

# *The County Agent*

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

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**NACAA  
President  
Rick Gibson and  
Wife Lexia**

## **North Carolina In My Mind!**

*Rick Gibson  
NACAA President*

The 2008 Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, I am pleased to say, not only met, but far surpassed, all expectations! On behalf of every member of NACAA, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the North Carolina team for their commitment, dedication, professionalism, and wonderful Southern hospitality. It was an outstanding conference!

The week of July 13-17 was the date of the 2008 AM/PIC and more than 1400 Extension agents, family members, and volunteers were in attendance. The weather was great, the food was excellent and the professional improvement programs were tremendous. I know many members would have liked to attend, but if you were one that was not able to come, do not be discouraged. Summaries of many of the presentations are in the proceedings posted on our NACAA website, at <http://www.nacaa.com>. Click on the proceedings link next to the North Carolina icon. I would encourage each of us to take a look at the presentations that listed there. I am sure there will be something of interest.

As the incoming President of NACAA, I would like to publicly thank Karen Neill and Mark Tucker, AM/PIC Co-Chairs, for their tremendous effort. However, they would be the first to admit that they could not have done it alone. Behind them was a huge team of agents/educators, life members, volunteers, family members, and guests who freely gave of their time and talents to make the conference the success it was. To each of them we say, "Thank you!" We would also like to thank the management and staff of the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons and the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center for their assistance and hospitality. All in all, it was a huge undertaking and its success is a result of the work of many people. To each and everyone, we express our appreciation.

*continued on page 3*

2008-2009 NACAA Board of Directors, Seated front row (L-R): Henry Dorough, Secretary, AL; Stan Moore, Vice President, MI; Rick Gibson, President, AZ; Phil Pratt, President-Elect, OK; Fred Miller, Past-President, NC; Back Row (L-R): Steven Munk, Policy Chair, SD; Paul Craig, Northeast Region Director, PA; Chuck Schwartau, North Central Region Director, MN; Virginia Knerr, Western Region Director, MT; Dirk Webb, Southern Region Director, OK; Paul Wigley, Treasurer, GA; Alan Galloway, Southern Region Director, TN.



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# IMPRESSIONS OF GREENSBORO



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*Photos are available for purchase on line at <http://www.nacaa.com>*

## **President's Message**

I would like to thank our outgoing President, Fred Miller, whose capable leadership and vision helped make this past year so successful. Fred worked tirelessly with the North Carolina team and with the NACAA committees to assemble a diverse and interesting program for the AM/PIC. Through his vision and experience, NACAA leadership was able to work seamlessly with the North Carolina team this past year.

In the Sunday evening opening session and inspirational program, General Henry H. Shelton spoke about "Leadership that Leaves a Legacy." During his remarks, he compared leadership style to moving a piece of string laid out on a table. When we try to push it from behind, it buckles, twists and turns but generally goes nowhere. When we grasp it at the top, however, and pull it forward, the entire string follows behind. Progress is made.

General Shelton's leadership analogy is vivid. When we try to push a group of people or an organization from behind, we often fail because people do not like to be pushed. When we lead from the front, we can make great progress because people with a common goal will willingly follow someone who knows where they are going and knows how to get there. Indeed, isn't this the type of leadership that works so well in our work?

As General Shelton spoke about leadership, I thought of our past president, Fred Miller. That is his style of leadership. He leads from the front. Thanks Fred, we appreciate it!

As usual, the Wednesday tours were a delightful highlight of the conference. Over 30 tour opportunities provided participants with a wide selection of choices, each of which promised a change of pace away from the convention center. My family and I selected the tour entitled "Beef, Antique Tractors, Tomatoes, Exotic Animals, and Racing". It was a wonderful day. Our first stop was 4R Farms where nationally competitive steers and heifers are produced using intensive embryo transfer and artificial insemination techniques. Our next stop was the Tom Smith Farm, and his large collection of antique John Deere tractors as well as his model and replica collection of farm equipment. We then visited Patterson Farms where they grow over 350 acres of tomatoes. We were able to walk through their packing plant and view the fields. Typical of Extension agents, a few of us chose to walk over to one field showing early signs of disease to get a first hand look. We then rode horse drawn wagons through the Lazy 5 Ranch and their collection of exotic animals. Our grandchildren still talk about feeding the bison, zebras, giraffes, and other animals out of the plastic buckets provided by the ranch staff. Sometimes they were even brave enough to let the animals eat directly out of their hands. We finished the day at the Penske Racing facility watching crews assemble NASCAR racing cars soon to be driven by Ryan Newman and Kurt Busch.

Our tour was just one example of the many excellent tours available. The satisfaction that we felt was mirrored in the faces of others as we all gathered afterwards for dinner at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds in Winston-Salem. Sponsored by the North Carolina Pork Council, the featured meat of the night was, you guessed it, barbecued pork! It was excellent!

Looking back at the quality tours, outstanding general session speakers, informative Trade Talks, well-developed Search for Excellence presentations, top notch posters, or the numerous other workshops, seminars, and learning opportunities, it is obvious that this year's Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference was a complete success. The quality professional development, coupled with the opportunities offered to family members and the relative low cost of attending the North Carolina meeting, provided a valuable experience that is next to impossible to find anywhere else.

Given the success of this year's meeting, future host states have their work cut for them. However, I am confident that Oregon ('09), Oklahoma ('10), Kansas ('11), and South Carolina ('12) will be up to the task. Each successive meeting will provide a treasure chest of wonderful memories! So let's all make plans for September 20-24, 2009 in Portland, Oregon, the site of our next great AM/PIC! Like the Lewis and Clark expedition, let's head for the West Coast on our own journey of discovery. Like them, let us become part of "A New Corps of Discovery!"

This year we have the opportunity to participate in two national meetings. In just a few weeks, many of us will meet in Indianapolis, Indiana for Galaxy III. Mahlon Peterson and Pat Hogue, both previous AM/PIC chairs in their own right, have done an excellent job representing NACAA on the Galaxy Planning Committee and now their work is about to come to full fruition. I look forward to enjoying the meeting with many NACAA colleagues.

This past year has seen several major successes, all of which we are very proud. Besides planning for Galaxy III, another major success is the new electronic journal assembled by Mickey Cummings and his committee. They have done an excellent job of creating a new professional improvement opportunity not only for those who will publish in the volume, but those who will read and learn. To look at the July, 2008 issue, click on <http://www.nacaa.com> and look for the link in the upper left side of the home page.

Another success is the new opportunity brought forward by the Animal Science Committee in the Professional Improvement Council. A linkage with the Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences (S-PAC) has been forged that will allow proceedings from NACAA AM/PIC presentations to be added to the database. There is a subscription fee to search the database, but members of NACAA can subscribe at the member rate for major savings. Look for more information on S-PAC on the NACAA website.



**Rick Gibson**  
**NACAA President**

Introduced at the Greensboro AM/PIC, the new NACAA Emergency Assistance Procedure offers a means for states suffering damage or loss due to natural disasters, such as the effects suffered in the South from Hurricane Katrina, to request assistance from neighboring states, regions, or even nationally if needed. From storms in the South, to drought or forest fires in the West, to floods in the North, agricultural families may need short term assistance. The proposed procedure is designed as a way for Extension people to help.

During the coming year there will be other projects and other challenges to be faced. Our Planning and Development Committee will continue to work on clarifying issues raised by the Futuring Committee, but much has already been done along this line and successes have already been achieved. Our committees within each of the councils will continue to strive to bring forward outstanding professional improvement activities. They are already looking at professional development opportunities outside of the regular AM/PIC.

Another opportunity is communication. As we all strive to communicate back and forth between state committees and state officers and the national committees and the national board, we continue to strengthen not only our professional relationships, but also our understanding of issues that affect us at the state, regional, and national levels.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with members of the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association at their annual meeting in Amarillo, Texas. In my short comments, I talked of the importance of working together to meet the challenges that all of us face in our careers as Extension professionals. I mentioned an experience that I had in my county several years ago. I would like to share it with you today.

The Gila River runs through the middle of Pinal County, my county. For part of its length, it runs water but for much of its length below a diversion dam it is dry. The water is released from a reservoir up stream as needed to irrigate crops throughout the county and on the Gila River Indian Community. As the water is released, it flows down the normal bed of the river until it is diverted into canals and ditches to irrigate the fields.

One day above the diversion dam, I had opportunity to wade across the river several times. At the confluence of the Box O Wash and the Gila River, the depth of the water varies between knee deep and mid thigh, the bottom is firm, and the river is about 40 yards wide. The current, while brisk, is not dangerous and I crossed with relative ease. On my last trip across, I entered the river at a point different from my previous crossings.

Within just a few feet of the opposite shore, perhaps ten to fifteen feet, unbeknownst to me the current had washed out the floor of the bed. As I stepped forward, I slipped into chest deep water and lost my footing. No problem, I thought, I will just finish swimming across. However, to my dismay, looking downstream I could see that I had about three heartbeats before the current swept me into a logjam jutting out from the bank into the stream. I was more than a little bit uncertain as I noted that the water was running *through* the logjam rather than *around* it! It was clear to me that I was going to have to find a way to get up on top or be sucked under.

Sometimes as we face the challenges of life, including the challenges of careers, we have to figure out a way in a relatively short period of time how to rise above the obstacles placed in our way. There are many bridges to cross and hoops to pass through as we work on tenure or continuing status. There are teams to join and sometimes to lead. There are curveballs to hit and hurdles to cross as we move forward to achieve our goals. While we often can solve our own problems by ourselves, we usually find that a helping hand along the way can be beneficial. The challenges we face and the projects we complete are made easier when we choose to work together.

The fact that I am here today writing this column is an indication that I did indeed find a way that day on the river to reach the top of the heap. I was able to avoid being sucked under by the challenge in front of me. Though I did solve my problem on my own that day, but it would have been easier if there had been someone standing at the top who could have lent a helping hand.

In our daily lives and at times in our careers, a helping hand can make all the difference between success and a not so successful outcome. In our state organizations and in NACAA, we have the vehicles for each of us to lend a helping hand, or get a helping hand, as we learn more about our jobs and our clientele. I would challenge each of us to join in and play a part in moving our great professional improvement organizations forward by joining a committee, accepting an assignment, creating and showing a poster, giving a presentation, or applying for an award. By so doing, you never know who you will be able to help.

# The County Agent

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# Announcing a New Partnership!



The Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences (S-PAC™) and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) are pleased to announce a new partnership that offers added benefits for NACAA members. S-PAC™, your access point to information from leading animal conferences in North America, will be including proceedings from current and future NACAA Annual Meetings in its database, making this valuable information available to S-PAC™ subscribers around the world. S-PAC™ is a subscription based service provided by the American Dairy Science Association®, Inc. (“ADSA®”). As a result of our partnership, NACAA members are now invited to subscribe to S-PAC™ at “member rates”, a savings of \$75/year.

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## Publication Deadlines

### *The County Agent*

#### December, 2008 Issue

Committee Awards Directory

Deadline for articles: November 17, 2008

Mail Date: December 5, 2008

#### March, 2009 Issue

Deadline for articles: February 8, 2009

Mail Date: March 1, 2009

#### May, 2009 Issue

AM/PIC Issue

Deadline for articles: April 20, 2009

Mail Date: May 20, 2009

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# Poster Session Winners Announced at 93rd AM/PIC

## Applied Research:

### National Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Henry Dorough, Alabama

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Gary Cramer, Kansas

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Bob LaValley, Oklahoma

### Region Winners:

NC Jennifer Rees, Nebraska

NE Dan Kluchinski, New Jersey

W Aaron Esser, Washington

S Jimmy Perkins, Arkansas

### 1st Place - Applied Research



Henry Dorough presented 1st Place Award by Michelle Hummell, representative of National Sponsor Propane Education Research Council (PERC)

### BULK BLENDING FIRE ANT BAITS WITH FERTILIZER; AN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE

Bertagnolli-Heller<sup>1</sup>, V.E., Dorough<sup>2,\*</sup>,  
H.D., Graham<sup>3</sup>, L.C., Ridley<sup>4</sup>, K.A.

<sup>1</sup> Consumer Horticulture Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator, Clemson University Extension Service, Columbia, South Carolina 29229, Former Research Assistant, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849

<sup>2</sup> Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Piedmont Region, Talladega, Alabama 35160

<sup>3</sup> Coordinator - Alabama Fire Ant Management Program, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849

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Fire ants are a recurring problem in southern pastures. Effective and relatively inexpensive treatments are available for the management of these pests. But these applications are usually

cost prohibitive due to low return per acre on capital investment for these fields. Escalating fuel prices have forced an increase in the cost of applying fire ant baits. Mixing baits with fertilizer could allow producers to apply these products in a bulk mix and minimize increased application costs. Two growth regulator fire ant baits, pyriproxyfen and s-methoprene, were mixed with fertilizer at the local farmer's cooperative. A pyriproxyfen treatment, a fertilizer treatment and an untreated control were also included in the experiment. All treatments were applied to the pasture at label rates in a randomized complete block design replicated four times. Maximum control obtained in the study was 86%. There were no significant differences between the bulk mix treatments and the pyriproxyfen treatments at 5, 8, 14 or 21 weeks post-treatment. However, fire ant mound numbers declined slower in the bulk mix treatments than in the pyriproxyfen only treatment. Mound numbers were less than five per acre in all bait treatments 21 weeks post treatment.

### 2nd Place - Applied Research



Gary Cramer presented 2nd Place Award by Michelle Hummell, representative of National Sponsor Propane Education Research Council (PERC)

### MESOTRIONE TO CONTROL TRIAZINE- AND ALS- RESISTANT AMARANTHUS IN GRAIN SORGHUM

Cramer\*, G.L.<sup>1</sup> Regehr, D.L.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, Kansas State University, Sedgwick County, Wichita, Kansas 67205

<sup>2</sup> Professor, Weed Science, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506

Grain sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) acreage in Kansas has declined sharply in the past 25 years. In fact, not since 1952 has Kansas grain sorghum acreage been as low as it was in 2005. This trend is attributed largely to inferior weed control technology for sorghum.

A poll of selected crop consultants and county agricultural extension agents in central Kansas indicates that on average, about 50 percent of the sorghum acres treated with acid amide and/or atrazine herbicides have *Amaranthus* weed species control failures. In some instances, these failures are due to inadequate precipitation to activate the soil-applied herbicides. More often, it is failure to control triazine resistant biotypes that is at fault. There is no doubt that triazine-resistant and ALS-resistant *Amaranthus* weed species are widespread across Kansas, and that the populations of resistant biotypes are increasing, especially in areas of intensive sorghum production.

Kansas State University scientists conducted research trials in 2006 with a focus on *Amaranthus* control. Field tests on medium- to fine-textured soils have demonstrated that mesotrione plus s-metolachlor plus atrazine has adequate safety for use in grain sorghum, especially when applied 7-14 days prior to planting. Preemergence treatments, applied 3 days after planting, were compared with competitive postemergence treatments applied 21 days after planting. Weed control ratings taken 21, 35, and 63 days after planting showed that soil-applied mesotrione plus s-metolachlor plus atrazine provided good-to-excellent early-season control of Palmer amaranth, that was far superior to postemergence herbicide treatments.

### 3rd Place - Applied Research



Bob LeValley presented 3rd Place Award by Michelle Hummell, representative of National Sponsor Propane Education Research Council (PERC)

### EVALUATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF TIME OF DAY TO FORAGE NITRATE LEVELS

LeValley, \*R.C.<sup>1</sup>, Pettijohn, M.B.<sup>2</sup>, Selk, G.E.<sup>3</sup>, Gallaway, M.R.<sup>4</sup>, Highfill, G.A.<sup>5</sup>, New, M.G.<sup>6</sup>, Zhang, H.<sup>7</sup>

1. Extension Area Livestock Specialist, Oklahoma State University, Duncan, OK 73533
2. Extension Educator, Agriculture, Oklahoma State University, Grady County, Chickasha, OK 73018
3. Extension Animal Reproduction Specialist, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078
4. Extension Educator, Oklahoma State University, Stephens County, Duncan, OK 73533
5. Extension Area Livestock Specialist, Oklahoma State University, Enid, OK 73701
6. Extension Educator, Oklahoma State University, Comanche County, Lawton, OK 73501
7. Professor, Plant and Soil Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078

Forage sorghums are used by Oklahoma cattle producers for summer grazing or harvested for hay. While they can be very productive and high quality, they can also accumulate toxic levels of nitrate when stressed. Based on the assumption that the plant continues soil nitrate uptake during nighttime hours, followed by accelerated conversion of the nitrate to protein during daylight hours, Extension recommendations have been to wait until afternoon to cut forage sorghum for hay if anticipated nitrate levels are marginally high. To evaluate the significance of the change in nitrate

concentration in forage sorghums during the day, samples were collected at two hour intervals from at 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. A cooperator's field was divided into quadrants. Two were sampled on day one and the remaining two quadrants sampled on day two. Three random samples, consisting of ten stems each, were taken from each quadrant at the specified interval, resulting in 18 samples per quadrant. The samples were analyzed at the OSU Soil, Water and Forage Analytical Laboratory to determine the level of nitrates, (ppm NO<sub>3</sub>). Results were analyzed using SAS analysis of variance, with time of day, day, and interactions, as the potential sources of the variation in nitrates. There was no significant variation due to time of day; however there was a difference between days. The study will be repeated in the summer of 2008 to gain additional data.

### Extension Education

#### National Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Erik Draper, Ohio
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, David Marrision, Ohio
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Rudy Yates, Alabama

#### Region Winners:

- NC Julia Woodruff, Ohio
- NE Madeline Flahive-DeNardo, New Jersey
- W Jim Sprinkle, Arizona
- S Kevin Rose, Tennessee

### 1st Place - Extension Education



Erik Draper presented 1st Place Award by Michelle Hummell, representative of National Sponsor Propane Education Research Council (PERC)

### SEEING IS BELIEVING WITH PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Draper\*, E.A.<sup>1</sup>, Marrision, D.L.<sup>2</sup>, Zondag, R.<sup>3</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Geauga County, Burton, Ohio, 44024
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Ashtabula

County, Jefferson, Ohio, 44047  
3. Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Lake County, Ohio, 44077

One of the most difficult audiences to teach and reach through the creation of a meaningful interactive learning environment is the audience which is "required to attend". This is the typical audience of any recertification training for private or commercial pesticide applicators. Our training consortium took an entirely different teaching approach by utilizing small group, interactive breakout sessions. Training began with participants quickly writing down the steps to prepare a boom sprayer for the upcoming season. A visual demonstration, using a Spray Chek sprayer simulation table, graphically corroborated the effect of common errors on spray patterns; namely, boom nozzle height to target, plugged nozzles and nozzles with different spray angles. Alternatives to typical flat fan nozzles, like the Turbo TeeJet or XR (extended range) nozzles were shown. The group was divided into equal groups for three-30 minute interactive exercises. Stations consisted of: sprayer pressure gauge testing and how water-sensitive paper can be used to determine efficacy of a spray application; the inaccuracy of using common items, like a quart jar or coffee cup, to guesstimate or measure pesticides; and how to detect cracks and avoid rupturing older, sun-exposed polymer bulk tank for pesticide storage. Each attendee received an accurate 2-quart measuring cup with their certification experience. Of the 150 respondents in this year's training, only one person stated that they didn't like the teaching methods used. This unsolicited comment says it all, "Used to be as dry as high school English—now enjoyable"!

### 2nd Place - Extension Education



David Marrison presented 2nd Place Award by Michelle Hummell, representative of National Sponsor Propane Education Research Council (PERC)

### ENHANCING OHIO DAIRY PROFITABILITY WITH ARTISAN CHEESE

Marrison, D.\*<sup>1</sup>, Kline, T.<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Ashtabula County, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047

<sup>2</sup> Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Wayne County, 428 West Liberty Street, Wooster, Ohio 44691

OSU Extension is helping dairy producers enhance their profitability by offering hands-on cheese making short courses. These three-day programs titled, "Hands-on Basic Cheese Making - Enhancing Dairy Profitability with Cheese" were designed to teach dairy producers how to make artisan cheese and provided the tools for developing a business plan for this value-added opportunity. This short course has been offered three times across Ohio. Due to the hands-on nature of the course, each session was limited to 15 students. Each course was sold out with a total of 45 individuals participating. During these workshops, the participants learned about milk quality, ingredients used in cheese making, processes for making a variety of cheeses, techniques for aging cheese, and tips for establishing a farmstead cheese business. The heart of this workshop was the hands-on opportunity for participants learned how to make Gouda, Havarti, Lactic, Tomme, Alpine, Caciocavallo, Cheddar, Mozzarella and Ricotta cheese during the workshops. Ninety-two percent of the attendees indicated they plan to explore a cheese making business. Ninety percent of the attendees also indicated they would be

interested in participating in a cheese marketing cooperative. One of the couples in the first short course has already opened a cheese house and is marketing cheese in the Cleveland Metropolitan area. This poster will provide information on course objectives, curriculum, and provide tips for Extension Educators who wish to start an artisan cheese short course in their state.

### 3rd Place - Extension Education



Rudy Yates presented 3rd Place Award by Michelle Hummell, representative of National Sponsor Propane Education Research Council (PERC)

### MONITORING FOR ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST IN ALABAMA'S BLACK BELT REGION

Yates, \*R.P.<sup>1</sup>, Sikora, E.J.<sup>2</sup>, Delaney, D.P.<sup>3</sup>, Delaney, M.A.<sup>4</sup>

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Kudzu, soybean sentinel plots, and commercial soybean fields were monitored for Asian soybean rust (ASR) in Alabama's Black Belt Region in 2006 and 2007 in an effort to provide soybean farmers early warning to the disease's presence and to aid in coordinating control measures. Suspect leaf samples were collected and sent for examination to the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory at Auburn University. Farmers were informed about the monitoring and movement of ASR through various means including meetings, telephone conversations, the Auburn University Soybean Rust Hotline, and the USDA National Soybean Rust Sentinel and Monitoring Network website. In 2006, ASR was found only in Sumter County in the Black Belt Region. The disease was detected in a commercial field after harvest had been completed. As a result of the monitoring efforts for ASR in 2006, Black Belt soybean farmers did not have to spray over 12,000 acres of soybeans for the disease therefore potentially saving over \$180 thousand in fungicide application costs. In 2007, ASR was found in three commercial soybean fields in Marengo, Sumter, and Lowndes counties. The disease was also detected on kudzu in Montgomery and Wilcox counties. Because ASR was found relatively early in the season, area soybeans were at risk for economic damage. Farmers were alerted to its presence and updated on the multiple fungicides available. Farmers were able to make informed management decisions on whether to apply fungicides to over 13,000 acres of soybeans based on the physiological stage of their crop and their crop's yield potential.

## NACAA Website:

**The 2008 NACAA Proceedings and many of the presentations made at the 2008 AM/PIC are available at [www.nacaa.com](http://www.nacaa.com)**



# SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE - NATIONAL WINNERS

## CROP PRODUCTION

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### INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF BLACKBIRDS IN SUNFLOWER

Nels. M. Peterson, Extension Agent/  
Nelson County, North Dakota

Formal needs assessments conducted with Crop Improvement Association Directors, County Commissioners and Agribusiness managers in December 2005 identified sunflower production as important to Nelson County and surrounding area.

Programming in 2006 and 2007 consisted of meetings, news releases, newsletters, 'kitchen table' meetings of neighbors, one-on-one contacts and production tours.

Program evaluation was conducted formatively and summatively. Formative evaluations were those that were gathered during the programming and growing seasons. Many of the statements are anecdotal with participants supplying comments and information using a variety of feedback methods. Information was also gathered on acreage increases, producer cooperation, integrated techniques being used in fields and agency cooperation.

With price increases in 2006 and 2007 additional income may range up to as much as nearly a half million dollars for Nelson County Producers. Increased prices received for sunflowers in early 2008 indicate an even greater potential for increased profits for area producers that incorporate sunflowers and integrated management plans into their cropping sequence.

## FARM AND RANCH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

AWARD SPONSORED BY  
SPECIALTY FERTILIZER PRODUCTS, LLC  
NATIONAL WINNER



### VIRGINIA REGIONAL MARKET ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SEMINARS UTILIZING THE INTERNET AS AN INTERACTIVE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Roberts,\* MR<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Prince George County, Prince George, VA 23875

Changing commodity fundamentals, large speculative influences, and higher input costs have producers, extension educators and agricultural community influencers scrambling for ways to increase agricultural prosperity. Beginning in 2006, this project utilized the internet and other interactive communication tools to bring risk management education to participants. Remote and on-site presentations were made by agricultural economists and experts from many states. Remote presentations were fully interactive allowing participants to see, hear, and question presenters in real time. Presenters included extension educators from eleven land grant Universities, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Virginia, and various agribusiness community influencers. Evaluations via written and telephone survey, as well as personal contact show that the majority of participants are very accepting of this type of extension program delivery method. Savings in speaker travel costs over the three years of the project were \$68,405.00. Participants reported increased net profits in excess of \$1,427,616.50 over the last three years as a direct result of attending one or more seminars.

## LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURE

AWARD SPONSORED BY  
TRUGREEN-CHEMLAWN  
NATIONAL WINNER



### MASTER GARDENER WATER CONSERVATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

Sagers,\* L. A.

Extension Horticulture Specialist, Utah State University Cooperative Extension, Thanksgiving Point Office, Lehi, Utah, 84043-3506

Utah is the second driest and one of the fastest growing states in the nation. Water or lack of it was a problem when the state was settled and is still a critical issue. Landscape watering uses 50% of the water during the irrigation season and conservation is critical. Long-term studies by Utah State University Extension show that most homeowners apply twice the water needed by landscape plants. Master Gardener Advisors identified the critical need for information to train others in Waterwise Gardening. Using grants from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and Utah State University, the curriculum was developed. It teaches water users the importance of using this precious resource to full advantage. Advanced Master Gardeners in four different counties were trained using the materials as part of their curriculum. They in turn use the curriculum to teach interested groups in their own communities. The author wrote the curriculum and developed the educational materials. The course consists of 18 PowerPoint Presentations on Waterwise Landscaping, Plant Selection and related subjects; fact sheets, workbooks and other educational materials. It includes more than 3000 of

the author's photographs. They were prepared in Extension Offices using Microsoft Office Program and distributed to 125 Advanced Master Gardeners, who made presentations to more than 2000 class participants. It has also been distributed by the USBR in seven Western States.

## LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

AWARD SPONSORED BY NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS & MONSANTO  
**NATIONAL WINNER**



### OKLAHOMA MEAT GOAT BOOT CAMP

Jones, J.E.<sup>1</sup>, Sparks, D.G.<sup>2</sup>, McDaniels, J.T.<sup>3</sup>, Rice, C.K.<sup>4</sup>, Freking, B.M.<sup>5</sup>, Wallace J.D.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Area Agricultural Economics Specialist, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Southeast District, Ada, Oklahoma 74820

<sup>2</sup> Area Food Animal Quality and Health Specialist, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Southeast and Northeast District, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401

<sup>3</sup> Extension Educator, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Pontotoc County, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820

<sup>4</sup> Area Agronomist, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Southeast District, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820

<sup>5</sup> Extension Educator, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, LeFlore County, Poteau, Oklahoma, 74953

<sup>6</sup> Area Animal Scientist, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Southeast District, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820

Meat goat production has become a rapidly expanding livestock enterprise in Oklahoma and the U.S. Oklahoma now

ranks fifth in total number of meat goats. With this expansion have come new educational opportunities. Many producers interested in goat production have had little or no experience in agricultural production. Even those producers with general livestock production skills have found it difficult to adapt to the differing production needs of a goat operation. Therefore, the Oklahoma Meat Goat Boot Camp was created. This camp is a three day camp that combines hands-on exercises with class room presentations and exercises. Producers attending also have the opportunity to practice any production method on a group of live goats as many times as they feel necessary. Production methods demonstrated include ear tagging, tattooing, hoof trimming, castrating, herd health practices, kidding, neonatal care, FAMACHA, fecal egg counts, forage management, ration balancing, forage testing, reproduction, pregnancy detection and business management. The response to the workshops has been outstanding, not only in Oklahoma but across the U.S. To date 111 producers from fifteen states have completed the boot camp. Evaluations have showed a favorable response to the workshop with producers wanting more education. Eighty percent of the classes have been reported as very useful with an overall predicted value to the knowledge gained from the workshop to be \$93,600.

## REMOTE SENSING & PRECISION AGRICULTURE

AWARD SPONSORED BY UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NATIONAL WINNER**



### EDUCATING YOUTH ABOUT GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS AND COMPASS USING TRAIN THE TRAINER METHODS

Wyatt, G.J.<sup>1</sup>, Gupta, A.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Regional Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Mankato, MN 56001

<sup>2</sup> Regional Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Rochester, MN 55904

Global positioning systems (GPS) are becoming more user friendly and available to the public for many professional and private purposes; landowners identifying property boundaries, agronomists mapping soil samples, fertilizer applications and crop yields, foresters marking high value trees for saw logs and hunters and fisherman marking their favorite spots.

A limited number of GPS educational opportunities have been offered to youth in this area. In an effort to educate youth about GPS in southern MN, we purchased 2 GPS/Compass kits that included 10 GPS units, 10 compasses, and supporting program materials and began a train the trainer workshop program for 4-H educators and other volunteers who were interested in teaching youth about GPS/Compass. These trainings involved classroom instruction plus hands-on lessons with GPS and compass units. Twenty-two adult participants in two workshops were trained. Activities and lessons which the adults could use at youth learning workshops were reviewed with participants. In the past 2 years, over 700 youth were taught the basics and how to use handheld GPS units and compasses.

After completing the leader workshop trained leaders can check-out the kit for a minimal, \$10, rental fee and use it for educational purposes. This program has allowed 4-H and the Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) capacity areas of Extension greater opportunity to work together and meet mutual goals. This program has allowed Extension to reach new youth audiences to connect them with the use of GPS technology with agriculture, forestry and natural resources programming and careers.

Program evaluations for both the educators training workshops and youth participants, have been overwhelmingly positive. This program works nicely with Minnesota 4-H's drive to strengthen science, engineering, and technology programming.

# **YOUNG, BEGINNING, SMALL FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

AWARD SPONSORED BY  
THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM  
FOUNDATION, INC.

NATIONAL WINNER

## **BEGINNING BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE**

Drake, G.K.<sup>1</sup>, Schreiber, C.D.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Butler County Cooperative Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources, Morgantown, Kentucky 42261  
<sup>2</sup>Warren County Cooperative Extension Agent for Horticulture, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

The Beginning Beekeeping Short Course was developed to help producers that were previously tobacco dependent develop competence in beekeeping to increase on-farm products and sales. Over the course one year, forty-nine participants from twelve states participated in this program learning about Bee Biology, Equipment, Assembling Wood Ware, Hive Management, Pests and Diseases, Hive Inspections, Extracting Honey, and Marketing Honey Products. Extension Agents compiled and developed learning modules for each participant and developed and presented all PowerPoint presentations. A pre- and post-test indicated significant increase in knowledge across all participants. A post-course evaluation indicated an increase of knowledge, practice change across all areas that were taught, and overall program satisfaction. This was also a great opportunity to reach audiences that have previously not utilized the Cooperative Extension resources; however, 100% now indicate that they are regular users of their local Cooperative Extension Office services.

# **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

AWARD SPONSORED BY SARE  
NATIONAL WINNERS



## **INTEGRATED CROPPING SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT: EXTENSION PROGRAMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DRYLAND FARM- ING IN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS**

Angvick, \*T.<sup>1</sup>, Cash, S.D.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, Montana State University Extension, Sheridan County, Plentywood, Montana 59254  
<sup>2</sup> Extension Specialist, Montana State University Extension, Bozeman, Montana 59717

Agriculture remains the leading industry in the sparsely-populated northern Great Plains. Traditional cropping practices have predominantly relied on alternating years of annual grain crops and summer fallow to conserve moisture for reliable production. During the past three decades, family farms in this region have faced a number of pressures, including increased input costs, drought, declining commodity values, and an aging farm population. In short, the average farm of 2500 acres did not provide a viable or economically sustainable livelihood. Extension personnel have partnered with other research and service agencies to enact significant changes in this region. Specifically in Sheridan County, MT there has been very rapid adoption of reduced-tillage techniques, increased acreage of alternative crops, and increased acreage of continuously-cropped land. The measured impacts from Extension programming in integrated cropping systems management in Sheridan County have been: reduced erosion, improved soil moisture availability, consistent levels of grain production, valuable new crop options, and pest and rotational ben-

efits provided by the alternative crops. Recent Extension programs have included on-farm demonstrations and tours, and in-depth one-on-one consultations with producers on agronomics and marketing of new crops, whole farm management, and integrated pest control.



## **CREATION OF A LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FOODSHED ON MARYLAND'S LOWER EASTERN SHORE**

Hunsberger, L.K.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Senior Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and County Extension Director, Worcester County, P.O. Box 219, Snow Hill, MD 21863

The goal of this project is to increase the number of farmers on Maryland's Eastern Shore using organic, sustainable farming practices. In doing so, a secondary goal is to provide marketing outlets for this increased network of farmers to sell their products locally. Through a liaison with LESSON (Lower Eastern Shore Sustainable Organic Network) and her individual efforts, the Educator has created a 'Network of Farmers' interested in both farming organically and/or finding new potential markets. In the course of 6 different programs, 63 growers have attended one or more of the trainings offered over the past 2 years. Topics have included Organic Vegetable Production 101, the basics of drip irrigation, organic twilight tours, one-on-one with an organic inspector, understanding the timing of succession plantings, basic crop budgeting, and which implements and equipment are necessary for different acreage operations. The success of this group is in the informal social connections developed between farmers, allowing for the more experienced ones to work along side and teach the less experienced ones. The Educator has assisted 3 growers securing EQIP funds for

Transitioning to Organic Production and has generated \$13,055 in grant monies to continue expanding sustainable vegetable production on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore.



### IMPACT OF TEACHING SOIL QUALITY CONCEPTS IN A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP AND USING POST-EVENT MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Clevenger, W.B.<sup>1</sup>, Sundermeier\*, A.P.<sup>2</sup>, Islam, K.R.<sup>3</sup>, Hoorman, J.J.<sup>4</sup>, Bruynis, C.L.<sup>5</sup>

1 Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Defiance County, Defiance, OH 43512

2 Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Wood County, Bowling Green, OH 43402

3 Soil and Water Specialist, Ohio State University, South Centers, Piketon, OH 45661

4 Extension Educator, Ohio State University, Center at Lima, Lima, OH 45840

5 Extension Educator, Ohio State University, Wyandot County, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Seventy-five Ohio farmers, extension educators, and crop consultants participated in one of two, daylong workshops to learn about soil quality. The objectives of the workshops were to increase knowledge of (1) soil quality fundamentals, (2) factors contributing to soil quality, (3) an instant soil quality test kit, and (4) soil quality compared to actual soil quality analytical laboratory results. Participants learned from eight teaching/demonstration modules: (1) fundamentals of soil quality, (2) gypsum and soil amendments, (3) tillage, compaction and cover crops effects, (4) soil health score card, (5) water infiltration, earthworms, penetrometer, (6) instant soil quality testing, (7) Interpreting soil quality test results, (8) recommendations for improving soil quality. Participants documented

knowledge gained in all teaching/demonstration modules of the workshop. The scale used was 1-5. Averaged across both locations and modules, participants raised their score by 1.4 scale values by participating in the workshop. The range of improvement among the teaching/demonstration modules was 0.78 to 2.11 scale value gains. Also, 74% of the participants with soil samples were not accurately evaluating their own soil. As a result of the workshop, all participants were provided the instant soil quality test kit to more accurately measure soil quality. The Ohio Farmer Magazine used the workshop on the front cover for the October 2007 issue with approximately 30,000 subscribers. The long lasting impact of the Soil Quality Workshop is the development of the compact disk. The technology ensures that others can still learn and gain knowledge similar to the workshop participants.



### BEGINNING BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE

Drake, G.K.<sup>1</sup>, Schreiber, C.D.<sup>2</sup>

*See abstract on page 11 SFE Young, Beginning, Small Farmers Ranchers.*

## EXCELLENCE IN 4-H PROGRAMMING

### NATIONAL WINNER

### AGRICULTURE REALITY STORE

Grimes, J.F.<sup>1</sup>, Cropper R.J.<sup>2</sup>, Dugan, D.A.<sup>3</sup>, Eyre, N.S.<sup>4</sup>, Scott, F.S.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension- Highland County, Hillsboro, OH 45133

<sup>2</sup> Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension- Brown County, Georgetown, OH 45121

<sup>3</sup> Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension- Brown County, Georgetown, OH 45121

<sup>4</sup> Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension- Highland County, Hillsboro, OH 45133

<sup>5</sup> Farm Loan Manager, USDA Farm Service Agency- Brown County, Georgetown, OH 45121

The Agriculture Reality Store is an educational program designed to expose high school juniors to an experiential learning activity relating to agriculture. One hundred and eighty-one students from seven vocational agricultural education programs in Adams, Brown, and Highland Counties participated in four separate programs in 2005 through 2008. The primary educational objectives were to increase the participant's awareness of economic principles involved in operating a farm and to develop an appreciation for careers in agriculture. A simulation activity was conducted where students were assigned a 300 acre farm to manage and were awarded start up capital to manage their farm and show a profit. Students interacted with representatives from local businesses to help them evaluate production costs utilizing current prices for inputs such as livestock, equipment, land, and chemicals and to make decisions about what type of farming activities were to be a part of their 300 acre farm. Evaluations indicated a favorable response to the program. Results indicated that 96% of the respondents increased their knowledge of accepted business practices involved with production agriculture. Ninety-three percent of the respondents felt they increased their knowledge relating to agricultural careers and 75% of the respondents felt they would be involved in agricultural production in the future based on their experience in the Agriculture Reality Store.

## 2008 P.R.I.D.E. Award

### NATIONAL WINNER PRIDE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Mechling, M.W.

Extension Educator, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Community Development, Ohio State University Extension, Muskingum County 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville, OH 43701

A number of different methods were utilized that improved the understanding of agriculture in Muskingum County, Ohio. Muskingum County's agriculture is diverse, with beef, dairy, field crops and the green industry representing the most important commodities in terms of cash receipts. The community is experiencing

increasing residential growth. Fewer individuals have a connection with agriculture.

As a result of an OSU Extension community-wide needs assessment, improved agricultural literacy was identified as an issue that should be emphasized more. County agricultural agencies including OSU Extension identified the need to bring farm and non-farms interests together for discussion of local issues.

A number of different activities have improved the understanding of agriculture by the community. An "Ag Breakfast" is held on a monthly basis to discuss local, topical issues. OSU Extension facilitates the breakfast and is responsible for securing a topic and speaker. A Farm-City Day is held on an annual basis that provides the opportunity for county ag-

ricultural organization to demonstrate the importance of agriculture to the community. OSU Extension is responsible for organizing the event. Monthly appearances on local television and radio programs twice a week as well as a weekly column in the local newspaper have provided many opportunities to improve the community's understanding of agriculture.

Responses from Farm-City Day surveys have demonstrated how individuals have learned more agriculture. Participants in the Ag Breakfast have indicated through a survey the value of how the breakfast has improved their understanding of agriculture.

## 2008 American/World Agriculture

### Award Recipient - *John M. Woodruff*

John grew up on a farm in northwest Florida where he was involved in 4-H. With guidance and encouragement from his county agent, John received state and national 4-H awards. This experience gave John confidence to pursue a college education. After receiving his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agronomy from Auburn University and his PhD in crop physiology from Virginia Tech in 1971, he joined the faculty of the University of Georgia in 1972 where he had state-wide extension education responsibilities for soybeans and minor oilseeds. He developed and implemented guidelines for improving crop production efficiency. His plant management guidelines have been adapted and used in several states and countries.

John's peers and associates have recognized him with the following awards:

*Tifton Campus Outstanding Faculty Award, 1998*  
*Georgia Soybean Association Research Award, 1997*  
*Walter Barnard Hill Distinguished Public Service Fellow, 1996*  
*American Soybean Association Life Membership Award, 1995*  
*Progressive Farmer Man of the Year Award/Georgia, 1994*  
*Walter Barnard Hill Service Award, 1994*  
*UGA Agricultural Alumni Distinguished Faculty Award, 1991*  
*D. W. Brooks Extension Education Award, 1991*  
*American Soybean Association Education Award, 1990*  
*South American Soybean Mission, 1989*  
*Extension Distinguished Service Award, 1988*  
*American Soybean Association Research Tour, U.S. and United Kingdom, 1985*  
*Georgia Soybean Association Extension Education Award, 1978*



*John Woodruff with NACAA President Fred Miller*

He is married to Ina Zeigler and has three children and four grandchildren.

He enjoys fishing, hunting, and gardening and is committed to the belief that we are blessed to be a blessing. As such, he works wherever to help those in need. After retirement, John Woodruff travelled to Bangladesh, China, and Africa (four times) to help subsistence farmers improve crop productivity.

# 2008 Communications Awards Program

AWARD SPONSORED BAYER ADVANCED

## Radio Program NATIONAL WINNER



### BIOLOGY AND CONTROL OF TICKS ON HUMANS AND PETS

Coccaro, J.C.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension County Director, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Warren County, Mississippi 39183

Ticks can be both a nuisance and a health hazard for people and pets in Warren County, Mississippi. The objective of producing a radio program on ticks was to inform the public listening audience about ticks in the environment including their biology and control on both humans and pets. The radio program produced was designed to be timely in accordance when ticks were likely to cause problems within the regional area of the radio broadcast. The program also included important details of possible interactions between people and ticks. While one cannot accurately calculate the number of listeners to that particular program, the agent did receive approximately 10-12 follow-up e-mails about the subject in the two weeks that followed the radio program. This particular program aired on July 7, 2007, both locally and throughout the world online. The entry was prepared in a commercial radio studio recorded professionally by station personnel.

## Published Photo & Caption NATIONAL WINNER



### NACAA COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS PROGRAM-PUB- LISHED PHOTO

Marrison,\* D.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Ashtabula County, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047

Four photos were used as part of the Agricultural Page in the Jefferson Gazette on Wednesday, July 11, 2007. The photos and cut-line were submitted electronically to support the educator's weekly agriculture column on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July crop update. Three of the four photos were taken by the Educator and the fourth picture was taken by his wife, Jaime Marrison. The Educator received countless comments about the pictures by community members. Many remarked how the pictures made them stop and read the educator's news column. The photos were taken on a Nikon Coolpix 3100 digital camera using a fine resolution at 2,048 \* 1,536 pixels. The Educator's weekly column is used in conjunction with news releases submitted from the various Ashtabula County agricultural organizations. Additionally, the educator has been requested to submit one-two photos each week for this page. During the past year, the educator has had 52 personal columns, 22 photos, and 81 special news releases published in the Jefferson Gazette.

livestock for show and sale. Allen County 4-H members enrolled in the

Market Beef and Market Lamb projects will be participating in the EID pilot program in 2008. These tags will also be utilized at the Kansas State Fair, Kansas Junior Livestock Show, and many other national shows. I received training from Dave Kehler, Butler County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent to utilize the tags and equipment. This photo was taken with a Nikon d40x digital camera and submitted electronically to "The Iola Register" which has a 3900 daily subscription.

## Computer Generated Graphics NATIONAL WINNER



### WANTED: ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

Hlubik,\* W.T.<sup>1</sup>, Polanin, N.<sup>2</sup>, Marko, J.<sup>3</sup>, Smela, D.<sup>3</sup>, Hamilton, G.<sup>4</sup>, Vodak, M.<sup>5</sup>, Weidman, R.<sup>6</sup>, Kluchinski, D.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Agricultural Agent Middlesex County

<sup>2</sup> Agricultural Agent Somerset County

<sup>3</sup> Program Assistants Middlesex County

<sup>4</sup> Extension Specialist in Pest Management

<sup>5</sup> Extension Specialist in Forestry

<sup>6</sup> Program Associate Middlesex County

<sup>7</sup> Chair, Department of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents.

Rutgers, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension, Martin Hall Room 326, 88 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), *Anoplophora glabripennis*, CD-ROM is a comprehensive educational resource describing this serious exotic pest and its impact on thousands of susceptible trees in our urban, suburban and rural landscapes. This CD-ROM is intended for

arborists and forester training, plant health and safety programs, and Master Gardener audiences. There were 5,000 copies produced for distribution within the USDA APHIS and Forest Service, Departments of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, and universities across the country. Over 250 CD-ROMs have been distributed within the last year. This educational training product contains slide presentations with and without video clips. In addition to the slide presentations, there are "Read Me First" instructions for the CD-ROM, separate video clips, ALB images, ALB documents, and evaluations for instructors and students. Mr. Hlubik was the project director, producer and scriptwriter. Mr. Polanin was a technical advisor and assisted Mr. Hlubik in production components. Mr. Kluchinski reviewed the product for language and content. Mr. Weidman assisted as content editor for slide presentations. All presentations were created using PowerPoint®. Video segment and clips (MPEGs) were filmed with a Sony® digital camera and edited on an AVID® digital editing system. Documents were created in Microsoft® and Adobe Acrobat®.

## Program Promotional Piece

**NATIONAL WINNER**



### BROCHURE FOR ALABAMA GRAZING SCHOOL

Glover\*, B.S.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Blackbelt Region, Greensboro, Alabama 36744

This brochure was designed to give producers a general overview of the aspects of the Alabama Grazing School. The best resource available to cattle producers in the Blackbelt region is grass.

With the rising cost of feed supplements, it becomes increasingly difficult to squeeze a profit in a livestock enterprise. Thus many producers seek increased efficiency through management. Pastures can provide most of the nutrition for livestock and the costs associated with stored feeds typically are responsible for over half the cost of livestock production. Grazing management is the manipulation of an animal grazing in pursuit of economic gain and/or environmental conservation. The goal of the Alabama Grazing School is to increase the producer's knowledge base of grazing management. The Alabama Grazing School involved instruction and hands on exercises designed to educate participants in grazing management practices. Topics discussed included the following grazing methods; physiology of forage growth; stocking rates; the economics of hay versus grazing; environmental impacts of grazing, forage response to grazing; nutrient cycling in pastures; fencing and watering technology; animal nutrition on pasture and minimizing hay requirements. The mailing of this brochure explaining the program to be offered resulted in two days of grazing schools with 98 participants from ten counties in the Blackbelt region.

## Personal Column

**NATIONAL WINNER**



### EDUCATING READERS WITH A LIGHT-HEARTED INFORMATIVE APPROACH

Polomski, Robert F.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Associate/Consumer Horticulture Information Coordinator, Department of Horticulture, P. O. Box 340319, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0319

I address a wide variety of gardening topics in my media efforts, but in these two entries—triweekly "Garden and

Home" columns for the Anderson Independent-Mail newspaper (circ. of 40,000), I showcase an informative and entertaining approach to my Extension writing. In "I want my watermelon seeds, please!" (June 29, 2007), I made readers aware of the economic importance of the watermelon industry and offered cultural advice for gardeners interested in growing seedless watermelons at home. In my second entry, "Hi ho, hatchback! It's time to gather those fallen leaves," I discouraged readers from burning fallen leaves during the unseasonably dry summer and fall seasons and taught them how to convert the leaves into a useable garden and landscape resource by composting. I received a number of favorable comments regarding both columns. Readers enjoyed the humorous angles as well as the helpful "how to" information. I wrote both columns and e-mailed the text to the Lifestyle editor at the newspaper.

## Feature Story

**NATIONAL WINNER**



### LINESIDES ON THE ROCKS

Covington, C.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Area Livestock/Forage Agent, Mississippi State University-Claiborne County, Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

This feature story was published in the April 2007 issue (pages 28, 29, 30, 60 and 61) of Mississippi Game & Fish magazine.

This feature story was intended to introduce sportsmen, both old and young alike, to stripe fishing on the rock dikes along the Mississippi River. It was my intentions to reveal the excitement involved and introduce the sport to those who have never tried it. I explained to the reader what is involved in stripe fishing on the Big River. I included a few

photographs to provide a visual description of the content of the story. I received several telephone calls from sportsmen across the state requesting additional information about this exciting sport.

The article and photographs were produced professionally by the Mississippi Game & Fish staff.

## Newsletter Individual NATIONAL WINNER



### CHRISTIAN COUNTY HORTICULTURE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Jackson, \* K.R.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> County Extension Agent for Horticulture, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service - Christian County, Hopkinsville, KY 42240

The *Christian County Horticulture Focus* newsletter, published monthly, seeks to provide homeowners and green industry professionals research-based horticulture information, national horticultural news, and meeting notices. This newsletter serves as a primary means of dispersing meeting notices and introducing the public to available opportunities through the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Each month, 566 households receive the mailed newsletter which features items related to frequently-asked gardening questions, top performing plant material, pest management, wildlife topics, and other landscape and gardening issues. An additional 230 copies are produced and made available at six local garden centers and the public library. The newsletter is written, edited, and designed by Kelly Jackson, Christian County Cooperative Extension Agent for Horticulture. Newsletter duplication and mailing is completed by the secretarial staff. The newsletter is created in Microsoft Publisher.

## Newsletter Team NATIONAL WINNER



### OREGON SMALL FARMS NEWS NEWSLETTER

Tuck, \* B.<sup>1</sup>, Stephenson, G.<sup>2</sup>, Kerr, S.<sup>3</sup>, Lucas, C.<sup>4</sup>, Fery, M.<sup>5</sup>, Mathewson, M.<sup>6</sup>, Andrews, N.<sup>7</sup>, Angima, S.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Oregon State University Extension Service-Wasco County, 400 E. Scenic Drive, Suite

2.278, The Dalles, OR 97058

<sup>2</sup> Oregon State University Extension Service-Benton County, 1849 NW 9th St., Corvallis, OR 97330

<sup>3</sup> Washington State University Cooperative Extension-Klickitat County, 228 W. Main St., MS-CH-12, Goldendale, WA 98620

<sup>4</sup> Oregon State University Extension Service-Benton County, 1849 NW 9th St., Corvallis, OR 97330

<sup>5</sup> Oregon State University Extension Service-Benton County, 1849 NW 9th St., Corvallis, OR 97330

<sup>6</sup> Oregon State University Extension Service-Jackson County, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502

<sup>7</sup> North Willamette Research & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002

<sup>8</sup> Oregon State University Extension Service-Lincoln County, 29 SE 2nd St., Newport, OR 97365

Many residents moving into Oregon purchase small acreages, yet are unfamiliar with agricultural issues and small farm management. To address the needs of this growing audience, a team of Oregon State University Extension Faculty in the fall of 2006 developed a newsletter called the Oregon Small Farm News. The

purpose of the newsletter is to provide research-based information about livestock and horticultural production, marketing, noxious weed control, irrigation, small farm management and other issues pertinent to small farmers and rural landowners. Livestock, horticulture, forestry and agronomy agents contribute to this quarterly effort; additional articles are written by resource personnel such as weed control coordinators, NRCS and conservation district employees and other Extension educators. The newsletter is available without charge electronically at <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/>. In the spring of 2007, the successful Mid-Columbia Oregon/Washington Small Farm Newsletter merged with the Oregon Small Farms Newsletter to better serve the small farms of Oregon. The result has been a very successful small farms resource for Oregon and parts of Southern Washington. The success of the Oregon Small Farms News is demonstrated by the number of hits on the Oregon Small Farms website where the newsletter is hosted. In 2007, the total number of hits reached 585,000 with 183,000 page views. Electronic circulation of the quarterly issues reached 6,000 in 2007.

## Video Tape/Television NATIONAL WINNER



### COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW ANIMALS PART 1 AND 2

Scott, \* R.J.<sup>1</sup>

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The purposes of COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW ANIMALS PART 1 AND 2 are to demonstrate the importance of agriculture and make the public aware of the role livestock plays in our 4-H program. Ag Lifestyles is a weekly show on RFD- TV. RFD- TV



serves over 28 million U.S. homes, with another 19 million homes in Brazil. The TV Show aired as COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW ANIMALS PART 1 AND 2. In Part One of the series, I discussed the Texas Junior Livestock Validation program. In Part Two, Segment One, I discussed the purpose of livestock programs and the benefits to youth. In Part Two, Segment Two, I discussed showmanship. The segment you will be watching is Part Two, Segment One "The purpose of livestock programs and the benefits to youth." Results- The 4-H members shown in the video are residents from Foster's Home for Children in Stephenville, Texas. Since the youth and house parents have limited funds, I worked diligently to get lambs and goats donated for them to exhibit at the county show. With the airing of the RFD TV show, several breeders and others have called inquiring about the 4-H show program. These persons have offered to help these 4-H members through donating animals or by providing financial contributions. Ag Lifestyles Editor LZ worked out an agreement with Showmaster Feeds (Cargill) and RFD-TV to air COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW ANIMALS PART 1 AND 2 through the spring and summer at no charge to Cargill, in return Cargill provided all the feed for the foster home animals for the show season.

## Fact Sheet

### NATIONAL WINNER



### PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Bost,\* T.D.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27105

North Carolina ranks number one in the United States in urbanization, and

farmland is being lost at an unprecedented rate. In order to accommodate the predicted 40% increase in the state's population by 2025, construction of subdivisions, industries and shopping areas are accelerating in suburbia. In the wake of increased development both forestland and green space in Forsyth County, N.C is in peril. Landscape architects and local planners are concerned about the alarming number of acres lost both in land and urban forest trees. Subsequently, residents of our major city (Winston-Salem) have lost significant numbers of trees to violent storms in the past decade. Replacement trees in established landscapes and new plantings on construction sites often lack important canopy trees that will provide future residents with the urban forest cover that the county needs so desperately to abate noise and air pollution, and preserve our soil/ water quality.

## Publication

### NATIONAL WINNER



### PLANTS POISONOUS OR HARMFUL TO HORSES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL UNITED STATES

MARTINSON, K. L.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Andover Regional Office, Andover MN 55304

Each year numerous horses are injured or die as a result of accidentally ingesting poisonous plants. Recent widespread drought has exacerbated the problem, and many horse owners are simply unaware of the potential injury from poisonous plants. Few resources exist that aid horse owners in identification of poisonous plants. *Plants Poisonous or Harmful to Horses in the North Central United States* aids horse owners in plant identification by presenting numerous color photographs for eighteen plants

commonly responsible for poisoning in the North Central United States. The peer-reviewed publication also discusses, in lay-person terminology, the toxin(s) responsible, when the plant is toxic, signs of toxicosis, and equine treatment options. It was published in November 2007 by the University of Minnesota Extension after receiving a grant from the Minnesota Racing Commission. Since November 2007, almost 2,000 copies have been sold or distributed to horse owners and University faculty in more than twenty-five states and Canada, Horse councils, Equine Practitioner Associations, State and National Pony Clubs, breed organizations, 4-H leaders and members, and has been used in equine Extension programming in Minnesota and elsewhere. My role as co-author included securing and managing grant dollars; hiring and managing a graphic designer and printer; determining content; writing information pertaining to weed identification and control; over-seeing the peer-review process; marketing and distributing the publication; and using the publication in Extension programming. Co-authors Hovda and Murphy (non-members) assisted with securing grant dollars, determining content, and writing information pertaining to toxicology and equine treatment options.

## WEB PAGE

### NATIONAL WINNER



### THE "eXtension" HORSEQUEST COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WEBSITE: [WWW.EXTENSION.ORG/HORSES](http://WWW.EXTENSION.ORG/HORSES)

Greene, \*E.A.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Equine Specialist, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405

eXtension is the national extension website that was officially launched in

February 2008. As the first "Community of Practice" (CoP) or area of expertise to publicly launch content on this site (September 2006), HorseQuest has over 45 equine experts from 29 states contributing to the peer-reviewed content. The site is user friendly, and clientele can "rate" the information and provide comments/feedback. The areas include: 1. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), 2. Ask the Expert, 3. Learning Lessons, 4. Basic Information, 5. News Feeds and Calendars, 6. Articles from extension personnel, and 7. Quarterly Web Chats with Extension Experts. Links are located both across a menu bar on the top and along the right menu. Site usage statistics have increased significantly ( $P < 0.001$ ) in the 17-month period. There have been highly significant increases over time in unique visitor traffic (5,325-40,573 visitors/month), the number of times that users visited the site (7,592-54,553 visits/month), and page hits over time (255,922-1,640,069 hits/month). The highly significant increase in visitors and pages visited shows that the audience is recognizing the value of this new resource. The effectiveness and a key strength of HorseQuest and eXtension overall is the ability for Cooperative Extension to provide a place to find trusted, peer-reviewed information in one spot on the Internet. My roles include: HorseQuest CoP chair (since 2007), organizing contributors, content contributor, reviewer, FAQ expert, and author of multiple national presentations on HorseQuest.

## Learning Module/ Notebook

**NATIONAL WINNER**



### Pastured Poultry Production: A Viable Alternative

Burbaugh, B.J.<sup>1</sup>, Toro, E.M.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, Florida Extension Service, Duval County, Jacksonville, Florida

<sup>2</sup> Extension Agent, Florida Extension Service, Columbia County, Lake City, Florida

Pastured poultry production offers real opportunities to increase farm income in ways that are environmentally sustainable. However, there is little information available on alternative poultry production and farmers are forced to spend valuable time and resources climbing the learning curve. In order to facilitate diversification of farm income a learning module was developed. The topics include: poultry system options, materials and equipment needed, production basics, strategies to maximize foraging, marketing opportunities and understanding federal and state regulations. The module proved to be a valuable asset to potential and current pastured poultry producers. It gave them the tools to overcome challenges in marketing and processing their poultry. 60 producers and 49 extension agents have received a copy of the notebook during Pastured Poultry Production Workshops and professional conferences. 162 CDs have been distributed during educational events. The Pastured Poultry Exhibit has been visited over one thousand times. As a result of this educational effort the agents received a Program Development and Enhancement Grant from the Dean of Extension in the amount of \$4500.00 to develop a Virtual Field Day and related materials on Pastured Poultry Production. Six producers have started operations after attending the programs. Furthermore, by providing interpretation of USDA and State regulations 23 current pastured poultry producers are now operating in full compliance with the laws.

## Bound Book

**NATIONAL WINNER**



## SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER GARDENER TRAINING MANUAL: A TRAINING AND LEARNING RESOURCE

Polomski, R.F.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Consumer Horticulture Information Coordinator/Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture, P. O. Box 340319, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0319

The *South Carolina Master Gardener Training Manual* (EC 678) is a training resource and reference book that was also created for gardeners and newcomers to South Carolina. It was also envisioned as an introductory reference book for green industry professionals. Clemson University Public Service Publishing printed 5,000 copies. The *Manual* has 20 chapters that represent a collaborative effort of Clemson Extension specialists, county agents, and Master Gardeners with contributions from Extension and University specialists from Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and California. The entrant created the format and list of chapters, authored/co-authored 16 chapters, and edited every chapter. The entrant consulted with co-authors regarding the text, photographs, and illustrations. The entrant also worked closely with the graphic designer to produce an affordable, attractive book. This *Training Manual* has been well-received by agents involved in training Master Gardeners, Master Gardeners-in-training, and certified Master Gardeners. Sections of the *Manual* are being converted into fact sheets for inclusion on the Clemson Extension Home & Garden Information Center web site ([hgic.clemson.edu](http://hgic.clemson.edu)).

# 2008 NACAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

## SOUTHERN REGION

### Alabama

Michael A. Davis  
John S. Pulliam

### Arkansas

Andy Vangilder  
Carla Vaught

### Florida

Jacque W. Breman  
Gerald R Edmondson  
Eugene McAvoy

### Georgia

Jim F. Crawford  
Ricky Ensley  
Laura Perry Johnson  
John H. Pope

### Kentucky

Susan Fox  
Greg Tompkins

### Louisiana

Shaney Hill  
Richard M Letlow  
Boyd Padgett

### Mississippi

Dr. John T. Gieseemann

## North Carolina

Nelson Brownlee  
Jeff Carpenter  
Ron Hughes  
Diana Rashash  
Charles M. Young

## Oklahoma

Mick Jones  
Gary Strickland

## South Carolina

Daniel M Howard  
Mark J Talbert

## Tennessee

Emmanuel Bedwell  
Keith Hart  
Tim Roberts  
Philip W. Shelby

## Texas

Eddie Baggs  
Rachel Williams Bauer  
Mark Currie  
Thomas Leroy  
Rogelio Mercado  
Curtis Preston

## Virginia

Donald J. Davis  
Cynthia L Gregg

## WESTERN REGION

### Arizona

Jim Sprinkle

### Colorado

Tommy L. Covington

### Idaho

Kenneth N. Hart

### New Mexico

J. David Graham

### Oregon

Troy Downing

### Utah

Troy Dick Cooper,

### Washington

Aaron Esser

## NORTHEAST REGION

### Maryland

James C. Hanson

### New Jersey

Wesley Kline

## New York

Dale Dewing  
James Grace

## Pennsylvania

Thomas Butzler  
John Rowehl

## West Virginia

Craig W. Yohn

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

### Illinois

Jeff West

### Indiana

Greg Bossaer  
Mike Manning

### Iowa

Patrick Derdzinski

### Kansas

Richard Fechter

### Michigan

Erwin 'Duke' Elsner  
Stanley J Moore

## Minnesota

Brad Carlson

## Missouri

Roger Eakins

## Nebraska

Jennifer Nixon

## North Dakota

Bradley T. Brummond

## Ohio

John F. Grimes  
Randy Zondag

## South Dakota

Gary Erickson

# 2008 NACAA Achievement Award Winners

## SOUTHERN REGION

### Alabama

Claude E. Reeves  
Michael D. Reeves

### Arkansas

Sherry Beaty  
Susan Scott,

### Florida

Alejandro (Alex)  
Bolques  
Jennifer Welshans-  
Pelham

### Georgia

Jeremy Kichler  
Wade Parker  
Michael Wheeler

### Kentucky

Brandon Bell  
Vicki Shadrick

### Louisiana

David Bourgeois

### Mississippi

Dr. John Anderson  
Mike Howell

## North Carolina

Amy Andrews  
Silas Brown  
Keith B. Walters

## South Carolina

Darren C. Atkins

## Tennessee

Tracey Sullivan  
Jeremy West

## Texas

Samuel Gavito  
Chad Gulley  
Jay Kingston

## Virginia

Bruce G. Jones  
Glenn R. Slade

## WESTERN REGION

### Alaska

Jeffrey Smeenk

### Arizona

Randall Norton

### Idaho

K. Scott Jensen

## Montana

Eric Miller

## New Mexico

Ursula Rosauer, New  
Mexico

## Oregon

Amy Derby

## Utah

Clark Israelsen

## Washington

Steve Van Vleet

## Wyoming

Steve Paisley

## NORTHEAST REGION

### Maryland

Laura Hunsberger,

### New Hampshire

Tina Savage

### New Jersey

Brian Oleksak

## New York

Shawn Bossard

## Pennsylvania

Linda Saussy Wiles

## West Virginia

Brian Wickline

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

### Illinois

Paul A Mariman

### Indiana

Scott Gabbard

### Kansas

Krista Harding

### Michigan

Beth Clawson  
Philip R. Kaatz

### Minnesota

Lizabeth Stahl

### Missouri

Karisha Devlin

## Nebraska

Gary Lesoing

## Ohio

Harold Watters

## South Dakota

Heather Gessner

## Wisconsin

David W. Fischer

# 2008 NACAA Animal Science Pre-AM/PIC Seminar & Tour

## July 10-12, 2008

By: Anna-Marie Chamberlain, Becky Spearman and Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña

The NACAA Animal Science Pre-AM/PIC Seminar and tour kicked-off with a group dinner and planning meeting the night prior to the tour. From North Carolina, Becky Spearman and Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña served as our trusted tour guides. JJ was our talented bus driver and he participated and attended every tour with the group. Oregon had a strong showing with five members present: Randy Mills, NACAA Animal Science Committee Western Region Vice-Chair, Cory Parsons, Troy Downing, Shelby Filley and Anna-Marie Chamberlain. Pennsylvania had three representatives, Eugene Schurman, NACAA Animal Science Committee Northeast Region Vice-Chair, Carol Schurman and Richard Smith. Florida resident, Henry Grant, was in attendance as well as Robert Mickel from New Jersey. The final NACAA Animal Science Committee member was Ron Graber from Kansas, the North Central Region Vice-Chair. Although not everyone was able to attend the pre tour function, it was a great time to get to know one another and relationships quickly developed.



From left to right are: Ronnie Matthis, Nichols Farms, Becky Spearman, Randy Mills, Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña, Troy Downing, Shelby Filley, Henry Grant, Robert Mickel, Carol and Eugene Schurman, Richard Smith, Anna-Marie Chamberlain, Ron Graber, and Cory Parsons.

The tour group departed Greensboro early Friday morning and the first stop on the tour was Kingsmill Farm, a 1,400 head Holstein Dairy located in Liberty, North Carolina. Kingsmill Farm is owned by Mr. David Falk and consists of two locations – the 1,400 head dairy located in Liberty and a smaller farm in Durham. The Liberty farm has been up-dated in the last 3-4 years to a double 24 rapid-exit, milking parlor. All



Cows in the milking parlor at Kingsmill Farm

cows are equipped with electronic transponders around their necks, and readers in the milking parlor record all milking information and transfer it to the main computer in the office. All crops are contracted out, but are grown on the farm's land. One of Kingsmill's biggest challenges over the last few years has been its waste management system. The Durham farm has an extensive embryo program that is performed in a dedicated lab where resulting embryos qualify for export worldwide. They strive to work with the very best individuals the Holstein breed has to offer. At their recent "A Night at Kingsmill" Sale held June 6, 123 lots were sold and averaged \$8,988.62 per lot with a gross of \$1,105,600.

Our second stop was Smithfield Packing Company located in Tar Heel. Smithfield Packing Company is the largest pork processor and the largest hog producer in the world. The Tar Heel plant processes up to 32,500 hogs a day running two shifts five days a week. A portion of their production is shipped to other Smithfield plants in the south for additional processing (such as curing) while another portion of their production is processed, packaged and labeled on site as case-ready product. The Tar Heel plant has over 5,000 employees. Smithfield Foods is a global food company that goes above and beyond to provide good food in a responsible manner. Smithfield Foods' acquisitions have made them a global food company with annual revenues approaching \$12 billion, producing more than 50 brands of pork, beef and turkey products and 200 gourmet foods. Companies include Smithfield Packing Company, Inc., John Morrell & Co., Farmland Foods, Inc., Patrick Cudahy, Inc., North Side Foods, Butterball Turkey and several international companies.

After lunch, the group stopped at David Gooden's Farm in Elizabethtown. On the way to the farm, Becky Spearman, Bladen County Livestock Extension Agent, discussed the many animal waste management rules and regulations that affect swine farms in North Carolina. Glen Clifton, Prestage Farms Director of Environmental Compliance, demonstrated how lagoon sludge surveys are completed. The Division of Water Quality requires all permitted swine farms to do a sludge survey of each lagoon annually. Producers take a boat out in the lagoon (which are 1-3 acres in size) and take measurements of the depth of sludge-



free zone in the lagoon. Lagoons must have a liquid treatment zone free of sludge with a minimum depth of four feet. Normally, that survey would require two to three people and a couple of hours. North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Extension designed a remote control boat to do the surveys. Prestage Farms had a boat made to complete the surveys for their company and contract-owned farms. The remote control boat is made out of aluminum and uses a leaf blower to propel it around the lagoon. The boat has a depth finder that takes constant readings of the sludge level compared to the manual method, which takes 10-20 readings per lagoon. The depth finder has a computer memory card to record the data that is downloaded into a program. The group had a chance to look into one of the hog houses.

David and Channing Gooden are a father and son team. Their farm is a diversified livestock operation. They contract finish 30,576 hogs in 16 barns and raise 42,120 nursery pigs a year for Prestage Farms. In March 2008, they started raising turkeys for Prestage Farms. They have a 16,500 turkey brooder. The poults leave the farm at 4 pounds. They have a cow calf operation with 175 brood cows. They use Nichols Farms Bulls and sell the feeder calves at the Nichols Genetic Source Feeder Sales. In addition to the livestock operations, they have 175 acres of pasture, 150 acres of hay, 50 acres of corn and 1 acre of strawberries.

The last tour stop on Friday was at Nichols Farms North Carolina Division. In 1998, Nichols Farms sold their first franchise to the Matthis family in North Carolina. While franchising is common in other businesses, Nichols Farms was the first to adopt this strategy in beef seedstock production. The franchises have extended Nichols Farms genetics inputs and value-added marketing programs to a multitude of commercial beef producers.

Nichols Farms North Carolina Division offers Angus, Simmental, South Devon and 3 lines of composite bulls. The Nichols operation is unique in that they offer their producers the opportunity to market their calves for added value. Sales include calves that are preconditioned, source and age verified. The group had the opportunity to view one herd of the fall calving cows which are rotationally grazed on pasture. The cows were very uniform and it was obvious why people come from around the country to buy their bulls. Potential bull sale prospects go through rigorous tests and measurements, in addition to a feeding trial, to ensure only the top calves make it for herd sire prospects.



After looking at the Nichols cattle, the group went to the Sampson County Livestock Facility and Extension Office for supper. Paul Gonzalez, Sampson County Livestock Extension Agent, gave a tour of the newly built office and livestock facility. The illustrious office and livestock facility are the result of

the hard work of George Upton, former County Extension Director and livestock agent, who worked diligently to have the facility constructed. The office houses numerous agents and also serves as a museum for the agricultural history of the county. Mr. Upton, a retired 51 year veteran of the North Carolina Extension Service was inducted in 2007 to the NACAA Hall of Fame.



On Saturday morning, the group visited James Fuller's Horse farm in Lumberton, NC. He owns, trains and breeds quarter horses and thoroughbreds for bush track racing in North Carolina as well as racing on the big tracks in other states mainly Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio, Florida and Texas. One of his horses even set a track record in Indiana a few years ago. Bush track is a term used in horse racing to describe unsanctioned, informal horse races run in rural areas of the U.S. Quarter horses, ridden by amateur jockeys, are raced on makeshift tracks, often set up in a field. Race times are never kept and the track length is not uniform. Some of these tracks are more formal, with names and a regular schedule. Bush tracks are very popular with Hispanics who race on short quarter horse tracks in Mexico. Races are often run with only two horses on a track with lanes. There are approximately 10 bush tracks in NC.

James's farm has 23 stalls and he has 48 horses on the farm. He exercises all the horses in the pond and a walker. He particularly likes to exercise horses with injuries or tired muscles in the pond because they are not putting any weight on their legs. He and his family are members of the Lumbee Indian tribe. The 40,000+ members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina reside primarily in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties. The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and the ninth largest in the nation. The Lumbee take their name from the Lumbee River, which winds its way through Robeson County. Pembroke, NC is the economic, cultural and political center of the tribe.

Even though James prefers to work on the farm with the horses, he also owns one of the most popular restaurants in Lumberton. Fuller's Old Fashion Bar-B-Q Restaurant is packed everyday from the moment they open until closing time. They offer their famous barbeque and tons of southern cooking with every kind of vegetable imaginable served buffet style. He checks in on his family at the restaurant when he can, but spends most of his time getting horses ready for the track.

The second stop on Saturday was Ruby Hill Farm owned and operated by Robbie Harrington located in Wadesboro, NC. The farm consists of two actual sites: the Casons Old Field Farm and the Redfearn Place. The Casons Oldfield Farm is made-up of 70 acres and is located in southern Anson County. Herd bulls and the two-three year old cows are kept there. The Redfearn Place is located just south of Wadesboro. It has 115 acres of fescue and bermudagrass pastures. The 60-head, mature cow herd is kept at this site. Weaned calves and replacement heifers are also kept there.

Richard Melton, Anson County Livestock Extension Agent, discussed the Heat Watch System and how the farm is using it. He also explained how heifers have their pelvic area measured and are assigned a reproductive tract score. Heifers who do not meet the minimum requirements for pelvic area and reproductive tract score as set forth by the group are culled and only the top females are kept for breeding. The local AI technician and neighbors who are involved in a similar program in their area also participated in the discussion.

Robbie has been extremely progressive for area cattlemen in his embrace of artificial insemination for beef cattle. He was one of the primary organizers of a cooperative heifer estrus synchronization and AI breeding program. That program started five years ago with 5 producers and about 27 heifers. Last year, over 20 producers and 250 heifers were involved. As a result of the use of estrus synchronization and AI, over the last five years, several producers have gained experience in managing A.I. programs. Without fail, the single biggest complaint they have had has been accurate heat detection. In order to address that issue, three commercial beef herds have invested in electronic, computer-assisted, heat detection systems.

The group stopped at Ellerbe Springs Inn and Restaurant, which dates back to 1820. The present Inn was built as a hotel in 1906 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The afternoon stop was at JBob Farms, which is owned and operated by Bobbie and Julia Myrick. The farm is situated in Biscoe, NC. Previously, their farm was famous for their Black Polled Gelbvieh cattle. They decided in 2005 to sell the cattle operation and start a new enterprise breeding and raising Boer meat goats. From the 200 does, they raise meat goats to sell commercially as well as to sell to 4-H members. They have a working facility system similar to cattle, but on a smaller scale. They are beginning to get into artificial insemination and checking fecal egg counts. The farm has a carefully planned forage and grazing system. They have had a lot of success growing Matua prairiegrass. It is a cool season grass, which makes it ideal forage for early spring and late fall grazing. They are both members of the Richmond County Adult Meat Goat club and serve as leaders to those interested in learning about artificial insemination and embryo transfer because of their experience with cattle.

Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña, Richmond County Livestock Extension Agent, gave a demonstration on how to do fecal egg counts in goats. The main worm of concern in goats is *Haemonchus contortus* or Barber pole worm. The Adult Meat Goat



Club has purchased the equipment to do the counts and the members can check out the equipment to use on their farm. The group has been very progressive in developing an interest in the county to raise the Boer goats and in educating producers on appropriate care and maintenance of their flocks.

The last stop of the day was right next door to JBob Farms. C-Cross Cattle Company is owned by Duane and Wendy Strider and managed by Ben Andrews. C-Cross is in the Gelbvieh, Balancer and Angus Breeding Stock Business. They have worked diligently to develop superior cattle that have profitable, predictable and dependable genetics. They currently market bulls and heifers in their Fall J-Bob Legacy Sale and in their C-Cross Cattle Co. Spring Turnout Sale to producers from numerous states.

Following the two-day tour, participants returned to Greensboro with knowledge from leading livestock operations in North Carolina. The tour always provides valuable information that participating agents can put into practice when they return to their home state.

The NACAA Animal Science Committee extends an invitation to you to participate in this valuable experience next year when the meetings will be held in Portland, OR. Current plans for the 2009 tour call for participants to gather in Boise, ID for visits to leading beef cattle, dairy, and sheep operations in North-eastern Oregon. By starting the animal science tour in Boise, ID, participants will have the opportunity to see a portion of Oregon that will not be possible on the Thursday professional improvement tours.

# 2008 NACAA Hall of Fame Inductees

NACAA established the NACAA Hall of Fame Award in 2006. Recipients were evaluated on their Extension programming, state and national association activities and humanitarian efforts beyond the normal call of duty.

The 2008 inductees were Life member James Smith, Virginia; Active Member, Larry Sagers, Utah; Life Member, S. Glenn Ellenberger, Pennsylvania; and Life Member Donald Huls, Nebraska.

This award was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Deere and Company.

Congratulations NACAA Hall of Fame Inductees.



## James Smith

Virginia  
35 Years - Retired  
2008  
Southern Region  
Hall of Fame Award



## Larry Sagers

Utah  
26 Years  
2008  
Western Region  
Hall of Fame Award



## S. Glenn Ellenberger

Pennsylvania  
31 Years - Retired  
2008  
Northeast Region  
Hall of Fame Award



## Donald Huls

Nebraska  
40 Years - Retired  
2008  
North Central Region  
Hall of Fame Award

# Call of the Week



We encourage County Agents to submit some of their humorous, strange or unusual calls you've had over the years. These are the ones that make you shake your head in amazement or just tickle your funny bone. We know you've had some. Take a minute and E-mail them to us at [nacaemail@aol.com](mailto:nacaemail@aol.com) or send them by snail mail to NACAA, 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756.

### SOMEONE'S TRYING TO POISON MY DOG!

An urgent and frantic call came in this spring from a lady who was almost certain that someone was trying to poison her puppy. She described randomly distributed clusters of dark "poisonous" pill balls throughout her lawn and landscape. I asked her to carefully bring some in for identification, so she collected several specimens, sealed them in a bag and rushed the sample to me. Upon further investigation, these nearly spherical shaped, half inch wide, brown colloids were definitely from a biological source, I told her. She said that her dog smells of them and she fearfully keeps the canine from getting too close before following some invisible trail to another pile, in addition, some of her plants seem to be cut off near the ground. I finally told her there is no reason to fear a neighbor with malicious intent; ma'am your perpetrator is a bunny rabbit.

Mark Blevins  
Horticulture Agent, NC Cooperative Extension  
Gaston County Center 704.922.2124

### CROSS-WORD PUZZLE HELP

A lady named Joy called one day with several home yard and garden questions. She asked about the leaves on her maple trees which were dropping early, she had a question about spiders in her basement and she wanted to know how to control varmints in her backyard. Before she hung up she commented that I had been very helpful and she thanked me for my help. Then she said "one more thing" Who is the commissioner of baseball?...his first name is Bud. I replied: Selig (SELIG). She said "that fits".....Thank-you so much. This was the first time in 24 years of Extension work that I was asked to help with a cross-word puzzle and I felt good about being able to answer the question.

Steve Schumacher  
Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Belmont County, Ohio

## Passing of Past National NACAA President – Thurman Kennedy

We are saddened to report the death of Past NACAA President Thurman Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy passed away on Tuesday, June 2, 2008. He was the County Extension Agent-Agriculture for Bexar County, District 10 at the time of his retirement on August 31, 1982, and served as NACAA President in 1976.

Visitation was held Wednesday June 4th, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North in San Antonio, TX. The family requests those preferring memorial contributions in lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Texas A&M 12th Man Foundation in College Station Texas (979/846-8892 or 888/TAM-12TH).

Mr. Kennedy was preceded in death by his wife Jean, who passed away in January of this year. He is survived by 3 sons, Jim, Jeff and Joe.

Cards and condolences may be sent to the family at the address below: c/o Jim Kennedy 1918 Margate St. San Antonio, TX 78232-5112

## Passing of Past National NACAA President – G. Richard Curran

George Richard Curran, 78, died Thursday, July 24, 2008, at the Carroll Hospital Center. He was the husband of his current wife, Danka Dera Curran, and is survived by his first wife, Nancy K. Curran of Hanover. Mr. Curran graduated from Penn State University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in agronomy. He later attended the University of Maryland where he received a Master's Degree in Extension Education. Since 1981 he has held the professional rank of Principal Agent which is equivalent of the academic rank of Professor for campus faculty. Mr. Curran served 24 years as County Extension Agent with the Cooperative Extension Service in Maryland. His professional association work includes serving on five offices of his state association, including President in 1981. He has served as Vice Chair and Chair of the NACAA Extension Programs Committee. He served as President of NACAA in 1989. Contributions may be made in his name to G. Richard Curran Scholarship Fund, c/o Baltimore County Farm Bureau, 1840 York Road, Suite J, Timonium, MD 21093. Condolences may be made to Danka Curran, 339 Hook Road, Westminster, MD 21157 and to Dick's children, Patrick Curran 71 Northridge Drive, Hanover, PA 19331



# Economic Importance of the Mississippi Equine Industry

Authored by: Dr. Al Myles, Economist and Extension professor  
Agricultural Economics Department, Miss. State University

## Equine Overview

The horse industry is important to Mississippi's economy. In the past, most of the horses were in rural areas of the state. Over the last few years, the horse population has grown in urban centers like Biloxi, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, and Desoto County. There is about one horse for every 24 people in Mississippi.

Compared to many states, Mississippi has more modern facilities to support the horse industry. There are 72 public agriculture arenas in the state that support rodeos, horse shows, training classes, and nonequestrian events. There are more than 26 major breed associations in the state, with the American Quarter Horse Association accounting for almost 46 percent of all members in the state in 2006.

The diversity of breeds shows the interest in and growth of the horse industry in Mississippi. Also in 2006, there were about 7,931 unregistered horse owners in the state. Many of these owners enjoy riding horses, while others use them for work-related purposes.

## Horse Population<sup>1</sup>

Different sources give different estimates of the horse population for Mississippi. For example, the 2002 Census of Agriculture for Mississippi counted 66,814 horses. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) estimated 125,000 in the state. While the horse industry in Mississippi is growing, the author could not confirm these numbers.

To deal with the wide variety of reported horse populations, I consulted with equine experts, horse owners, and agriculture arena managers to determine a reasonable estimate of the horse population in the state. Based on their experience and knowledge, I estimated there were 113,063 horses in Mississippi in 2006.

Supporting the approximately 113,063 horses in 2006 were investments in infrastructure such as in agricultural arenas, private barns, trucks, fencing, veterinary services, and other expenses in the state. These investments produced significant economic activity in the form of sales, labor income, and employment for residents in the state.

<sup>1</sup> For more details about the methods referenced in this article, see the publication "Horse Population in Mississippi: By the Numbers" at The following website: <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2450.pdf>

## Economic Impact

The equine industry has grown over the years, and its importance to the state deserves attention. Economic developers and public officials should know about this upward trend and understand



the benefits of horses to the state. As the number of horses and horse operations continues to increase, county and state officials also need to increase public assistance to the owners of these operations. Examples of assistance include facility development and expansion, soil conservation, pasture management, and nutrient management.

Horses have a major economic impact on the state. The author conducted a study in 2006 (and later updated to 2007) to determine the economic contributions of the horse industry in Mississippi. He used the depreciated investments (annual and fixed costs) in horses and horse operations from that study to get a value of \$877.45 million for 2006. These investments contributed about \$1.02 billion to the state's economy and produced about 38,900 jobs during the same period. County and state officials can use this information to develop policies that will ensure a vibrant future for the horse industry.

## Future Implications

As the horse industry continues to grow, so too will public concern about urban infringement, protection of the environment (including water and natural resources), manure waste disposal, and other issues. However, the growth of horse operations may slow as land in some counties is developed for commercial and community interests.

To protect the horse industry, which is a major contributor to the state's economy, policy makers need information about the economic size and scope of the industry. These figures will help them develop policies that will protect both the environment and the horse industry.

# NACAA

## Report To The Membership 2008

### NACAA President

**N. Fred Miller**  
**North Carolina**



North Carolina and our host city of Greensboro were certainly a "Place to Grow" for more than 1400 agents, family members and guests who attended this year's Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

Whether it was the professional improvement sessions, seminars, workshops, tours and other special events, or the bountiful meals provided, everyone had the opportunity for a personal growth experience! I join everyone who attended the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of NACAA in expressing our thanks and appreciation to 2008 AM/PIC co-chairs Karen Neill and Mark Tucker and the great team of North Carolina agents, life members and volunteers for a job well done! I could not be more proud of what you accomplished and sincerely appreciate the opportunity to be a member of your team.

While the North Carolina agents played a key role in making this a successful meeting, they could not have accomplished this task without the support of the NACAA Committees. With guidance from the Council Chairs, the National Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, in tandem with each State's committee leadership, effectively managed the wide array of awards and professional improvement programs offered by NACAA. The work of these "volunteers" is essential; for NACAA would cease to "grow" without the continuing efforts of our Committees.

As exemplified by the individuals who are willing to step up and "make it happen", the talent and dedication within NACAA is huge. Despite this fact, every year requires a struggle to identify members who will assume leadership roles in our organization. One of the objectives identified by the Futuring Committee was ensuring creativity and the influx of new ideas by continually incorporating "new blood" within our committee structure. This objective can only be achieved if every member acknowledges the value of this organization and takes advantage of the growth opportunities it provides relative to their professional and leadership development. It is easy to be an armchair quarterback and sit back and critique without taking action. I hold in high regard those individuals who are willing to give it their best shot for the good of the organization.

Another objective identified by the Futuring Committee was discovering ways to increase the support for promotion and tenure of NACAA members. One aspect of this objective is the opportunity to take advantage of national leadership opportunities. Professional public service, outreach, and national reputation are recognized components of most promotion processes. What organization is better able to provide these types of opportunities for agents with agricultural responsibilities than NACAA?

We had a record number of first-timers attend this year's AM/PIC. It should be an excellent time to get them permanently engaged in our association and taking advantage of the aforementioned opportunities. NACAA needs experienced leaders at every level and the sooner these first timers get on board, the more likely they can move up the ladder both in NACAA and their Extension jobs. I encourage every NACAA

member to take time to promote NACAA to their co-workers while taking an introspective look at your current level of participation. There are plenty of opportunities to put your skills to work in this organization, and I can say from my own personal experience that the reward far exceeds the cost.

Another group of pioneering individuals has been working to provide new opportunities for our members to publish and be recognized for their work. Under the leadership of Mickey Cummings, the Electronic Journal Committee (comprised of Glenn Rogers, Elmo Collum, Janet Schmidt, Mike Christian and Allen Hogan) published their first edition as a part of this year's AM/PIC Proceedings. Please join me in thanking the members of this committee and others who assisted in this process by reviewing papers or performing other duties. While work remains to ensure the electronic journal becomes a permanent opportunity available for our membership, this committee has successfully laid the foundation. Thank you for your leadership! Also, "Congratulations" to this year's inaugural group of eighteen NACAA members whose papers were selected.

Another "new" program being offered to NACAA members is participation in Galaxy III scheduled to be held in a few months. The need to build relationships with the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) and our sister organizations was another priority identified by the Futuring Committee. The decision by the NACAA voting delegates a few years back to join our sister associations and participate in Galaxy III has opened new windows of opportunity for NACAA and helped us make progress toward meeting this objective. Patrick Hogue, Mahlon Peterson, and Chuck Schwartau have been the chief architects of NACAA's participation in Galaxy III, although other NACAA members played important roles either as representatives of other associations or in additional support functions from the host state perspective. We owe them all a deep debt of gratitude for the work they have done. Their active participation and leadership in Galaxy III will reap dividends for NACAA for years to come.

In addition to Galaxy III, NACAA members provided leadership for two of JCEP's premier events. First, NACAA was responsible for coordinating the Regional Leadership Workshops in Orlando and San Diego. The Regional Directors did a great job organizing the details of these meeting and received rave reviews on the evaluations. The other event was the Public Issues Leadership Development conference (PILD) where Stan Moore was the first NACAA PILD Chair in recent memory and both James Devillier and Paul Craig played key roles on the PILD Planning Committee. Each of these individuals represented NACAA well. Their participation ensured the quality of these programs and helped build the legacy of NACAA while adding to our reputation as an Association that works well with the JCEP team.

This is the seventh individual Report to the Membership that I have had the opportunity to write and as I reflect on my past and current NACAA experience, it is difficult to resist becoming emotional. The associated experiences and people met and with whom lifelong friendships have been forged will continue to have an impact on my life. Indeed I feel fortunate that John Carroll, the County Director who started me on this journey back in 1981,

insisted I become a member of this organization. As a new agent, I had little appreciation for extension work or the value of participating in a professional organization, but with John's guidance and the support of other mentors along the way, a kernel of appreciation began to develop and grow. This process has been replicated repeatedly within our organization and every past National Officer or State Leader can likely share a similar story. While the new generation of agents has different skill sets and will have different challenges and opportunities during their careers, I remain convinced that their participation in NACAA will add value to their work experience. The only proviso is they need to be encouraged to get involved and "make it happen". If they choose this course of action, I can guarantee that NACAA will be a "place to grow".

In closing, I'd like to express my appreciation to everyone who supported me during this past year as President. You know who you are! I would like to especially thank my Catawba County Extension staff, District Director Deborah Crandall, Assistant Catawba County Manager Lee Worsley, NCCES Administration, Catawba County Government, the members of NCACAA, and all those aforementioned mentors. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank Debbie, (my "First Lady"), Riane, Hope and the rest of my family for their support throughout this experience. Only y'all can fully understand the sacrifice or appreciate and enjoy the results!

## **President-Elect**

### **Rick Gibson Arizona**

Serving as your President-Elect this past year has been an exciting and fulfilling opportunity.



I love to meet new people and make new friends. I think that is one of the reasons that I so greatly enjoy working as a county Extension agent. Every day brings a chance to meet and visit with new people, as well as with established friends. I also like to learn about food and fiber production systems different from the one in which I live and work. Traveling in the service of NACAA, I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and learn more about agriculture. I have had a great time this year.

I have enjoyed working with the NACAA Board; our Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker; and you the membership. I thank all of you for your time, effort and enthusiasm as together we strive to strengthen NACAA. Through our united efforts, we strengthen our capacity to become better Cooperative Extension professionals.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. The program year of 2007-08 has been one of extremes in several ways. I think we can all agree that it has been a difficult time for producers nationwide, particularly because of the weather and economics. From economic uncertainty in some areas to euphoria at record prices for grains in others, producers are struggling to make key decisions, many of which demand new knowledge and experience. Floods in the Mid-West, drought in the Southeast and hard freezes in the colder areas have all created challenging situations for those who put seed in the ground and animals on feed. The demand for new knowledge places you and me in a position of critical importance as we help guide our clientele in their decision-making processes. To be successful, we need to stay up-to-date in our knowledge and skills. Our professional development organization, NACAA, is important to us because it helps us stay on the cutting edge; it helps us become better Cooperative Extension professionals.

A major responsibility of the President-Elect is to help new and existing sponsors mesh their specific goals with those of NACAA.

This challenge and opportunity is important because these partnerships help maintain the financial viability and educational integrity of NACAA. I am pleased to report that our sponsors, even in these uncertain economic times, continue to support and sustain our organization and programs.

This year, twenty-two of our long-term sponsors have once again donated financial support to our organization. In 2007-08, existing sponsors have presented to NACAA \$122,200 in support, an increase of \$1,500 over last year. This increase occurred even though two donors from last year were unable to participate. In addition, we have been fortunate to add financial support from two new donors who have provided \$3,750 in support. All of this is above and beyond the significant budget set aside by the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program to support the new SARE Fellows Program which was launched this year. The total of all 2007-08 donations to NACAA from existing and new sponsors is \$125,950. If we add in the \$38,000 SARE dollars set aside to cover the costs of the Fellows program, our total donations swell to \$163,950!

We are grateful for the support of all of our sponsors and I encourage you to join with us in expressing our thanks to them for their continued friendship. They are vital to NACAA!

I have found that much of our strength as a professional development organization lies in the passion and synergy that we all bring to NACAA. This is true especially for fund raising. The President-Elect has a limited number of personal contacts, but the opportunity for increasing financial support increases greatly as all members of NACAA pool their combined resources. In 2002, the NACAA Board recognized the important roll that every member can play in the fundraising effort and provided an incentive program to reward members who help secure new sponsors for association programs.

Here is how the incentive program works. Those members finding new sponsors who choose to contribute at the \$2,000 to \$4,999 level receive their AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed. Those who identify sponsors contributing at the \$5,000 to \$9,999 level are rewarded with not only their AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed, but also a \$500 travel voucher to attend the AM/PIC. For finding new sponsors donating \$10,000 and up, they receive an AM/PIC registration fee reimbursement and a \$1,000 travel voucher to attend the AM/PIC. These significant benefits to members make the effort to help recruit new sponsors truly worthwhile.

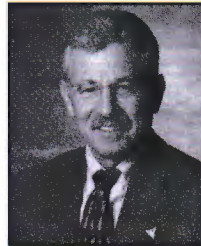
Other President-Elect officers have found and reported that a key element of any successful fund raising campaign within NACAA is the enthusiasm of member participation in programs and educational opportunities. Sponsors always look to see if the programs where their resources are used are well attended and effective. As we take advantage of the wide array of opportunities presented to us by our membership in NACAA, we demonstrate to our sponsors our appreciation for their support. We also demonstrate that we individually and collectively are committed and dedicated to professional improvement. As we work together to take advantage of the programs offered to us as members of NACAA, I am sure that we can continue to attract and retain sponsors who bring the financial support so important to our organization's success.

As I conclude my report, I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to the North Carolina AM/PIC team for their excellent work. It has been a truly memorable AM/PIC. We have learned much, recharged our Extension batteries and had fun in the process. I wish to thank all who worked on this great project and extend, on behalf of the entire membership, our heartfelt appreciation for your time, dedication and efforts. It has been a great meeting!

Next year, we meet in September, a beautiful time in the Pacific Northwest. Portland, Oregon will be our host site and the September 20-24, 2009 date should be a welcome change for our members who normally cannot come in July. The theme is "A New Corps of Discovery," celebrating the Lewis and Clark journey from one end of the country to the other. Just as the Lewis and Clark odyssey tied together the land from coast to coast and began a movement of people and ideas that truly united our country, so can you and I make our own journey west in search of new ideas and friendships. Come and see what we can discover together in the great Pacific Northwest. The Oregon team is pulling out all the stops to make sure that we have a wonderful time!

I am looking forward to serving as President during this coming year and I appreciate the trust placed in me by you, my colleagues. The members of the NACAA Board and NACAA Committees are anxious to move forward into a new year and we will strive to continue to help bring excellent learning opportunities to you.

### **Vice President** **Phil Pratt** **Oklahoma**



Teamwork, communication and committee work are three areas of focus for the NACAA Vice President and the following is a report on my observations concerning these three areas.

Our association's existence depends on the teamwork between the national and state associations. The key ingredient for successful teamwork is communication. Good communication promotes the efficient and timely movement of information between the national and state associations. Effective communication within NACAA starts with knowing who to contact at the state level. Current and accurate listing of state officers and state committee chairs is critical in maintaining communication lines between national and state associations.

During the past year, increased emphasis was placed on state association officers utilizing the NACAA Web site to update their state's committee chair listing. Through this effort state associations have become more proficient in updating of their state committee chair listings. When the NACAA AM/PIC convened in Greensboro, NC all states had current committee chair listings; however, many states will have a slate of new committee chairs in the next few months. I encourage state officers to keep the listing of their state's committee chairs current.

I realize communication is not a one-way street. The national board, national committee chairs and vice chairs need to improve efforts to communicate with state officers and state committee chairs. Often times those on the national level assume everyone has the current information. We overlook the need to keep open, active and timely communication between ourselves and the state officers and state committee chairs. In today's electronic world it is easy to stay in contact with someone. It will be a point of emphasis for national committee chairs and vice chairs to increase and improve their communication with the states.

A third and equally important issue is committee work. I want to thank NACAA committee chairs and vice chairs for all of their efforts during the past year. However we chronically deal with a shortage of NACAA members willing to serve in NACAA committee chair and vice-chair positions. We need to determine ways to encourage more NACAA members to serve as committee vice chairs. These positions are extremely critical to NACAA's ability to perform as a high quality professional improvement association. My personal experience as a national committee chair and a regional vice chair was rewarding because it provided me an opportunity to work with other Extension Educators

from across the nation and it gave me the opportunity to have input into the inner workings of the association. NACAA members who are interested in helping move the association forward should apply for these openings. They provide excellent opportunities for those who are interested in helping maintain the foundation of NACAA.

To become a more efficient team, improve communications and increase members' willingness to step into leadership positions it will take a commitment to serve with word and work. It is incumbent on all of us to encourage one another and to be involved in our association

### **Secretary** **Leon J. Church** **Texas**



2008 has been an extremely eventful year for the Association and for me as your secretary. This has been the third and final year serving as NACAA Secretary and what an experience these past three years have been. Let me just tell you that each of the past three boards of directors has been dedicated to the purposes of NACAA. Each has done great work to promote professional improvement; leadership development; recognition programs for extension programming excellence; and has acted as an advocate for the Extension Agent/Educator profession. I don't think there could have been better people to work with.

As I stated at the beginning of this report, this has been an eventful year for NACAA. As you all know we are involved in both the AM/PIC and Galaxy this year, which has made for some very interesting discussions on the board. Both I'm sure are excellent professional opportunities. I wish to express to the North Carolina Association a great deal of gratitude. They have been gracious hosts and such a positive group of people to work with. During last winter's board of directors meeting in Greensboro they showed us a great time as they are now for the entire AM/PIC attendees. Congratulations on a job well done! We kicked off the SARE Fellowship program with the first training being held in Arizona. We worked very hard to improve communications throughout the committee structure. We initiated the first ever electronic journal which is a part of this proceeding. Thanks to Mickey Cummings GA, Elmo Collum MS, Janet Schmidt WA, Mike Christian KS, Glenn Rogers VT and Alan Hogan LA for all their efforts on this project. I know we are working hard to implement the majority of the recommendations of the Futuring Committee report from three years ago.

Personally this has also been a challenging year. This spring for the first time I faced a situation that proved that I was not indestructible. I was diagnosed with a thick heart wall (there is a long medical term for this but I know this is more descriptive). It caused the electrical system in my heart to not act correctly. In any event a defibrillator was implanted in my chest to make sure that I don't go into what is called V-fibrillation. The doctors tell me this is the same conditions that some athletes have who die while participating in sports. Everything is going great at this time, just don't stand too close if it goes off, you might get a shock.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of NACAA for allowing me to serve as your NACAA Secretary for the past three years. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my 36 year extension career. The friendships that I have made are priceless. I know that where ever I am in this country I have friends to call upon. In fact watch out I might just be doing that, as I will be retiring from Extension on August 31, 2008.

Thanks again for all your support.

**Treasurer**  
**Paul D. Wigley**  
**Georgia**



Ladies and Gentlemen it has been a pleasure and honor to serve as your treasurer for the past year. In my second year as your treasurer I have become more familiar and comfortable with the duties and responsibilities of the job. The job has been rewarding as well as an educational experience for me.

I have gained insight as to the workings of our association and how simple decisions are sometimes vary complex when all regions of the country are included. What's best for your home region may not be the best thing for the entire organization. My skills of listening and compromising have been sharpened during the two years I have served as your treasurer.

At the present time our organization is on sound financial ground. This is due to the NACAA Board's diligent efforts to control costs and the so und fiscal policies established by this and previous Boards. Unfortunately, not everything is under our control and I feel compelled to highlight some issues that will continue to challenge us for the foreseeable future.

As all of you are fully aware of, the cost of travel and energy in general continues to spiral upward at an unprecedented rate. This will impact our organization in at least two ways. First, the cost of travel for your officers and directors to represent you at numerous functions will increase. If you bought an airline ticket you realize this already. It impacts us daily at the gas pump as we refuel our vehicles. We as a board are looking at ways to reduce travel expenses while still maintaining a presence at necessary functions.

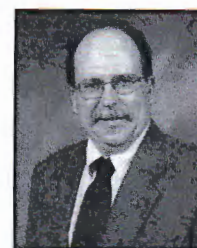
The second way that this will have an impact on our organization is AM/PIC attendance. As travel costs for the membership continue to rise, will we still have as many members attending the AM/PIC as in the past. This will have an effect on the budget process of future AM/PIC meetings. Presently we don't have a concrete answer as to what attendance figures will do over the next three to five years.

The board is trying to keep travel expense down without reducing the effectiveness of the organization. Energy costs have an impact on almost every other expenditure the board must make. Whether it is an increase in meal costs due to an increase in trucking cost or an increase in airfare due to fuel costs or an increase in supplies due to higher freight costs, all of our inputs continue to rise. This is a fact that you are made aware of daily as you purchase groceries, fuel, utilities, and any other commodity that must be transported.

Belt tightening has already started. Once the belt has been tightened as much as possible, you have no choice but to look for more revenue. This may become necessary in the next three years. All of our revenue comes from donations, dues, and interest from our checking account. It doesn't take a lot of imagination to see that donations and dues are the two sources that we have the most control over.

Once again let me state that we are currently on sound financial ground, but the changing economy is having an impact on our future financial health.

**Past President**  
**Chuck Otte**  
**Kansas**



When you hand off the gavel to the new President, at the end of the DSA Banquet, you have this wonderful feeling of accomplishment, success and relief that washes over you. It's a great feeling and you suddenly wonder what you're going to do with all your spare time. That feeling lasts about 24 hours until the responsibilities of being Past President kick in and you get back to work!

All of the bills and vouchers for the AM/PIC are the responsibility of the person who was President during the AM/PIC. So it wasn't long after returning home before I started getting flooded with these vouchers to be checked over, approved and sent on to the Treasurer for payment. Then you start having conference calls with the host state to sort out the bills, determining who paid, or pays, for what and making sure that nothing gets overlooked. And while we're already through another AM/PIC, just let me say one last time what a pleasure it was to work with Phil Durst and all the great NACAA members from Michigan!

As chair of the fiscal committee, I was also working with North Carolina to prepare a budget for the 2008 AM/PIC so that could be presented to the NACAA Board at winter board meeting. It was a pleasure to work with the North Carolina members on the budget and I think you can all agree that they did a great job of hosting the AM/PIC! Unfortunately, I had to present the AM/PIC budget to the board via conference call as I was stuck at home in Kansas in the middle of an ice storm and was not able to attend the winter board meeting.

One of the highlights of my year as Past President was representing NACAA on the Outstanding Young Farmer selection committee and traveling to their Awards Congress, this year in sunny downtown Madison, WI, the end of January. Normally the chairman of the Agricultural Issues and Public Relations committee would accompany the past president to this event. Scheduling conflicts prevent that from happening this year so I was accompanied by NACAA President Fred Miller.

OYF is a truly outstanding program. We partner with John Deere, the United States Junior Chamber and Outstanding Farmers of America Fraternity. Their annual awards congress is extremely high energy and will definitely recharge your batteries! As NACAA members we have the opportunity to nominate farmers between the ages of 21 and 40 to compete in this program. The ten finalists that come in for the final interviews are certainly the cream of the crop and all ten of them are winners that any of us would be pleased to have in our county, parish or state! This year three of the four national winners were nominated by NACAA members. If you nominate a young farmer candidate then they are a national winner, you get to have your registration to the next AM/PIC paid by NACAA. The nomination deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>, so start recruiting nominees now for next year's competition!

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) is comprised of the six Extension professional associations. NACAA is one of the original members of this group and we view our involvement in this organization as crucial to the success of our members and our association. JCEP is the coordinating entity for the Regional Leadership conferences, the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference, and the Galaxy Conference. I currently serve as Treasurer of JCEP and Fred Miller will soon be serving as President of the JCEP board. At the summer board meeting, Rick Gibson was elected to serve as Treasurer elect and will be serving as treasurer during the 2010 calendar year.

The JCEP Board is comprised of the President Elect, President and Past President of the six associations. We also have representatives from CSREES (Cooperative State Research Extension and Education System), NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges) and ECOP (Extension Committee on Organization and Planning). JCEP also appoints a liaison to serve on the ECOP Budget Committee.

JCEP's most important role, in my opinion, is in serving as a communication link among the Extension professional organizations and our many partners. There are many old sayings about "we all hang together or we all hang separately" or "insert your favorite similar phrase here". With JCEP we are trying to help everyone understand that the success of any one member of any of our six associations translates into success for all of us in the Extension system. Cooperation takes many forms in our daily work. When we all strive to help our coworkers, anywhere in the system, do better, it raises the professionalism, and accountability of the entire system!

The Fiscal Committee spent a lot of time this past year talking about NACAA's financial position. Treasurer Paul Wigley has addressed it and I have alluded to it. We are in sound shape, but we are also keeping a wary eye on developments. As board members we try to be very frugal in all of our travels. We look for ways to reduce or cut costs. Before we take on anything the first question is "what positive impact will this have on the association" and the second question is "what will it cost the association?" Cost benefit analyses are constantly being done by all of us in many ways. We all pay dues and we don't want to see "our" money wasted and none of us want to be responsible for any waste. We hold in highest esteem the responsibility of helping all NACAA members to become better professionals. We also feel that our contact with the membership in each state to be crucial. Many of the other JCEP organizations have reduced their presence in each state. Your NACAA Board feels that we can cut costs elsewhere just so we can keep getting a regional director out to each state association every year. In some future year, we will have to raise dues again. In the meantime, I encourage you to work with your National Board in helping to keep costs down but not at the expense of professional development!

In closing, I want to thank NACAA, and each of you, for the opportunity to serve for the past four years as one of your officers. It is an experience that I wish all of you could have. It's a great deal of travel and work, but the experiences and the professional development opportunities are second to none. The time has gone by very quickly, but it's time for me to refocus 100% of my time on Geary County, Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity and thank you for coming along with me on the trip, and thank you Jaye for all your support and encouragement!

### **Southern Region Director** **James E. Devillier** **Louisiana**



As I sit to write this article, many thoughts are swirling through my mind—long deliberative NACAA board meetings, exciting state association visits, meeting county agents and becoming close friends, regional JCEP and national PILD meetings and so on. What an enriching experience it has been to represent you, the NACAA member, on the board of directors, on national and regional committees and at other related functions. I am truly honored and humbled by the experience.

Since the Grand Rapids AM/PIC, the board has been actively engaged in developing greater professional development opportunities for you. We've initiated the SARE Fellows program and held the first training seminar last April. The board is on track to instituting measures identified

by the Futuring Committee. The Planning and Development committee established a timeline for adopting the committee recommendations and the board has already put some recommendations into effect. Your NACAA board is actively pursuing and adopting technology to enhance communication within the organization. We continue to stress the importance of communication as it is the foundation on which we will continue to grow and thrive. Other examples of board engagement can be found in the other board member and officer reports.

As your representative on the PILD committee (along with Paul Craig and Mark Stewart), the focus has been, is and will be to provide NACAA attendees cutting edge information on agricultural issues. Along with this focus is the opportunity to relay agricultural concerns to elected officials and visit with USDA partners. Congratulations to Stan Moore for chairing an excellent 2008 educational conference that had 309 participants.

The 2008 JCEP conference was a joint meeting of the NACAA Northeast and Southern regions. Integrating generational diversity in programming efforts and applying emerging technology to these programming efforts highlighted the conference. Dirk, Alan, Charles and I were pleased to host the Southern region officers and learn of their state association activities. States in the Southern region are in the hands of good officers and even though state organizations experience peaks and valleys in membership, sponsorships and activities, the officers are steadfast and are plotting and traveling a true and steady course.

Following the Grand Rapids AM/PIC, I took part in the Texas, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina and Kentucky state meetings. Each of these associations had outstanding AM/PIC's. In Texas, I had the opportunity to witness SWAT team training and participate in a training exercise where on the fourth attempt to have a supposedly armed suspect exit a stolen car, I shot an unarmed man. Needless to say, that exercise deepened my appreciation for the challenges faced by law enforcement personnel. Congratulations to the Florida county agents for encouraging their members to submit abstracts and present papers at their annual meeting. Papers were presented in various categories—horticulture, wildlife, livestock, etc.—during concurrent sessions. As I listened to some of the papers, it reaffirmed the commonality I've seen among county agents and programs in the Southern region. For the Georgia meeting, I was unfortunately distracted and missed the skeet shoot but did participate in the important sessions. Georgia agents do an excellent job with a poster contest that had more than 30 competing entries. The Georgia association also recognizes and financially rewards those members who develop and conduct outstanding programs. Tennessee provided its members with excellent program training while also slipping in a little fun (golf and fishing tournaments) during their meeting at Pickwick Lake State Park. I must confess that even though I didn't fish in the tournament, I was out-fished from the lake bank by my wife! The South Carolina and Kentucky members conducted excellent meetings with liberal doses of professional improvement activities while also adding splashes of entertainment. It was good to visit with Doug Wilson again. Doug is a past NACAA Southern Region Director and provided the encouragement for my serving on the NACAA board. Thank you Dirk Webb and Alan Galloway for filling in for me at the Virginia and North Carolina meetings, respectively.

As my term on the NACAA board concludes, there are many, many people to thank for this tremendous opportunity to serve the county agents of this nation. Thank-you LCAAA members for selecting me as your delegate four years ago. Thank-you Paul Coreil and Pam Hodson for approving my time away from the office to represent Louisiana and the Southern Region of NACAA. Thank-you to my office colleagues and co-workers—Pam, Brian, Beverly, Ken, Ursula, Andre', Lauren, Faye, Patsy and Sheree—for your patience and

understanding as I traveled out-of-state to conduct NACAA business. Thank-you Southern Region members for your warm hospitality and firm commitment to the profession of county extension agent. Finally thank-you to past and present board members for your friendship and close-knit working relationship. I look forward to joining Leon and the Life Member group in 2011. Once again, *"Merci beaucoup pour les bon temp et les bon memoires"*.

### **Southern Region Director**

#### **Dirk Webb Oklahoma**



Serving NACAA and the Southern Region this past year has been eventful and outstanding opportunity for me. I want to thank the Oklahoma Association of Extension Agriculture Agents for having nominated me in 2005 in New York. I also want to thank the other Southern Region states for their support and help during my first year as Director.

It has been a pleasure to represent NACAA at the state meetings I have attended. I have come away from each state's meeting impressed with the professional attitude the agents have, not only for their state association, but for our national one, as well. I feel fortunate to able share in professional improvement, making new friends, and experience first-hand the willingness to work together that most agriculture agents exhibit.

Throughout my Extension career, I have always felt that extension agents have had a profound influence on agriculture. As members of NACAA, we have reason to be proud of our national organization that brings members from all corners of the United States together to share ideas, methods, issues and concerns, as we all strive to improve professionally.

I admire the Norman Rockwell painting of the county agent talking to the farm family. We all know that he is addressing changes that will help improve their quality on life. That is our strength in Cooperative Extension— strong, local, "grassroots" connections, plus our efforts to provide the best unbiased information straight from our land grant universities.

We have seen agriculture experience a phenomenal transformation over our lifetimes. Extensions agents play major roles in this transformation. We bring cutting edge technology, plus we are known as individuals that tirelessly work to improve the quality of life of those we serve. This past year as a NACAA director, and, more importantly, as a NACAA member, I have seen the high quality of our members and the strong commitment in their work. We truly have a long-lasting impact on the families in the communities we serve.

As I close this report, I would like to charge all members of our association, to think not only of today when making decisions. Think of the future and the agents that will follow us. We too, must be willing to listen and to communicate with each other.

### **Western Region Director**

#### **Michele Hebert Alaska**



What a year it has been! I have had the opportunity to travel all over the western region this year from the high plains camping in Wyoming to the hot desert on the boarder

of Arizona. My 2 years as the Western Director for NACAA can be summed up in the words of this famous person...

"Its kind of fun to do the impossible." Walt Disney

Sometimes I think, instead of calling us extension agents, they should call us OVER extended agents. Isn't that the truth! But in reality being on the NACAA board and Western Director was one of the highlights of my career. I met more outstanding folks and felt even prouder to be part of an association of such great minds and hearts.

The West has great diversity in topography, climate and scenery but what it does share is a dedication to our jobs. I have met more hard working dedicated folks in my NACAA travels then every before. I will miss folks but will be glad to spend more time at home with clientele.

I am leaving you in good hands with Virginia Knerr. She has a warm heart and lots of enthusiasm to share. Hope all the western folks will invite her for state visits and show her the hospitality that was shown to me.

Thanks to all the NACAA board members, who are truly remarkable folks with high integrity. Each taught me a lot about greatness. Thanks to my family and all the other board members' family for their continued understanding and support. This made the hard work possible.

That brings me to another quote "No man is an island" John Donne. Mankind is interconnected. That can also be the metaphor for NACAA. Hope all of you use the association to the fullest to strengthen your connectiveness to professional opportunities. As you all enjoy the AM/PIC connecting to your colleges and travel back home let me leave you with my favorite quote of all times:

Happy trails to you, until we meet again"

### **North Central Region Director**

#### **Chuck Schwartau Minnesota**



It has been an interesting transition from treasurer to regional director. There is a whole new set of contacts to make roles to fill with them as we all work together for a beneficial professional association in our states.

It has been my pleasure to visit several state meetings since I became your regional director last summer. There are a couple observations that are very encouraging to me.

State associations are taking their role as a provider of good professional development seriously. All the state meetings I attended included a good development program. Some were in cooperation with sister Extension organizations and others were totally independent. Illinois and Kansas are just two of the states that include excellent educational tours as part of their meeting.

Kansas offers several tour options including livestock, crop, natural resources and horticultural topics. In Illinois we had an excellent, close-up tour of the lock and dam on the Mississippi River. We visited with the operating staff to learn the history, workings and future issues of the lock and dam system. Many had never seen a tow lock-through as we did that day. We also visited an immense underground warehouse facility that is in a limestone cavern. Portions of the cavern are still being actively mined, while older sections are available for secure, climate controlled storage of all kinds of goods from soybean seed to frozen foods to be put in local grocery freezers tomorrow.

The other significant observation was the support enjoyed by most of our state associations from their Extension administrators. At some state meetings, administrators were in attendance for the entire session. That does not mean we can take that support for granted, but it is certainly easier to talk to our administrators about our programs when they are supportive and participating in the first place. Keep up those good contacts.

Since last fall, Mark Stewart, regional vice-director, and I have visited Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Indiana, Illinois, South Dakota and Wisconsin. We look forward to the other states yet in the near future. One road trip last fall had Chuck in Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and North Dakota in a ten day period, plus Mark visited Indiana while Chuck was on the road between states. While it can be a long, tiring trip, it is good to visit with members and administrators on their home ground, and see the geographic areas in which they work. I only wish we had a little more time on some of those trips.

I thank the North Central members for stepping up to the plate and filling committee slots this past spring. When we made appointment recommendations at the spring board meeting, the NC region had only one position still open. That is excellent response and makes the director's job much easier. Involvement on a national committee is an excellent way to learn more of what the association does for us as professionals. It is the work of these committees that we can show to potential new members, selling them on the professional benefits of membership.

The North Central region has the added opportunity and challenge of hosting the Galaxy III this September. We know many members want to make the choice between our annual meeting and professional improvement conference and Galaxy III as their one professional meeting this year. Regardless of your choice, congratulations on taking the opportunity to participate. I was appointed by the NACAA board to develop the NACAA portion of the Galaxy III program. With the help of others, I believe we have formulated a good solid program, and one that will make it worth your while to attend. At the time of this writing, there are six confirmed seminars on a variety of topics, plus one more invited speaker from ECOP. If Galaxy III attendance is still an option for you, I encourage you to attend.

### **North East Region Director**

#### **Paul H. Craig Pennsylvania**



This July will mark the completion of my first year in the role of Northeast Regional Director and what a year it has been. I am thankful for the leadership examples and assistance provided to me during this transitional year. Dave Myers from Maryland has provided me with encouragement and guidance during my term as vice director and he has continued to provide assistance to me. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership of NACAA and Scott Hawbaker for assisting me in transitioning into this exceptional leadership opportunity. I am also thankful for the support provided to me from all of the state associations in the Northeast region.

I began my Extension career in Washington County in Southwestern PA in late 1979. I can still recall my CED, Ed Woods, coming into my office and telling me I needed to join the County Agents Association. I wrote that check from my first paycheck and have reflected many times on what invaluable experiences and benefits I have gained since then.

I looked up the word "association" and found many different definitions. I think many apply to NACAA. In the dictionary or rather in the research section of Word, you will find the following definitions: a

group of people joined together for a purpose; a linking or joining of people; coming together and social interaction between people. To me these were among the most important reasons for joining NACAA. I quickly discovered during my early Extension years that the county agents association provided me with the opportunity to connect with individuals who had many similar interests and challenges that I experienced every day. It was the time I made for participating in regional and state activities of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents that helped to make me a better educator. When I finally attended my first Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN I discovered so many more opportunities and "associates" from across the United States. To the past and present members of PACAA, NACAA members from across the Northeast Region and across the United States that I have had the opportunity to meet and share experiences with I say thank you for contributing to my career. You may not realize it but in some small and even many large ways lots of individuals have contributed to my professional development. I cannot imagine what it would be like to be an extension worker and not have the network of peers and associates that the County Agent Association has provided to me. Thank you all.

During the past year in my role of Northeast Director I have been able to attend state association meetings of the New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Due to conflict of dates Vice Director Betsy Greene was able to attend the meeting of the Maine Association on my behalf. I serve on the planning committee for the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference coordinated by the JCEP team and held annually in Washington DC. I participated in the JCEP Regional meeting in Orlando, FL and have attended the Pre and Post Annual Meeting, the Winter and Spring Board meetings of NACAA and the monthly conference calls.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation to the leadership and teamwork demonstrated by the states in the Northeast Region. Although small in numbers, compared to other regions within NACAA, the membership and leadership in states across the NE has evolved into an outstanding example of associations working together. The history of this teamwork goes back to the AMPIC meeting held in Vermont in 1997, repeated during the meeting in New York in 2005 and continues today with efforts to consolidate regional funds and to plan for the next annual meeting in the Northeast Region in 2013. It makes me proud to be a member of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and to have the opportunity to become involved, get connected and associate with my peers.

### **Professional Improvement**

#### **Council Chair**

#### **Tom Benton Texas**



The Professional Improvement Council offers NACAA members an opportunity to participate in professional improvement presentations to the membership as well as being able to gain information from these presentations. The Professional Improvement Council has again provided excellent opportunities for professional improvement at the AM/PIC in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The six committees that make up the Professional Improvement Council are: Horticulture and Turfgrass; Animal Science; Agronomy and Pest Management; Natural Resources/Aquaculture and Sea Grant, Agricultural Economics and Community Development and Sustainable Ag. Each committee except the Sustainable Ag Committee conducted excellent professional improvement workshops for NACAA Members of the AM/PIC meeting in Greensboro.



The Sustainable Ag Committee coordinates the fellows program with seminars being held in each of the four regions.

The sixty-four (64) workshops that were held on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> not only allowed NACAA members to learn from their peers who conducted excellent programs, but also to hear top quality speakers from industry and other professions.

Activities were also offered outside the time frame of the AM/PIC. The Animal Science Committee conducted a pre-conference tour on July 10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> with 16 participants. The North Carolina delegation did a great job of assisting the Animal Science Committee with some excellent tour stops, including stops at Kingsmill Dairy Farm, Smithfield Packing Company, Inc., Prestage Farms, Nichols Farms, James Fuller Horse Farm, Robbie Harrington Farm, and the Bob Myrick Farm.

The Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee also sponsored a pre-conference tour with twelve attending. The tour included several stops including a mushroom farm, New Garden Nursery, Metroling Greenhouses and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.

The Agronomy and Pest Management Committee, in addition to the regular presentations, offered continuing education credits. The committee also coordinated the On Target Seminar with a NACAA Member from each region participating.

The Natural Resources/Aquaculture and Sea Grant Committee provided an excellent slate of presenters at the workshops on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee chairs and vice-chairs that put these programs together.

## **Agricultural Economics and Community Development**

### **Mary Sobba Missouri**



Committee Members:

Northeast Region Vice Chair – Stephen Hadcock (NY)  
Southern Region Vice Chair – E. Lanier Jordan (GA)  
Western Region Vice Chair – Lyle Holmgren (UT)  
North Central Vice Chair and National Chair – Mary Sobba (MO)

The Agricultural Economics and Community Development committee met at Grand Rapids in July 2007. Several ideas and suggestions were discussed including promoting the presentation opportunities, potential educational seminar and general needs of extension educators working with ag economics and community development.

This year all abstracts were peer reviewed twice. They were reviewed at the regional level and again at the national level. Eleven abstracts were chosen for presentations in Greensboro. The topics varied from farm succession to farm profitability through cut sunflowers to economic feasibility of rangeland improvements.

The New York Cotton Exchange was contacted for possible sponsorship of a marketing seminar, but since it is under new ownership education funds have decreased in their budget. Another firm in North Carolina was contacted for a marketing seminar, but details could not be worked out, but contacts have been made for potential educational opportunities. Thank you to Stephen Hadcock for setting up the Ag Economics/Community Development wiki and we hope to use more in the future.

Much of the work of this committee was conducted electronically via e-mail. The National Vice Chairs did an outstanding job in communicating with state chairs about the presentation opportunities and making sure members had access to application details. This past year was the first time for members to apply electronically. Overall, it worked well. We are working on minor improvements and hope to make it even easier and better for 2009.

Thank you to the National Vice Chairs for their leadership, assistance and ideas. I hope many of the ideas from this past year will be implemented in the future.

## **Agronomy and Pest**

### **Management**

### **Gary L. Cramer Kansas**



Committee Members:

Northeast Region Vice Chair – Vacant  
North Central Region Vice Chair and  
National Chair – Gary Cramer - KS  
Western Region Vice Chair – Paul Carter – WA  
Southern Region Vice Chair - Johnny Whiddon– GA

The Agronomy and Pest Management Committee had a productive year. There were fifteen presentation applicants for the 2008 NACAA AM/PIC. Twelve papers were accepted by the Agronomy & Pest Management Committee, two were transferred to another committee and one application was withdrawn.

The following were presenters at the 2008 AM/PIC:

Wade Parker - GA  
William Hogan - LA  
Sam Angima - OR  
Clark Israelsen – UT, Mike Pace - UT  
Tara Smith - LA  
Dale Dewing – NY  
Ron Patterson - UT  
Kevin Lawson - AR  
Ned Birkey - MI  
Boyd Padgett - LA  
Craig Allen - AR  
Aaron Esser - WA

The Agronomy and Pest Management Committee conducted two concurrent seminar sessions consisting of 30 minute presentations at the AM/PIC. Our speaker schedule was expanded in 2007 to 30 minute per presentation to meet the requirements for each speaker to earn Certified Crop Adviser credits (CEU). Each presentation offered 0.5 credits. Since a growing number of NACAA members are becoming Certified Crop Advisers, the committee feels it is important to continue offering CEUs.

It was encouraging to have the number of applicants we received since the NACAA is one of few opportunities that many members have to highlight their programs at the national level.

The committee also supervises the selection of applicants to the On-Target Remote Sensing and GIS Decision Support Seminar. Dr. Phil Rasmussen at Utah State University organizes and conducts this seminar as well as completing the difficult job securing continued funding. We appreciate his efforts towards the continuation of this excellent professional development program. Seven applications were present for the committee's review. Selection of recipients was difficult as indicated by the scores. In order to keep this quality program viable we need to continue to encourage participation of agents and involvement by the Association.

This year we had the following entries by region:

Northeast – 2  
North Central – 1  
Southern – 2  
Western – 2

It has been my honor and a great pleasure to serve as vice chair and chair for the Agronomy & Pest Management Committee. I have had the pleasure to work with many hard-working individuals who have the interests of the NACAA at heart. I would like to thank the Regional Vice Chairs for their responsiveness and quality of their effort in putting together this year's program. We had an excellent and hard working committee and they made my job easier.

I encourage all members to get involved in the NACAA whether it is through presentation, poster or committee involvement, but get involved.

### **Animal Science** **Eugene Schurman** **Pennsylvania**



Committee Members:

Northeast Region Vice-Chair and National Chair – Eugene Schurman, PA  
North Central Region Vice-Chair – Ron Graber, KS  
Southern Region Vice-Chair – Tammy Cheely, GA  
Western Region Vice-Chair – Randy Mills, OR

The Animal Science Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Seminar and Tour. The committee would like to thank Barry Foushee from North Carolina for helping to plan and coordinate the 2008 Seminar and Tour. We know that Barry already had a very busy year serving as Secretary and Publicity Chair for the 2008 NACAA AM/PIC. Also, we would like to thank Tiffanee Acuna and Becky Spearman who served as our North Carolina tour guides and hosts.

We would like to thank our financial sponsors, Alltech and Elanco Animal Health for helping to make the tour a success.

Tour stops included:

Kingsmill Dairy Farm, LLC – Large Registered Holstein Breeder marketing elite genetic embryos worldwide.

Smithfield Packing Company, Inc. – Large slaughter and meat processing company known for the Smithfield Ham.

Prestage Farms – Large contract grower of pork and poultry.

Nichols Farms LTD – Large Angus, Simmental, South Devon, and Composite Cattle beef breeding business.

James Fuller Horse Farm – Specializes in training and rehabilitation of race horses.

Robbie Harrington's Farm – The HeatWatch® Estrus Detection System is used to manage their beef cattle AI breeding program.

Bob Myrick Farm – Large Boer Goat breeder.

Whitaker Farms – Diversified grower of field tomatoes, greenhouse tomatoes, strawberries, bedding plants, and tobacco.

Tour participants included Anna-Marie Chamberlain, OR, Troy Downing, OR, Shelby Filley, OR, Henry Grant, FL, Stephen Komar, NJ, Robert Mickel, NJ, Cory Parsons, OR, Carol Schurman, PA, and Richard Smith, PA. Animal Science committee members who attended the tour included Tammy Cheely, GA, Ron Graber, KS, Randy Mills, OR, and Gene Schurman, PA.

Tammy Cheely, Animal Science Vice-Chair from the Southern Region, took the lead on the animal science professional improvement seminars this year. Once again, the AM/PIC Animal Science Seminars were exceptional! The 16 extension agents/educators representing 12 states who presented are to be commended for their educational efforts. They are Richard Brzozowski, ME, C. Taylor Clarke & Cynthia Gregg, VA, Robert Goodling, PA, Henry Dorrough, AL, Mark Heitstuman, WA, Clark Israelsen, UT, Scott Jensen, ID, Susan Kerr, WA, Stephen Komar, NJ, Robert Mickel, NJ, John Pope, GA, Amie Schleicher, MO, M. Kent Stanford, AL, Mary Schwarz & Jean Bonhotal, NY, and Rebecca Thomas, AK. A complete list of the presentations and the corresponding abstracts can be found elsewhere in these proceedings.

Randy Mills, Animal Science Vice-Chair from the Western Region, arranged for NACAA members to take the American Registry for Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) exam to become a Professional Animal Scientist (PAS). Randy also arranged for 3 hours of ARPAS continuing education credits for those NACAA members attending the 15 Animal Science Professional Improvement Seminars. The Animal Science Committee plans to continue to offer CEU's for ARPAS credits as well as offer members the opportunity to take ARPAS species specific exams and qualify for ARPAS membership.

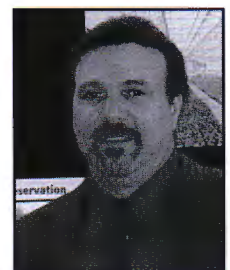
NACAA has formed a partnership with the American Dairy Science Association which will allow NACAA members to join S-PAC at a reduced rate. What is S-PAC? S-PAC stands for "**Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences**" and is a searchable electronic database of proceedings from major animal production conferences held in the U.S. and Canada.

The proceedings in S-PAC put additional resources at your fingertips by connecting you to the information made available at multiple animal conferences. A search engine allows you, as a subscriber, to search all the proceedings in the database for the specific information that you need. The list of proceedings will continue to grow as additional proceedings are posted to the site.

A calendar is also provided to help keep you current on dates and locations for upcoming conferences. The link to conference web pages included in this section provides additional information about the particular conferences, including registration information on many and details on how to order hard copies of several of the conference proceedings.

As part of our agreement, NACAA AM/PIC proceedings will be listed on the S-PAC database too. Checkout how to subscribe to S-PAC at <http://spac.adsa.org>.

### **Natural Resources/** **Aquaculture** **Bill Sciarappa** **New Jersey**



2007-2008 was an exciting and successful year for the Natural Resources Committee as we expanded our program reach and were renamed as the Natural Resources and Aquaculture Committee. Our 2008 sessions

reflected this increasing emphasis on water quality, fisheries and aquaculture. Our plan of work was completed. Yearly highlights included evaluations for speakers in our concurrent sessions, evaluation summaries and individualized thank you letters. The peer evaluations were shared with the presenters and provided valuable feedback. This helps ratchet up our professional standards and encourage continued abstracts submissions for the 2009 AM/PIC.

We held two telephone conference calls to conduct committee work and numerous e-mail communications to select 10 presentation applications for our natural resources and aquaculture professional improvement sessions. Applications again represented very current and pertinent topics, a wide geographic distribution, and high quality extension programs. Topics and presenters in the Extension Education Orientation Session included: Ecosystem monitoring to evaluate grazing plan influence on rangeland health - Tipton Hudson, Working with animal feeding operations to implement best management practices - Michael L. Christian, Barriers and opportunities for low impact development: case studies from three Oregon communities - Derek Godwin, Cossatot forestry clinic: a collaborative effort to educate people in Howard, Polk, and Sevier counties - Sherry Beaty, and Income opportunities with botanical herbs - Bill Worrell. The water quality and aquaculture orientation session included What the bay hinges on: teaching ecology and stewardship through shellfish restoration - Cara Muscio, Capture the flow and watch it grow - demonstration rain gardens in northwest Arkansas - Katie Teague, Remediating stormwater runoff with manufactured treatment devices, agricultural management practices and rain gardens - William Sciarappa, Tracking human pathogens with optical brighteners - Cara Muscio and Successful land use planning education addressing multiple jurisdictions - Neil Clark.

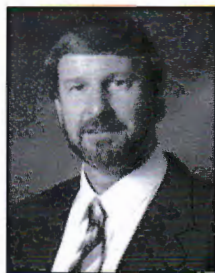
Our Committee designed a concurrent presentation schedule that ended the professional improvement presentations by 3:30p.m. which avoided the attendance issue that sometimes occurs when professional improvement sessions encroach upon State's Night Out or In in this case. The Society of American Foresters Continuing Forestry Education were offered credit for natural resources related sessions held at the 2008 AM/PIC. Extension professionals that maintain forestry and natural resources related certifications or registrations benefited from this new approach.

## **Horticulture and Turfgrass**

### **Jim Hruskoci Nebraska**

#### Committee Members:

Jim Hruskoci, North Central Region, Committee Chair  
R. David Myers, Eastern Region Vice-Chair  
Jo Ann Robbins, Western Region Vice-Chair  
Brian Jervis, Southern Region Vice-Chair



Participation in the Horticulture and Turfgrass committee activities of the NACAA provides members with excellent professional improvement opportunities in all areas of horticulture, from landscaping and turfgrass to commercial fruit and vegetable production, and more.

The goal of this committee is to attract membership attendance to the AM/PIC of individuals with horticulture interests. Whether your job responsibilities in horticulture are full or part time, we believe there is something at the NACAA AM/PIC for you. While many horticulture members have the option of attending the ASHS meetings held at approximately the same time, we believe the AM/

PIC can provide a more direct application to meet your horticulture professional improvement needs and at a more affordable cost.

The committee plans a Horticulture Pre-conference tour for the Saturday prior to the AM/PIC. The tour is funded by NACAA members, unless commercial donors can be found. For the second year Ball Horticulture partially supported the tour, saving members some money on lodging costs. Thanks go out to North Carolina Educator Terry Garwood for helping to plan and organize the tour, as well as Michael Hylton who also helped make arrangements and for serving as our local host. Fourteen NACAA members attended the pre-conference tour which was held Saturday, July 12. Tour stops included a mushroom farm of Deb and Randy Bettini and the New Garden Nursery both near Greensboro, the Metrolina Greenhouses and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Huntersville and Belmont, and finally the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.

The Horticulture/Turfgrass committee meeting/workshop was held Monday, July 14. Topics discussed included planning the 2009 Conference pre-tour and fund raising efforts.

There was overwhelming interest on the part of members to make horticulture presentations, with a total of 18 presentations given during the Horticulture/Turfgrass seminars held on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Presentations were divided into separate concurrent tracks by topic and these included: Master Gardeners, Lawns and Landscaping, and Fruits, Vegetables, and more. Presentations ran 30 minutes in length, were synchronized with the other talks, so those in attendance could move freely from one track to another in nearby rooms.

## **Sustainable Agriculture** **Michelle Infante-Casella** **New Jersey**



Southern Region Vice Chair—Julia Gaskin, GA  
Western Region Vice Chair – Milt Green, WY  
North Central Region Vice Chair – Vance Haugen, WI  
Northeast Region, Vice Chair and National Chair—Michelle Casella, NJ

The Sustainable Agriculture Committee had a busy inaugural year. In our first year, the committee took on the task of establishing the USDA/NACAA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Fellows program. Four SARE Fellows were selected in 2007 from each of the 4 regions. They are: Norm Suverly from Washington (Western), Walt Bumgarner from Pennsylvania (Northeast), Adam Hady from Wisconsin (North Central), and Ronnie Barentine from Georgia (Southern). The 2008 SARE Fellows have been selected and notified and will receive recognition at the NACAA AM/PIC in Greensboro, NC. They are: Karen McAdams from North Carolina (Southern), Steve Van Vleet from Washington (Western), Mike Gastier from Ohio (North Central), and Richard Brzozowski from Maine (Northeast).

The Fellows will participate in 4 sustainable agriculture seminars over a 2 year period. The 4 seminars will be rotated in the 4 regions. The first seminar and tour was held in the Western Region in Arizona and hosted by Rick Gibson. The first 4 Fellows attended along with Sustainable Agriculture Committee Vice Chairs Gaskin, Green and Chair Casella. Additionally, Western Region SARE Coordinator Jim Freeburn was in attendance for this seminar and tour. Attendees learned about organic tree fruit production at two farms, cattle production systems, how endangered species affect the sustainability of ranching operations, border patrol issues, rangeland monitoring, and organic and natural beef production in Arizona. The 2007 Fellows will attend

a second seminar and tour in the Northeast Region in fall of 2008, with the theme "Farming on the Urban Fringe" and sustainable agriculture issues related to this topic. The 2008 Fellows will begin the seminar experience in spring of 2009 in the Southern Region.

Travel costs to all 4 seminars and tours are covered by USDA SARE. In addition to the educational opportunity, successful participants of the Fellows Program will 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 2 year program.

Before the completion of the fellowship, each participant will be expected to conduct an educational or research program in their home state discussing or exploring some element of sustainable agriculture. This exercise will help the fellows crystallize in their minds and Extension programs concepts and ideas learned from their experiences in the program. A final report will be required of each fellow at the conclusion of their second year. The report will include a discussion summarizing their learning experiences and a detailed list of specific impacts gained from their fellow opportunity.

Each year, the graduating class of fellows will have the opportunity to compete for the right to present a sustainable agriculture program to AM/PIC participants at a brown bag luncheon sponsored by USDA SARE. Selection of the winning fellow will be made by a committee appointed by the NACAA voting delegates to oversee the program. Selection will be based upon the quality of any program implemented as described in the final report. USDA SARE will reimburse the winner up to \$600 in travel costs to and from the AM/PIC and \$1,000 in hotel/meals costs while at the AM/PIC.

This exciting new program is well on its way. We have 8 well qualified Fellows participating and look forward to future experiences and successful outcomes from the Sustainable Agriculture programs through the valuable partnership with NACAA and USDA/SARE.

### Extension Development

#### Council Chair **Michael Heimer**

#### **Texas**



Each year a number of committees put their heads together to plan, develop, and present a variety of educational opportunities for the membership of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The Extension Development Council has the responsibility to provide educational activities that promote professionalism. This may not appear to be a noble task until you take a look at the membership of NACAA and understand the diversity of the members and their job responsibilities. Our members are professionals who desire educational opportunities that are of interest and challenge their competency.

We are educators first and foremost which places the burden of providing accurate and timely programs to their clientele. The clientele look to the Extension educator as the program leader and expect a professionalism that leaves no doubt that Extension educators are to be looked up to as source of reliable information. For this reason, it is critical that our association continue to provide opportunities for all of its members to strengthen their skills as Extension Professionals.

There are four committees in the Extension Development Council that are not subject matter specific, but more importantly provide critical skills to assist in a member's professional growth. Last year each committee surveyed presentations to get an accurate read on the value of the educational activities. Program surveys will be utilized again this

year in Greensboro as a planning tool. The Public Relations and Agricultural Issues (Dan Downing, Chairman), Early Career Development (Mark Nelson, Chairman), Administrative Skills Development (Jerry Warren Chairman), and Teaching and Educational Technologies (Karen Vines, Chairman) committees have been very active identifying critical needs and securing the best resource persons for an effective program. In a continued effort to promote committee structure and define responsibilities, the "Administrative Skills Development Committee" will now be called the "Administrative Skills and Leadership Development Committee". The "Public Relations and Ag Issues Committee" will also modify its name to clarify program responsibility by becoming the "Agriculture Issues and Public Relations Committee".

The Extension Development Council National Chairs, Vice Chairs, and even the state committee chairs collaborate while developing these programs. This is not an easy task, but the communication must exist for future Extension AM/PIC effectiveness. The communication from the county level to the national board and back to the county level is the mechanism by which we measure member needs, develop educational opportunities to make our members more effective, and finally recognize our co-workers for their exceptional efforts. All of these committees work hard to provide the leadership and involvement necessary to accomplish this goal.

The efforts to prepare for the 2008 AM/PIC has seen these committees set timely goals, expand program opportunities, and assemble an outstanding variety of educational resources. The AM/PIC attendees will be impressed with diversity and quality of presenters.

The Extension Development Council along with the Program Recognition Council and Professional Improvement Council address the challenge of identifying and securing volunteers to serve on these critical planning committees. The existing committee structure provides for a term limit and rotation of its membership. The upside of this policy allows us to constantly utilize new talent and ideas in the leadership roles. The downside is that members who have been effective leaders must step aside, at least for a short time. The busy lifestyle and workload of our membership can make it difficult to identify members who are willing to serve in these many roles. This ongoing challenge to identify volunteers who will step up and serve must start at the county level and be fostered at the national level. The national committee chairs deserve a special thanks for their dedication and efforts to see NACAA be the best it can be. I would encourage every NACAA member to take advantage of committee leadership roles when given the opportunity.

### Agriculture Issue and

#### Public Relations

#### **Dan Downing** **Missouri**



I am pleased to report the AI & PRC had another productive and enjoyable year thanks to the efforts of committee members Jerry Clemons, Arkansas, Don Fretts, Pennsylvania, Norman Suverly, Washington, Past Committee Chair, - Edmund Gomez, New Mexico, and Extension Development Council - Chair, Michael Heimer, Texas. Thank you to each of these gentlemen for their hard work and dedication.

Am/Pic in Grand Rapids ended on a high note for the AI & PRC with 70 plus members participating in and outstanding professional development seminar focusing on Bio-Fuels. This seminar set the stage for round two of bio-fuels discussions in Greensboro with Melvin Brees, University of Missouri, addressing changing economic

considerations, Dr. David Brune, Clemson University addressing water quality and environmental implications, and representatives of the petroleum industry sharing the corporate perspective on bio-fuels.

Throughout the year the committee has worked to provide leadership encouraging the development of state level AI & PRCs, identifying emerging issues for the Am/Pic program, Promoting the Outstanding Young Farmers of America program, formally requesting the executive council change the committee's name, and refilling committee leadership roles.

The Outstanding Young Farmers of America (OYF) program is one of the core responsibilities of the AI & PRC. Over the past five to six years the OYF program has shifted from struggling for nominations to a growing program with NACAA playing a key role in this turn around. NACAA through the AI & PRC has helped to ease the application process by encouraging a two phased application process (a streamlined preliminary application followed by a more in depth application for semi-finalist), and electronic submission of applications. A mass email was sent to all NACAA members in June reminding them of the August 1 nomination deadline.

The OYF program is coordinated by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Outstanding Young Farmers of America Fraternity, and NACAA, with corporate sponsorship from John Deere. At the 2008 OYF Congress NACAA was represented by NACAA President, Fred Miller and Past President, Chuck Otte. This year nearly one half of the forty-seven nominations were from NACAA members. This accounts for one half of the semi-finalists, and three of the four national winners. The national winners and the nominations sources were:

Chris & Angie Eckert, IL – OYF Alumni  
Stephen & Kisha Bailey, MS – NACAA  
Richard and Rhonda Fontenot, LA – NACAA  
Charlotte & Dwayne Ferrell, NC – NACAA

As referenced above, the nomination process has been streamlined with an annual entry deadline of Aug. 1. This year the top 10 nominees will be hosted at the 2009 OYF Congress in Eugene, Oregon. Later the four national winners will travel to Washington DC to engage legislators in discussion on agricultural policies. As an NACAA member if the OYF you nominate is selected as one of the national winners, your registration fee at the next Am/Pic is eligible for reimbursement.

Internally the AI & PRC committee addressed changing the name of the committee as there were two committees under different councils both having the phrase "Public Relations" as the first part of their names creating logistical confusion. A special note of thanks goes out to Larry Moorehead and the public relations committee for helping work through these issues with us. The AI & PRC committee requested the national board change the name of the committee from Public Relations & Ag. Issues to Ag. Issues & Public Relations. The board did approve this change. Additional Donald Fretts, Vice Chair from the Northeast region will be rotating off of the committee with this vacancy being filled by Glenn Rodgers, Vermont. Dan Downing, Missouri will continue as committee chair for a second year.

In all it has been a very productive year for the AI & PRC. We look forward to continued progress in the coming year building on successes of the past.

## **Early Career Development**

**Mark Nelson**

**Utah**



The Early Career Development (ECD) Committee is responsible for developing educational programs directed at NACAA Members with five years or less tenure. Efforts are to develop programs, materials, and partnerships to orient and assist Extension personnel early in their career. Many times these programs are relevant to all agents regardless of their tenure.

I am pleased to report that the E.C.D. Committee had had another good year.

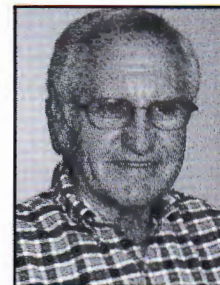
We selected three national speakers for the July 15, 2008 Extension Development Council Seminars at the NACAA AM/PIC in Greensboro NC. Daniel Kluchinski, Extension Agent from Rutgers Cooperative Extension in New Brunswick, NJ. presented Getting the most out of mentoring. Ron Torrell, Area Livestock Specialist, University of Nevada discussed Tricks of the trade for Early Career Development. Chris Bruynis, Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension presented Balancing the political demands of a County Extension Educator position. These presentation did an excellent job of covering important topics of new and longer serving agents.

ECD Committee Vice-chairs for 2007-08 were Jennifer Rees, (Nebraska) North Central Region, Brittany Edelson, Kentucky) Southern Region, Mark Nelson (Utah) Western region, and Daniel Kluchinski, North East Region. We are looking forward to a great 2008-2009 and to your participation in our committee's activities.

## **Administrative Skills Development**

**Jerry Warren**

**Texas**



The administrative skills committee set goals to promote and develop human resource capacity. Every successful extension educator must have good public relation skills and abilities to communicate research based information to producers and consumers. To maximum this effort the committee has explored and promoted ideas for making better use of advisory groups and using resources wisely. This year the committee is providing a workshop on ways to improve Extension Advisory Boards, Programmatic Opportunities for Extension through Focus Groups and developing resources through a Master Gardening program. Making use of all resources is an appropriate topic as greater demands are placed on each educator as we are constantly ask to do more with less.

A big thank you goes to the Regional Vice-Chairs: Richard Fechter of Howard, Kansas, Bruce Barbour of Morristown, New Jersey, and Brian Tuck, The Dalles, Oregon. Having an experienced group of regional vice-chairs to solicit and review applications made the process much smoother. Also, a special thanks to Michael Heimer and Brian Tuck for their efforts to bring me up to speed on my duties as Chair of this committee.

We welcome ideas, suggestions and volunteers so that we can provide valuable administrative development opportunities.

## Teaching and Educational Technologies

### **Karen Vines Pennsylvania**

The NACAA Teaching & Educational Technologies Committee has been busy this year preparing workshops for the annual meeting to take place in Greensboro in July. They will be offering six workshops.

They will start the week, offering two levels of PowerPoint training on Sunday afternoon with NACAA members Betsy Greene and Susan Kerr. NACAA members can transition from beginner to intermediate PowerPoint users in the course of the afternoon.

Tuesday morning's sessions will provide a wide range of offerings.

- Turning Technologies will demonstrate the use of clicker technology for immediate audience response. This can be useful in assessing educational achievement or level of agreement/disagreement when facilitating community issues. Megan Reed and Stephanie Rose will provide this presentation. Turning Technologies will also have a booth in the exhibit area for individuals wanting further information.

- Ken Balliett and Lucy Bradley will provide a couple of uses of Web 2.0 technologies based on their experiences in their educational programming.

- Betsy Greene and Rick Koelsch will collaborate to provide insight into how to use eXtension in your educational programming. Both serve as members of successful communities of practice, playing a major role in the development of materials in the equine and poultry areas.

Thursday afternoon you have the option of either resting up for the banquet or further charging your mind by participating in a hands-on workshop in the computer classroom on using Web 2.0 technologies. This is offered by John Dornier who serves as the Technology Coordinator for NACAA and as an ex officio member of this committee.

The committee continues to utilize the findings from the 2007 survey in program planning and development.

Committee members for 2007-08 are Karen Vines, chair, representing the northeast region; Matt Hanson representing the north central region; Greg Hoover representing the southern region and Janet Schmidt representing the west region.

## Program Recognition Council Chair

### **Mike Hogan Ohio**

The role of the Program Recognition Council is to implement the many awards and recognition programs sponsored by NACAA with financial support from partner donors. From the Distinguished Service and Achievement Awards to the Search for Excellence Recognitions, committees under the Program Recognition Council are responsible for coordinating all NACAA awards and recognition programs.

The Program Recognition Council consists of seven standing committees which conduct these awards programs. These committees and their respective committee chairs for 2008 include: Communications (Larry Williams, FL); Extension Programs (Brad Brummond, ND); 4-H and Youth (Sherry Beaty, AR); Professional Excellence (Charles Phillips, GA); Public Relations (Larry Moorehead, TN); Recognition and Awards (Todd Lorenz, MO); Scholarship (Chris Bruynis, OH).



These National Committee Chairs are the backbone of NACAA committee work, and it is only through their hard work and dedication that NACAA is able to conduct awards and recognition programs for its members. Some of these committees receive hundreds of applications from throughout the United States for specific awards programs. The National Committee Chairs would not be able to coordinate all of the awards and recognition programs without the many regional vice-chairs who serve the association by assisting with these committees. All of us as members owe these volunteer leaders of our association a debt of gratitude for their hard work and dedication. The terms of two of these National Committee Chairs will expire after this year's AMPIC in North Carolina. Charles Phillips will complete his term as Chair of the Professional Excellence Committee, and he will be replaced by Gary Zoubek of Nebraska. Larry Moorehead will also complete his term as Chair of the Public Relations Committee, and he will be replaced by Keith Mickler of Georgia.

The Program Recognition Council has worked jointly with the new Sustainable Agriculture Committee this past year. This new NACAA Committee has both a recognition and professional improvement component to its mission, so Brad Brummond, the Extension Programs Committee Chair is working with Michelle Infante, the Sustainable Agriculture Committee Chair to assist with the recognition portion of this committee's work.

As I mentioned above, some of the NACAA awards and recognition programs receive hundreds of applications from NACAA members throughout the country. Other NACAA awards programs, however, routinely receive far fewer applications. A need currently exists for additional NACAA members to apply for various NACAA awards programs, in order to maintain the financial support of donors for these programs. When the awards edition of *The County Agent* magazine hits your desk next winter, please make it a point to enter at least one of your quality programs in one of the many NACAA awards and recognition programs.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Chair of the Program Recognition Council. During this first year of my term, many individuals have provided me with valuable guidance and support. I'd like to especially thank the seven National Committee Chairs noted above for their assistance, as well as Neil Broadwater, the previous Program Recognition Council Chair for his support.

## Recognition and Awards

### **Todd Lorenz Missouri**

The association honored 66 NACAA members with the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) and 51 members with the Achievement Award (AA) in Greensboro. Four members or life members are recognized for the Hall of Fame Award. These members have shown excellence in their Extension work and educational programming locally and are also superior in association and humanitarian efforts.

This has been my 7<sup>th</sup> year on the Recognition and Awards team and I have watched the process grow from mailed hard copies of applications and photos to a Web-based process that we used for the first time this year. While in its infancy, we hope to continue to streamline this application process for a more efficient way of recognizing those so deserving of our praises. One such person most deserving our praises is John Dornier, our Electronic Communications Coordinator. Without his patience and persistence, we would not have advanced so quickly in this web-based process. My hat goes off to his dedicated service.



It is difficult to list all of those who are responsible but the State Chairs and Regional Vice-Chairs are instrumental in facilitating the Recognition and Awards process starting almost immediately after the meetings. The entire list can be found at <http://www.nacaa.com/committees/>.

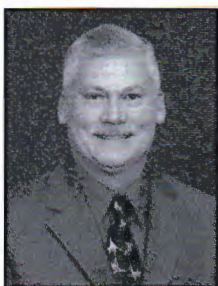
This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year for American Income Life to be a sponsor of the recognition and awards breakfast for your award winners. In my years on this committee, Mr. Bill Viar, director of the Special Risk division, has always been there to represent AIL at the AM/PIC. Thanks go out to American Income Life and Mr. Bill Viar for their continued support of your association.

This year's Regional Vice-Chairs played a significant role in testing the new web-based process and providing improvements throughout this first year of use. Their dedication to serving the membership is greatly appreciated; they are professionals and it has been my pleasure to have been given the opportunity to work Larry Howard of Nebraska, Carol Schurman from Pennsylvania, Cynthia Gregg of Virginia, and Edward Martin of Arizona. I look forward to working with them in the future.

## Communications

### **Larry Williams Florida**

The communications Committee is pleased to report continued strong participation in the communications awards program for 2008. We are also pleased to report that Bayer Advanced has continued sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2008.



We continue to have a large number of entries in the 14 communication award categories. The national level entries are evidence of the high quality of work and communications efforts that are being conducted by extension educators throughout the country. Our members are producing quality materials. Many of the judges at the national level report the difficulty in judging the entries due to consistent quality.

Ever changing technology is a "two-edged sword" creating some challenges but yet enabling us to do a more professional job. It is obvious that new technology offers extension users more options, greater flexibility and more convenience in accessing our information. This is having a positive impact on our clientele.

The Communications Committee asks that you take a few minutes to visit the posters of the winning entries in the poster display area. While there, you may even possibly gather some new ideas for your own communication efforts. The abstracts of the national winner, national and regional finalist for each category are published in the proceedings. These provide further opportunities to gain ideas improve our communication abilities and extension programming. It has been the practice of the national committee to hold onto the national winner in each category for a year so that states could borrow them to exhibit at their state meetings to encourage entries in the categories. The state chair needs to request that they be sent and then pay the return postage.

Many thanks go to the regional vice-chairs who have worked diligently over the past year or more. I appreciate their hard work to help make this program a success. I want to especially thank Julie Riley of Alaska and Geoffrey Njue of New Hampshire. This was their second year as regional chairs. In addition to fulfilling her responsibility as the western region chair Julie took on the extra responsibility of handling

the north central region entries in the absence of a north central chair. The north central chair position is currently open. Continuing southern region vice-chair Cindy Sanders of Florida did an outstanding job her first year. I look forward working with incoming northeast region chair Charles Schuster of Maryland and western region chair Jack Kelly of Arizona.

## Extension Programs

### **Brad Brummond North Dakota**



It was another very good year for Extension Programs. I was reappointed to a two year term as Extension Programs Chair after having served one year of an unfilled term. I also had the same team of vice chairs to work with that I had last year and it certainly helped to work with veterans who know the process. We learned a few tricks from last year and the judging generally went better. We were much better able to identify non-NACAA applicants on our awards. We also had a much easier time working with the Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture.

The other item of discussion was what to do with the Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture. We looked at moving this program into the Sustainable Ag Committee. We have hit a snag as it is a Search for Excellence Program and that belongs to our committee but it is also a sustainable agriculture program and that expertise is in the Sustainable Agriculture Committee. Stay tuned as we are still trying to sort this out.

Our biggest challenge is the lack of applications. I would ask each state to have one application in each Search for Excellence award area for next year. You do good work so why not take a few moments and write an award application or pick up the phone and call a co-worker who has a great program and ask them to apply. If we could just do that we would see a huge increase in applications. We also need to increase our number of applications in the Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture in the North Central and West Regions. We had one very fine application from each region but only one. The South and the Northeast regions had excellent numbers and quality. Any one of those applications could have been winners.

I would like to close by offering some tips on how to write an award winning application. 1) Follow the rules. We have around 20% of our applications who do not follow the rules. You cannot win a national award if you do not follow the rules. 2) Check and recheck your application before sending it in. Pay special attention to the abstract as this is where most people do not follow the rules. 3) The part of the application that is generally the weakest is the evaluation part. Show impact and conduct sound evaluations. What changed because of this program? You need to prove impact if you are going to win. It is just that simple.

I hope to see piles of applications next year. You can't win if you don't enter.

## Professional Excellence

### **Charles Phillips Georgia**



The Professional Excellence committee is responsible for the peer review of poster abstracts and organizing the poster session at AM/PIC. NACAA continues to endorse the poster session as an important means of presenting Extension Programs and Applied Research results to its members. The Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) is

the primary sponsor for 2008. They sponsored the awards breakfast once again this year.

All posters were peer reviewed at the regional level which is the responsibility of the Regional Vice-Chairs, all of whom have done an excellent job this year. The current regional Vice Chairs are Scott Jensen '09 Western region, Gary Zoubek '09, North Central Region, Forrest Connelly '08 Southern Region, and Virginia Rosenkranz '08 North East Region.

This year, we had 115 abstracts accepted for the meeting in Grand Rapids. There were 48 entries in the Applied Research category and 67 entries in Extension Education programs.

Awards were presented at the AM/PIC Poster Session Breakfast. The top three posters in each category received cash awards and plaques. Regional winners received a certificate.

One of the goals of the committee has been to improve the quality of poster entries. Vice Chairs worked with the state chairs/presidents to ensure that posters and abstracts were of the highest quality. The abstracts were peer reviewed by at least two to three reviewers to determine whether or not the poster is acceptable. If a poster abstract was rejected, the author was given the opportunity to make corrections or improvements, so that it could be accepted.

This year the committee utilized more judges to reduce the amount of time it took for the judges to judge. This system reduced the amount of time that it took to judge the posters.

I would especially like to thank my fellow committee members for the fine job they have done. This is not the easiest assignment in NACAA. The Professional Excellence committee has to get the Poster Session set up, organized, judged, and finally recognized in a span of three days. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to make this happen, and without the outstanding Vice Chairs on this committee, this would not happen.

### **Public Relations** **Larry Moorehead** **Tennessee**



The Public Relations committee is responsible for conducting the PRIDE (Public Relations in Daily Efforts) program at the NACAA national meeting. The PRIDE program is a great way for NACAA members to highlight educational programs that exemplify the public relations aspect of extension work, as well as enhance the understanding of agriculture in their respective communities.

There were 9 entries in the PRIDE program this year. The entries were excellent examples of daily public relations work we all do in our roles as extension agents. There is a tremendous amount of work that is being done that would make excellent entries in the PRIDE program. We wish more agents would take the time to enter.

Congratulations to Mark Mechling of Ohio, who was our National winner this year and presented his program at our PRIDE luncheon. Congratulations also to Gregory Drake of Kentucky and Nicholas Polanin of New Jersey, our National finalists. Each received their awards at our luncheon. This is a great way for younger agents to see what other agents are doing.

A big thank you goes to Russ Higgins, North Central Region vice Chair, Larry Hull of Northeast Central Region vice Chair, Susan Kerr, Western Region, Vice Chair, J. Craig Williams, North East Region vice

Chair, Marjorie Rayburn, Southern Region vice Chair and Robert Kattnig, Western Region vice Chair. These are the agents who got the work done.

We have two Vice Chairs rotating off this year; they are Majorie Rayburn, Southern Region, Russ Higgins, and North Central Region. I want to thank both these agents for their work the past two years. I also need to thank Neil Broadwater for all his help in keeping me straight and getting my reports in on time. You are a great leader and I can follow directions.

The Public Relations committee is looking forward to next year's challenge of getting more participation. We went up this year by 63% with 11 entries and hopefully we will get more next year. I want to challenge each agent to submit entries in NACAA awards programs especially. This is a great opportunity and all of you have done programs can are worthy of winning.

We will also have two Vice Chair positions, the Southern & North Central Region, that will be open for new agents. I encourage you to apply and help your national organization. It is a rewarding experience and you have a chance to work with great people from all over the United States.

I want to thank especially our new Pride sponsors The Soybean Association represented by Jack Reed and Keith Warden and the National Rural Electric Cooperation Association. If it were not for them our awards and luncheon would not be possible.

### **Life Member** **Hal Tatum** **Georgia**



The 2007-2008 NACAA year came to a close on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Life Member Committee had a busy year.

The year began with a very productive meeting with the NACAA Board at the close of AM/PIC in Grand Rapids. The Plan of Work for the year was approved, and an action plan was made to improve communications between the Life Member Committee and the Board. Vice President Phil Pratt has been very helpful in providing a link with the NACAA Board.

The Regional Vice Chairs, Duane Duncan, Northeast; Kenneth Williams, Southern; Mike Stoltz, Western; and Don Utlaut, North Central; have been most helpful in keeping states informed concerning life member activities. Robert Hetrick (PA) was elected Northeast Vice Chair in Grand Rapids, but, due to serious health problems, asked to be replaced. Duane Duncan stepped in to fill out the rest of this year. However, it continues to be a problem getting states to appoint or elect a life member as the State Chair of the Life Member Committee. We need a state chair or an official contact for each state. We encourage active members to help find a life member contact for each state.

The committee continues to work on recruiting new retirees to become life members. Some state associations pay life member dues for new retirees at the time of their retirement. By doing so, the new retiree then becomes a part of the NACAA life member database, and the national association does not lose contact with members after they retire. If all state associations could pay the life member dues at retirement, it would solve the problem of losing touch with so many retirees. Another helpful tool is the Life Member Certificate. This can be presented at the time of retirement to encourage new retirees to become life members. The certificate is available from executive director Scott Hawbaker.



The program year was completed with an outstanding Life Member program in Greensboro. Thanks go to Bill Eller, Host Committee Life Member Chair, and his committee for providing a great meeting and wonderful North Carolina hospitality.

At the business meeting on Monday, July 14, Guilford County Forester, David Henderson, provided an inspirational memorial service to remember life members who had passed away during 2007 and 2008. The committee has honored the memory of NACAA members as a final tribute for the many years of educational and community service by county agents and extension educators.

On Tuesday, July 15, life members and spouses enjoyed a very grand breakfast buffet. The breakfast meeting was topped off by Bill Thompson, a NC native, who shared his favorite "front porch stories".

After the breakfast meeting, life members and spouses embarked on one of four tours planned for the day. There was something for everyone. The four tours were: Childress Vineyards and RCR Racing Museum, Old Salem and Tanglewood Extension Arboretum, Mount Airy, and Seagrove Pottery and Southern Supreme Bakery.

A new program for Life Members at this year's AM/PIC was a travelogue. Elmer Olsen (OH) and Kenneth Williams (AR) shared their travel experiences to Australia, New Zealand, and the Fiji Islands. The pictures and presentations were enjoyed by the life members present. Hopefully another travelogue can be presented in Portland.

The 2008 AM/PIC provided plenty of opportunity for all attendees (Life Members included) to learn, to make new friends, to reconnect with old friends, and to find out about the many activities of NACAA. It was a good meeting and a good year.

## **Scholarship**

### **Chris Bruynis**

#### **Ohio**



The 2007 scholarship auction receipts totaled \$7,020.50. There were 126 items donated by members and friends of NACAA for the auction. The two high selling items were a deer hunt provided Eddie Holland which brought \$2,000 and a ladies pearl necklace donated by J.R. Hofstetter Family purchased by Neil Broadwater for \$1,250. The money was turned over to the NACAA Educational Foundation. Thanks to everyone who donated or purchased an item. Also, my personal thanks to those individuals who helped with the setup, running and completion of the auction.

In addition to auction proceeds, two other projects resulted in additional donations to the NACAA Educational Foundation. The first is the Special Drawing event held during the auction. Tickets were sold throughout the meeting and at the auction for \$20. During the auction 6 tickets are drawn at regular intervals. The first 5 tickets are awarded \$100. The final ticket drawn is awarded \$1,000. Individuals must be present to claim the award. For those individuals whose name was not drawn, a \$20 donation was made to the NACAA Educational Foundation for each ticket purchased. In all 171 tickets were sold.

The second project is the sale of a commemorative NACAA Case Knife with embossed case. This knife is a three blade medium stockman knife produced by Case Knife Company, USA. The handle is a jade green bone with the NACAA logo embossed on the blade of the knife. These knives are available during the AM/PIC meeting or through NACAA national office. The cost of the knife is \$45.

Proceeds from the two special projects totaled \$3,178. Bringing the total money raised for the NACAA Educational Foundation during the Buffalo AM/PIC was \$10,198.50.

For the 2006/2007 scholarship year, 21 scholarship applications representing 74 members were received. Of the 21 applications, 7 were group applications representing 60 members and the remaining 14 applications were from individuals. A total of \$51,588 was requested.

The NACAA Educational Foundation approved the funding of up to, but not to exceed \$24,799. The Scholarship Committee met on Sunday morning/afternoon of the Buffalo AM/PIC for approximately 5 hours. Members of the Scholarship Committee each had copies of all the applications for review prior to the meeting.

For the 2006/2007 scholarship year, the Scholarship Committee recommended 12 awards for a total of \$24,799. This broke down into \$1,750 for 2 individuals to continue their formal education, and \$23,049 for 6 groups and 4 individuals to participate in conferences, tours and meetings. The committee was unable to fund 9 requests.

The process of changing over the current database system to a web based system was completed and launched in 2008. The new system allows any member to check his/her donation levels, award levels and the amount of scholarship funds still available through the NACAA website. John Donner NACAA Electronic Communications Coordinator and Laura Watts were instrumental in implementing this switch. They deserve a word of thanks!

Members can now apply for scholarships electronically. Members can download the application form from the NACAA website, fill it out and e-mail their applications to the appropriate personnel for electronic signatures. Signatures of the state president, committee chair and extension administrator can be added by the respective person and forwarded on to the next. Once all signatures have been collected it can be forwarded onto the appropriate regional vice chair.

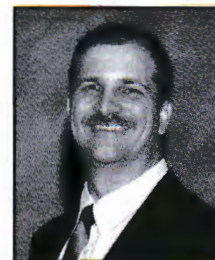
The Scholarship Committee would like to thank all members who have supported the scholarship fund through financial donations, auction item donations, and purchasing auction items, case knives, and special drawing tickets. It is through your support that allows the NACAA Educational Foundation to make scholarship awards possible.

## **Electronic Communications**

### **Coordinator**

### **John Dorner, IV**

#### **North Carolina**



Over the last year, I've been working with several committees, the state secretaries and the Executive Director to make their jobs and yours easier. The Member Database has continued to become more useful and I plan to make it even more so in the future.

The Membership Directory now makes it very easy to find contact information about any member. If you haven't tried it, click on "Member Database" from the NACAA Home Page at: [www.nacaa.com](http://www.nacaa.com).

This was the first time awards applications were submitted online. The state chairs reviewed the applications and approved them online, and passed them on to the regional vice-chairs and then on up to the national chair. This saved countless number of hours making copies, mailing forms and scanning photographs. This also made the creation of the awards book much faster and easier for the editor.

Proposals for presentations at the AM/PIC were also submitted, reviewed and selected online.

The scholarship awards and contributions information has been imported from the old (and confusing) database and updated so that when your name changes or you change states your information stays with you. You can also check your own contributions at: [www.nacaa.com/scholarship/summary.php](http://www.nacaa.com/scholarship/summary.php)

Surely, there have been some bumps along the way, but I think the journey has been surprisingly smooth. We've made a lot of progress this year and expect to make a lot more next year.

Some of my plans for next year include:

- maintaining and making the website more useful
- improving the dues payment process
- improving the awards process
- improving the presentation proposal process
- incorporate OpenID (so you can use your eXtension ID to log in)
- add social networking information to the directory
- creating a way for the Executive Director to collect and post new position announcements without going through the ECC. (visit "Position Openings" from the NACAA home page)
- my ultimate goal for the next three years will be to create all the tools the next ECC will need - to make their job as easy as possible and reduce the technical knowledge needed to fulfill this position.

If you have ANY suggestions for improving the web site or the Member Database, please let me know.

## Journal of Extension

**Keith Mickler**  
Georgia

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the NACAA officers and board for allowing me the opportunity to continue as representative for NACAA on the Journal of Extension Board (JOE).

This past year I represented NACAA at two JOE board meetings and one conference call with JOE board members representing other professional extension organizations. My first year on the board was quite a learning curve. In 2008 I was no longer the rookie on the board; I actually feel that I made some contributions and progress for NACAA along with learning how the complexity of the JOE board functions.

I currently serve as the Marketing and Public Relations Committee Chair. One element of marketing JOE is to make sure you know who JOE is. One way to do that is to have the JOE and Job Bank display at all national extension association meetings. You will find the JOE and Job Bank display in **booth number 1001** in Greensboro. Stop by and see JOE so we can discuss your opportunity to publish.

With that said I will say this, publishing in JOE is not as simple as publishing an article in the newspaper. All JOE submissions are sent out for peer review with high editorial standards and scholarly rigor. Not trying to brag on JOE, but if you get your article published in JOE consider that an immense achievement toward promotion.

As of May 22, 2008 106 submissions were received and reviewed with 16% being rejected as unsuitable for JOE, 49% returned to author for revision and 35% accepted review and publication. Currently there are



8 submissions waiting for review with 92 accepted submissions waiting to be published.

JOE has 70 active reviewers on the Peer Review Committee. JOE is still in need of reviewers, if you have an interest in becoming a peer reviewer for JOE please visit the JOE web site at [www.joe.org/ques1.html#Q12](http://www.joe.org/ques1.html#Q12) for more information.

Another function of JOE is the National Job Bank. The National Job Bank provides access to a broad range of faculty positions across teaching, research, extension and outreach as well as to other professional positions involving education, research and/or outreach missions. Outreach includes non-formal adult and/or youth education, continuing education, credit instruction, extension education, distance education, distance learning, service learning, civic engagement, economic and workforce development, or community-based education as well as extension programming in agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer science, 4-H/youth development and community and economic development.

A future JOE improvement coming down the pipeline is a redesigned web site for easier readability.

Please visit JOE often at <http://www.joe.org> and the National Job Bank at <http://jobs.joe.org>

Thanks to Past-President Chuck Otte, President Fred Miller, President-Elect Rick Gibson and all other NACAA board members for allowing me the continued opportunity to serve NACAA.

Please stop by the JOE booth while at the conference. JOE can be found in booth number 1001.

**Executive Director**  
**Scott Hawbaker**  
Illinois



It has been a pleasure serving as NACAA's Executive Director for this my ninth year. I do sincerely appreciate the trust and faith that the association has given me this past year, and I look forward to continuing my service to you.

One of my primary functions is to maintain relationships with current donors, and to assist the President-Elect in finding new donors and partners for your association. As economic times often turn downward, we have fortunately maintained outstanding donors to help support the functions of NACAA.

It is exciting to see the changes that NACAA has made over the last year, and I look forward to assisting the board in implementing new and improved ways to make your membership more rewarding.

Please feel free to contact the NACAA Headquarters for assistance with your association needs. During the year, I respond to over 1000 phone calls and emails in an effort to meet your needs as a member of NACAA.

Your NACAA board of directors is always seeking input on how they can better the association and the professional improvement opportunities provided to you as a member. NACAA can be reached at 6584 W. Duroc Rd., Maroa, IL 61756 - Phone: (217) 794-3700, Fax: (217) 794-5901, email: [nacaemail@aol.com](mailto:nacaemail@aol.com) or on the world wide web at [www.nacaa.com](http://www.nacaa.com).

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**ANNUAL MEETING AND  
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES**

**2009**

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

**2011**

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

**2010**

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

**2012**

**Charleston, South Carolina.....July TBD**

*The County Agent*

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



\*\*\*\*\*ALL FOR ADC 64240

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