me with respect to my career and personal life. His presentation "No Excuse! Incorporating Core Values, Accountability and Balance in Your Life and Career" is something every Extension professional should explore.

During the PILD conference in Alexandria, VA, I had the responsibility of scheduling meetings with various officials in USDA and NIFA with the help of Bill Hoffman, NIFA liaison to the JCEP Board. Past President Paul Wigley, President Paul Craig, Vice-President Mike Hogan and I spent an entire day meeting with Dr. Meryl Broussard, USDA/NIFA Deputy Director for Agriculture and Natural Resources; Dr. Ann Bartuska, USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics; Dr. Frank Boteler, USDA/NIFA Assistant Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment; Dr. Deborah Sheeley, USDA/NIFA Assistant Director, Institute of Food Production and Sustainability; Dr. Jill Auburn, USDA/NIFA National Program Leader and Dr. Louie Tupas, USDA/NIFA Division Director, Global Climate Change. Together, we were able 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.

As I close this report, I would like to thank the hard working women and men on NACAA committees and the Board for their dedication to the task at hand and friendship.

My sincere gratitude also goes to my colleagues in the Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents and Specialists and to the ACES leadership team for their never ending support of my service to NACAA.

I look forward with great enthusiasm and deep humility to serving as your president. Standing with my Alabama coworkers, we are excited to host you in Mobile, AL for the 99<sup>th</sup> NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. This will mark the first time in NACAA history for our AM/PIC to be held in the Great State of Alabama and my colleagues are working diligently to ensure you experience awesome educational opportunities on Gulf Coast agriculture and natural resources and abundant southern hospitality. Y'all Come! And don't forget to take time to enjoy the moment so the memories you collect will enrich your life for years to come.

**Vice President  
Mike Hogan, Ohio**



The role of the NACAA Vice President is to provide leadership for the operation of NACAA's three councils and 18 standing committees. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your Vice-President since we met in Charleston, SC last July. I have thoroughly enjoyed working closely with such dedicated and professional Council Chairs as Mary Sobba from Missouri; Dan Kluchinski from New Jersey; and J.J. Jones from Oklahoma. Most NACAA members, even the Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, probably aren't aware of the tremendous number of hours the Council Chairs log each year working on behalf of our professional association. When you see Mary, Dan, and J.J. at Galaxy in Pittsburgh, please join me in thanking them for their outstanding service to NACAA. J.J. Jones will be completing his term as Council Chair for the Program Recognition Council, and we will welcome Dick Brzozowski from Maine as the new Council Chair for the Program Recognition Council at the conclusion of the Galaxy Conference.

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. These folks have worked extra hard this year, and done an amazing job to fit NACAA programming into the Galaxy Conference format. I think you will be pleased at the quality of the NACAA programs when you participate in the Galaxy Conference in September.

Council Chairs and Vice Chairs should take note of the changes in our traditional schedule of NACAA leadership meetings and events normally held at the AM/PIC. We have typically held a luncheon meeting for all NACAA Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs on Sunday and a Committee Members Breakfast on Thursday at the AM/PIC. This year, at Galaxy, we will combine these two events and hold a Committee Members Luncheon on Wednesday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. All members of all NACAA committees are invited and encouraged to participate in this luncheon meeting.

If you are not currently serving on an NACAA committee as a State Chair, a Regional Vice Chair, or a National Committee Chair, please consider doing so. Your professional association works for you because of the volunteer leadership of so many dedicated members. Many of your colleagues who have served in these leadership positions have said that their personal growth and leadership skills had benefitted tremendously as a result of serving their professional association in one of these leadership positions.

I have appreciated the opportunity to be part of the leadership team representing NACAA at several conferences this past year including the JCEP Leadership Conference in Memphis TN and the PILD Conference in Washington DC. While at the PILD Conference, President Craig, President-Elect Dorough, Past President Wigley and I had the good fortune to meet with several USDA and NIFA agency leaders in their offices. As we visited with these leaders, we beamed with pride as these leaders shared with us their understanding about the impactful and dedicated work each of you do every day across this country. I could not have been more proud to represent my colleagues as we walked around Washington DC that day.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as your Vice President this past year, and thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I look forward to visiting with each of you at Galaxy IV in Pittsburgh very soon.

**Secretary  
Richard Fechter, Kansas**



It does not seem possible that I am completing my second year as NACAA Secretary. It has been a very rewarding, and challenging venture.

Many colleagues have asked me why I wanted to be NACAA Secretary because it sounded like a lot of work. Yes it is, but there is not a better way to learn everything about an organization than to be the secretary. As secretary, my primary job is to maintain accurate records of board and association activities and to keep the membership informed. Board meeting minutes are approved and posted on the NACAA website as soon as Policy review requirements are met. Also, there is a linking of all board meeting documents, with the exception of financial reports, as attachments to the minutes posted online. Financial security with the internet is of major concern so the board agreed in March 2010 to classify all financial documents and withhold them from the website. However, all members are entitled to a copy of association fiscal reports and may receive a copy by submitting a request to the NACAA Treasurer.

The NACAA Secretary serves as chair of the internal Publications Committee which provides oversight for content of the NACAA website, *The County Agent* magazine, the *e-County Agent* blog and the *Journal of NACAA*. Stephen Brown of Alaska has completed his term as the Journal of NACAA Chair and has done an excellent job. Stephen has been reappointed to the Journal of NACAA Chair position for another term. With Stephen's leadership, the Journal is now publishing two volumes on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The Journal is a great place for members to publish peer reviewed articles. For more information about the Journal of NACAA, refer to Stephen's report or contact him directly.

The history of any organization is very important for many reasons and NACAA is no different. The secretary is charged with collecting annual historically significant documents for storage at the USDA Agricultural Library. Currently our records are not up to date, but the groundwork has been laid to bring the records up to date. We are also looking at other potential venues to store our historical documents. In addition, the board has talked about trying to establish a display at the National Agricultural Center & Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas celebrating the "County Agent." Many of you may remember the National Agricultural Center & Hall of Fame from the 2011 AM/PIC. It is where we had supper following the Professional Improvement Tours.

Electronic communication tools have made the job of the Secretary easier in some ways. However, a big thanks goes to Scott Hawbaker, NACAA Executive Director. Without all of his work and efforts, my job would be much harder. The many hours I spend reviewing recordings and proofing the write up of minutes prior to posting them to the NACAA website has taught me a lot about our association, but also about each of the individuals that make up the board. The passion and dedication that each of them has for NACAA is truly amazing. What a great group of people to have the privilege of working with this past year and it's an honor to call them friends.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your NACAA Secretary this past year. I am deeply grateful to my Kansas colleagues for their support and encouragement and for all of the lifelong friendships I have made along the way. I look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh at Galaxy IV.

**Treasurer  
Alan B. Galloway, Tennessee**



It is my pleasure to report the financial condition of NACAA is sound. Due to careful investments and a growing economy we have seen our assets grow during my first year as your treasurer. After receiving the records from past treasurer, Parman Green, effective January 1, 2013, I have strived to maintain the accuracy of the data and process all payments in a timely manner.

Often one's ability to do a job is impacted by the person who did the job before them. There is no doubt, I inherited an accurate, streamlined set of records. My duties this year were made easier because of Parman's efforts over the previous three years. He set a high bar. My continuing challenge is to maintain the system he improved during his term and seek new methods to ensure NACAA's financial security. With

an association the size of ours the financial records are quite complex. It does take a while to comprehend the system to accurately record income and expenditures.

My commitment to members during last year's NACAA AM/PIC was to "Watch the Road" financially. Part of "watching" includes carefully reviewing expenditures, recording income and its source correctly and reporting regularly to the NACAA board. The second part of "watching" entails trying to predict the best and safest future investments for our funds. I endeavor to stay abreast of current financial conditions that might impact the returns on our funds and consult often with our financial advisor.

2013 brought new challenges with NACAA's participation in Galaxy IV. The change has both simplified and complicated our accounting system. Due to not handling as many incoming funds related to registration and sponsorship there have been fewer transactions prior to the AM/PIC. However, planning for the expenditures and unique challenges of a Galaxy meeting has been confusing at best.

The NACAA board has been careful, conservative stewards of the association's funds. Through strict reimbursement procedures and tracking of income sources NACAA remains on solid financial ground.

I greatly appreciate the trust placed in me by the members of NACAA and I will continue to do my best to "watch the road".

**Past President  
Paul Wigley, Georgia**



What a ride it has been. The last seven years that you have allowed me to serve as an officer in this association will definitely be one of the highlights of my life. You have allowed me to give back a small fraction of what I have received by being a member of NACAA. For this opportunity I will always be grateful.

As I leave the office of Past President I hope that you can agree with me that NACAA is at least as good a professional improvement organization as it was when I became Vice President four years ago. It was my goal that I leave the organization in as good a condition or better than when I became an officer. Financially, the organization has reached unprecedented levels. We are fiscally sound due to the many years of proper management of our funds. This board has continued the tradition of diligence and moderation that has led to the current security of our organization. After several years of declining membership, NACAA has experienced a resurgence in membership. This is due to the quality of

professional improvement opportunities that is available through our association. As new employees have been hired they have been quick to grasp the importance and value of being a member of this organization.

I have had the opportunity to travel to four of our sister extension professional organization annual meetings. At each one I have been proud to be a member of NACAA and share what we do for our membership. We are still the only family oriented annual meeting that is held among all extension professional organizations. Our level of professional improvement opportunities and opportunities to learn from the best extension professionals in the country sets us apart from all other professional improvement organizations.

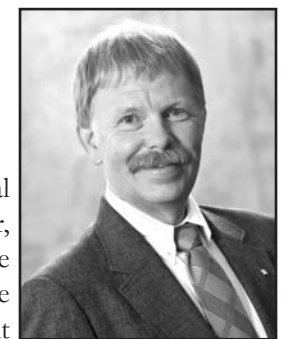
During the last year I have been on the JCEP board and have seen the amount of work it takes to put together the GALAXY meeting that we are attending. When you get the chance please thank the NACAA members who have served on the planning committee. Without their work and diligence our portion of the program would not be what it is today.

My last function will be presenting the 2014 budget to the delegates this week. I hope that you will find that we are looking forward and not backward as we plan for the next year.

The list of those to which I owe a huge thanks is too long to print here. Those of you that have had an impact on my life in the last seven years as I served as NACAA Treasurer, Vice President, President Elect, President, and now Past President know who you are. The debt I owe you is immense. As I move to the long awaited life member status, please join me in supporting our new officers as they lead us to even greater heights.

**North Central Region  
Director**

**Larry Howard, Nebraska**



As I complete my second and final year as the North Central Director, it is hard to believe how fast the last four years have gone by. I have enjoyed the opportunity to represent the North Central region as your Vice Director and Director of NACAA. As I shared in my report to the membership last year, this has been a great experience and one I will remember for a long time. It has allowed me to strengthen the many NACAA friendships I have made over the years and make many new ones. I have been an Extension Educator (County Agent) and NACAA member for twenty-eight years and will be attending my 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) at the Galaxy in Pittsburgh, PA in September. This opportunity to serve on the NACAA Board has provided me

with several professional improvement experiences which have been the best in my Extension career.

This past year I attended ten of our state meetings in person, one by electronic means, while Brad Brummond (Vice Director) attended one as I was at another state meeting. We accomplished my goal of reaching all twelve North Central states both years we served. The NACAA membership continues to impress me with the commitment to their jobs and more importantly to the clientele that they serve. The educational programs are outstanding and are keeping Extension relevant. We appreciated the outstanding hospitality while at your state and enjoyed the visits with the members, Extension Administration, and in some of the states, your producers and agribusinesses as you conducted tours. Thanks for your dedication to making Extension and NACAA stronger.

After some decline in state budgets and membership it was refreshing to see some of the states with new hires and getting them as new members. We need to continue to retain our current members and recruit new ones. I encourage our members to take the time to become more involved in NACAA and share the many opportunities with others. Please take the time to apply for awards, posters, and presentations or other professional improvement activities. Some of the areas have low participation and we need a stronger commitment of our members so we can maintain our sponsors. Also consider submitting an article to our Journal of NACAA. As we visit your states we see the outstanding work that has been accomplished. Please share it with the Association and be recognized for your efforts. I also want to challenge the members to consider being more involved in NACAA leadership; consider the committee positions when they are announced. I have never regretted my involvement.

I have a great appreciation for the time commitment, dedication, and leadership of the entire National Board. The officers, directors, and especially Executive Director Scott Hawbaker, are committed to maintaining and improving our Association. Thanks go to a great group of friends I have had a chance to work with these past two years.

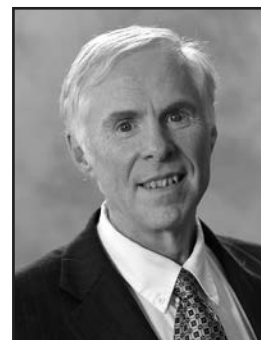
The North Central region has come together to help South Dakota as they prepare to host the 2015 AM/PIC in Sioux Falls. I encourage the states to continue to work together as the planning continues and assist where they can.

Once again, I want to thank the Nebraska members for trusting me with this opportunity to serve NACAA. It is truly a "once-in-a-career" chance in our region. I also appreciated the support of the Nebraska Extension Administration, my co-workers at the Cuming County Extension office, and our Extension Board and volunteers which allowed me to fulfill this NACAA assignment. And finally, a special thanks to my wife, Mary, who took care of things at home while I traveled.

She was able to participate in some of the activities and enjoys the friendships we have made over the years.

I look forward to seeing the members at Galaxy IV in Pittsburgh in September. At the conclusion of the conference, Brad Brummond will take over as Director and Ohio will be presenting Chris Bruynis for the incoming Vice Director for our region.

**North East Region Director Stephen Hadcock, New York**



As my term on the Board comes to an end, I want to tell all of you what an honor and pleasure it has been to serve as your Director. The places I have visited, the new friends I have made and professional improvement I have received will last with me for the rest of my Extension career and beyond. I appreciate the opportunity that NYS Ag Agents have afforded me to serve as Vice Director and Director.

Once again, membership in the Northeast continues to grow. One good recruiting tool that helped NYS this past year was to invite prospective members to the state annual meeting. After seeing the camaraderie and professional improvement opportunities, several signed up to be members. While some states saw their numbers dip for 2013, others added new members and overall the Northeast continues to grow.

The Planning and Development Committee (one of the Board's standing committees) worked on various projects during the year. President Craig asked the committee to review recommendations from the futuring committee and implemented some this year. One that was enacted was to ask Executive Director Scott Hawbaker to develop "Quick Start Guides" for submitting a scholarship application, completing an awards application and some others. Some ongoing activities of the committee is learning how states curate Agricultural Agent Association in their respective state.

This committee also reached out and worked with two NACAA committees this year to host two different webinars. The first webinar was a collaboration with the Teaching and Educational Technology Committee. The chair of the committee, Mark Blevins, gave a presentation on the usefulness of Google+ Hangouts for conducting meetings. The second collaboration was with the Administrative Skills Committee. Chair Ayman Mostafa arranged to have Monica Pastor to give a presentation

on enhancing relationships with government officials. Monica was County Director of Maricopa County, Arizona and was able maintain if not increase county funding for Extension. The video can be viewed at: <http://youtu.be/3EzYZmBNmYM>

Agents in Pennsylvania and throughout the Northeast have been working hard to provide a pleasant and educational experience for those traveling to Pittsburgh, PA for the Galaxy IV conference. Part of the time for the past year has been assisting where I could to find tour guides and communicate to states the progress of plans for the conference. I want to thank all of the Ag Agents that stepped up and helped with the planning for this event.

Finally, I would like to encourage others to take leadership positions within NACAA. Helping fellow Agents from your region and across the nation to enhance their professional career is definitely rewarding. Talk to most anyone that has held a national leadership position and they will tell you that the experience of participating was well worth the time involved. To paraphrase a popular politician, all advancements start at the local level. Start by taking a leadership role within your state association, then from there, look for opportunities to serve on a national committee or other possible avenues. Your involvement, will make for some everlasting memories.

**Southern Region Director Jerry Clemons, Arkansas**



As my term as Southern Region Director is coming to an end, all I can say is what a great opportunity it has been to serve on the National Board. Last year I wrote about giving back to our association. I shared that you only get back what you put into it. Well, let me tell you, I believe I have received far more than I ever imagined.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the Public Issues Development Conference planning committee for the last two years. Serving on this committee has given me the chance to work with representatives from all of the six Extension Associations. In April, when we had our last meeting, many of the participants commented that this meeting was one of the better ones they have attended. I know that Pete Nietzsche and Lenny Rogers will do a great job representing our association on this committee.

I also worked with all the other directors and vice-directors on the JCEP meeting in Memphis in February. Our association had over 35 states represented at this meeting.

This year I attended seven of the state meetings in the Southern Region. I so appreciate the hospitality shown to me when I attended these state meetings. I was privileged to see first-hand many exemplary programs presented by these states' outstanding agents. I am planning to try some of them in Arkansas. If everyone will remember, the past president spoke about keeping Extension relevant. From what I have seen, I believe Extension is indeed relevant and will remain that way for years to come. As to the effort that all of us put into our work, I would like to say thank you and keep up the good work.

I'd also like to say thank you to the NACAA board members I have served with. Yes, we've faced some challenges, but at the end of the day came to agreement on decisions we thought were best for our membership and association.

I want to thank my fellow Arkansans for giving me this opportunity to serve NACAA. This is a once in a career opportunity and I will always be grateful to every one of you. A huge thank you goes out to the Arkansas Extension administration for their support. I also want to say thank you to the Clark County Extension staff. I know that I will never be able to tell you how much I appreciate your help over the last four years.

And, last but not least, much thanks to my wife Debbie and our three kids. I'm glad you were able to keep things together at home while I spent so much time on the road.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Pittsburgh for the Galaxy IV meeting.

**Southern Region Director Gene McAvoy, Florida**



My time as the Southern Region Director this past year has been an exciting and exceptional opportunity. Although I have been a member of NACAA for over 17 years and held worked my way through the officer rotation in the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents serving as state president in 2004-05, the chance to serve 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 the many state association meetings that I have been privileged to attend this year as I had the opportunity to travel across the South from the mountains of Eastern Tennessee to the Louisiana bayous and the Hill Country of Texas. Each and every trip not only reinforced the fact that we are all blessed to live in such a beautiful and diverse country but also provided the opportunity to make new friends, reconnect with old

acquaintances and witness firsthand the professionalism and dedication that defines county agricultural agents across this great nation.

I would like to thank the Florida Association for their confidence in me and for nominating me to serve as Southern Region Vice-Director in Overland Park, Kansas in 2011 as well as thank the other Southern Region states for their support and help during my first year as Director. I also want to extend special thanks to Tim Varnedore and Jerry Clemons for mentoring me and helping to prepare me for my term as Southern Region Director. It has been my pleasure to represent NACAA at the state association meetings I have attended. 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 especially in these trying times where budgets and resources have been slashed.

These state visits have allowed me to update members on board actions and NACAA business, as well as get an insight into needs and concerns of our members, that has better prepared me to represent their opinions to the NACAA Board.

Beginning with my confirmation as Junior Southern Region Director at the 2012 AM/PIC in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina, I have had the good fortune to attend state meetings in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas, as well as attending the JCEP meeting in Memphis, TN, Winter Board in Pittsburgh, PA where the NACAA Board had the opportunity to preview the site of the 2013 Galaxy Meeting and NACAA AM/PIC, and the NACAA Spring Board in Nashville, TN.

The past year has provided me with a new perspective and appreciation for the hard work and tremendous dedication of county agents across this great land to act as agents for change and empower their clients and communities. It has also reinforced the unique nature of our association in providing professional improvement opportunities while incorporating love of country and family values into our meetings and professional activities.

The past year has reinvigorated 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.

While I sincerely hope that my service to NACAA and the Southern Region will help advance the mission and goals of the Association, the greatest reward to date has been the enrichment and friendships it has bought into my life.

**Western Region Director Mark Nelson, Utah**



I am proud to have had the opportunity to represent the western region this past year and I am really looking forward to another great year. I have had many past directors tell me that this is the best position that you can have in NACAA and I think that they are right. You learn so much and receive so much in gaining friendship and knowledge by visiting the states in your region. It has been fantastic getting to know members of the different states in the west. This past year I have had a chance to meet a large number of outstanding County Extension Agents, not only from the west but from all over the United States.

Things are really going great in the west. A couple of states continue to struggling with budget problems but overall most agents are upbeat and excited to do the work they do. Utah is really excited to be presenting a bid at the upcoming Galaxy meeting to host the 2017 Am/Pic. Utah is a beautiful state and we are really looking forward to sharing it with all the NACAA members.

I want to thank my fellow Utah membership for giving me this opportunity to serve NACAA. If you want to know more about your national association the best way to do this is to get busy and serve on a committee. We are always looking for Vice Chairs and Chairs to serve on the many committees that keep NACAA running properly.

I would like to thank the Utah Extension Administration, the office staff in Beaver County, the county residents and of course, my wife and family for allowing me this opportunity to serve you and our association. I am really looking forward to another great year as the Western Region Director.

**Professional Improvement Council Chair Mary Sobba, Missouri**



The Professional Improvement Council is structured to further the professional development of our members. The Professional Improvement Council consists of six committees: Ag Economics & Community Development, Agronomy & Pest Management, Animal Science, Horticulture & Turfgrass, Natural Resources/Aquaculture and Sustainable Agriculture.

The committee chairs have done an excellent job of taking on the extra challenges of a Galaxy meeting and communicating within their committees. This year took extra effort to keep everyone informed with slightly different formats and changes in schedules. The extra efforts have been much appreciated.

There will be a variety of presentations in Pittsburgh by NACAA members on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Forty-five presentations are being planned, which will encompass all six programmatic areas.

The horticulture committee has planned an educational and fun post conference tour. Thank you to the sponsor – EcoScraps. On Friday the tour will include a stop at Bob O'Connor Golf Course at Shenley Park, Harvest Valley Farms and Quality Gardens. The tour continues on Saturday with two more stops to Janoski's Farm, and Gardens of Ogelby Resort. The tour has about fifty percent less people registered than most years, but expectations are the participants will increase for AM/PIC 2014.

Sustainable Agriculture had the largest pool of applicants for the fellows program this year. They have chosen four new fellows and will have a special luncheon on Wednesday.

Agronomy and Pest Management has planned a special two-hour seminar on Tuesday titled "Essentials For Conducting Successful On-Farm Research". Ag Economics has planned a special seminar on "Preparing Farm Families for Disasters" on Thursday. Both should be very interesting presentations with widespread interest.

The NACAA committee structure is an excellent way that members can share their time and talents for the benefit of our organization. If you have never been involved with a committee, I encourage you to consider it. There are many opportunities and it is an excellent way to learn about our organization. Our committees welcome feedback and ideas from members, so please share comments and suggestions.

The committee chairs and vice chairs and state chairs have been really stepped up to the challenge of planning educational opportunities for the Galaxy Conference. Some committees have already begun planning events for AM/PIC 2014! Thank you all very much. Your hard work and dedication this past year is greatly appreciated and it truly takes each of you to make our organization successful. I am looking forward to seeing the results of our work in Pittsburgh.

**Agronomy and Pest Management Joni Harper, Missouri**



Agronomy/Pest Management Committee Members:  
 Northeast Vice-Chair – Paul Cerosaletti (New York)  
 North Central Vice-Chair and National Chair – Joni Harper (Missouri)  
 West Vice-Chair – Norman Nagata (Hawaii)  
 Southern Vice-Chair - Wade Parker (Georgia)

My first year as chair of the Agronomy and Pest Management Committee has been quite a learning experience. I would like to thank the regional vice-chairs and the state chairs for their support and all the hard work they've done getting ready for the Galaxy conference. Wade Parker was appointed to complete the vice-chair position in the southern region. We are glad to have Wade aboard.

On Tuesday, September 17 at 1:00 pm we will be hosting a two hour "Super Seminar" titled "Essentials for Conducting On-Site Research". This workshop will include presentations on proper planning, guidelines, and methodologies of conducting field research. Our main speaker will be Ron Hoover, Senior Project Associate with Penn State. Also featured will be NACAA members Jeffrey Carter and Kent Shannon talking about their respective projects "Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team" and "On-Farm Research – An Educational Tool for Implementing and Validating Precision Agriculture Technologies".

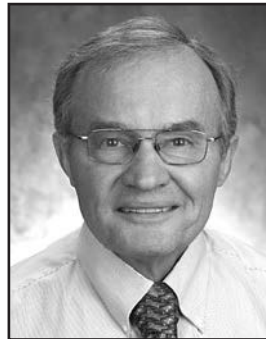
We are excited about the lineup of presenters we have made available for you in the regular Agronomy/Pest Management category this year. Due to the Galaxy format, there have been some slight changes in both the number of speakers and the presentation schedule. There will be seven presentations spaced out over three days (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) rather than our normal one day of presentations. Sessions 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 have been designated for Agronomy. You will be able to find the times for these presentations in the program you receive when you check in at Galaxy. I would like to encourage all of you to attend and support these presenters. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the outstanding programming your colleagues are doing across the nation.

As we look ahead to the 2014 AM/PIC in Mobile, AL we anticipate that we will return to the traditional schedule of presentations you've become accustomed to over the last several years. At any rate, we should have more time available for presentations so I encourage each and every one of you to submit abstracts. For 2014, our committee is promoting presentations on Cover Crops/Soil Health and/or Techniques



for Improving Yields. Submission of an abstract in one of these two categories will increase the chances of being accepted over a submission related to other agronomy topics. At this year's meeting we will also be deciding on the topics to feature at the AM/PIC in South Dakota in 2015. If there is a topic you would like to see included, do not hesitate to contact me or one of the regional vice-chairs.

**Ag Economics & Community Development**  
**Willie Huot, North Dakota**



Committee Members:  
 North Central Region Vice Chair and National Chair – Willie Huot, ND  
 Western Region Vice Chair – Del Jimenez, NM  
 North East Region Vice Chair – Sandra Buxton, NY  
 Southern Region Vice Chair – Megan L. Bruch, TN

When the Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee met last July in Charleston, SC, the members identified several potential topics to consider in designing an educational program to be incorporated into the 2013 Galaxy Conference. Ranked highest among the suggestions was a session focusing on Extension's role in helping citizens prepare for and recover from natural disasters.

From that recommendation our committee has organized a two hour "Super Seminar" titled "Preparing Farm and Ranch Families for Disasters". This session is scheduled from 9:00 – 11:00 am Thursday, September 19, 2013. Specific topics and presenters for this seminar include:

Billy Dictson, Former Extension Director, New Mexico State University Extension Service and Director, Office of Biosecurity for College of Agriculture Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Dictson was also the NACAA National President in 1986.

Topic – Extension's role in helping citizens impacted by disasters; how our role has changed and how it remains the same. Use of EDEN and other resources. Lessons learned regarding disaster preparation and recovery.

Dr. Laurence Crane, VP, Education and Communication, National Crop Insurance Services

Topic – Understanding the role of crop insurance in managing agricultural risks.

This seminar is designed to provide information and resources that will strengthen the ability of extension agents to provide educational programs for families, especially those from farms and ranches. These programs will improve their ability

to prepare for and recover from natural disasters, especially those caused by weather events. All extension agents involved in risk management education and disaster preparedness are urged to attend.

This seminar is made possible by the very generous sponsorship of the National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS), Overland Park, KS.

Our committee is especially honored to be able to present this educational opportunity as part of the Galaxy Conference and hopes to be able to continue providing educational opportunities targeting risk management education in future AM/PIC meetings.

This year a total of 26 abstracts for presentation proposals were received. Topics varied considerably. All abstracts were ranked by our committee. A total of 10 were selected to be presented at the Galaxy Conference. We invite you to attend any or all of these sessions.

A very special thanks to the National Vice Chairs and to the NCIS for all the work and support that has made it possible to include the "Super Seminar" as part of the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh.

**Animal Science**  
**Tammy Cheely, Georgia**



Committee Members:  
 Southern Region Vice-Chair and National Chair – Tammy Cheely  
 Southern Region Vice-Chair – Brian Beer  
 North Central Region Vice-Chair – Eldon Cole  
 Western Region – Scott Jensen  
 Northeast Region – Bruce Loyd

Each year one of the major responsibilities of the Animal Science Committee is planning and carrying out a two-day Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Seminar and Tour. The committee members did a survey of the people that have gone on the tour in the past to see if leaving it at the beginning of AM/PIC or moving it to the end would work better with Galaxy. The consensus was to move it to the end of Galaxy. With that decision made, the committee moved forward with plans, fundraising and accepting applications. Bruce Loyd, Northeast Region Vice-Chair put the itinerary together for the tour. We didn't receive many applications to attend the tour by the original deadline, so we decided to extend the deadline and hopefully increase the number of participants. Extending the deadline didn't help participation so the committee decided to cancel the tour this year. We agonized over this decision but felt it was the right thing to do. This is not meant to start a trend of not having an Animal

Science Tour along with AM/PIC. We have already started work on the next Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Seminar and Tour that will be held on July 18-19/2014 in Mobile, Alabama. It promises to be a great one!

Again, this year the committee worked hard on the professional improvement seminars. Seven of our co-workers will be presenting seminars on their successful Extension programs during the concurrent sessions at Galaxy.

The Animal Science Committee has made arrangements with the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) to offer continuing education unit's (CEU's) for those who participate in the seminars. Contact any of the Animal Science Committee members for more information.

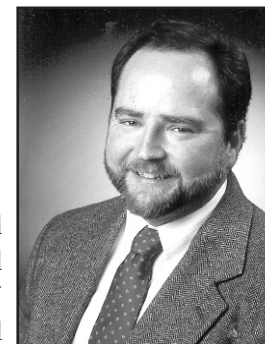
The committee continues to offer professional improvement opportunities throughout the year. This has been accomplished by developing electronic training via webinars in collaboration with other professional organizations.

Another goal of the animal science committee was to update the promotional poster utilized at AM/PIC. Former Animal Science Committee Chair, Randy Mills from Oregon volunteered to handle this task. Thanks to Randy, the committee will have a new poster promoting participation and highlighting past committee activities.

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

I would like to thank the regional vice-chairs for all of their contributions to the Animal Science Committee.

**Natural Resources & Aquaculture Committee**  
**Dan Downing, Missouri**



In 2013 the Natural Resources and Aquaculture Committee comprised of Dan Downing – University of Missouri, Laurel Gailor – Cornell University, Katie Wagner – Utah State University, and Steven Patrick – University of Georgia had a productive year reviewing and selecting papers from 26 requests for presentations at Galaxy, filling vice chair positions being vacated, and planning for a new pre-conference 2014 AM/PIC tour.

Steven and Libbie (incoming Southern region vice chair) took the lead in planning the new 2014 pre-conference

educational tour and pursuing sponsorships to help offset costs. The educational tour will be offered as a two day, or one day only at the participants choosing. The draft agenda for the educational tour focuses on the rivers, ecosystems, and natural features of the Mobile-Tensaw delta which includes portions of four counties in Southwestern Alabama. A flyer will be distributed at Galaxy with details of the educational tour. Highlights of the tour will include an interpretive kayak trip, interpretive hikes, and an interpretive trip to the beach examining coastal oil spill recovery. More details will be shared as they become available.

Also due to the coastal venue for the 2014 AM/PIC the committee felt it was appropriate for the Natural Resources and Aquaculture presentations during the concurrent sessions to feature an emphasis on Sea-Grant efforts. Although Sea-grant will receive special consideration, presentations from all areas of natural resources and aquaculture will be considered.

Rotating off of the committee after Galaxy will be Steven Patrick, Southern Region. His vacated position will be filled by Libbie Johnson – University of Florida. Laurel Gailor, Northeastern Region will be serving another two year term.

**Horticulture and Turfgrass**  
**Stacey Bealmear, Arizona**



Members-  
 Stacey Bealmear- Committee Chair  
 Sara Denkler- North Central Region Vice Chair  
 William Sciarappa- North East Region Vice Chair  
 Annette Meyer Heisdorffer- Southern Region Vice Chair  
 Ronald Petterson- Western Region Vice Chair

The Horticulture and Turfgrass committee provides members with excellent professional improvement in all areas of horticulture, from landscaping, turf, commercial production, home horticulture and Master Gardeners. We also provide networking with other horticulture agents. No other organization gives you the type of educational and networking opportunities that have direct application for cooperative extension professionals. You will leave Galaxy with new ideas and energy for improving your programs.

At this year's conference we will be providing four educational sessions. Look for horticulture programs in sessions 4-7, 5-9, 9-7 and 10-8.

Topics include:

- 1) Germination of Desert Olive, Stansbury Cliffrose and Curl-Leaf Mountain Mahogany in Three Substrates Varying in Water Holding Capacity

- 2) Organic Land Care Program for Professional Landscapers in New Jersey
- 3) Optimizing Spray Technology
- 4) Feasibility of Growing Pierce's Disease Tolerant American and French-American Hybrid Bunch Grape Cultivars in Alabama
- 5) Starting an Endowment for Your County's Master Gardener Program
- 6) USU Extension Protectors of Urban Pollinators (PUPs) Program
- 7) Internal Fruit Rot and Premature Seed Germination of Field Grown Colored Peppers

We will also be having our Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee meeting Tuesday September 17th. Our discussion will focus on educational programs outside of AM/PIC. A member contacted the committee suggesting a second horticulture tour and we would like to get input from other members. Stop by with any ideas or concerns you may have had over the past year.

The 2013 horticulture tour will be held as a post tour this year (September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2013) due to Galaxy. Our Pennsylvania hosts have put together an OUTSTANDING tour that includes horticulture, local foods, turf and more.

September 20th-

Stop 1) Bob O'Connor Golf Course at Schenley Park. This course is Audubon certified to enhance wildlife habitat, reduce pesticide use and other possible harmful impacts.

Stop 2) Master Gardener demonstration garden, followed by lunch with the Master Gardeners.

Stop 3) Harvest Valley Farms, a fourth generation family farm that provides produce through CSAs, farm markets, and roadside stands.

Stop 4) Quality Gardens of Valencia. This nursery/garden center offers landscaping services, educational seminars and a farmers market.

September 21st-

Stop 1) Janoski's Farm and Greenhouse is a 200 acre farm that grows vegetables and fruits for sale year round in their farmers market. They offer seasonally available produce, along with freshly baked goods made on site. They also have a greenhouse where they grow a variety of plants from Easter flowers, spring bedding plants, fall mums and Christmas flowers.

Stop 2) Gardens of Ogelby Resort and Conference Center for lunch and a garden tour. The gardens are a re-creation of many that existed in Oglebay in the early 1900s. Visitors are enticed to wander on red brick paths through the ever-changing

flower displays, hanging baskets and majestic trees. These lovely sites are made even more memorable by the addition of soft landscape lighting and water displays.

Sponsorship for the tour has been attained from EcoScraps thanks to Jim Hruskoci, a former NACAA member and extension educator. Thanks to Jim for continuing to participate with NACAA and for helping to make the tour affordable for our members. We also have to thank Tom Butzler and all the agents in Pennsylvania participating in this tour. We appreciate your hard work setting everything up for us!

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at Galaxy!

### Sustainable Agriculture Steve Van Vleet, Washington



The Sustainable Agriculture Committee is fortunate to have the continuous support of the USDA/NACAA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) for the NACAA Fellows Program. The continued success of this program can be attributed to valuable collaborative partnerships between USDA-SARE, NACAA and the SARE Fellow recipients.

Of seventeen total applicants in 2013, four Fellows have been selected, one from each of the four NACAA regions. The 2013 Fellows are:

- Jennifer Blazek (WI), Northcentral Region
- Tianna Dupont (PA), Northeast Region
- Laura Anne Sanagorski (FL), Southern Region
- Matt Palmer (UT), 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 the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) in Washington, DC, and a \$1,500 stipend to be used for program support, materials or hardware after completing the entire two-year program. Before 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 retiring SARE Fellows from 2010 will present on their experiences at the SARE Fellows luncheon on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at the Galaxy Conference

in Pennsylvania. The luncheon is sponsored by SARE and the 2013 SARE Fellows will be recognized at the luncheon.

The SARE Fellows program is not the only function of the Sustainability Committee. The committee spends a great deal of time reviewing abstracts to be presented at the sustainable agriculture professional improvement seminars in Pittsburgh. This is the fifth year that we have provided professional improvement seminars under the topic of "Sustainable Agriculture." 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 SARE Fellows Program has made and continues to make a positive impact on my life 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. Everyone involved in this NACAA program would like to give a special thank you to USDA-SARE and in particular Kim Kroll, Associate Director of the USDA-SARE Program, and the folks in Wyoming, especially Joleen Pantier and James Freeburn, for their tremendous efforts. We look forward to continuing this outstanding program for many years to come.

### Extension Development Council Chair Daniel Kluchinski, New Jersey



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

The Council's efforts at the 2013 Galaxy IV Conference include 16 presentations as part of 9 concurrent sessions featuring selected NACAA member proposals. Additional educational offerings will include a Super Seminar titled "Using Mobile Devices to Enhance Extension Efforts" on Thursday morning sponsored by the Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee and Epsilon Sigma Phi. We hope you will join us for these informational offerings.

Over the year, educational programming was extended beyond the confines of the AM/PIC through four webinars.

Three sessions are archived and available for those who missed the live broadcasts:

- "Using Technology to Reach a Changing Clientele" was offered by the Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Committee. A recording is available at <http://tinyurl.com/NACAA-Using-Tech-Reach-Clients>
- "Same Stuff Different Day", a review of the Galaxy IV Conference program and registration process, was offered by the Early Career Development Committee and Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents. A recording is available at <http://tinyurl.com/NACAA-Galaxy-IV-Registration>
- "Developing a Successful Partnership with Your County Government" was offered by the Administrative Skills Committee. A recording is available at <http://tinyurl.com/NACAA-Partner-with-Govt>
- "Using Google+ Hangout to Facilitate or Conduct a Business Meeting" was offered by the Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee.

Our relationship as a co-supporter of the National Outstanding Young Farmers program with Jaycees and sponsor John Deere has been strengthened. The Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Committee has historically been a liaison with the program. Wes Smith from Georgia was recently appointed by NACAA to a three-year special assignment to work with the committee to seek applicants and develop press for the program. This will provide year-to-year continuity and connection with our friends at the Outstanding Young Farmer Fraternity.

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 and Regional Committee Vice-Chair.

Finally, I offer my sincere appreciation to our committee chairs, regional vice-chairs and state chairs as well as Vice President Hogan for their individual and collective leadership and guidance during the past year. Thank you!

## Ag Issues & Public Relations

**Scott Gabbard, Indiana**



The AI&PR committee had a productive year thanks to the efforts of the committee members including Stephen Komar, New Jersey, Mark Heitstuman State of Washington and Dr. Bill Burdine, Mississippi; respectively. We are fortunate to have excellent leadership from Dan Kluchinski, Rutgers University, as our Extension Development Council Chair.

The 2012 NACAA-AMPIC included several outstanding professional development presentations focusing on a wide variety of issues facing the agricultural industry from science-derived food safety metrics to coordinating international envoys to showcase agricultural production in our communities. Each program highlighted a novel way that Agricultural Extension agent provides impact within the communities they live and serve.

The OYF program continues to be one of the core programmatic responsibilities of the AI&PRC. This past year I had the privilege of attending the OYF annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM with Past President Paul Wigley, Georgia. We were both proud to represent NACAA at this event and were extremely impressed with the outstanding candidates from all across the United States. It was humbling to witness the station that the OYF affords it relationship to NACAA. The OYF is a representative partnership that was coordinated by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce (the Jaycees), The Outstanding Young Farmers of America Fraternity and the NACAA with corporate sponsorship provided by John Deere.

Though the OYF has been in existence for over 50 years, OYF Alumni are assuming the responsibility of the program, the annual meeting and daily operations of the organization. Starting this year at the bequest of the past president and AI & PR committee, the NACAA National Board has agreed to further strengthen our relationship between NACAA and OYF. NACAA, in addition to the past president and AI&PR chair, will also fund a special assignment liaison position between OYF and NACAA. This assignment is a three commitment.

Responsibilities for this special assignment will include maintaining relational continuity between organizations and ensuring that OYF nominees get as much exposure nationally and locally as possible. This position was created to play to the strengths of both organizations and strengthen the relationship between both organizations. This special representative reports directly to the National Board. Our

selected representative for this new position is Wes Smith from Georgia. Wes is a very active NACAA and GACAA member and will serve us well in forging this enhanced relationship.

In the future, the AI&PRC will continue to support the OYF program and continue to seek new and innovative ways to share the outstanding Extension programs from across the United States with our clientele. It has truly been an honor to serve as the National AI&PR Committee Chair for this outstanding organization. I will continue in this position following the 2013 AM/PIC for one more term. I look forward to continuing my service and appreciate your support.

## Early Career Development Dr. Laura Griffeth, Georgia



The Early Career Development Committee has been busy during this past year thanks to the efforts of our committee members – Amber Yutzy, Pennsylvania, Nathan Winter, Minnesota, and Taun Beddes, Utah. We were also fortunate to have excellent leadership from Dan Kluchinski as Extension Development Council Chair.

The focus of the Early Career Development Committee is to develop professional improvement education programs that assist members who are early in their career to maximize and successfully complete their Extension education experiences. The Committee also helps train members in management positions, or those who are in other positions that might play a role in mentoring new professionals, to assist those who are new to Extension.

One of the educational programs developed by the Early Career Development Committee is educational sessions at the 2013 Galaxy IV in Pittsburgh, PA. Three abstracts were submitted for review, with two selected to present seminars in Concurrent Session 8-5 on Wednesday afternoon, September 18, beginning at 4:30 pm. These topics are applicable to all of us, not just those in the early stages of their career.

- Session A Grant Writing and Evaluating – Begin With End in Mind!  
Laurie Wolinski, University of Delaware  
Cooperative Extension
- Session B Informal Mentoring: A Common Sense Tool for a New Extension  
Dr. Laura Griffeth, University of Georgia

- Cooperative Extension  
Justin Shealey, University of Georgia  
Cooperative Extension  
Robert Smith, University of Georgia  
Cooperative Extension

The other main program developed by the Early Career Development Committee was the Same Stuff Different Day Webinar held on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 which included participation from all four Early Career Development Committee members. The purpose of this webinar was to better prepare participants for Galaxy IV by reviewing the conference program and the registration process. 23 participated during the live session, while 36 have watched the archived session in June and July. This archived session is still available to watch at <http://tinyurl.com/NACAA-Galaxy-IV-Registration>.

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 Galaxy IV. It will be Tuesday, September 17 at 11:00 am. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2013 – 2014 year and the 2014 AM/PIC. If you cannot attend, please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the committee members throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!

## Administrative Skills Ayman Mostafa, Arizona



Primary objective of the Administrative Skills Committee is to improve and enhance the administrative skills of all NACAA members regardless of their level of administrative responsibility. During 2013 The Administrative Skills Committee Provided NACAA members with key program focus areas include:

- Partnering with NACAA Board to bring members a webinar by Monica Pastor on Developing a Successful Partnership with Your County Government. The webinar with well-attended and provided some techniques members could use working with your County Government.
- Several high quality seminars will be presented at Galaxy IV in Pittsburg. These will include:
  - Caring for Your Customers by Gary Hall
  - Bridges Cost Money: Finding Grant Opportunities by Kate Flewelling
  - Collaboration Methods for Developing

Programs and Curriculum within Extension Teams by Eric Barrett

- The Administrative Skills Committee consists of
- Ayman Mostafa, National Committee Chair and Western Region Committee Vice-Chair;
  - Ken Balliet, Northeast Region Committee Vice Chair;
  - James Cowden, Southern Region Committee Vice Chair;
  - Chris Bruynis, North Central Region Committee Vice-Chair.

## Teaching & Educational Technologies Mark Blevins, North Carolina



What an exciting time to be part of a committee like this as new technologies with applications for our profession are emerging at what seems like a daily rate! The changes aren't easy to keep up with, so that's why our committee selected the presentations you'll see at Galaxy during several of the sessions. Some of our most innovative colleagues are sharing their use of (mostly) simple technology that works for planning, promoting, implementing and evaluating programs just like yours.

Thursday's Mobile Technology Super Seminar is an exciting partnership with Epsilon Sigma Phi that you won't want to miss. Join 399 colleagues to hear from a Tech Executive on trends for the future, engage with a panel of our peers on practical ways they use technology in their programming, and try your hand at some challenging skill builders during this session. There are ways to get involved before and long after the session; just go to #ExtG4MobileSS on Facebook to be part of the action.

The fun doesn't stop at Galaxy because there are more opportunities to come as we explore other teaching and educational technology topics collaboratively. So the Google+ session was only the beginning. This is a great committee of regional representatives who care about your professional development, so get word to any of us and the state chairs as you think of ways we can better serve each other.

Finally, give yourself some credit. The input we've received and analyzed about technology use among our peers is rather impressive. There are so many great examples of simple ways that you and your neighbors are making today's technology work for you instead of the other way around.

Plenty of excuses are offered about why folks aren't using new devices or updated applications, but most of the ones I've heard revolve around know-how or finding a place on the early adopter to laggard scale. This means that if we're willing to give some of these things a chance and to ask some questions to the right people, we can be part of some exciting innovations that are happening all around us and we can share these benefits with our clients.

**Program Recognition Council Chair JJ Jones, Oklahoma**



It is the responsibility of the Program Recognition Council to oversee and conduct the numerous award programs offered by NACAA for its members. There are seven committees that make up the Program Recognition Council. Without these committees and the members that have stepped up to participate in the committee leadership, it would be impossible for the NACAA to offer such an award program.

In 2012-2013 these seven committees were chaired by: 4-H and Youth, Chris Penrose, OH; Communications, Sherri Sanders, AR; Professional Excellence, Keith Mickler, GA; Public Relations, Paula Burke, GA; Recognition and Awards, Cynthia Gregg, VA; Scholarship, Rick Ensley, GA; and Search for Excellence, Dick Brzozowski, ME. These seven individuals along with the regional vice chairs and state chairs have put forth a lot of effort and time to make sure that the NACAA membership are recognized for their outstanding educational programming. These committees have made my third year as Program Recognition Council Chair an easy task. Dick Brzozowski and Ricky Ensley have completed their terms as national chairs. I would like to thank them for all of the hard work that they have done. Chris Penrose and Sherri Sanders have chosen to serve another term as the 4-H and Youth and Communications committee national chair.

These committees help the NACAA recognize the outstanding work that our members do for their respective states. Each year the committees go through hundreds of submitted entries to determine regional and national winners. This year has been exceptionally challenging due to the process of combining our typical AM/PIC with Galaxy. These committee members have worked extraordinarily hard to make sure that our members are recognized for their outstanding efforts. Without these members willing to take the time to perform these tasks the NACAA would not be able to have the outstanding awards program that it does.

Each year it is a challenge to fill vacancies within the national committees. Members should take a look at becoming a

committee member. If any member is interested or curious about being a committee member and the time commitment, I encourage them to speak to the current committee members or attend the committee meetings during the AM/PIC. I think that they will find that the fulfillment of the committee work far outweighs the time commitment.

There are several categories of awards for which members can apply. Recognition is provided to those selected at the state, regional and national levels. Most awards carry a cash award as well as certificate and plaques. Members need to become familiar with these awards and apply. There is outstanding extension programming being conducted all over the U.S. Our membership needs to be encouraged to apply for these awards and be recognized for their effort.

As the last year of my council chair position comes to a close I can only reflect back and be gracious for the opportunity to serve as the Program Recognition Council Chair. This opportunity has been a challenge and a blessing at the same time. This role would be impossible if not for the excellent group of chairs and vice chairs that have helped with this council's duties. I would like to thank each member that has been a chair and vice chair for their time and hard work. Also, I would like to thank the NACAA board for allowing me to serve as the council chair.

**Communications Sherri Sanders, Arkansas**



The communications committee is pleased to report that Bayer has continued sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2013. 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.

- \*Audio recording had 35 entries
- \*Published Photo and Caption had 35 entries
- \*Computer Generated Graphics had 42 entries
- \*Promotional Piece had 79 entries
- \*Personal Column had 60 entries
- \*Feature Story had 57 entries
- \*Individual Newsletter had 53 entries
- \*Team Newsletter had 38 entries
- \*Video Recordings had 50 entries
- \*Fact Sheet had 54 entries
- \*Publication had 51 entries

- \*Web Site had 37 entries
- \*Learning Module had 21 entries
- \*Bound Book had 20 entries

I am appreciative to the regional vice-chairs for the communication committee. The regional vice-chairs are: North Central Region Chair Gary Hall (Iowa), North East Region Chair Lee Stivers (Pennsylvania), Southern Region Chair Tracy Robertson (Mississippi), and Western Region Chair Kurt Jones (Colorado). I would like to thank JJ Jones and Scott Hawbaker for their assistance throughout the year with questions and concerns.

**Search for Excellence Richard J. Brzozowski, Maine**



The current Search for Excellence (SFE) committee is comprised of four regional vice chairs and me. The regional chairs include Stanley McKee or Pennsylvania; Jesse Clark of Arkansas; Wendy Becker or Montana and Travis Harper of Missouri.

To get things underway for the 2013 SFE awards, our team held a meeting via a conference call in January. 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. We also confirmed the division of responsibilities as to the SFE categories each would lead. The responsibilities were as follows for 2013:

- Landscape Horticulture – Jesse Clark
- Livestock Production – Wendy Becker
- Crop Production – Travis Harper
- Young, Beginning or Small Farmer/Rancher – Richard Brzozowski
- Remote Sensing & Precision Agriculture – Jesse Clark
- Farm & Ranch Financial Management – Stanley McKee
- Farm Health & Safety - Jesse Clark
- Sustainable Agriculture – Richard Brzozowski

We checked in as a team again in March. Each regional chair was responsible for organizing the team of judges for their respective category(s); judging the entries and submitting scores to me by May 1, 2013.

All entries received and screened by the states were judged by early May and national and state winners were notified by mid-May. The number of entries per category was as follows:

Landscape Horticulture	6 completed entries
Livestock Production	8 completed entries
Crop Production	15 completed entries
Young, Beginning or Small Farmer/Rancher	10 completed entries
Remote Sensing & Precision Agriculture	6 completed entries
Farm & Ranch Financial Management	6 completed entries
Farm Health & Safety	5 completed entries
Sustainable Agriculture	10 completed entries

Several categories are low in the number of entries again this year. The Search for Excellence program is an important vehicle for individual and team recognition nationally as well as an effective vehicle for Extension colleagues across the country to obtain new programming ideas for possible application in their respective counties and states. We owe it to ourselves and our generous sponsors to have a robust and meaningful representation of programming for consideration and recognition. The NACAA leadership should consider why low participation in SFE is occurring in some categories and implement ways to increase participation. Individual members should consider submitting an entry in 2014. Entries may also be submitted by teams of two or more individuals.

Because AM/PIC will be held at GALAXY IV, the schedule of award luncheons had to be changed from the normal schedule. All eight luncheons will be held at the same time. This meant finding facilitators for three award luncheons. Volunteers from the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents graciously stepped forward. The SFE committee met by phone in June to discuss how to effectively facilitate each award luncheon, recognize all winners and thank all sponsors.

Suggestions for 2014:

- o It is evident that the Search for Excellence program continues to be underused and perhaps underappreciated by NACAA members. The entry process of submitting work is not difficult. It is probably easier to assemble SFE entries than many reports that members are currently writing for their accomplishments and work. The number of entries submitted in each of the eight categories should be increased. I recommend we (the committee and NACAA) do a better job of promoting the SFE program and in recruiting members to enter projects and programs. This might mean using a targeted approach of articles, special email messages and setting state targets.
- o It continues to appear that not all SFE state contacts know what to do with entries in making sure they

are received and complete. Because state SFE chairs may change each year, the regional vice chairs need to check in with state contacts early in the year to help them understand their role. Scoring all entries is also a weakness for some states.

Thanks:

- o Thanks to each state chair for their efforts in promoting SFE among members and selecting state winners.
- o Thanks to each Regional Chair for performing effectively this past year. This was not an easy task for them especially during one of the busiest times of their year in Extension work.
- o Thanks to all those who served as judges. Judges for each category included NACAA members as well as non-members.
- o Thanks to Program Recognition Council Chair, JJ Jones of OK for his support and encouragement during the process. JJ always had thoughtful and accurate answers to the questions I posed.
- o Thanks to NACAA Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker for his support and encouragement to me with problems and situations that arose with entries and other related situations.

Everyone with whom I have dealt has been supportive in this process.

**4-H Youth Recognition  
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 21 entries for awards this year, up from eight last year. One task the committee worked on the past year was to increase the number of entries for awards and the committee was successful in that effort.

The committee was able provide eight awards this year. We had four Regional Finalists, three National Finalists and our National winner is Brenda Jackson, from Georgia. Brenda will present her winning program at the awards luncheon at Galaxy. All eight of the award winners will attend the awards luncheon at Galaxy to be recognized.

Another charge of the committee was initiated four years ago when the committee proposed, and the board approved, the establishment of the Excellence in 4-H Program Workshop.

Due to the Galaxy Conference this year and all the program areas participating at the conference, the Excellence in 4-H Program Workshop will not be held. Members had the ability to submit 4-H program presentations through the Galaxy Conference this year. The program will resume next year for the AM/PIC in Mobile.

Finally, I want to thank the regional directors for their help during the past year: Randy Saner, from Nebraska; Craig Williams, from Pennsylvania; Aubie Keese, from Oklahoma; and Allan Sulser, from Utah.

**Professional Excellence  
Keith Mickler, Georgia**



The Professional Excellence committee is responsible for organizing the poster session at the AM/PIC. The poster abstracts are reviewed by the Vice Chairs and Chair; numerous judges are secured so that all posters are peer reviewed at the AM/PIC.

NACAA endorses the poster session as a very important method of presenting Extension Programs and Applied Research results to members. Syngenta Crop Protection is the sponsor for 2013 awards luncheon. All posters abstract were submitted on-line with lead authors being notified that their abstracts were accepted or rejected.

Poster abstracts were peer reviewed at the regional level by Regional Vice-Chairs. Thanks for a job well done! The current regional Vice Chairs are Ron Meyer, Western Region; Brian Cresswell, Southern Region; Mike Haberland, North East Region; and Jefferson McCutcheon, North Central Region. This year, we had 90 abstracts accepted for the Galaxy IV meeting in Pittsburgh PA. There were 23 entries in the Applied Research category and 67 entries in Extension Education programs. Summary sheets listing poster authors and titles will be prepared and distributed to all Galaxy attendees at the poster session so you can easily find posters that may be on interest.

Due to the AM/PIC being a combined meeting of all associations at Galaxy, posters will be displayed a little differently than in the past. The Extension Education poster will be displayed on Tuesday, September 17 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and the Applied Research poster will be displayed on Wednesday, September 18 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm., check the galaxy program for times on "Meet the Author." Copies of the judging score sheets and criteria are posted on the website for participants to consider prior to preparing abstracts and posters. Judges' scores will also be shared with participants in an effort to improve future posters.

The Professional Excellence Committee continues to utilize more judges to reduce the amount of time it takes for judging. Each judge will be asked to evaluate 10-15 posters. The top three or four posters from each group will then be evaluated by additional judges to select the top poster recipients in each category! Awards will be presented at the AM/PIC Poster Session luncheon on Thursday, September 19 at 12:00 pm. The top three posters in each category received cash awards and plaques, the regional winners received a certificate and the remaining top 20% received finalist recognition ribbons.

We thank the volunteers that will be helping judge poster at Galaxy. Without your help, we could not accomplish the task at hand. I also want to thank our state and regional Professional Excellence Committee Chairs for the job they have done. The Professional Excellence committee has to set up the Poster Session, organize, judge, and recognized the winners in a span of three days. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to make this happen, and without the Vice-chairs this would not happen.

**Public Relations  
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 18 entries this year, which was up from 10 in 2012. As always the entries were of outstanding quality and examples of the public relations work we all do in our roles as extension agents. There is a tremendous amount of work that many are all 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 2014. Congratulations to Mickey Cummings from Georgia, who is the A4 program National winner. Mickey will present his winning entry on the Union County Farmers' Market during the A4 awards recognition luncheon. Congratulations also go national finalists Carol Schurman from Pennsylvania, Joanna Coles from Kentucky, and Monica Kilcullen Pastor from Arizona. Regional finalists are Amanda McNulty from South Carolina and Don McMoran from Washington.

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 2014. The Public Relations committee challenges each of you to submit an entry in the NACAA awards programs especially A4.

A special thank you to Central Garden & Pet Company for sponsoring the Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award this year.

**Recognition and Awards  
Cynthia L. Gregg, Virginia**



I would first like to say thank you to the NACAA Board and Membership for the honor and privilege of serving as the National Chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee for the first year of my second term. I would like to say Thank you to the members of the Recognition and Awards Committee: Chet Hill, North Central Region Vice-Chair; Ronnie Helmondollar, Northeast Region Vice-Chair; Kevin Lyons, previous Southern Region Vice-Chair; Keith Perkins, who stepped in as Southern Region Vice Chair; Kurt Nolte, Western Region Vice-Chair and all of the State Chairs. You did an amazing job this year! I would like to say Thank you and express much appreciation to all of the State Chairs and Presidents, you make the Achievement Awards, Distinguished Service Awards, and the Hall of Fame Awards the premier awards they are and maintain such a strong foundation for these prestigious awards for NACAA. Thank you for all you do for your respective states and for NACAA.

On Tuesday Morning, 57 Achievement Award recipients will receive their awards at a Breakfast in their honor. This is the thirty-ninth year that NACAA has presented this award with this year's recipients joining 1,875 fellow Achievement Awards winners. This year's winners were based on two percent of the Membership of their respective states as of February 15. The 2013 Achievement Award winners have provided quality programming for their clientele, have respect of co-workers and have accomplished this in less than 10 years. A special thank you goes to NACAA President Paul Craig and American Income Life's Bill Viar, who will assist with the awards presentation on Tuesday morning. We anticipate several Regional Directors and State Chairs to be in attendance as well.

This year in Pittsburgh, the Committee is once again responsible in the awarding of the Hall of Fame Awards for the eighth year. The four outstanding Hall of Fame winners will receive their awards on Thursday evening during the Annual Banquet. 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 seventy-fifth year to present the Distinguished Service Award. Thursday evening at the Annual Banquet the Distinguished Service Award will be presented to 59 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 2013 and join 7,034 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 Galaxy IV. Thank you to Deere and Company for their sponsorship of the Hall of Fame award for the eighth year. We want to express our appreciation for the continued support of the Achievement Awards Breakfast by American Income Life Insurance Company for forty years and they have provided sponsorship for forty-five 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.

I would like to express the Recognition and Awards Committee's Congratulations to all of the Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award and Hall of Fame Award winners this year.

It has been a busy year for the Recognition and Awards Committee. We have continued to work on electronic submission of all three awards: Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Hall of Fame.

I would be remised if I also did not thank the NACAA Board, President Paul Craig and the Regional Directors along with Program Recognition Council Chair JJ Jones and Executive Director Scott Hawbaker for their assistance to the Recognition and Awards Committee this year. Alan Galloway's work on getting the plaques and certificate frames completed is very much appreciated by the Recognition and Awards Committee. Thank you also goes to the Pennsylvania Agents along with the Galaxy Committee for an upcoming wonderful meeting.

To the NACAA Members, the Recognition and Awards Committee National Chair, Regional Vice-Chairs, and State Chairs would like to encourage you to continue providing recognition for the outstanding extension educators in your respective states. In your state association you have members who you can nominate for the Achievement Award and

Distinguished Service Award. There are also members both active and retired who would be outstanding nominees for the Hall of Fame. Please take the time to nominate someone deserving of these awards.

It has been truly a pleasure to serve as the Recognition and Awards Committee National Chair this year. To all NACAA members keep up the great work you do, as you do make a difference in your communities, counties, parishes, areas, states, and regions.

### Scholarship Committee Ricky Ensley



I would like to say a big thanks to the NACAA Board and Membership for the honor and privilege of serving as the NACAA Scholarship Chair for the past 2 years. I would like to thank the members of the Scholarship Committee:

Susan Boser, Northeast Region vice-Chair; Wayne Flanary, North Central Region Vice-Chair; Linden Greenhalgh, West Region vice-Chair, Donna Hamlin Beliech, Southern Region Vice-Chair and all of the State Chairs.

You did a great job this year!

The Scholarship Committee would like recognize the following members for reaching designated giving levels to the NACAA Scholarship Fund.

#### \$100 - \$249

Scott Gabbard, Chris Mondak, Sherilyn, D. Hoyer, Sorrel Brown, David W. Baker, Frank Albertsen, Delta George, John Fech, Dennis Kahl, Bradley T. Brummond, Alan Sundermeier, Richard Brzozowski, Kathryn M. Hopkins, Virginia Rosenkranz, Audrey Reith, Robert Pollock, Emelie Swackhamer, Ronald W. Britnell, David E. Derrick, Paul L. Mask, Jerry Clemons, Elizabeth Felter, Elena M. Toro, M. Brent Allen, Paul M. Bullock, Clay Talton, Paula J. Burke, Greg Henson, James W. Burkhalter, Dean Jousan, Art Bradley, Keith Walters, Sam Groce, Steve Meadows, Thomas J. Bryson, Patricia E. Dehond, Sandy MacNab.

#### \$250 - \$499

Nicholas Polanin, Dwane L. Miller, Rex Herring, Terry Delvalle, Jule-Lynne Macie, Wade Hutcheson, Donna Hamlin Beliech, Eileen A. Coite, Charles W. Davis, Jr., Roy Walston

#### \$500 - \$999

Stanley J. Moore, Henry D. Dorough, Wes Smith, William A Hogan, Jr. Fred Miller, Delbert E. O'Meara.

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Sherry Beaty

#### \$15,000 and over

Eddie R. Holland

The Scholarship Committee has been working with state scholarship chairs to encourage donations to the scholarship fund .

The NACAA Scholarship criteria states:

Members need to be vested at \$40 in the scholarship fund to be eligible for up to \$1,000 in scholarship awards.

- Members need to be vested at \$100 in the scholarship fund to be eligible for up to \$2000 in scholarship awards.

No more than \$1000 can be awarded within any year.

This year ten scholarship applications were submitted to the Scholarship Committee that will be reviewed at the Galaxy IV meeting.

### Journal of the NACAA Stephen Brown, Alaska



I am pleased to have been asked by the NACAA board to serve another 3-year term as the National Chair and Editor of the Journal of the NACAA. It is an honor for me to work with our numerous authors and the National Peer Reviewers that make our journal possible. I have heard many times that publishing in the journal or serving as a reviewer made the difference in a promotion or tenure review.

The journal now 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](http://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 2012/2013 Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers

Nicole Anderson – Oregon  
Cesar Asuaje – Florida  
William Bamka – New Jersey  
Derek Barber – Florida  
Pamela Bennett – Ohio

Jerry Bertoldo – New York  
Carol Bishop – Nevada  
Beth Burritt – Utah  
Carl Cantaluppi – North Carolina  
Brent Carpenter – Missouri  
Gordon Carriker – Missouri  
Michael Davis – Florida  
Wayne Flanary – Missouri  
Linden Greenhalgh – Utah  
Adele Harty – South Dakota  
Michael Heimer – Texas  
Steven Hines – Idaho  
James Hoorman – Ohio  
Richard Kersbergen – Maine  
James Keyes – Utah  
Jeremy Kichler – Georgia  
Stephen Komar – New Jersey  
Rocky Lemus – Mississippi  
Ayanava Majumbar – Alabama  
Salvatore Mangiafico – New Jersey  
David Marrison – Ohio  
Jeff McCutcheon – Ohio  
Keith Mickler – Georgia  
Charles Mitchell – Alabama  
Tracy Mosley – Montana  
Barbara Murphy - Maine  
Kurt Nolte – Arizona  
Rebekah Norman – Tennessee  
John Nottingham – Maryland  
Andy Overbay – Virginia  
Frank Owsley – Alabama  
Michael Pace – Utah  
Angelique Peltier – Illinois  
Chris Penrose – Ohio  
Marjorie Peronto – Maine  
Heidi Rader – Alaska  
Cindy Sanders – Florida  
Hans Schmitz – Indiana  
Bill Sciarappa – New Jersey  
Mary Carol Sheffield – Georgia  
Bill Shockey – West Virginia  
Mary Small – Colorado  
Julie Smith – Vermont  
Roy Stanford – Texas  
Lee Stivers – Pennsylvania  
William Strader – North Carolina  
Gary Strickland – Oklahoma  
Ann Swinker – Pennsylvania  
Stephen Van Vleet – Washington  
Richard VanVranken – New Jersey  
Todd Weinmann – North Dakota  
Michael Wheeler – Georgia  
Tim Wilson – Florida  
Jeff Wilson – Mississippi  
John Wilson – Nebraska  
Gary Zoubek - Nebraska

**Extension Journal Inc.  
Keith Mickler, Georgia**



Countless thanks go to NACAA officers and board for permitting my continued endeavor of representing our association on the Extension Journal Inc. Board. The Extension Journal Inc. offers two products, The Journal of Extension and the National Job Bank. However we are better known as JOE.

I am currently serving my last of four year as treasurer for the Extension Journal Inc. Just like Cooperative Extension one of the most important foundations is marketing of who we are and what we provide. We need all of academia to realize that the Journal of Extension is not average journal. The Journal of Extension is a scholarly, double-blind peer reviewed online journal representing the best of Cooperative Extension across the nation.

Publishing in JOE is not a tranquil task nor should it be. All JOE submissions are peer reviewed with high editorial standards and scholarly rigor expected from all papers submitted and from those who review them. Should your paper be published in JOE consider that an enormous achievement towards tenure and/or promotion.

As of July 15, 2013 -151 submissions were received for 2013 and reviewed with 15% being rejected as unsuitable for JOE, 32% returned to author for revision and 53% accepted for publication. Currently there are 105 accepted submissions waiting to be published. JOE is published six times per year.

Another product of the Extension Journal Inc. 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.

Check out the JOE website at <http://joe.org>.

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.

Don't forget to visit JOE <http://www.joe.org> and National Job Bank <http://jobs.joe.org> websites, you just might stumble upon a new educational tool or find that dream job you have been dreaming of.

**Life Member  
J. Lee Miller, Pennsylvania**



I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with the regional Life Member chairs to update the Life member committee database.

We continue to seek life member chairs in each state to keep the life members connected.

Each year we conduct a Life member memorial service to honor those NACAA life members who have gone before us during the life member's business meeting. We will do this at the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh. Although the schedule and activities are a little different in Pittsburgh we are looking forward to some special presentations at this conference.

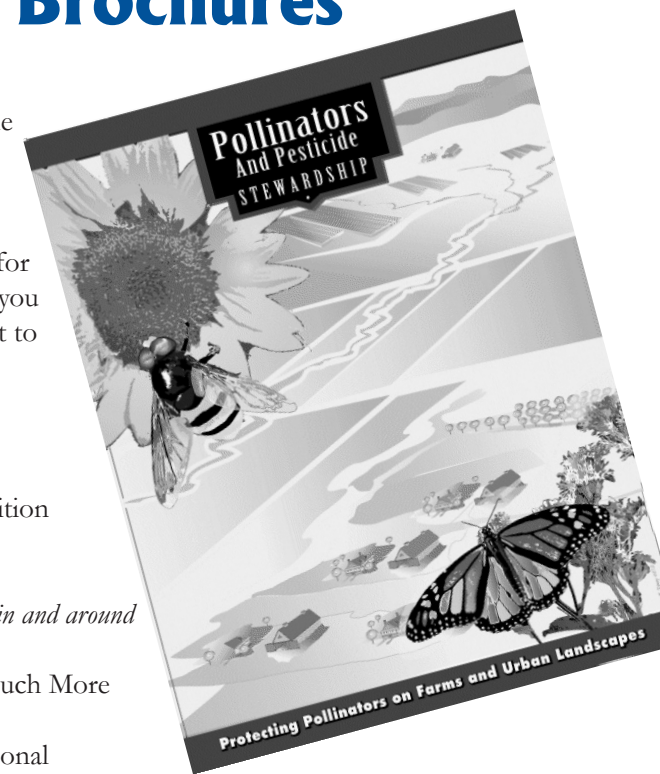
I was pleased to work with Jule-Lynne Macie Georgia, 4-H Agents Association to plan this year's activities. I trust that you have made plans to attend the 2013 NACAA meetings and Galaxy IV Conference in Pittsburgh. You will enjoy the many interesting sites of this historic city. The Pennsylvania Agents did dedicate a historical marker in Shellsburg, PA to mark the place of the first Pennsylvania County Agricultural Agent and one of the first of many County Agricultural Agents that assisted America's Farmers and Rural Communities.

I want to thank the NACAA board for the support for the life member program. We appreciate the concern that you have for us and we are ready to assist you and the NACAA organization in any way that we are able.



**Pesticide Stewardship Brochures**

NACAA has partnered with Syngenta on seven 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 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** edition (2-page flyer, 8th grade reading level)
- \_\_\_9) For Pesticide Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators - Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide - **Spanish** edition (2-page flyer, 8th grade reading level)

**Available Formats:**

Quantities of the actual brochures that will be "well-used" can be ordered free of charge from [carol.somody@syngenta.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!

# NACAA Member Code of Ethics

My professional standards shall note an understanding for our common humanity. My work, ambitions and relations shall always cause me to take into consideration my highest duties as a member of society.

In every position of business life, in every responsibility that comes before me, my chief thought shall be to fill that position and discharge that responsibility to lift the level of human ideals and achievements a little higher than I found it.

I shall:

**FIRST:** Consider my vocation worthy and as affording me distinct opportunity to serve society.

**SECOND:** Improve myself, increase my efficiency, and enlarge my service.

**THIRD:** Remember that I am a professional and want to succeed, but that I am first an ethical person and wish no success that is not founded on the highest justice and morality.

**FOURTH:** Respect and hold in high esteem science in all its phases and to recognize that Experiment Station and U.S.D.A. findings constitute professional authority in agriculture and to respect the opinion of those who have established themselves as authorities in this branch of science.

**FIFTH:** Be loyal to our State Universities, the U.S.D.A., our local, state, and national government.

**SIXTH:** Hold in high esteem the callings of both rural and urban activities.

**SEVENTH:** Recognize that the development of leadership and the building of communities is the highest service I can render as a County Extension Agent.

**EIGHTH:** Maintain an open mind, seeking always to understand the viewpoints of others.

**NINTH:** Not engage in any activity which will interfere with the proper fulfillment of my professional duties and bring discredit to my office.

**TENTH:** Support and contribute to strengthening my State or Regional and National Association of County Agricultural Agents in their efforts to improve and advance the Extension Service Program for the betterment of our nation.

Updated March, 2007

## Thank You - 2013 NACAA Sponsors/Donors



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Thank You!



# 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

2013  
Pittsburgh, PA (Galaxy IV).....Sept. 16-20

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

2014  
Mobile, Alabama.....July 20-24

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

