

The County Agent

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"A River of Diverse Opportunities" Shown to NACAA Members at 91st AM/PIC in Cincinnati

President's Message/Chuck Otte

With the Ohio River within a five minute walk of the Duke Energy Center and the headquarters for the 91st NACAA AM/PIC, Ohio and Kentucky agents left all of those in attendance at the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference with diverse memories, and all of them were good memories! For the first time in NACAA history two states from two regions co-hosted the AM/PIC. This cooperative effort was seamless and showed incredible synergy to the benefit of everyone. A thank you goes out to all the agents/educators, life members and volunteers from both states that worked so hard to make this a successful event.

Diverse professional improvement opportunities were the hallmark of the 91st AM/PIC. Trade Talks, Search for Excellence, Commercial Technology and Issues Seminars, Professional Improvement Seminars, Council Seminars, Committee Seminars; the program was chock full of diverse learning opportunities that are hard to match anywhere else. Then there were the tours... crop production, livestock production, the green industry, sustainable agriculture, horse farms, cultural and natural heritage, conservation of natural resources; these just scratch the surface of where the 1300+ attendees toured. Future AM/

continued on page 3



**NACAA President
Chuck Otte and wife Jaye**

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2006-2007 NACAA Board of Directors, Seated front row (L-R): Stan Moore, North Central Region Director, MI; Rick Gibson, Vice President, AZ; Chuck Otte, President, KS; Fred Miller, President-Elect, NC; R. David Myers, Northeast Region Director, MD; Back Row (L-R): Michele Hebert, Western Region Director, AK; Henry Dorough, Southern Region Director, AL; James Devillier, Southern Region Director, LA; Leon Church, Secretary, TX; Mickey Cummings, Past-President, GA; Gary Hall, Policy Chair, CO; Paul Wigley, Treasurer, GA.

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IMPRESSIONS OF CINCINNATI/NORTHERN KENTUCKY



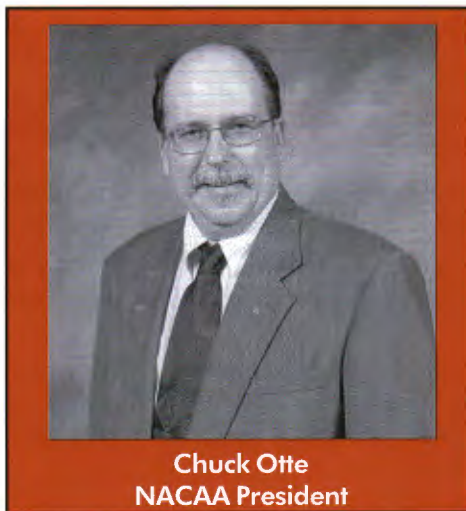
President's Message

PICs have their work cut out for them, but I'm confident that the agents in Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon and Oklahoma are up to the task.

For me, one of the highlights was the presentation of the Futuring Committee's report to the NACAA board and members. I had the privilege of helping then President Glenn Rogers set up this committee in the fall of 2004. This diverse group of NACAA members had no problem stepping outside the box and looking at where NACAA has come from, where it currently is and where it needs to be headed. The 62 recommendations from this report have now been handed over to the NACAA board and we will probably spend the next several years working our way through all of these.

My hat is off to past president Mickey Cummings on the program that he put together for the AM/PIC. For me, the entire week is capsulized in one song that was performed on Sunday night by Eric Horner. The song title was "Roots and Wings". It focused on how we all depend on our "roots", where we came from that has shaped what we are, to provide us the "wings" to take us to tomorrow, next month or next year. You really need good roots to grow strong wings.

Time and time again throughout the week, this theme just kept coming front and center. There was no way to get away from it. Senator Saxby Chambliss from Georgia referred to it in his Sunday evening presentation. All three of the testimonials, on Sunday evening, spoke of the importance of where they came from shaping where they are today. Former Miss America, Heather French-Henry spoke of it to the audience attending the 4-H Talent Review, to the spouse's luncheon and to the Life Member's breakfast. Our Monday speakers spoke to it, our Thursday speakers spoke to it, and the



Futuring Committee's report spoke to it.

As an organization, we are what the previous NACAA members and boards molded. We are a strong organization with a well organized council and committee structure. This structure has created the hundreds of hours of professional improvement opportunities that the AM/PIC attendees get to experience every year. This structure has created a scholarship foundation that awarded over \$20,000 for group and individual improvement for the coming year. This structure has survived for over 90 years by having strong enough roots to enable us to adapt and change just as our jobs have changed over those same 90+ years.

The NACAA Board will be busy this year. We will be looking at enacting recommendations from the Futuring Committee report. Outgoing treasurer Chuck Schwartau and "past past" president Glenn Rogers will be leading a committee that will look at how we can help states bidding for future AM/PICs. I have asked Past president Mickey Cummings to chair a committee to look at how we can communicate better throughout NACAA from the Board right to each and every member. Our publications committee will be looking at how we

can use our web site to provide more information and professional improvement opportunities to those members who can't attend an AM/PIC.

For those who were not able to attend the 91st AM/PIC in Cincinnati, please visit our web site at <http://www.NACAA.com> and read the proceedings. If you haven't read the Futuring Committee's report, it can also be found at the NACAA web site. You can also find information on the 92nd AM/PIC to be held in Grand Rapids Michigan, July 15 - 19, 2006. Start making plans to attend. It truly will be a "Grand" event!

For the first time in several years, NACAA membership grew this past year. I think we all know of co-workers in our own states that could be/should be members of NACAA, but aren't. Take a few minutes and help them understand that NACAA can help them be a better Extension Professional! And Grand Rapids would be a great first AM/PIC to attend.

Two years ago, as I ran for NACAA Vice President, I told you that I was interested in the office because I wanted to help NACAA move ahead into the future. I emphasized that it wasn't "my" NACAA, it was "our" NACAA. You, and the Futuring Committee have given us a vision of where we need to be. I ask you now to join me in the year ahead as we explore "our" year of finding the future for NACAA!



Poster Session Winners Announced at 91st AM/PIC

Applied Research:

1. Phil Blevins, VA
2. Jim Morrison, IL
3. James Hoorman, OH

1st Place - Applied Research



EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BIO-FUNGICIDES IN THE PRODUCTION OF FRESH MARKET ORGANIC TOMATOES

Blevins, * P.K.¹, Straw, R.A.²

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- ² Extension Specialist, Virginia Cooperative Extension-Southwest Virginia AREC, Glade Spring, Virginia 24340

Disease control in fresh market tomatoes is a major factor limiting the adoption of organic production methods by growers in Southwest, Virginia. Six bio-fungicides were compared to a conventional standard [Bravo (3 pts/acre) alternated with Manzate (2 lbs/acre) plus Tanos (8 oz/acre) plus BCS Copper (64 oz/acre) for the first four weekly sprays, and Bravo alone thereafter] and an untreated check (UTC) for relative effectiveness in controlling diseases such as early blight. The biological materials and rates applied were, Storox (1% solution),

Biophos (2% solution), Prophyte (4 pts/acre), Serenade Max (3 lbs/acre), BCS Copper (2qts/acre), and Serenade Max (3lbs/acre) plus BCS Copper (2qts/acre). All treatments were made on a weekly basis. The tomato variety 'Mountain Fresh Plus' was used in a drip irrigated, trellised, plasti-culture system. Fruit was harvested and graded and placed into one of the following grades: Jumbo, Extra Large, Large, Medium, Small, No. 2, or Cull. Yield data and disease ratings were analyzed using ANOVA techniques and means were separated using Duncan's Multiple Range Test. There were no statistical differences in yield of total marketable fruit. The UTC plot produced the greatest number of Jumbo fruit, while the Serenade/BCS Copper produced the lowest. Storox has been a material that local organic growers have relied on for disease control. In terms of disease control, all treatments including the UTC were better statistically than Storox, which had leaf area damage ratings in excess of 40%. This study suggests that there are differences in the relative effectiveness of these bio-fungicides for disease control. However, in this case it did not significantly impact total marketable yield. If harvest had continued, yield differences would have been expected due to defoliation by early blight.

2nd Place - Applied Research



PREDICTING WHEAT STRAW YIELDS IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Morrison,* J.A.¹, Nafziger, E.D.², Paul, L.E.³, Joos, D.K.⁴

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³Agronomist, Northern Illinois Agronomy Research Center, Department of Crop Sciences, University of Illinois, Shabbona, Illinois 60550

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Straw is an important component of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) production. "What is the typical yield of wheat straw, and how can I predict straw yield?" are commonly asked questions by producers and agri-businesses in northern Illinois. To answer those questions, a study was conducted in 2004 and 2005 at the Northern Illinois Agronomy Research Center, Shabbona. We measured straw yield of six soft red winter wheat varieties (Cardinal, Growmark FS 634, Kaskaskia, Madison, Pioneer 25R47, and Roane) grown at the Center as part of the University of Illinois wheat grain variety trial. There were three replications in a randomized complete block design, and wheat was planted following soybean (*Glycine max*). Averaged across both years, straw yield was 2.6 tons (100% dry matter) per acre, grain yield was 82 bushels (13.5% moisture) per acre, there was 1.0 pound of straw per pound of grain, and the average plant height was 37 inches. Significant differences were found among varieties for these traits. A negative correlation (r

= -0.23) existed between plant height and grain yield, while a positive correlation ($r = +0.30$) was found between grain yield and straw yield. A high, positive correlation ($r = +0.82$) existed between plant height and straw yield. Straw yield as a function of grain yield and plant height was described by the equation $SY (t/acre) = -2.223 + 0.09 * \text{height (in.)} + 0.018 * \text{grain yield (bu/acre)}$, $r^2 = 0.928$, indicating that, at least for high-yielding wheat, both grain yield and plant height are needed to predict straw yield accurately.

3rd Place - Applied Research



OHIO SWINE MANURE APPLICATION SURVEY

Hoorman, J. J.¹, Prochaska, S.C.², Rausch, J.N.³

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Ohio swine farms (1,809) received a manure application survey in June 2004 ($n=246$, 19.5% response rate, 39% stopped raising swine in last 5 years). Ohio swine production has changed from owner-operated facilities to inte-

grated operations (corporate ownership). Average sows per operation was 358 ($n=97$, $SD=1,069$). Finish hog operations ($n=163$) averaged 3,196 pigs, ($SD=4,212$). Swine producers averaged 433 acres ($SD=430$) available to apply manure and traveled <1.4 miles to apply manure. Swine producers estimated they applied 14.1% of their manure from January to March, 17.7% April to June, 33.8% July to September, and 34.5% October to December; which are significantly different ($p<.05$). Farmers knew to inspect broken tile (72.1%), apply liquid manure away from tile lines (69.3%), and not apply manure before a rain or to dry cracked soils (62.1%). Excess manure application (56.6%) and manure moving downward through worm burrows (54.0%) and root channels (40.4%) into tile lines are problems. Most did not know they needed to inspect tile flow (33.6%), perform tillage with manure applications (39.3%), monitor tile lines (46.2%), or adjust manure application rates (46.7%) to prevent liquid manure in subsurface drains. Respondents reported protecting the environment was a high priority. They considered soil moisture and soil types with liquid manure application and rated inspecting tiles lines high but injecting manure to prevent manure movement and the occurrence of discharges to tile lines rated low. Knowledge, adoption of best management practices, and attitudes were highly correlated. These survey results will influence future Ohio manure application educational programs.



Extension Education

1. Reed Findlay, ID
2. Dale Baird, IL
3. Kelly Easterday, IN

1st Place - Extension Education



SMALL FARM BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

Findlay, J.R.¹, Harrison, S.²

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² Extension Educator, University of Idaho, Caribou County, Soda Springs, Idaho 83276

Small farming operations are increasingly becoming the primary clients for Agricultural Extension Educators. Beekeeping is a great enterprise for small farms. However, it is somewhat of a lost art. In order for small farms to take advantage of Beekeeping they must first be trained in the basics of this enterprise. Extension Educators from Bannock and Caribou Counties developed and presented a three hour hands on workshop covering the main aspects of beekeeping, product development, and marketing. Farmers were taught how to set up a beekeeping enterprise. They also learned hive management, disease control, and honey extraction techniques. The lectures also covered how to increase profits from the sale of honey, wax, and pollen products. Marketing techniques and selling bee products in farmers markets rounded out this session. All

lesson plans, learning materials, class notes, and power point presentations were formatted and placed on the county web site. Thirty-five farmers attended the workshop held in Pocatello and eighteen attended the workshop held in Soda Springs. All students who attended the workshops took a test to evaluate their knowledge (on a scale of 1 to 10) of specific beekeeping skills before and after the educational program. Students expressed the most enthusiasm for the sections of the workshop dealing with lotion and soap making. Program outcomes were also evaluated by administering a follow up survey seven months after the program. The survey was developed to measure changes in behavior specifically tied to the different sections of the workshop.

2nd Place - Extension Education



EXTENSION PROGRAMS ADDRESSING ROOTWORM LARVAE INJURY TO FIRST YEAR CORN ROOTS IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Baird,* D.L.¹, Higgins, R.A.²

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Western Corn Rootworm (WCR) adult beetles lay eggs at the base of corn plants

from July through early September. Eggs hatch the following year and larvae survive by feeding on corn roots. To prevent significant yield loss caused by rootworm larvae feeding, many corn producers utilize a soil applied insecticide at planting when planting corn after corn. Corn planted after soybean was previously not thought to be at risk to WCR larvae feeding. In the early 1990's, a variant strain of the WCR was discovered to lay eggs in soybeans, putting first year corn at risk. By the late 1990's this variant WCR was firmly entrenched in east central Illinois. During 2001, the variant spread to northern Illinois which resulted in severely reduced yields in first year corn planted in 2002. From 2002 through early 2006, twenty-six Extension field days, seminars and workshops were delivered to growers in the expanding geographic area of the variant WCR. These programs, attended by more than 600 corn producers, focused on evaluating rootworm larvae injury, sharing insecticide product performance and using yellow sticky traps in soybeans to monitor egg laying by rootworm adults. Seventy-six percent of post program evaluation respondents strongly agreed or agreed that as a result of attending the program they have a better understanding of the variant WCR problem in first year corn, and feel more confident in evaluating corn roots for rootworm larvae feeding. Sixty-one percent of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the program discussion focusing on insecticide product performance influenced their product selection.

3rd Place - Applied Research

MIDWEST WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Easterday*, K.L.¹, Herr, S.², Sutton, P.³, Sell, W.⁴, Yoder, R.⁵, Rich, A.⁶, Larew, R.⁷

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Cooperative Extension Service – Kosciusko County, Warsaw, Indiana 46582

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³Extension Educator – Agriculture & Natural Resources, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service – St. Joseph County, South Bend, Indiana 46601

⁴Extension Educator – Economic & Community Development, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service – LaPorte County, LaPorte, Indiana 46350

⁵Extension Educator – Agriculture & Natural Resources, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service – Marshall County, Plymouth, Indiana 46563

⁶Extension Educator – Agriculture & Natural Resources, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service – Harrison County, Corydon, Indiana 47112

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The Midwest Women in Agriculture conference was designed to meet the needs of women in agriculture by addressing the personal, family, and farm issues that affect their lives, their families, and their farm businesses. Women play major roles in making their family

farms profitable and ensuring the emotional well-being of their farm families. To assist women with these needs, a team of Purdue Extension educators has sponsored this conference annually since 2002. The conference has empowered over 450 women and men from six states over the past three years, giving them the tools they need to make decisions about their family farms. Success of a one day conference merited an ex-

pansion to a two day event in 2003, 2004, and 2005. In 2006 the conference was expanded to 2 locations. Topics at the conferences addressed such issues as: stress reduction, differences between men and women, agricultural products marketing, financial planning for later life, farming without a spouse, rural-urban relations, diversified agriculture, insurance, landscaping, tax tips, passing on the family farm, conflict man-

agement, working with a farm lender, the future of agriculture and small-scale agriculture enterprise development among other topics. Women reported by attending the conference they increased confidence, morale, motivation, and support from others dealing with similar issues. The conference has also helped women to define their role in making the farm profitable and to build a network of support.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE - NATIONAL WINNERS

Crop Production



National Winner

SMITH COUNTY CROP PRODUCTION - CROP PRODUCTION PROGRAM

Wick, Sandra L.

Smith County Agricultural Agent, K-State Research and Extension, 218 South Grant, Courthouse, Smith Center, KS 66967

Crop production makes up approximately 60% of the total farm income for Smith County and contributes \$29 million to the economy. With this information alone, the importance and significance is extremely vital to the county. Producers in the crop production enterprise need access to educational programs, research-based

information on marketing their products, information on purchasing their inputs, and the proper management techniques to operate an efficient and profitable operation. Smith County crop producers deal with issues and are faced with many decisions throughout the growing season and I am always looking for ways to help producers make more knowledgeable and sound decisions. My main emphasis is on the agronomic aspect of production agriculture. In the last three years, I have organized 8 demonstration plots illustrating three different crops produced in Smith County which includes wheat, grain sorghum and corn. Soil testing is an important component of the test plots. I emphasize this to producers so they can relate this to their own operations. On average, the information producers receive from their soil testing has saved them from 10% to 25% on their fertilizer costs. All demonstration plots were harvested separately with the data being distributed to local producers to use in selecting consistent performing varieties for Smith County. In the last 3 years, I have had 9,232 personal contacts with producers providing them with research based information to help them make educational production decisions. Many educational workshops are provided for producers. If producers are unable to attend, the workshops are videotaped and are available for checkout along with being shown on the

local cable channel. I also provide information for producers in my monthly newsletter along with my bi-monthly personal column with topics dealing with crop production.

Farm and Ranch Financial Management



National Winner:

FINANCIAL FITNESS: HELPING FARMERS AND HOMEOWNERS IMPROVE THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Roberts,* B. A.¹

¹ Extension Agent, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service-Spencer County, Taylorsville, Kentucky 40071

Financial Fitness is a 2 session program to help participants learn how to better manage their finances and per-

sonal information. Topics covered in this series included: personal budgeting, using credit wisely (credit cards, loans, credit reports), identity theft, investing (retirement plans, savings), and estate planning. Pre- and post-surveys were used to gauge the information gained from the sessions. During the first session, all participants said they had not prepared a budget within the last year. They were given a blank budget and all participants returned with a completed budget. The participants planned to reduce their credit card debt by contacting the credit card companies to seek a lower interest rate, while others would pay more per month on the cards. Most of the participants had not reviewed their credit report within the last year, but all of them said that they would in the next few months once they can check their report for free. The second session results yielded the same results. Half of the participants did not have a retirement account set up, but said that they plan to in the next 6 months. Half of the participants did not have an estate plan developed before the program, but said that they will develop their plan. All participants said that their financial knowledge increased and would recommend this program to others. One participant said that this class has helped them to "continue my non-use of credit cards and to review my credit report on a regular basis."

LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURE



National Winner:

MOLE CONTROL IN ARKANSAS LANDSCAPES

Blakey, D.W.

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Of all common mammals in North America, perhaps the Eastern Mole is least understood. This insectivore tunnels through yards, landscapes, and cemeteries causing damage to turf. In their quest to rid themselves of this pest, homeowners and professionals alike spend a great deal of money on products that are wholly ineffective, and in the process create point-source pollution of the environment. To learn more about this nuisance animal and demonstrate methods of control, a program was initiated that consisted of 3 components: Trials conducted locally to better understand mole behavior and trapping techniques available to the public; demonstrations to show efficacy of various control measures to stakeholders; and Education of the public on the use of environmentally sound control techniques appropriate to moles. From this work it was determined that predation and the Victor Out-of-Sight trap was the best methods of control, which corresponded to the methods used in the northern US. Numerous educational and media presentations were made, including a segment on our local ABC affiliate demonstrating the use of a mole trap. A fact sheet is currently in review with biologists from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



National Winner:

LOST RIVERS GRAZING ACADEMY

Jensen, *K.S.¹, Cheyney, C.², Hawkins, J.³, Shewmaker, G.⁴, Gray, W.⁵, Williams, S.⁶, Gerrish, J.⁷, Griggs, T.⁸

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² Superintendent, University of Idaho Nancy M. Cummings Research and Extension Center and Butte County Extension Agent, Arco, Idaho, 83213

³ Extension Agent, University of Idaho-Custer County, Challis, Idaho, 83226

⁴ Extension Forage Specialist, University of Idaho-Twin Falls R&E Center, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83303

⁵ Extension Ag Economist, University of Idaho-Twin Falls R&E Center, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83303

⁶ Extension Agent, University of Idaho-Lemhi County, Salmon, Idaho, 83467

⁷ Grazing Lands Consultant, May, Idaho, 83253

⁸ Forage Specialist-Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 84322

Domestic pastures are generally grazed season-long. According to Gerrish and Roberts (1999) pastures grazed longer than 30 days have a harvesting efficiency of 40% or less. High stocking rates and low stock densities are common, leading to severe grazing,

which limits re-growth potential and overall yield. Pasture operators lack motivation to improve management because: 1) conventional management has traditionally been viewed as adequate; 2) good irrigated pastures are undervalued; 3) pastures appear to be more resilient to abuse than other crops; 4) land typically planted to domestic pasture is perceived as marginal and therefore of limited financial value; and 5) producers have not recognized the

ecological value of pastures. To improve livestock operator understanding and implementation of the principles of Management-intensive Grazing (MiG), outreach programs featuring multi-day hands on workshops for operators have been held across southern Idaho. Topics covered in the intensive 4 day, hands-on workshop include the five principles of grazing, tools for managing grazing, anatomy and physiology of forage plants, grazing cell design, low stress live-

stock handling techniques, and livestock health considerations as well as others. Participants in these workshops come away with a better understanding of the principles involved and often put what they learn into practice on their own places. This growing network of operators is developing, adapting and implementing more economically efficient and environmentally acceptable methods for harvesting and utilizing forages.

REMOTE SENSING AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE



National Winner:

FARMING WITH COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES – PRECISION AGRICULTURE

Varner,* D.L.

Extension Educator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Dodge County, Fremont, Nebraska 68025

A comprehensive, hands-on computer literacy workshop titled Farming with Computer Technologies – Precision Agriculture (FWCT-PA) was developed for producers, vocational agriculture instructors and Extension Educators with little or no experience using precision agriculture technologies. The workshop was designed to help participants will become familiar with state-of-the-art precision agriculture technologies; learn

to use geographical information system and global positioning system farming technologies; and understand applications of precision agriculture technologies for their farming operations. Participants spent a day learning about yield monitors, lightbars, generating yield maps, cleaning data, geographical information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), collecting GPS data, importing GPS data into a GIS, and exploring the capabilities of a farm-based GIS system. The workshop is taught with a portable computer technology laboratory capable of facilitating ten work stations. PowerPoint presentations and hands-on activities are integrated with one-another to keep the participants on-task. The workshop is structured so participants learn the technologies in the typical order that they are adopted by Nebraska farmers. A reference manual was developed for workshop participants. The manual includes all of the PowerPoint slides used throughout the workshop with space for notes. Workshop exercise instructions are also included so participants can repeat the exercises following the workshop. A CD in the back of the manual includes data used for workshop exercises that participants can use to conduct workshop exercises again later. Participants left the workshop feeling they had made advancements in their precision agriculture knowledge and skills. Follow-up calls from producers demonstrated that they had gained the knowledge and confidence to develop or enhance their pre-

cision farming system. Extension Educators and Vocational Agriculture Instructors completing the workshop reported that it contributed greatly to their understanding of precision agriculture technologies and how they could be integrated into their respective professions.

4-H AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING



National Winner:

SEEDS TO SUCCESS YOUTH FARMSTAND

Cummings,*M.¹, Hughes,L.², Strieter,L.³, McKee, M.⁴

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Seeds to Success Youth Farmstand prepares special needs youth for the workforce through classroom and on-

the-job training. Seeds to Success teaches a variety of lessons in the Woodbury, Paulsboro, Glassboro and Bankbridge Regional Schools. During the summer, students apply this knowledge at our Woodbury, Paulsboro and Glassboro youth farmstands, where students truly experience the many aspects of the day-to-day operations of a retail entrepreneurial enterprise, while earning mini-

mum wage. Just like a regular business, proceeds from the sale of fruits, vegetables and herbs sold at the farmstands are used to pay for supplies. The students purchase their inventory at wholesale prices from local farmers; calculate a mark-up that includes profit; and charge retail prices to consumers. Any profit made at the farmstand is shared among the students at the end of the season.

YOUNG BEGINNING SMALL FARMERS/ RANCHERS



National Winner:

GROWING SMALL FARMS – AN EXTENSION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON SMALL FARMERS AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Roos, D.L.*

Agricultural Extension Agent for Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center, P.O. Box 279, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Chatham County is one of the few counties in the state to experience an increase in the number of farms during the last agricultural census, and much of this growth is attributed to the increase in the number of small farms. This group of small and beginner farmers has unique needs, and an Extension position

was created to work specifically with this group. The program has several objectives: 1) to improve the economic development of small farms in Chatham County; 2) to enhance the environmental quality of small farms by promoting sustainable practices; 3) to help small farmers diversify into new enterprises and new markets; 4) to help small farmers meet the growing demand in the Triangle area for locally grown, organic produce; and 5) to improve agricultural literacy among the non-farming public. Proactive programming is delivered through a quarterly newsletter, monthly farmer workshops, a comprehensive website, and email discussion groups, or listservs. Teaching methods are varied and include lectures, panel discussions, participatory exercises, field days, demonstrations, farm visits, the website, and newsletter. In the past three years, there has been an average of 60 participants at each of the 27 workshops. The audience for the website has increased every year, going from 14,400 visits in 2002 to 100,000 in 2005. Feedback from evaluations of the workshops, newsletter, website, and individual consultations indicate that these are valuable teaching tools that have made a positive impact in the sustainability of small farms in the area. The Growing Small Farms program has served as a model for other states and other educators use the website, newsletter, and workshops to educate themselves and their clients.

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2006 American/World Agriculture Award Recipient - Neil E. Harl

Neil E. Harl is Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture and Emeritus Professor of Economics at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He is a member of the Iowa Bar. Dr. Harl was Director of the Center for International Agricultural Finance from 1990 through 2004. He received a B.S. from Iowa State University in 1955, a J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1961 and a Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University in 1965. His major fields of law interest include estate planning and taxation, business planning and agricultural law. Dr. Harl has published widely including 27 books; more than 400 professional articles and bulletins; and more than 850 articles in farm and financial publications. He is author of the 15-volume treatise, *Agricultural Law* and the single volume *Agricultural Law Manual*; co-author (with Roger McEowen) of three Tax Management Portfolios—*The Family-Owned Business Deduction*, *Reporting Farm*

Income and Taxation of Cooperatives and co-author with Professor McEowen of *Principles of Agricultural Law*. He has received more than 30 major awards including the USDA Superior Service Award in 1987; the President's Award from the Iowa State Bar Association in 1991; Charles A. Black Award from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology in 1997, for effectiveness in communicating with the public; the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award from the Chicago Farmers Club in 1999, the *Wallaces Farmer* Iowa Master Farmer Award for Exceptional Service to Agriculture in 2000; the Speaker of the Year Award by the National Society of Accountants in 2000; and the Presidential Service Award from Iowa State University in 2002. Dr. Harl has served on six federal advisory bodies — a Farm Tax Reform Task Force for the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 1967; the

Commissioner's Advisory Group (Commissioner of Internal Revenue) in 1979-80; the USDA Farm Structure Task Force in 1980; the Office of Technology Assessment, Technical Advisory Committee, by Congressional Appointment, 1987-1995 (chair in 1993-94); the USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Biotechnology, 2000-2002; and the Commission on Federal Payment Limitations in Agriculture, 2002-2003.



Neil E. Harl



Duane G. Duncan
Pennsylvania
45 years - retired 2003

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.



Robert M. Voboril
Nebraska
33 years - retired 1991



Dave Phillips
Montana
31 years

The 2006 inductees were Life member Robert M. Voboril, Nebraska; Life Member J. Lowell Loadholtz, Florida, 31 year Agent Dave Phillips, Montana; and Life Member Duane G. Duncan, Pennsylvania.

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



J. Lowell Loadholtz
Florida
33 years - retired 1994

COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS PROGRAM 2006

Radio Program

National Winner

FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET CONDITIONS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

Daniels,* R.A.

Extension Professor, Mississippi State
Extension Service, Department of
Forestry, Box 9681, Miss State, MS
39762

The radio program entered was a
program aired on the "Forestry Friday"
series that features forestry each Friday
on the Extension radio program "Better
Farming."

This program features information on the
timber markets in Mississippi in the wake
of the forest destruction brought by
Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The
program aired on Friday October 14,
2005. The program is conversational
and gives average timber prices. I also
advise forest landowners how to handle
their damaged timber with an eye on
future timber values. Some recent
research on the dynamics of the timber
markets after natural catastrophes is
also conveyed.

Published Photo & Caption

National Winner

SOUTH DAKOTA SELENIUM IS JUST RIGHT

Fanning,* B.W.¹, Nixon,* L.²

¹County Extension Educator –
Agronomy, SDSU Cooperative Extension
Service, Lyman County, Kennebec, South
Dakota 57544



²Ag Information Editor – AgBio
Communications Unit, SDSU
Cooperative Extension Service,
Brookings, South Dakota 57007

The enclosed photos were used for an
article on "Selenium rich" wheat in the
fall, 2006 issue of "Farm & Home
Research," a publication of South
Dakota State University – College of
Agriculture and Biological Sciences,
Agricultural Experiment Station. The
farmer-rancher pictured in the photos
and featured in the article lives and farms
in Lyman County and has been able to
sell "Selenium rich" wheat to buyers in
Europe on several occasions. The buyers
mix the "Selenium rich" wheat with
European wheat that is virtually deficient
of Selenium, and market the flour
products made with it to health conscious
consumers. The consumers are
interested in Selenium's role as an anti-
oxidant that may have cancer fighting
benefits. The authors wanted photos of
the farmer-rancher standing in a wheat
field for the article. I was asked to take
the photos to save the journalism staff
the 240 mile one-way trip from the SDSU
campus in Brookings. The photos were
taken with a Sony DSC-M1 digital
camera at 2592 x 1944 pixels. The
photos were uploaded to the Lyman
County Extension website, where the
staff at SDSU could access and download
them for use in the publication. 7000
copies of "Farm & Home Research are

published quarterly and sent free of
charge to any resident of South Dakota
upon written request. "Farm & Home
Research is also available online at:
<http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/> under
"Other" > "Farm & Home Research".

Slide Set, Transparencies, Graphic Presentation



National Winner

ENTOMOLOGY MASTER GARDENER PRESENTATION

Simpson, A.L.

County Extension Agent, 4-H/
Agriculture, University of Arkansas
Division of Agriculture Cooperative
Extension Service - Clark County,
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923

Gardening enthusiasts participating in
the Master Gardener program benefit
from training that includes basic
Entomology education. Once
participants become familiar with insect
Orders, life cycles, and mouth parts,
they can better determine whether insects
are beneficial or harmful. They can also
better determine how to prevent and
control insect damage to their desirable
vegetables, fruits, ornamentals, and turf.
This presentation was given to help

address the above topics at a tri-county Master Gardener Training involving Clark, Nevada, and Pike Counties in southwest Arkansas. It was given in February of 2006 using Microsoft PowerPoint. There were fifteen people participating in the training, and the Entomology subjects received "good" or "excellent" evaluations from all trainees.

Direct Mail Piece



National Winner

NINTH ANNUAL FLORIDA SCHOOL GARDEN COMPETITION

Wichman, * T.A.

Florida Master Gardener State Coordinator, University of Florida, 107 Mehrhof Hall PO Box 110675, Gainesville FL, 32611

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, and the EPCOT International Flower & Garden Festival. This competition is in its ninth year and is open to all elementary schools in the state of Florida.

A new approach was needed to reach more teachers. It was decided to design and print a promotional poster for the event. In an effort to reach more teachers, each poster was filled with images of children gardening and contained a pad with 25 tear off sheets containing all pertinent dates, contact and web info.

The posters were printed in 4 colors with the printing being sponsored by the EPCOT Flower & Garden Festival. The poster was formatted to 17"x22" size to be able to fold into an 8 ½"x11" size to make shipping cost effective.

Posters were sent to 4,000+ schools in the state of Florida. It is difficult to evaluate the impact of the poster since entries are due March 20th, 2006. The phone calls about the event have increased tenfold. There are about 1,000 hits on the School Gardening Competition website.

The true success will be measured this year by how many entry packets will be received. The preliminary response seems very favorable and plans are to continue this effort for next year's competition.

Personal Column



National Winner

PUTNAM COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT PERSONAL COLUMN FACILITATES INFORMATION DELIVERY TO NON-TRADITIONAL CLIENTELE

Fielder, J.K.

County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension - Putnam County, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

The City of Eatonton, Georgia and

Putnam County offer a diverse Extension clientele due to an increasing number of new residents attracted by area resort communities. These individuals are in large part non-traditional users of Extension programs and services. A column in the local news paper(s) provides an agent with the opportunity to reach these individuals at a basic level. Personal columns deliver useful information concerning current topics along with an introduction to Cooperative Extension. The *Eatonton Messenger* and its weekend editions, the *Lake Oconee News* and *Lake Oconee Breeze* have a readership of over 50,000 individuals. Columns in these news publications have also provided a no cost information outlet to the public. This is important as the number of news letters our office is capable of mailing has been reduced due to dwindling postage budgets. A large number of information requests and personal visits are sparked by these columns, many with the comment, "I am new to the area and I saw this in your column." In summary, agent columns provide a lost cost, timely means of disseminating information to non-traditional clientele as well as the community at large.

Feature Story

National Winner

MISSISSIPPI'S 'FARM' BASS

Covington, * C

Area Livestock/Forage Agent, Mississippi State University Extension Service-Claiborne County, Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

The feature story was published in the February 2006 issue of *Mississippi Game & Fish* magazine (pages 17-18).

This feature story was intended to educate landowners and sportsmen about farm ponds and how they can

2006 AM/PIC Award Winners

produce trophy-sized bass. It was also intended to reveal the excitement available by fishing a small farm pond. I took the reader on a step-by-step journey of how to produce and catch lunker bass in farm ponds. I also included a couple of photographs to provide a visual description of the content of the story. I received several telephone calls from area landowners and sportsmen requesting additional information on managing their own farm ponds.

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

Newsletter Individual



National Winner

JACKSON STOCKMAN: LIVESTOCK & FORAGE EXTENSION NEWSLETTER

Mayo*, D.E.

Livestock Extension Agent, University of Florida Extension, Jackson County, Marianna, Florida 32448

The Jackson Stockman is a quarterly newsletter sent to over 470 livestock and hay producers in Jackson County. The purpose of the newsletter is two fold. First, the newsletter is a forum for brief articles on recommended cattle and

pasture management practices aimed at making Jackson County's Rancher more efficient and profitable. The agent is the editor of the newsletter and writes the lead article along with articles on upcoming events. The agent also utilizes articles written by regional specialists to provide a broad range of topics focused on livestock and forage management. This newsletter is the most practical vehicle for delivering timely information to a large audience. The second goal is to provide information on upcoming extension, USDA and Cattlemen Association programs and events. So, each issue contains both practical information as well as current news on upcoming programs of interest. Each issue also ends on a more humorous note to keep the readers attention all the way to the end of the newsletter. The agent keeps a file for each of the four seasons and a clean joke file, so that quality articles can be saved for the appropriate time of the year. This newsletter was created entirely on the agent's computer using Microsoft Word. The covers are printed using a color laser printer and the following pages are duplicated by a secretary on a copy machine for distribution through a maintained bulk mailing list.

Newsletter Team

National Winner

DAIRY FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Strait,* G.L.¹, Goodling, R.², Wagner, P.³, McFarland, D.⁴

¹Extension Educator, Pennsylvania state University Extension Service-Fulton County, McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania 17233

²Extension Educator, Pennsylvania State University Extension Service-Lebanon County, Pennsylvania

³Extension Educator, Pennsylvania State University Extension Service-Franklin County



⁴Extension Educator, Pennsylvania State University Extension Service-York County

The Dairy Focus Newsletter is published to keep dairy producers and agricultural professionals informed of new techniques, topics, and concepts for the advancement and profitability of dairy operations in the Capital Region of Pennsylvania. The newsletter is submitted semi-monthly with an increased emphasis during the winter and spring months. Extension educators solicit industry sponsorship to get the newsletter published. The team has many persons submitting articles to be published (industry, team members, university specialists, and outside topic specialists.) We have targeted the dairy producers and agriculture professionals that reside or service dairy operation with in the eleven counties (Adams, Berks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York Counties) in Pennsylvania. Our current distribution is to over 4700 dairy producers and industry professionals in the prior mentioned counties, plus over 120 recipients in Pennsylvania counties outside our region, and also 50 recipients residing outside of Pennsylvania. The results have not been finished at this time.

Video Tape/Television

National Winner



**LONGWOOD GARDENS EPISODE:
THE "IF PLANTS COULD TALK"
SERIES ON NEW JERSEY PUBLIC
TELEVISION**

Hlubik, W.T.^{1*}, Polanin N.², Weidman R.³, Marko J.⁴, and Smela D.⁴

¹Agricultural Agent Middlesex County, ² Agricultural Agent Somerset County, ³ Program Associate Middlesex County, ⁴ Program Assistants Middlesex County. Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of New Jersey, Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents, Martin Hall Room 326, 88 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

The "If Plants Could Talk" (IPCT) television series has aired monthly on New Jersey Network (NJN) Public Television since 2000. The thirty minute episodes contain four to five segments covering a variety of gardening, environmental and agricultural topics. The Longwood Gardens episode aired on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at 1 PM on NJN PBS. This episode included segments on landscape design principles, integrated pest management and a great variety of plant material recommendations for northeast gardens. Based on Nielsen ratings, it is estimated that between 75,000 to 125,000 people viewed the program. The popularity of the series is reflected in the 13 million hits on the IPCT web site. In addition the program aired on

three central New Jersey Public Access cable stations throughout the summer of 2005. The television series is produced entirely by Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Staff. Mr. Hlubik is the Project Director and Co-Host. Mr. Polanin is a Co-Host and Associate Producer. Mr. Marko and Mr. Smela serve as videographers and editors. Mr. Weidman is an Associate Producer for the series. Video for the CD ROM was created with a Sony DSR-500 DV Cam and a Canon XL-1 video camera. Digital editing was completed on an Apple G4 running OS X with Avid Express Meridian Non-Linear Editing Software version 4.6 with 3D effects, Adobe After Effects 6.5 and PhotoShop CS.

Fact Sheet



National Winner

**NORTH FLORIDA PASTURE WEED
QUICK REFERENCE SHEET**

Mayo*, D.E.¹, Ferrell, J.²

¹ Extension Agent, University of Florida Extension, Jackson County, 2741 Pennsylvania Ave., Marianna, Florida 32448

² Extension Weed Specialist, University of Florida, Agronomy Department, Gainesville, Florida

The North Florida Pasture Weed Control Quick Reference Sheet was designed to give livestock and forage producers a handy, one page fact sheet

to select the correct herbicides to use for weed control and also identify common plants that are poisonous to livestock. This fact sheet was distributed to over 700 producers in five North Florida Counties as a newsletters insert. This single fact sheet provides answers to most of the common questions producers have in the spring and summer about herbicide selection for pasture weed control. Recommended rates, estimated costs, grazing and harvest restrictions and specific precautions were listed for each herbicide. The weed response chart allows producers to select herbicides that provide the best control for the variety of weeds found in their specific pastures. The inside page has color photos of 19 different common poisonous weeds. There are publications available, but this fact sheets gives a summary on a single sheet of 11 x 17 paper, so it is a very practical tool for use in the field. This fact sheet was developed as a team effort between a county agent and state extension weed specialist, so the information is researched based and presented in a form that is simple, and easy to use. This fact sheet was developed on a desktop computer using Microsoft Word, digital photos from the field and Internet, and printed on a color laser printer at the Extension Office for distribution. This same sheet is also available to download at <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.htm>.

Publication

National Winner

**AGRICULTURAL LABOR
MANAGEMENT: CULTIVATING
PERSONNEL PRODUCTIVITY**

Billikopf,* G.E.¹

¹ Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension, 3800 Cornucopia Way #A, Modesto, California 95358



How people are hired and managed is vital. Labor costs often account for 40% to 70% of production costs. *Agricultural Labor Management: Cultivating Personnel Productivity* (2nd Edition, 2003), is a peer reviewed publication. It was printed along with its Spanish translation (not peer reviewed). The purpose of this publication was to summarize years of labor management research in a practical manner that would be useful to farm managers and supervisors. It represents a thorough revision of the 1994 sold out first edition (NACAA finalist in 1999, with 2,000 copies printed). A major objective was to make the book freely available on the Web and to sell hard copies at an affordable price (\$12.50 plus shipping). Two thousand copies of each the English and Spanish books were printed. We sell hundreds of copies each year, and countless copies are downloaded and distributed for free on the Web (the labor management site receives over 2,000 hits a day). The book has been adopted for use in both agricultural and non-agricultural courses around the world. Some chapters have been particularly popular. For instance, the one on conflict management was included in a 2005 book published in India, *Managing Workplace Conflict*. The author was thoroughly involved in all facets of the publication and translation of the book, including layout design. Editorial help was provided by the University of California, University of Chile and others. The cover was designed professionally

using photos taken by the author. The book was printed and bound professionally.

Web Page



National Winner

NATURAL RESOURCE ENTERPRISES WEB SITE

Jacobs, K.M.¹, Jones, W.D.²

¹Extension Associate I, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Box 9690, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

²Coordinator, Natural Resource Enterprises Program, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Box 9690, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

The Natural Resource Enterprises (NRE) Program provides resources and training for private landowners interested in developing an enterprise based on natural resources. A variety of enterprises can be developed from natural resources. Some examples include fee hunting and fishing, wildlife watching, trail riding, agritourism, heritage tourism, collection of pine straw for mulch, and other similar activities. A variety of tools are employed by the NRE Program to build a base of landowners and community leaders that are well informed about the many factors involved in developing and managing a natural resource enterprise. The NRE web site

provides users with access to multiple resources from various state and federal agencies and institutions of higher education that can help them with the management of a natural resource enterprise. This web site has links to habitat management resources, cost sharing information, information on upcoming and past events and workshops, a listing of research funding by the NRE Program, examples of enterprises in Mississippi, a photo gallery of previous workshops and events, a listing of publications, a description of NRE demonstration areas, and much more. Audio clips and photos have been integrated into the web site to add interest and interactivity. Additionally, users may opt to sign up for the NRE mailing list to receive a quarterly newsletter and updates about upcoming events. This web site is continually updated to keep the information current and to encourage visitors to return to the web site frequently.

Learning Module/ Notebook

National Winner

FARMING WITH COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES – PRECISION AGRICULTURE

Varner,* D.L.

Extension Educator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Dodge County, Fremont, Nebraska 68025

A comprehensive, hands-on computer literacy workshop titled Farming with Computer Technologies – Precision Agriculture (FWCT-PA) was developed for participants with little or no experience with computer technologies. The workshop is designed to help participants become familiar with state-of-the-art precision agriculture technologies; learn to use geographical information system

and global positioning system farming technologies; and understand applications of precision agriculture technologies for their farming operations. Participants spent a day learning about yield monitors, lightbars, generating yield maps, cleaning data, geographical information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), collecting GPS data, importing GPS data

into a GIS, and exploring the capabilities of a farm-based GIS system. A reference manual was developed for workshop participants. The manual includes all of the PowerPoint slides workshop exercises that participants can use to conduct workshop exercises again later. The CD also includes basic GIS data and resources that producers can use to begin their own farm GIS system. The

manual is structured so participants learn the technologies in the typical order that they are adopted by Nebraska farmers. Learning precision agriculture technology requires repetition. This manual is well received by workshop participants who understand that it is a resource that will allow them to repeat the FWCT-PA workshop experience on their own time as required.

The County Agent

Publication Deadlines

October, 2006

Submission Deadline: September 27, 2006

Mail Date: October, 15, 2006

January, 2007

Awards/Committee Directory

Submission Deadline: November 7, 2006

Mail Date: December 1, 2006

April, 2007

Annual Meeting Registration

Submission Deadline: March 1, 2007

Mail Date: March 28, 2007



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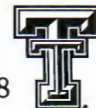


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- Master of Agriculture
- Master of Science in Agricultural Education
- Master of Science in Horticulture
- Master of Science in Crop Science
- Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education (joint degree with Texas A&M University)

www.casnr.ttu.edu | dldegrees.ode@ttu.edu | 806.742.2808



2006 NACAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

North Central Region — 13

Illinois
Ed Billingsley

Indiana
Jerry Nelson
David J. Trotter

Iowa
Virgil Schmitt

Kansas
Ronald W. Graber

Michigan
Dr. Mark Hansen
Mark A. Longstroth

Missouri
Mary S. Sobba

Nebraska
Steven R. Melvin

North Dakota
Duane R. Berglund

Ohio
Stephen Schumacher

South Dakota
Bob Fanning

Wisconsin
Bob Cropp

Southern Region — 37

Alabama
Thomas D. Futral
Jerry Pierce

Arkansas
Randy Chlapecka
William H. Dodgen

Florida
Daniel F. Culbert
David A. Dinkins
Clay B. Olson

Georgia
Elvin L. Andrews
Forrest Connelly
Charles D. Rice
Mark D. von Waldner

Kentucky
Annette Meyer Heisdorffer
Jerry Little

Louisiana
Ralph L. Frazier (R.L.)
Carlos A. Smith

Mississippi
Eddie B. Harris
Tim Needham
Nelda Starks

North Carolina
Kathy Bunton
Malcolm O. Gibbs, Jr.
Kathryn A. Holmes

Oklahoma
Stan Fimple

South Carolina
Charles P. Chihasz
Jack M. Whetstone

Tennessee
Ken Burress
Tim Cross
Darrell Hale
Stephen S. Harris

Texas
Dwight D. Callis
Travis W. Franke
Arlan Gentry
J. Brad Morrison
Michael R. Morrow
E. Anthony Reisinger, Jr.

Virginia
Karen F. Carter
Regina M. Prunty
Calvin A. Schiemann(Cal)

Western Region — 10

Arizona
Robert E. Call

California
Gregory Encina Billikopf

Colorado
Marvin Reynolds

Idaho
Gale W. Harding

Montana
Virginia L. Knerr

New Mexico
Floyd W. McAlister

Oregon
Timothy L. Deboodt

Utah
James D. Keyes

Washington
Susan R. Kerr

Wyoming
Dr. Stephen R. Schafer

Northeast Region — 7

Maine
Richard Kersbergen

Maryland
David S. Ross

New Jersey
Robert Mickel

New York
Thomas Kilcer

Pennsylvania
Donald C. Fretts
Emelie Swackhamer

West Virginia
Ronnie Helmondollar

2006 NACAA Achievement Award Winners

North Central Region — 9

Illinois
Stu Ellis

Indiana
Stacy A. Clupper

Kansas
David G. Hallauer

Michigan
Jane Herbert

Minnesota
David Bau

Missouri
Karen E. Funkenbusch

Nebraska
Jennifer Rees

North Dakota
Brenda Lynn Rettinger

South Dakota
Lanette Butler

Southern Region — 26

Alabama
Mike McQueen
Gerald Thompson

Arkansas
Johnny Gunsaulis

Florida
Beth Bolles
Teresa Olczyk

Georgia
Laura A. Griffeth
Joel Hudgins
L. Mitchell May

Kentucky
Bryce A. Roberts
Jay Stone

Louisiana
Boris A. Castro
Ron E. Strahan

Mississippi
Deborah A. Gaddis
Dr. Bill Burdine

North Carolina
Eileen A. Coite
Tyrone L. Fisher
Tommy R. Grandy

Oklahoma
Marty G. New

South Carolina
Robert E. Bett

Tennessee
Creig C. Kimbro
Brian White

Texas
Brian Hill
Rick Maxwell
Tommy Phillips

Virginia
C. Taylor Clarke, Jr.
Susan M. Puffenbarger

Western Region — 10

Alaska
Peter Bierman

Arizona
Jeff Schalaus

California
Thomas Turini

Colorado
Kurt Jones

Idaho
Cindy A. Kinder

New Mexico
Blair Clavel

Oregon
Peter T. Schreder

Utah
Michael S. Johnson

Washington
Debbie M. Moberg

Wyoming
Tanya Daniels

Northeast Region — 8

Maine
Mark Hutchinson

Maryland
Charles F. Schuster

New Hampshire
Amy Ouellette

New Jersey
Steven K. Rettke

New York
Frans J. Vokey

Pennsylvania
Andrew D. Frankenfield

Vermont
Julie M. Smith

W. VA.
William Shockey

NACAA

Report To The Membership

2006

NACAA President **Mickey P. Cummings** **Georgia**



THE LEGACY OF THE COUNTY AGENT

Have you ever wondered at your purpose in life? What would our country be like if not for County Agents? How did NACAA begin? What is NACAA doing for members in 2006? What will NACAA do for its members in the future? Is there a future for the County Agent?

Ninety-one years and counting, NACAA is now 91 years old. This organization has come a long way since its first meeting in Chicago. When I was a little boy my grandfather told me a story that had a profound influence upon my life. The story happened to my grandfather when he was very young, sometime around 1923. The first County Agent came to my great grandfather's farm (Lonnie). This fellow convinced Lonnie to plant a cover crop of vetch behind his cotton. Lonnie was also encouraged to rotate the field to corn the next year. To make a long story short the yield on this farm increased from 10 bushels to 87 bushels of corn because of the suggestion of the County Agent (Mr. Woods).

The personal wealth of my family was increased. This increase was evidenced by the fact that the two youngest children of Lonnie were able to attend and graduate from High School. The older children were not able to graduate because they had to work on the farm to make ends meet. My grandfather was there to witness the results of this demonstration. He told the story to me. This event caused me to want to become a County Agent. This event happened just a few years after the first meeting of NACAA. After I became a member of NACAA 24 years ago I found that County Agents have been helping people like my family for years. The event that so influenced my life is not something atypical. County Agents have been influencing people's lives for years. NACAA has been a part of this process since its formation.

A group of Midwestern County Agents founded NACAA in 1916 with the goal of establishing a high standard of professional performance among extension field workers. NACAA has also accomplished many other things for its membership. For ex-

ample, in 1931 under the administration of Judd Brooks of Tennessee, a committee was formed that worked and helped obtain Federal Retirement for Extension Employees. In 1969 under the administration of Roscoe Whipp of Maryland, the By-laws were changed to allow females membership in NACAA. Under the administration of Doug Strohbehn in 1972, the NACAA scholarship fund was formed. Since 1972 the fund has awarded more than \$600,000 to help County Agents in professional improvement endeavors. As you can see NACAA has done much for its membership. Where would we be without the efforts of past members of NACAA?

I know NACAA can't rest on past accomplishments. What has NACAA done for the membership in 2006? First, a new idea was presented to the Board last year. This idea was to create a new award called the NACAA Hall of Fame Award. It was designed to give recognition to 4 individuals, one per region. The award was based upon job performance in one's job as an educator, service to NACAA and community service. The first Hall of Fame recipients are: Robert M. Vobril, J. Lowell Loadholtz, Dave Phillips, and Duane Duncan.

Second, NACAA has appointed a committee to explore the possibilities of either the creation of an electronic journal or improving the annual proceedings. The idea is to create something that is refereed to allow NACAA members to publish their research findings. This committee will meet via conference call over the next year and bring a recommendation to the NACAA Board next spring.

Third, the NACAA Futuring Committee was formed in 2005 and has given its report to the NACAA Board. This committee, chaired by Dan Kluchinski, administered surveys to the NACAA membership. The committee made recommendations to the voting delegates based upon these surveys. The committee's recommendations will be used to guide decisions that NACAA will make in future years. This report dealt with the following: 1) Increasing younger membership and involvement in NACAA, 2) Building relationships with JCEP and other associations to allow collaboration on special projects, 3) NACAA should develop educational programs that deal with issues and topics related to the changing staffing patterns faced by NACAA members, 4) NACAA should develop training opportunities for its membership other than at the AM/PIC. 5) NACAA must do a better job of educating members and state association leadership of com-

mittee structure and the roles and responsibilities that each council and committee has in the organization. In other words we must do a better job of communicating within our organization. 6) NACAA must be proactive in making the concerns issues, and needs of agricultural and natural resources Extension workers and their programs known and 7) NACAA must do more to increase the support for promotion and tenure of NACAA members in their respective states.

Many of us are concerned about the future. In today's time it is easy to be negative about the future. Many of us ask questions about budgets, politics, new administrations, county money, etc. But, after listening to Frank McGill, our speaker at the DSA Banquet, I hope that you have been instilled with the fact that there is a bright future for County Agents. I have heard it said that the future belongs to those that seize it. We live in a time that affords us many opportunities for Extension Education. My wish for each of you is that 91 years from now a person will give a testimony about the impact that you had upon their lives. It's time for you to reach out and seize your future. Be the best County Agent that you can be and have a positive impact upon the people that you that depend on your help.

President-Elect

Chuck Otte Kansas



I knew that my year as President Elect was going to be busy and I wasn't disappointed. But the experience is worth all the work that it entails! I reached a personal milestone this year: I turned 50. One thing that I have learned is that each year goes by just a little faster and these past two years on the NACAA Board are proof of that.

If you read the listing of duties of the NACAA President Elect in the Policy Handbook it doesn't look too daunting. There are but four items specifically listed. But those four items really keep you busy! Probably the most prominent responsibility is to work with NACAA donors and sponsors. Fundraising, of any kind, is a lot like gardening. You have to plant seeds, you have to nurture the young plants and you have to work to make sure that the mature plants continue to be cared for and remain productive. Sometimes you sow a lot of seeds and only one or two actually sprout and become productive. But if you had never sown all those seeds, you would have harvested nothing!

I am fortunate to have a good gardener to work with on this project, NACAA Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker. I am, also, fortunate to have followed a couple of other good gardeners in Glenn Rogers and Mickey Cummings. Glenn and Mickey sowed some pretty good crops that we are still cultivating. Scott and I did some sowing this year that probably won't come into production for another year or two, but the crop has started grow-

ing! We continued Trade Talks this year, because we felt it was well received in Buffalo last year. I hope you attended and enjoyed them this year.

New donors for this year were QUALISOY and DuPont Companies. QUALISOY is a collaborative effort among the soybean industry to help market the development and availability of healthier soybeans and soy oil, reduce environmental impacts of livestock production through improved soybean meal, and improve the global competitiveness of the U.S. soybean industry. I think we all realize the untapped potential that soybeans hold for our country and it's exciting to have a group like QUALISOY as one of our sponsors.

DuPont is a company familiar to many of us and to all of agriculture. We were excited to get DuPont Companies on board and it seemed a natural for them to sponsor the Search for Excellence in Crop Production.

This year our total support from sponsors and donors was around \$115,000. After too many years of decline, it has been great to see increases for the past three years. That increased sponsorship has a responsibility attached to it. It is critical for each and every one of us to send these National Donors a thank you for their sponsorship. Contact information is in your AM/PIC program. If every one of us who were at Cincinnati would send each of these sponsors a thank you note, the returns would be amazing!

Your NACAA Past President, President and President Elect all serve as your association's representatives on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Board of Directors. While it might be easy to look at this as just "one more set of meetings I have to go to", it is an exciting opportunity. With the stated goal of JCEP to help us all be better professionals, I feel that as NACAA members we have a lot we can contribute to our co-workers in other subject matter areas. I have served, this past year, as the web master for the JCEP web site. This has given me the opportunity to learn more about the other Extension Professional organizations. The JCEP Board meets twice a year and I attended these meetings in Ft. Myers Beach, FL and Lake Tahoe, NV.

NACAA works with the Farm Foundation to host the National Public Policy Education Conference. The NACAA President Elect attends this event and serves on the planning committee. If you have not attended one of these, they are excellent! The 2005 meeting was in Washington, D.C. and focused on the 2007 Farm Bill, Environmental Conflict Resolution and other exciting topics. The 2006 conference will be in Fayetteville, AR and will be addressing consequences of the 21st Century Food System. If you hurry, there's still time to register!

Yes, there has been plenty of opportunity to travel and meet many of you around the country. It was an exciting opportunity to work with Scott Hawbaker and represent NACAA at the Na-

tional Association of Farm Broadcasters meeting in Kansas City, MO. This gives us a great opportunity to meet with many of the men and women who are telling the story of agriculture to the listening audience and to also meet with many of our national donors as well.

I had the privilege to represent President Cummings at the JCEP Northeast Regional Leadership Workshop in Valley Forge, PA and then also attend the North Central Regional Leadership Workshop in St. Louis, MO. I also represented the association at the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in Washington, D.C. in April. This is a great opportunity to meet with our state associations' leadership. I always come away from that meeting re-invigorated by all of you!

It has been a rewarding pleasure to serve as your NACAA President Elect this past year. As I looked around the AM/PIC in Cincinnati, I saw so many hard working and dedicated NACAA members that make it all happen: the Council Chairs, the Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, the fine members from Ohio and Kentucky who hosted us, and the Life Members who help us stay on track. It truly has been quite a year. With a dedicated membership like this, we have a bright future ahead of us!

Vice President

N. Fred Miller
North Carolina

NACAA – The Right Choice!



Advertising agencies are always looking for new ways to catch your attention and sell products — often investing big bucks developing catchy slogans and advertising campaigns. NACAA doesn't have the budget of a large conglomerate with their virtually unlimited advertising budgets but we do have a quality product to offer our members. It is a product constantly being modified and changed to fit the new challenges facing our members utilizing feedback received through our NACAA Committee structure and task forces such as the Futuring Committee.

Having just witnessed the outstanding professional opportunities offered during the 2006 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference as a result of the work of a dedicated group of council chairs, committee chairs and vice chairs as well as our hosts from Kentucky and Ohio, I am impressed by the positive results of their work. I applaud them for their commitment and dedication to task. Marketing studies have shown that word of mouth is one of the most effective ways to advertise — and it certainly best fits our budget! I implore everyone to share the positive experiences you had at this meeting with those who were unable to attend. Encourage your peers to attend next year's meeting in Grand Rapids and experience it for themselves.

Another tool available for sharing back at home is the membership brochure found on the NACAA website <http://www.nacaa.com/about/>. Reading through this brochure helps understand many of the tangible benefits of membership. Unfortunately many of the intangible benefits of membership are often not fully realized until a member attends our Annual Meeting and gets actively involved in NACAA.

One of the constant challenges for advocates of NACAA is convincing agents of the value of participating in its programs and ultimately assuming leadership roles. This is especially critical for the ongoing sustainability of NACAA given it is an association run almost totally by volunteers. Everyone involved in planning and implementing NACAA's programs, from President to State Committee Chair, is doing so on a voluntary basis. The NACAA Vice President has primary responsibility for the committee work of NACAA and thus heavily involved in the recruitment of new NACAA Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. It requires a high level of commitment to the organization for agents to take this step but I think most would agree that they got more out of their participation than they put in. Please join me in thanking both the new and veteran Committee Chairs for their willingness to step forward and assume additional leadership roles in NACAA.

Communications between National and State Committees and communications in general remain a concern of both our membership and the NACAA Board. John Dorner, Electronic Communications Coordinator, has created a new system for updating Committee Members contact information making it significantly easier to keep the electronic mailing lists up to date. This should result in fewer returned messages and help to ensure that all messages reach their intended recipient. Additional steps, including establishing a committee to study communication gaps and identify potential solutions, are being considered and this issue will be a priority for the 2006-2007 NACAA Board.

Serving as your Vice President for the past year has been a privilege and I thank you for giving me the opportunity. Through this experience I have gained a better understanding and appreciation for NACAA's Committee structure. Further, I have witnessed and experienced the quality of the professional development programs that can be generated when a dedicated group of "volunteers" from across the country put their heads together. New challenges are looming and I'm eager to tackle them as I try to fill Chuck Otte's shoes as President-Elect in the coming year. I am convinced that NACAA was/is the right choice for me. My challenge to you is to "try it you might like it!"

Secretary
Leon Church
Texas



A couple of years ago, when I was first approached about the possibility of run-

ning for NACAA Secretary, I was very apprehensive. It seemed like a job better fit for someone else. Patience is not my biggest attribute. I just didn't think I could sit through board meetings without a good supply of duct tape (to keep my head from exploding). After some trepidation I gave in and ran for the office last year at the AM/PIC in Buffalo.

It has been a very rewarding year, to say the least. I learned a great deal about our association and have learned a little about myself. Taking minutes is a tedious task, listening to the recordings of the meetings is both enjoyable and at times a little boring. I have learned that your board is committed to you, its membership. Discussion always center on how this will improve the association for you. Does the decision offered a chance for members to improve their professionalism or offer leadership development or is this action in support of the membership's profession.

The four main purposes of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, as I see it, are; 1) provide opportunities in professional development, 2) provide recognition for Extension program excellence, 3) provide leadership development opportunities and 4) act as an advocate for our profession.

If you will let me I'd like to expand on each of these very briefly. 1) Professional Improvement – this association offers its members a vast array of opportunities for professional improvement, from pre and post-conference tours and workshops, to over 120 workshops during the AM/PIC. Members have the chance to present reviewed posters, and papers on a national level. Additionally, there are opportunities offered outside the AM/PIC arena, this area I am sure will continue to grow and improve. 2) Recognition – recognition is a very basic element of motivation. NACAA offers many awards programs with national sponsorship, our national donors understand the importance of recognizing programming excellence, and online applications are making this process easier for you. 3) Leadership development, there are many leadership positions available for our membership, state chairs, regional vice chairs and national chair positions lead to further involvement. And lastly, 4) Advocacy – your association works closely with NASULGC and ECOP to further the county agent profession. No other association cares about the county agent as a profession. It is up to us to assure our own future.

In closing let me just relate a comment that is taken from John F. Kennedy's inaugural address and changed slightly to fit our situation. "Ask not what your country (association) can do for you; ask what you can do for your country (association)". The association is you, not the board of directors and officers. Look at yourself to see how you can give back to that association and how you can make it even stronger.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve the association, that has meant so much to me over the last 34 years. I

look forward to serving for the next couple of years if possible and the membership so chooses.

Treasurer **Chuck Schwartau** **Minnesota**



It seemed unusual to be attending an AMPIC and not being involved in a campaign once! It has been a distinct honor and pleasure serving my fellow extension educators and agents as their treasurer for the past two and one-half years. I am now on the downhill side of my terms, doing the last close-out of an AMPIC, preparing year end reports, getting ready for an audit, and preparing orientation for a newly elected treasurer to take office in January. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Your association has had the benefit of a couple good financial years with regard to AMPIC income to expense ratios and a generally conservative fiscal approach to spending. The result has been the opportunity to build some reserves for lean years. Five years ago, the association did not have the same kind of cushion. It is important that the board and membership keep such a cushion for lean years.

Travel costs have escalated tremendously in the past year. This has impacted the cost of board meetings, participation with our sibling organizations in JCEP, and director visits to state association meetings. To better reflect the costs of travel, your board increased the mileage rate reimbursed to officers and directors for official travel. The rate paid is still less than the IRS allowance but at least your directors are paying less from their own pockets to conduct the business of the association.

The increased cost of travel also impacts the decisions many members make about attending AMPIC. AMPIC attendance has been on a trend that is a bit less than long term members may remember. Costs of conducting AMPIC have not decreased, however. There are many costs of conducting a national meeting that have little to do with the number of attendees. Your fiscal committee, the board as a whole and the host committees work hard each year to develop a balanced budget and an affordable AMPIC while still providing for you the members the highest quality professional conference possible. Thank you to all those involved in the past three years of my term for the work you have put into budget development and management.

This spring the fiscal committee held its annual visit with our investment advisor to consider our investment strategies. A portion of the association's surplus funds has been in a moderate risk investment program that has included approximately 60% stocks and 40% bonds with a small money market fund. The committee asked about options that might provide a little more growth opportunity without putting the investments at an undue risk.

The advisor recommended a widely used tool called an asset allocation model. Instead of our stocks being in 3 funds, the asset allocation model, sometimes called a "fund of funds", spreads the total assets across a much broader range of investments. It should be a better risk management tool than being in only 3 funds. This tool will include a mix of domestic and foreign investment opportunities and has many more total stocks and bonds in the total portfolio. This should reduce the risks involved with any one segment of the economy. We decided to invest 70% in a moderate growth allocation fund and 30% in fixed income bonds. This allocation is quite similar to our current investment, but has the prospects of better returns in the end with no more risk than the past.

In a slightly different vein, I congratulate the individual members of NACAA and the state associations for their response to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Fund to help Extension workers in the Gulf Coast region. Our donations of over \$34650 were a major portion of the total amount given to help our fellow extension workers. Some state associations conducted fund drives and submitted as a unit. Outstanding efforts included:

Georgia	\$6900
Texas	\$4400
Florida	\$2750
Nebraska	\$1500
New Hampshire	\$1250
Pennsylvania	\$1000

Another 46 active and life members from around the country wrote checks out of their own pockets for \$100 to \$250. Whether your donation was large or small, they all added up to an excellent donation. Congratulations and thanks for that show of generosity and compassion.

I look forward to passing the books over to your new treasurer. I have enjoyed the job tremendously, but it is also good to get new people involved in the leadership of the association. The growth and friendships that come from serving NACAA are something I wish more could experience. If you are ever asked to serve NACAA in a leadership position of any kind, jump on it quickly and enjoy the trip.

Best wishes to the new officers and directors for 2006-2007 and best to all our members for continued success in your work.

Past President Glenn Rogers Vermont



What, it's been a whole year! Wait a minute. It's been 4 years and in independent Vermont, it's been 20 seasons! To find that answer – read the article below.

This past year has been a very rewarding one as your Past President. In the fall we wrapped up the 2005 meeting with a great committee from the Northeast, worked with our new hotel planners – Helms-Briscoe to sign the 2009 contracts, went back to programming full time in Vermont, played a little golf and visited with the family. (I encourage everyone to take a little time to "find the family" again after being on the road.)

Winter brought conference calls, the NACAA Winter Board meeting, Fiscal Committee responsibilities, judging the Outstanding Young Farmers program applicants, and serving as board member and Treasurer of JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals). JCEP has completed some great things this past year including expanding the attendance and program at PILD, putting together the "Working with Decision Makers" CD, establishing a poster contest at PILD, and expanding - reworking the JCEP Policy manual. Membership on the JCEP board is limited to 3 years, thus, unlike your NACAA Board much of the "history" and "institutional knowledge", can be lost without a detailed policy manual in place. This reworking of the policy manual will be helpful for future JCEP Board members. In addition, it takes a few months to figure out the new role as Treasurer of JCEP. I will serve in that capacity until 2007.

Edmund Gomez and I served as your representative at the OYF Annual Meeting. If you (and I mean you – including every state) haven't made a OYF nomination nor worked with the Jaycees – you are missing out! What a great group of farmers across the U. S. Nominating our young farmers as OYF state participants is a tremendous way to say "Thank You" to some of the future agricultural leaders in our country. Past OYF winners have served as State Commissioners of Agriculture, state House and Senate representatives, National Farm Bureau Presidents, and even as U. S. Secretary of Agriculture. NACAA has come a long way with this program in 5 short years where now 1/2 of all the OYF nominations are coming from NACAA members. Don't forget - the nominating County Agent who ends up with a "Top" 4 OYF candidate gets free registration at next years AM/PIC. Nominations are so easy, so sincere, and so needed – fill one out and send to your NACAA Ag Issues & Public Relations Regional Vice Chair or Jaycee representative.

Spring brought "sugaring season" to Vermont – Vermont's natural sweetener and golden wonder – Pure Vermont maple syrup. There's nothing like sugaring season. (In Vermont during sugaring season – there's "Mud Season" – our 5th season). Spring also brought the NACAA Spring Board meeting, more Fiscal Committee responsibilities – like the 2007 budget, reworking the 2006 AM/PIC national budget, PILD, and more JCEP treasurer duties. JCEP has a \$175,000 budget with more than 550 Association members from across the U.S. attending JCEP Regional and PILD meetings.

Spring also brought attendance at the NASULGC (that's National Association of State Universities & Land Grant Colleges) and ECOP (that's Extension Committee on Organization and Policy) Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting. What a great planning meeting and great group of Extension leadership folks.

My thanks go to Vermont Extension, the Vermont agricultural community, VAAA, my family - especially Marty, and all of you for four wonderful years. I encourage everyone to volunteer within NACAA as this organization will pay you back more than you give. We're all in this together, we all can learn from each other, and although we all have a primary responsibility to our clientele and state - back home, we also have a responsibility to our Association, to other Extension Associations, and to our National partners at CSREES. Together, we are part of a bigger Extension team that has made a huge difference. There is no question that each of you, NACAA, and this whole Extension team has greatly changed the face of American agriculture. Congratulations on doing an outstanding job.

Thank you for letting me be part of that team.

Southern Region

Director

**Henry Dorough
Alabama**



It is hard to believe three years have gone by since I took the position of Vice-Director for the Southern Region. It has been an awesome experience so far and I look forward with great enthusiasm to the coming year. My friend Curtis Grissom, NACAA Past-President long ago told me that the best job in NACAA is regional director and he was not kidding. The first two years as Vice-Director were considered my "learning" years when I studied under two famous names in the southern region; Doug Wilson, KY and Elmo Collum, MS. The learning does not stop there, however. As Junior Director, I have found that much is learned through each state visit; more about NACAA, more about this job, more about myself, and more about my career as an Extension agent.

Working with the current Board of Directors has been very rewarding, challenging and at times a load of fun. Your Board takes its job very seriously and works hard to keep NACAA at the forefront of new issues and maintain the reputation as the best professional development organization in Extension. Your Board is very diverse in talents and personalities and the mixture makes for a very productive bunch. I did not realize the scope of work the Board takes on each year until I participated in the Pre-AM/PIC Board meeting in Buffalo, NY.

Your organization has been in great hands with Glenn Rogers, Mickey Cummings, Chuck Otte, Fred Miller and Leon Church serving as officers. I look forward to another year working with

regional directors Dave Myers and Stan Moore, two individuals with deep conviction for NACAA. Working with the outgoing directors Jim Riddell and Sandy Macnab was a treat as they kept us new guys in line. Chuck Schwartau will be greatly missed as Treasurer. He has amazed me with accounting skills that rival any Fortune 500 company.

Of course, life on the Board would be very dull were it not for a few colorful characters in the house. Although the Board works hard for you, there are a few instances where members may play a prank or two on an unsuspecting member. Just ask Mickey Cummings. These situations help bring all the personalities of the Board together into a tight-knit group, almost like family.

My first year as Director was all but uneventful. I blew my first official state visit to Mississippi in November, 2005. The day before I was to depart for Starkville I inadvertently swallowed a yellow jacket while enjoying a cold beverage on my farm in Alabama. Lesson learned: NEVER SWALLOW YELLOW JACKETS! When they sting you in the pharynx you will end up in the hospital which is where I resided during the Mississippi meeting. Elmo Collum, being from Mississippi, was granted one last opportunity to act as regional director and delivered my presentation flawlessly. I did get over to Starkville on the last day of their meeting to visit with the officers and discuss their ideas on professional development and member recruitment.

I want to congratulate the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents for an outstanding professional improvement conference they hosted in May of this year. One issue Mississippi members have had for years is the lack of professional development during the mini-Galaxy that all Mississippi Extension associations attend in November and where all association business is conducted. President Al Myles and his delegation of officers put together one heck of a training that spanned three days and included multiple workshops and a tour. The PIC was open to all Extension employees with an Ag assignment and was attended by many 4-H agents as well. MACAA flipped the bill for all of the meals but more importantly, Extension administration picked up the tab for travel and lodging and also provided a bus for the tour and all the meeting space on the Mississippi State University Campus. Outstanding!

In addition to the Mississippi meeting, I also had the opportunity to visit Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kentucky and of course Alabama for their respective AM/PIC. Each visit has been an unbelievable experience for me to witness the value of Extension work across the country.

Last year two names were permanently etched in the memory of all southern Extension agents. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated coastal areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The storms also had a far reaching effect on agriculture further inland as they destroyed timberland, row crops and other Ag enterprises. I was one of many who personally witnessed the

aftermath of these monster hurricanes. Many of our Extension colleagues in Mississippi and Louisiana suffered personal losses of their homes and offices.

I was deeply moved by the compassion of our friends in NACAA from across the country. Over \$34,000 was contributed by NACAA members, life members and state chapters to the NASULGC Hurricane Relief Fund. In addition, many members from numerous states spent personal time working in some relief effort at home or in the affected areas. Many of the southern states also pitched in by organizing shipments of hay, feed, fence posts and other items desperately needed by farmers in the region. Relief efforts are still in the works for the hardest hit areas. I urge you to consider organizing a group from your state to assist farmers and Extension workers in Mississippi and Louisiana. The effort will be greatly rewarding.

Other official functions in which I participated include the Post-AM/PIC Board meeting in Buffalo, New York; the Winter Board meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio; the Spring Board meeting in Denver, Colorado; the JCEP regional workshop in Nashville, Tennessee; six out of nine Board conference calls (the September 05 conference call coincided with hurricane relief work in Mississippi, the March 06 conference call overlapped the announcement of BSE in Alabama, and the May 06 call occurred during my visit to Starkville, Mississippi where cell phones are still a technology of the future); and the Pre-AM/PIC Board meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

As I close this report I want to thank all of the new friends I have made across the South during my first year as Director. I have learned a lot from them and will forever treasure our relationships. Thanks to Jim Riddell, James Devillier and Dirk Webb for their commitment to NACAA and all their help with the leadership activities associated with this job. I want to also thank the Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents and Specialists for entrusting me with this important position. The job of regional director comes to each Southern state only once every 13 years. I cannot imagine what my career would be like had I missed this great opportunity. I look forward to my last year as your Southern Region Director and promise to work hard for the future of our great association.

Southern Region **Director** **Jim Riddell** **Virginia**



I hope this year has been a good one so far for you and your family and that you have benefited from your involvement in your state and national professional associations. A big thanks and congratulations to our good friends in Ohio and Kentucky for an outstanding national meeting.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to represent the Southern Region and its members during my term as Director. I want to say a special thanks to Mickey Cummings, Chuck Otte, Chuck Swartau, Fred Miller, and Glen Rogers for serving as officers of NACAA this past year. Good leaders have intelligence, judgment, and most critically, a capacity to anticipate, to see around corners. They also possess loyalty, integrity, and a high energy drive to "git 'er done!" This aptly describes these gentlemen.

This has been a growth year for many of us in Extension and one which is full of new opportunities.

In NACAA we have seen new efforts to improve communication and streamline association programs with a sharp eye on the benefits and costs. Quality professional development continues to be our priority with several new efforts in electronic communications, new recognition and awards programs, and an effort by the Futuring Committee to review — what our members want and need down the road.

While our methods, tactics, and educational messages may change with different needs and an ever changing world, the fundamental work of Extension Agents remains—always helping others—to make a real difference in our home towns and communities.

NACAA has continued to grow in the Southern Region. Nine out of our thirteen states saw significant increases in Extension faculty and membership increases in their associations. Most of our states also saw increases in funding for Extension from their local partners and the state assembly. It was good to see this trend turn upwards compared to a few years ago.

As I traveled throughout the Southern Region I was especially proud of the professional improvement and scholarship programs offered in each state. State offerings included innovative agricultural enterprise tours, programming workshops, peer reviewed poster and presentation contests, certification classes and much more. Most states are offering new ways and opportunities to present and publish, an option requested by many new agents.

If you are looking for strong models or examples of outstanding training programs and scholarship, look no further than the state association meetings I was able to visit this past year. Some of the state programs like Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, and Texas are much like small versions of the national meeting with a full compliment of professional development. Each of the 13 Southern Region associations do things a little different, but all do an excellent job of customizing programs—for their people and their needs.

The 2006 Joint Council of Extension Professional Southern Region Leadership Workshop was held in Nashville. It was good to

see, hear, and be with the presidents and other officers from the Southern states. Our NACAA leadership team including President Mickey Cummings, Vice-President Fred Miller, Director Henry Dorough and Vice-Directors James Devillier and Dirk Webb provided NACAA information.

I think we would all agree the best part of this meeting is learning from each other—Each state provides an in-depth report on their current situation, Extension funding, and association highlights. This effort allows us to help each other become stronger and to improve our professional improvement efforts.

Thank you again for your support and help—during my term as a Director. I have appreciated your comments, your input, and your suggestions concerning the efforts and plans, and operation of NACAA. As a Director, I have shared your input and concerns and as a board we have worked together for the good of all of the members. I want to say a special thanks to my colleagues Henry Dorough, James Deveiller, and Dirk Webb. Your Southern Region will be well represented by these fine gentlemen in the upcoming years.

I appreciate the help and work of my Virginia colleagues and the Virginia Association of Agricultural Extension Agents. Thank you for your tremendous support. My work with NACAA and our members has given me a special appreciation for the vital work that is conducted all across this country.

Remember our primary strength in Cooperative Extension is our strong, local, “grassroots” connections and high quality programs—and our efforts to provide the best—unbiased information from our land grant colleges. Remember, NACAA is your association.

As a NACAA director and as a member I have seen the high quality and the strong commitment to people in our towns and counties. We have long-lasting impacts on the families and communities where we work and where we live. Thanks again, good luck and take care.

Western Region Director Sandy Macnab Oregon



“I never let my schooling interfere with my education.” Mark Twain.

I had that Twain quote hanging over my desk for four years of college and it still sticks with me as a reminder that we do not all learn the same or react the same, but that we are always students. It also says we should not close doors on ourselves but expose ourselves to new ideas and experiences. We aren't obligated to buy into them, but we can hear them out first.

Extension agents seem to instinctively understand that and that's why so many are so effective at teaching using a variety of senses. Extension facilitates the learning local people want to hear about the local issues that affect them, their families and their communities every day. Although each of us tends to find method that best suits our style, it's usually one that best suits the majority of learners at the local level.

“You have no friends; you have no enemies. You have only teachers.” Author unknown.

The annual meeting is kind of a big county fair for agents where blue ribbon winners present their best programs. The material often has limited application to me personally, but I truly enjoy learning from the styles they employ and thinking they demonstrate putting thing together. There is no canned teaching format: it is the agent's own personal research, style and work that created this masterpiece of communication. Nearly three quarters of agents responded to the survey distributed at last year's annual meeting that is one of the only places they can be exposed to this kind of learning and last year's annual meeting had some 180 hours of professional development from which to choose! And that's not counting the tours.

It's the learning that makes the annual meeting so exciting. It renews me.

“When you're through learning, you're through.” Irish Proverb

This past four years as vice director and director has been a wonderful opportunity for me to meet so many of you and to be able to represent you. It's been an opportunity to travel and have new parts of the country and new experiences opened to me.

I'd like to thank the NACAA board members for their patience and example. NACAA members really don't know how much time they dedicate to managing this organization with a constant eye to always making it stronger. I owe a thanks to all the officers and members in the West for answering every call and their professionalism. A special thanks goes out to the Oregon agents and my county staff for their support and friendship. And most of all a thank you to my wife Mary Anne for allowing me to partake in this organization and its wonderful opportunities.

“Ain't no man can avoid being born average, but there ain't no man gotta be common.” Satchel Paige

North Central Region Director Stan Moore Michigan



A “Fun” Evaluation?

In traveling around the NC states this past year I have had a great time serving as Region Director, building communication between NACAA and the state associations, and learning from the meetings put on by each state. With just Minnesota to go, I will have visited all twelve states this past year. Being able to participate in these state meetings allows you to gain some real perspective.

I was hit hard between the eyes, when at one state meeting the speaker used the words "back when Extension was fun". This made me ask myself two questions, Is Extension still fun for me?, and Is fun an important part of the job? It's easy to say yes to the first question and then work as if the answer is no. However, if fun is an important part of the job, then it forces us to actually change the way we work.

At our Spring Board meeting I shared a "thought for the day" on this subject. In the article that I shared the author emphasized the point that computers are able to replace much of what we do, but they can never replace our passion. In fact, the technology of the future will continue to rely on those individuals that can use the technology to express their passions. People who enjoy what they do, add great value to their work and this cannot be duplicated by any machine.

Looking back to my state visits, this idea does hold true. Agents who enjoy what they do seem to be more successful in their jobs. They tend to have the most creative programming. People like to hang around these agents too, because they are having fun and it shows. Put these two aspects together, and these agents are delivering top quality programs to people that want to hear what they have to say. If the mission of Extension is to improve people's lives through education, these agents have a great advantage and Fun is an important part of the job.

In serving on the PILD planning committee for NACAA, I can also say that these agents make the best spokespeople for Extension to their legislators. Legislators can tell the difference between the company line and the sharing of a program that really means something to you.

So how can we get better at having fun? 1. Minimize the Mundane. Efficiently do the "Have to's" and say No to some other things. 2. Pursue your Passion. What do you enjoy most in your job? Spend more time there and build successful programs around your passion. 3. Share your Successes. Your clientele, the public, your legislators, and your administration need to know how good the work is that you do.

In the future, I believe Extension's very existence will rely on having Agents who love their job. Extension administration may have to figure out how to do a "Fun" evaluation. How would you do?

I look forward to serving you in this coming year, and in being a part of an organization that does value fun.

North East Region Director **Dave Myers** **Maryland**



I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to represent the Northeast as your NACAA Regional Director. It has been an exceedingly rewarding task. Attending your state association meetings has reinforced my understanding of the connected wisdom of the Land Grant Mission across this nation county by county. We are all truly an integral and vital link of higher education for all citizens. It was also a privilege to serve on the Public Issues and Leadership Development Committee as your NACAA representative for the past two years. PILD provided insight into the budgetary process of the entire USDA umbrella at the nation's capitol. All of us from time to time need to come to Washington, D.C. Even I need to make the occasional pilgrimage; thankfully I'm only 25.5 miles from my doorstep to the Capitol steps. The National Association of County Agricultural Agents offers every Extension faculty member the opportunity to mentor and receive mentoring. I am proud to be a part of this countrywide process toward the earnest preservation of farmers; Therefore, I would like to offer the following treatise concerning the "New Age Farmer!"

Of certainty the closest that I will ever be to an artist is a farmer. Aristotle taught that, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit." By excellent habit like the artist that controls the brush strokes on a canvas, a farmer repeatedly cultivates his landscape.

Many have cried that we need to stop development and save open space to allow nature to have its way. Nature, the unruly beast has always required a farmer, a gardener, or a landscaper to subject and domesticate. Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote, "The amenity of Nature is always a flower." However, I have found that neglected open space yields many more undesirable, thorns and scourges than flowers.

The truth of the matter is that we want to save pastoral open space. We rely on our farmers to provide his artwork so pleasing to our senses, an enhancement to the value of our estates. We embrace the farm experience with our heads aloft, the lifestyle farmers that we are so blessed to be. Privileged we are with this agriculture habit so excellent that we have embarked on a bold new world of agricultural art. Much more willing are we to pay for beauty than sustenance.

Until we become hungry, I recommend that we all farm more diligently in this new age manner. Instead of mere lawns, we will terrace our land with stripped crops of grains, flowers vegetables, orchards and vineyards as an offering of aesthetics not labored by harvests - Toiled only by love. We raise up the horn of plenty, a land of milk and honey where gone are the con-

cerns of agricultural production such as profitability and pest control. I hear a proclamation ring out "Our Eden!"

One thing is certain indulging in agricultural art we will at least remember how to farm, teaching our young so when it becomes of necessity to do it merely for food again, we can.

Professional Improvement Council Chair

**Tom Benton
Texas**



The Professional Improvement Council has again provided excellent opportunities for professional improvement. The Professional Improvement Council offers NACAA members an opportunity to participate in professional improvement presentations to the membership.

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 and Agricultural Economics and Community Development. Each committee conducted excellent professional improvement workshops for NACAA Members of the AM/PIC meeting in Cincinnati.

The sixty-three (63) workshops that were held on Tuesday, July 25th 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 21-22. The tour encompassed two states, Kentucky and Ohio. Highlights of the tour included: Commercial Crossbred cows with calves being sold through the Kentucky Certified Pre-Conditioned Health Program Horse Operations and Pheasant Farm that sold eggs and trained dogs.

The Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee also sponsored a pre-conference tour. The tour included several stops to view horticulture in the Ohio-Kentucky area.

The Ag Economics and Community Development Committee again offered the Post Cotton Marketing Seminar on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning following the AM/PIC.

The Agronomy and Pest Management Committee, in addition to the regular presentations, offered continuing education credits; charging a fee to serve as a source of revenue. This committee will also offer the Remote Support Seminar in Logan, Utah in October of 2006 at the NASA Space Dynamics Facility.

The Aquaculture and Sea Grant Committee provided an excellent slate of presenters at the workshops on Tuesday.

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

Agricultural Economics & Community Development **Milton Green Wyoming**



The 2006 AM/PIC will once again offer some of the best in service training available in agriculture economics and community development. There are 12 in-service opportunities being offered to the membership covering a broad area of topics.

The New York Board of Trade Cotton Marketing seminar this year had very few applications. The support of the NYBOT and other board of trade to our members is extremely important. The intent of the Agriculture Economics Committee in the coming year is to assess the educational needs of the membership and work with the New York Board of Trade and/or other boards of trade to design a marketing education program offering more attractive to NACAA members. Some possible options might be pre-conference seminars, professional improvement tours or some other program delivery. The Regional Vice Chairs will be an important part of the development process. If any of you, as members, have any thoughts or ideas please forward them on to your Regional Vice Chair. The goal of the Agriculture Economics/Community Development Committee is to provide the membership the best professional improvement program possible within the resource scope and scale limitations of the association. This committee needs the input from the membership to accomplish this task.

The Agriculture Economics/Community Development Committee of NACAA has recognized the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP). The field of agriculture economics and community development as defined and endorsed by NACAA recognizes NACDEP as a multi-disciplinary organization of Cooperative Extension Service professionals and would encourage NACAA members to participate in both associations as a professional improvement endeavor. In turn, those members of NACDEP engaged in rural community issues and/or agriculture issues affecting rural communities will be welcome and encouraged to be members of NACAA as well.

Agronomy and Pest Management

**Russell Duncan
South Carolina**



The Agronomy and Pest Management Committee had a productive year. We had ten applicants for presentations at the 2006 NACAA AM/PIC. All were accepted, but one had to drop out due to a change in work plans. The following were presenters at the 2006 AM/PIC:

Glenn Beard – GA
Gary Cramer – KS
Charles Davis – SC
David Gunter - SC
Michelle LeStrange - CA
Mark Tucker – NC
Tom Turini – CA
Ed Twidwell – LA
Bob Woods – OK

We had two concurrent sessions at the AM/PIC, just as we did in 2005. We adjusted the speakers schedule to have 30 minute presentations to meet the requirements for getting Certified Crop Adviser ceu's. Each presentation offered 0.5 credits. We discussed possibly inviting CCA's from areas near Cincinnati, but we could not resolve registration issues for this meeting.

It was difficult to get speakers this year. We attribute this to increased transportation costs associated with attending the meeting.

We also handled the Remote Sensing and GIS Decision Support Seminar. Funding for this was in question almost until the deadline for applications, but it finally came through. We had the following entries by region:

Northeast – 1
North Central – 1
Southern – 3
Western – 1

This is a premiere program. We need to work to get more quality applications if we hope to continue it.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as chair and vice chair. We an excellent and hard working committee that I am sure will continue to do so.

Animal Science

**Barry Foushee
North Carolina**



The Animal Science Committee was busy in 2005. Barry Foushee, National Chair

worked with Lisa Kempisty and Mike Baker of New York to plan the 2005 Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Tour.

We would like to thank Tour sponsor, Scoring Systems, Inc. for helping to make the tour a success. The tour highlighted dairy and livestock production systems that were focused on innovative and niche marketing as well as animal health. The 17 participants visited stops that include US/Canadian Border Crossing USDA/FSIS where border regulations for livestock were discussed, a by-products feed dealer, farms that deal in organic marketing, as well as a large robotic dairy.

A special thank you goes to Lisa Kempisty and Mike Baker for planning, and making the 2005 tour in New York a very educational and enjoyable tour for the 17 agents from 9 states. 2005 Tour participants were: Mitch Ingram from Tennessee, Susan Kerr from Washington, Bob Mickel and Everett Chamberlain from New Jersey, Randy Saner, Dinah Peebles, and Mark Stewart from Missouri, Scott Baker and Bill Seay from Virginia, Lanette Butler and Valerie Mitchell from South Dakota, Ben Chase and Barry Foushee from North Carolina, Cory Parsons and Randy Mills from Oregon, and Lisa Kempisty and Mike Baker from New York.

Likewise, the 2005 AM/PIC Animal Science Seminars proved to be very educational. The 10 extension agents/educators who presented are to be commended for their educational efforts. 2005 Animal Science Presenters were: Clint Rusk from Purdue, Jeff McCutcheon from Ohio State, Randy Saner from Missouri, Susan Kerr from Washington, Tip Hudson from Washington, Chester Parsons from Vermont, Donna Lamb from Maine, Alison Van Eenennaam from California, Susan Schoenian from Maryland, and James Hall from Arkansas.

Richard R. Frahm, Executive Vice President from the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS), discussed with seminar participants how ARPAS can provide Professional Improvement Opportunities for Animal Science Professionals during the general animal science session.

Again last year, for those extension agent/educators who were members of ARPAS received 3 hours of continuing education credits for the Animal Science Seminars. New last year, extension agent/educators had an opportunity on Thursday to take any number of the 12 species ARPAS Certification Exams and become members of the organization. We had 13 agents take exams and all 13 passed and qualified from membership in ARPAS. The Animal Science Committee plans to continue to offer CEU's for ARPAS and well as offer members the opportunity to take ARPAS species exams and qualify for membership.

We hope that you will plan to participate in the Animal Science Seminars and we would like to extend an invitation to you to join the Animal Science Committee Meeting on Monday after-

noon and help us plan for the 2007 Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Tour and the AM/PIC Animal Science Seminars.

Natural Resources

Derek Godwin
Oregon



Goal: Support NACAA's mission by enhancing professional development and recognition opportunities for members conducting education and applied research in agriculture and natural resource management that focuses on water quality, water quantity, waste management, forestry, soil conservation, fish habitat, wildlife, etc. in both rural and urban communities.

Our group has been working on the following objectives for the year:

- A. Enhance and facilitate natural resource discussions in NACAA.
- B. Provide increased awareness and visibility for natural resource opportunities provided through NACAA training seminars, professional improvement tours, brown-bag luncheons, and/or award opportunities.
- C. Provide training and/or award opportunities for members in interdisciplinary natural resource issues, including forestry, soil mgt., water quality and quantity, wildlife, land use, etc.

Our group sent out several emails throughout the year to encourage participation in Annual Conference and submission of abstracts for the professional improvement seminars. As a result, we received an increase in abstracts from last year and decided to have 11 professional improvement seminars. There are several professional improvement tours related to natural resources at Annual Conference this year. This provides a great opportunity for our members, and we have been sending emails out to our state chairs to encourage participation. Since participation in our group has increased, we will consider creating a new award category for our committee in the coming year. We have received several requests to recognize our peers for their accomplishments in natural resource education.

Horticulture and Turfgrass

Jule-Lynne Macie
Georgia



The main goal of the Horticulture and Turfgrass committee was to reestablish our Horticulture and Turfgrass Preconference Tour. After losing funding the committee did not sponsor a tour in 2005. At the committee meeting in Buffalo, agents expressed a desire to pay for their own tour. So, agents and program assistants from Ken-

tucky and Ohio scheduled a behind the scene tour of the Cincinnati Zoo, Gorman Heritage Farm and Jungle Jims. In the past, the tour had been a two day event, but since the tour was self-funded we opted for a one day tour. Eleven members participated in the 2006 tour.

Eight NACAA members will present Horticulture and Turfgrass papers during the Professional Improvement Session Tuesday, June 13. The presenters selected offer diversity in topics that should appeal to many NACAA members with horticulture educational responsibilities. From Master Gardener programming and noxious weed id and control to vineyards and bamboo culture, there is something for the horticulturalist in all of us.

This year's committee meeting will focus on planning for the 2006 preconference tour in Michigan. Potential tour stops have already been identified. We will decide which stops offer the most horticultural interest to the group and develop a plan to contact potential funding sources. We will also develop a layout to advertise the event in the County Agents Magazine rather than just saying "there will be a pre-tour, please sign up."

Aquaculture/Seagrant

Charles Pistis
Michigan



The Aquaculture/Sea Grant professional Improvement Committee has received three abstracts for the professional improvement seminar on Tuesday of AMPIC. Overall five presentations will take place including two from outside speakers. Under the leadership of colleagues in Ohio and Kentucky a professional improvement tour has been set up for Wednesday of AMPIC.

The National Program Chair continues to participating in conference calls and meetings of the National Aquaculture Steering Committee chaired by Gary Jensen from CSREES/USDA. A seat on the National Committee is reserved for a NACAA Aquaculture/Sea Grant Committee Chair. The current NACAA term is for 3 years ending in 2007.

The NACAA Aquaculture/Sea Grant Chair is participating on the Steering Committee for the National Extension conference to be held in Cincinnati in May of 2007. This is Biennial Event that invites Extension Specialists and Agents from around the US to participate in professional improvement targeted toward aquaculture.

In Feb of 2006 the National Aquaculture America conference took place in Vegas. I co chaired a day long workshop entitled "Critical Issues and New Opportunities for Extension Programming". The symposium consisted of 23 invited papers focusing on aquacultural Extension efforts throughout the nation. The pro-

gram went extremely well and we have been invited to work on a similar program for the next National meeting in San Antonio. Aquaculture/Sea Grant Vice Chair Jim Steeby presented a paper. This event brings together academia and the aquaculture industry for important discussions relevant to aquaculture

Extension Development Council Chair Michael Heimer Texas



The Extension Development Council has the unique responsibility within the National Association of County Agricultural Agents to enhance the professionalism of its members. Our members are as diverse as the day is long and require a vast array of educational opportunities to develop their effectiveness. One common thread shared by all NACAA members is the desire and responsibility to provide accurate and timely programs to their clientele. 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. The NACAA is there to provide Extension professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to be effective leaders in their respective areas of responsibility.

There are four committees in the Extension Development Council that are not subject matter specific, but provide critical skills to assist in a member's professional growth. Each of these topics are addressed by a specific committee. These committees are: Public Relations and Agricultural Issues, Early Career Development, Administrative Skills Development, and Teaching and Educational Technologies.

The Extension Development Council National Chairs, Vice Chairs, and even the state committee chairs provide the leadership to ensure the future of Extension professionals. 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 opportunities to make our members more effective, and finally recognize our coworkers for their exceptional efforts. All of the Committees work hard to provide the leadership and involvement necessary to accomplish this goal.

This past year the committees have set timely goals and objectives, implemented nontraditional professional development opportunities, and assembled an exciting array of educational resources. AM/PIC attendees will be impressed with the caliber of presenters assembled for your benefit.

The rotational policy for the NACAA Council Committees keeps the leadership changing. 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, for at least a short time. The National 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 they present themselves. Our present National Chairs are: Edmund Gomez - Public Relations and Agricultural Issues; Mark Nelson - Early Career Development; Lee Miller - Administrative Skills Development; David Rice - Teaching and Educational Technologies.

We hope that each of you will take advantage of the tremendous opportunities being provided by these committee to make you a better Extension professional.

Public Relations and Agricultural Issues

R. Edmund Gomez New Mexico



The Public Relations and Agricultural Issues Committee (PR & AIC) is responsible to encourage, support and assist in the development and effective implementation of the PR & AIC in state organizations as well as to provide pertinent and timely PR & AI programs and activities during the AM/PIC annually. We also assist, encourage and inspire NACAA members to study, research and educationally address PR&AI at the grassroots level by providing information, leadership and appreciation when possible. The PR & AIC encourages the formation of local, regional and national partnerships between NACAA members, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, growers, and producers and the public to educationally address public relations and agricultural issues.

I am pleased to report the PR & AIC has had another great year in working toward meeting our objectives and assisting our membership. I would like to thank our Regional Vice-Chairs, Dan Downing, Missouri, Pedro Perdomo, New Jersey and Jerry Clemons, Arkansas, for their assistance, guidance and leadership.

The PR & AIC began 2005 -06 by providing the membership at Buffalo with the seminar "Marketing Extension Programs to Decision Makers & Elected Officials". The following speakers: Ned Birkey, Monroe County, Michigan, Gus Wilson, Ashley County, Arkansas, and Bradley Brummond, Walsh County, North Dakota presented powerful presentations and provided very usable information on how they market their Extension programs to decision makers & elected officials. A panel discussion on the same topic was led by the Committee Vice-Chairs and resulted with a good participation by the membership.

2006 Report to the Membership

The Seminar was very well received by the members attending based on discussion, evaluation and the new ideas fostered on how to promote their Extension programs when they returned home.

The Outstanding Young Farmer 50th anniversary Congress was hosted in Moline, Illinois, home of the primary corporate partner, John Deere. 45% of all the 2006 national Outstanding Young Farmer nominations are from NACAA members. 50% of the 2006 national finalists were nominated by County Agents. Representing NACAA, were Glenn Rodgers, Past President and R. Edmund Gomez, PR & AI Committee Chair.

At the 50th Outstanding Young Farmer program Moline, Ill. Feb. 8 – 11, 2006, twenty Young Farmers from across the U. S. were recognized for their tremendous work with their farm, their conservation practices, and their community. All four national finalists had great things to say about their local County Agents in their states of Montana, Mississippi, Wisconsin, and New Mexico. Coley Jr., and Jody Bailey of Mississippi as well as Don & Cheryl Hartman of New Mexico were nominated by local NACAA members Steve Cummings, and Phil Hibner. Joining the Bailey's and Hatman's as National winners are Thad and Melissa Willis from Montana and Bradley and Kimberly Schyvinck from Wisconsin. In addition to the all the publicity on national TV with NACAA Service to World Agriculture winner Orion Samuelson, the four National winners received additional plaques and monetary compensation.

To enhance the program for 2007 the National OYF program committee has made some changes to program and this is a tremendous opportunity for NACAA to take the program to the next level. The changes make it easier for us to nominate not just one but several individuals from each state and to have two at the national meeting in Phoenix, Arizona in Feb. 2007. NACAA members, who nominate future National winners, will receive free registration to the following NACAA AI/PIC, thanks to new resolution passed by the NACAA Board of Directors. The PR & AIC will make the 2006-07 NOYFC nomination process a strong priority in the months to come prior to the August 1, 2006 deadline.

The August 1, 2006 deadline nomination form has been shortened to one page, thus making it much easier for you to send forward a potential candidate. If the candidate is selected as a semi-finalist you will hear from the judges by early August to fill out the additional information on the semi-finalist. The deadline for that form is OCTOBER. 1, 2006.

The top 10 finalists get a free trip to Phoenix, Arizona with the resulting top 4 finalists getting a free trip to Washington, D. C. to participate in Farmer forums with federal legislators and agricultural leaders from all over the country.

In 5 short years NACAA members have brought this program from a struggling declining enrollment with no participation from NACAA to 45% of all nominations coming from NACAA mem-

berships and 2 of the four finalists being nominated by our membership. We now have the opportunity to bring it to the next level, to have national televised exposure, and to have our clientele telling federal legislators their needs for the future.

We are looking forward to the 2006 AM/PIC in Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky. The PR & AIC Seminar topic is "Establishing Partnerships With Our USDA Sister Agencies". USDA speakers include: Ron Bosecker, Administrator, National Agriculture Statistic Service; Mrs. Teresa C. Lasseter, Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Ms. Courtney Billet, Deputy Administrator, Legislative & Public Affairs, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and others.

The PR & AI Committee will continue to support American Agriculture and especially thanks to all who still believe in the American Family Farm and who strive to keep it a viable entity in our economy.

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 have take many of the suggestions that came from our committee's 2004 national survey of our membership to determine their professional development needs and using them as we plan our future programs.

We selected three national speakers for the July 25, 2006 professional improvement sessions at the NACAA AM/PIC in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sherry Wesson, Extension Agent from White County, Arkansas presented Ten Ways to be a Successful "New" County Agent. This presentation offered specific help for new agents or veteran agents who have moved to new counties recently. Gary Wilson and Jacqueline LaMuth, both from Ohio State University Extension discussed The Importance of Accurate Project Budgets. This presentation pointed out specific points to watch for when putting together a budget for a grant proposal. C. W. Wall, Extension Agent from University of Arkansas, presented Working Across the Ages. This presentation help agents understand how differences in live experiences lead to different perspectives of current events. The Committee was very pleased to have these professionals share their experiences and insight.

ECD Committee Vice-chairs for 2005-06 were David Marrison (Ohio) North Central Region, Julie Speight (Arkansas) Southern Region, Mark Nelson (Utah) Western region, and Steve Hadcock (New York) North East Region. We are looking forward to a great 2006-2007 and to your participation in our committee's activities.

Administrative Skills

J. Lee Miller Pennsylvania



Developing administrative skills in cooperative extension is an important area of personal development and program management. Every successful extension educator must have good public relations skills and abilities to communicate research based information to producers and consumers. The skills developed in this area help educators grasp the larger scope of program impact and opportunity and enhance leadership skills to provide insight and to be able to move our organization forward. The committee has explored and promoted ideas for cost recovery and using resources wisely. They have discussed new technologies and this year is providing a workshop on balancing work and family life. This is quite an appropriate topic as greater demands are placed on each extension educator. We must make tough choices on which programs are most important and have the most societal good while completing the necessary documentation for impact. The balance comes when we value and use our time outside our job related appointment and understand that this time is crucial to the success of our career.

We welcome suggestions, ideas and volunteers so that we may provide positive administrative personal development opportunities. Great leadership is always needed and we plan to put forth ideas and workshops that will continue to have valuable ideas in the area.

Teaching & Educational Technologies

David Rice North Dakota



Dave Rice, North Central Region, was reappointed chair of the Teaching and Educational Technology Committee for 2005-2006. John Dorner remains as Southern Region Vice Chair, Karen Vines was appointed Northeast Region Vice Chair and Susan Kerr Western Region Vice Chair.

The committee developed a technology survey to assess the comfort level of our membership with various technology applications. The 2006-2007 committee, under new leadership,

may launch this survey and use the results to offer technology training in needed areas at the 2007 AM/PIC.

A new alternative was discussed and proposed but evidently too late to be acted upon for the 2006 PIC. The committee suggested a full day hands-on computer workshop as an alternative to participating in a tour. The workshop could be billed as "Computer Bootcamp" for those agents needing basic training in computer technology or shorter half day workshops on building a county Web page or taking and editing digital photographs. I believe this will resurface as a proposal for the 2007 PIC.

John Dorner will be making a presentation on "What is a Wiki and why would extension agents want to use it," Carla Craycraft will make a presentation on "eXtension Communities of Practice" and Maggie Wolf will be making a presentation on "Digital Photograph Albums: Comparison of Cataloging Software" at the 2006 AM/PIC

Program Recognition Council Chair

Neil Broadwater Minnesota



The purpose of the Program Recognition Council is to carry out the awards based programs that have been a traditional part of NACAA over many years. There are many categories for which members can apply. Recognition is provided to those selected at the state, regional and national level with cash awards, plaques and certificates, depending upon the category and final placing within each awards program.

It is an honor for the Council's committees to handle the NACAA awards process so members across the nation can be recognized for their outstanding Extension efforts in serving the public. However, even though there is a structure in place to accept applications, to judge them, and then to recognize the winners at AM/PIC, the Council cannot accomplish its tasks unless members apply for the NACAA award and recognition programs that are available.

We must all do a better job to encourage our colleagues to apply for NACAA awards. NACAA members are conducting outstanding programs throughout the nation. Where deserving, members should be recognized for their excellent educational efforts, for their commitment to Extension's mission, and for helping citizens create a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. The NACAA awards system provides that opportunity. Receiving recognition can provide recipients a sense of satisfaction for a job well done. It can help make all those hours, days and nights working as a professional Extension educator more worthwhile. It can allow citizens

served by NACAA to see the benefits of the Cooperative Extension Service and help bring public credibility to what members are doing. It can provide public funders with evidence that Extension is accomplishing its purpose and is doing important work to benefit society. And, strong numbers of applications in each award category from the membership helps NACAA secure and obtain sponsors.

The Program Recognition Council consists of seven committees. Those committees and the respective National Committee Chairs for 2005-2006 were as follows: Communications (David Whitson, MO); Extension Programs (John Campbell, TN); 4-H and Youth (Nelda Starks, MS), Professional Excellence (Don Fretts, PA), Public Relations (Charles Davis, SC), Recognition and Awards (Alan Galloway, TN), and Scholarship (James Jones, OK)). No committee work can be accomplishment without good leadership which these Chairs have provided. And, just as important under our NACAA committee system are the efforts the respective regional vice-chairs and state chairs put forth in securing and analyzing the award applications. As Council Chair, I greatly appreciate the dedication of these individuals to help make the Council's award system go smoothly.

This was the second year of a three year term for me as Council Chair. Each year I learn more and more about the interworkings and dynamics of the organizational structure of NACAA even though I have been involved in the organization for 30 years. These past two years I tried to approach my position as one of a partnership between the Committee Chairs, the other two Council Chairs, the Vice-President and myself. We worked on problems together, ironed out issues, and communicated numerous times by telephone and e-mail. Within the Program Recognition Council we tried to make the awards application process and the planning for the 2006 AM/PIC go as smoothly as possible. Donald Fretts, Charles Davis, and Alan Galloway completed their two year terms as Committee Chairs at the end of the 2006 AM/PIC. John Campbell stepped in as Extension Programs Committee Chair for a one year term as a result of its vacancy last fall. I want to thank them for their excellent work and dedication with their respective committee.

Finally, there are ample opportunities each year to apply for a leadership position on the various committees. Members who are organized, committed to NACAA and want to utilize their leadership skills are encouraged to consider applying for any of the positions that will be open in 2007. NACAA members are encouraged to step forward and apply for a leadership role. Application forms will be on the NACAA web site and due to Council Chairs by March 1, 2007.

It's been an honor and privilege to serve you as the Program Recognition Council Chair these past two years. I look forward to continue to serve NACAA in the year ahead.

Recognition & Awards

Alan B. Galloway Tennessee



NACAA honored 67 members with the Distinguished Service Award and 53 members with the Achievement Award this year in Cincinnati. It is impressive to read the citation statements summarizing the programming and educational efforts of these award recipients. They are truly providing innovative programs addressing the needs of their clientele and making a difference in their community. Their programs cover a wide range of topics and specialties. The audiences served include all segments of society and they obviously positively impact those encountered. The NACAA can take great pride in having members of their caliber recognized this year who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others.

The effort to provide a completely electronic means of submitting applications to the Recognition and Awards Committee came to fruition this year. Thanks to the assistance of John Dörner, Electronics Communications Coordinator, applicants and their state chair could submit all forms and a digital photo via email to their R&A Regional Vice-Chair. The Recognition and Awards Committee will continue to review the application process for more efficient ways to handle applications.

The new Hall of Fame Award came into existence this year. The Hall of Fame Award recognizes members or life members who have shown excellence in their Extension work and programming, participation in their state and national associations and for their humanitarian efforts. Each state could submit one nominee with one individual from each NACAA region being chosen for the award. Four outstanding individuals have been recognized this year. As you can imagine judging the applications of individuals who have excelled in so many areas is challenging. I was in awe of the impact and accomplishments made by some of our NACAA members. One can't help but feel proud they are part of our association.

With this being my second and final year as Chair, I am most appreciative of the opportunity and the growth serving in this position has provided. While any committee chair learns a lot about the workings of our association, you realize how hard the NACAA Board and Council Chairs work to keep the NACAA thriving. Their assistance was always just an email or phone call away.

There are many others who facilitate the application process which began over nine months ago. Thank you to the state chairs who often have a challenging selection process within their respective state to determine the members to be recognized. A big thank you goes to my Regional Vice-Chairs: Eddie Eskew of Louisiana, Todd Lorenz of Missouri, Carol Schurman of

Pennsylvania, and Jim Church of Idaho. Having an efficient and experienced group of regional vice-chairs to organize and check the applications made the entire process much smoother.

Congratulations to Todd Lorenz as the incoming Recognition and Awards Committee Chair. I hope all the state chairs and regional vice-chairs provide him with the great support I have received. Todd's four years of experience as a vice-chair will be valuable as he handles the committee's functions.

Under his leadership the committee will continue to look for ways to simplify the application process. Suggestions and recommendations of ways to improve the awards selection and application process are always welcomed and appreciated.

Communications

David Whitson Missouri



The Communications Committee is pleased to report strong participation in the communications awards program for 2006. We are also pleased to report that Bayer Advanced has continued their sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2006.

The large number of entries is evidence of the high quality of work. We had 536 entries in 13 categories. The most common entered categories were publication, personal column and direct mail. The categories with the least entries were radio, learning module and video.

At the national level, the national entries are evidence of the high quality of work and communications that are being conducted by extension educators throughout the country. It is obvious that our members are producing quality materials. Many of the judges at the national level report the difficulty in judging the entries due to the consistent, thus making the judging more difficult.

Recent technology has enabled us to do a more professional job and make all materials more appealing and readable but more importantly the audiences are more readily able to grasp and adapt new ideas or methods to improve their operations or change the quality of their lives. In short, these highly professional communications are having a significant 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 stimulate our own creative minds and improve our communication abilities. Reading about these wonderful programs

can give us new ideas and approached for 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 Norman Conrad of Pennsylvania and Robert Call of Arizona who are completing their terms as regional vice-chairs. Likewise, I want to recognize Mark Schjuler of Kansas and Larry Williams of Florida for their help as new vice chairs this year.

New regional vice-chairs to the communications committee for 2006-07 are Geoffrey Njue of New Jersey for the northeast region and Julie Riley of Alaska for the western region.

I also want to thank the past national chairman Keith Mickler of Georgia for his help in making my transition from a regional vice chair to the chairman a smooth trip.

Extension Programs

John Campbell Tennessee



The Extension Programs committee conducted six Search for Excellence programs this year. Due to the hard work of Scott Hawbaker, NACAA Executive Director, and Chuck Otte, NACAA Vice President, all six programs had national sponsors. Remote Sensing/Precision Agriculture was sponsored by NASA; Crop Production by Dupont; Farm and Ranch Financial Management by Monsanto; Livestock Production by Pfizer; Landscape Horticulture by TrueGreen ChemLawn and Young, Beginning, Small Farmers/Ranchers by the Farm Credit System Foundation.

Brown Bag Luncheons and Awards Presentation programs were held for each program at the AM/PIC. National Winners presented a summary of their program. The National Winners were Dale Vamer, Nebraska, Remote Sensing/Precision Agriculture; Sandra Wick, Kansas, Crop Production; Brice Roberts, Kentucky, Farm and Ranch Financial Management; Scott Jensen, Idaho, Livestock Production; Dustin Blakey, Arkansas, Landscape Horticulture; and Debbie Roos, North Carolina, Young, Beginning, Small Farmers/Ranchers.

There were 60 total entries from states in all regions. This compared to 57 total entries last year. Florida and Kentucky tied for the most entries with 8 each. The abstracts of the national winners and finalists were published in the proceedings. In addition, all entries were judged for merit to be published in the

proceedings. Those abstracts selected are included with the winners and finalists in their respective program.

Entries by Region	2005	2006
North Central	20	11
Northeastern	6	7
Southern	26	37
Western	5	5

Entries by Program	2005	2006
Remote Sensing/ Precision Ag Farm and Ranch	3	3
Financial Management	7	10
Crop Production	19	12
Livestock Production	18	16
Landscape Horticulture	6	5
Young, Beginning, Small Farmer/Ranchers	4	14

The Region Vice Chairs and State Committee Chairs make this committee work. I want to express my appreciation to the Vice Chairs: Brad Brummond, North Central; Bob Gorman, Western; David Harrison, Southern; and Dick Brzozowski, Northeastern. They did an excellent job. I came on board as Interim Chair in February and served through the AM/PIC. Brad Brummond assumed the National Chair duties for next year.

I have had the opportunity to participate in many Professional Development Programs through my state association and NACAA during my 28 years in Extension. These programs have had an immeasurable impact on my development as a professional and on my ability to serve farmers in my everyday activities. Numerous NACAA members in every state conduct outstanding educational programs each year. Many are equal to the programs presented by the National Winners. Yet, we had only a small number of entries in the Search for Excellence programs. I challenge you members to submit one of your programs next year. Share your outstanding work with your colleagues across our great Extension system.

Professional Excellence

Donald Fretts Pennsylvania



The committee is responsible for the peer review of posters abstracts and organizing the poster session at AM/PIC. NACAA endorses the poster session as an important and efficient method of presenting quality Extension Programs and Applied Research results to its members. In addition, thanks to the continued sponsorship of the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC), generous cash awards are presented to the winners of each poster class.

The poster abstracts were reviewed by peers at the state and regional level before being declared eligible for display and competition at AM/PIC. In 2006 there were 101 eligible poster entries, on a par with last year. Hopefully all the primary authors will be in attendance at the Cincinnati based national meeting.

The Regional Vice Chairs have been really supportive this year and I offer my thanks to them, Rick Smith from the northeast, Rick Gibson from the west, Charles Phillips from the south and Gary Zoubek from the north central.

During the conference the posters will be judged and awards presented at the Professional Excellence breakfast on Tuesday, July 25, 2006. The authors of best three posters in each category, Applied Research and Extension Education, will receive cash awards and plaques. Other regional winners will receive a certificate.

The Poster competition is unique in NACAA because the actual competition occurs at the annual meeting. The Professional Excellence committee is quietly busy the first several days of the meeting placing the posters, overseeing the judging, then summarizing the results and finally producing the awards breakfast. So I would like to again thank the state chairs, and regional vice chairs for all their dedication and effort.

This is my final year as the Professional Excellence national chairperson. I wish to thank all the members of NACAA for your support. It has been a great honor to serve.

Public Relations

Charles Davis South Carolina



The Public Relations committee is responsible for conducting the PRIDE (Public Relations in Daily Efforts) program as well as the "First Timers" luncheon 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 7 entries in the PRIDE program this year. The entries were excellent examples of the 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 Libbie Johnson of Florida, who was our National Winner this year and presented her program at the First Timers Luncheon. Congratulations also go to Ed Billingsly of Illi-

nois, and Carol Schurman of Pennsylvania, who were National Finalists. Each received their awards at the PRIDE/First Timers Luncheon. This is a great opportunity for younger agents to see the depth of programs that are presented by their co-workers and to see how public relations are a part of all our daily efforts.

Special thanks to J. Craig Williams, Northeast Region Vice Chair, Bob Kattnig, Western Region Vice Chair, Brad Carlson, North Central Region Vice Chair, and Larry Moorehead, Southern Region Vice Chair who did the bulk of the work on this committee.

Larry Moorehead will be rotating out as Southern Region Vice Chair this year, and will assume the duties as National Chair for the next two years. Brad Carlson will also be leaving his post as North Central Region Vice Chair. Thanks, Larry and Brad, for all your hard work. I also want to thank Neil Broadwater for his patience as Program Recognition Council Chair, as I in my final year as Public Relations Chair, still had more questions than answers.

The Public Relations Committee is looking forward to next year's challenge of increasing participation. We have some good ideas on the table for the coming year, and I encourage all NACAA members to consider entering the PRIDE program next year. I also encourage members to apply for the regional vice chair positions that come open. It is an excellent opportunity to be of service to your national organization, and a tremendous learning experience.

Finally, I would like to thank our national sponsors who make all this possible. They are NASCO International (First Timers Luncheon Sponsor) and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (PRIDE program sponsor). Without their help these awards would not be possible.

4-H and Youth **Nelda Starks** **Mississippi**



It has been a fast and full year for the 4-H and Youth Development committee. Thanks to the hard work of each NACAA member, the number of state entries in 4-H Search For Excellence has increased this year. We had an outstanding group of state winners this year submitted to the Regional Vice Chairs. There were 16 4-H Search For Excellence reports submitted this year to the regional vice chairs with every region being represented with at least 2 entries. We appreciate the efforts of the state chairs to promote this award, but we know many NACAA members do outstanding 4-H work each year and do not report it through this program. We encourage members of NACAA to take time and report 4-H work. We all have to report our work to our administrators, so go one step further and report your outstanding 4-H accomplishments to your peers. I would like to see the submissions for awards increase next

year and have at least four entries from each region. Start now to plan on reporting your good work next year.

A big thank you goes out to the state 4-H chairs and the Regional Vice Chairs. Thank you for getting these entries in and judged. You are a vital link in this process. I would also like to thank the Regional Vice Chairs: Mike Christian, North Central Region; Nancy Kadwill, Northeast Region; Ken Hart, Western Region; and Sherry Eudy, Southern Region for all the work that they have done throughout the year. You have been a good group to work with and look forward to working with Sherry and Mike as they return to the committee and to the new vice-chairs who will take their place in July for the upcoming year.

Even though our committee has not had an active role in putting on the 4-H Talent Revue at the annual meeting this year, we commend the Talent Revue Co-Chairs - Maurus Brown and Pat Hardesty and their committee for the outstanding show in Cincinnati. Many hours of planning, preparation and practice went into this production to make it a "really good show."

We also thank the agents who submitted talent videos from 4-H members for the AM/PIC 4-H Talent Review. I'm sure the Talent Revue committee had a difficult job screening the videos and selecting just the right acts, as we are blessed in 4-H to have so many very talented young people who like to perform and show what 4-H has done for them. Again we applaud the young people for their talents, the agents who support and encourage them and the Talent Revue committee for a fantastic display of this talent in the Annual 4-H Talent Revue.

My personal goal for this committee this year was to find sponsors and donors for the 4-H award program. After the 2005 AM-PIC, I contacted the regional Vice-chairs asking for their help in this arena. I appreciate the response I received from this group. NACAA member Jean Walter, GA found a new donor Robert Fowler and we are very appreciative of his funding of the Search for Excellence Award program.

The past year has been trying for many people, both personally and professionally. After Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast area, destroying the lives of so many people and businesses in that area, and also having a far reaching affect on the rest of the country, I did not feel comfortable asking for money to support our awards program. So many businesses and industries were just trying to survive and keep their business going so they could employ the people we work with daily. These natural disasters and other events of recent years help us to put things in perspective and make us realize that a \$500 award might better be used to rebuild schools, homes, factories, and most of all lives.

2007 is another year and we look forward to nothing but good - more award entries, donors for the awards and more involvement from all states to promote 4-H Youth Development through NACAA.

Scholarship

James "JJ" Jones Oklahoma



The 2005 scholarship auction receipts totaled \$5,746. Ninety-eight individuals purchased 151 items at the auction. This 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 191 tickets were sold with \$800 donated back to the foundation by the winners. Overall proceeds from the ticket sales were \$3,120.

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 knife sales at the Buffalo AM/PIC meeting were \$1,745.

Total money raised for the NACAA Educational Foundation during the Buffalo AM/PIC was \$10,621.

For the 2005/2006 scholarship year, 15 scholarship applications representing 21 members were received. Of the 15 applications, 2 were group applications representing 8 members and the remaining 13 applications were from individuals. A total of \$15,022 was requested.

The NACAA Educational Foundation approved the funding of up to, but not to exceed \$20,000. 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 2005/2006 scholarship year, the Scholarship Committee recommended 14 awards for a total of \$14,522. This broke down into \$8,022 for 10 individuals to continue their formal

education, and \$6,500 for 2 groups and 2 individuals to participate in conferences, tours and meetings. The committee was unable to fund 1 request.

The process of changing over the current database system to a web based system should be completed by July 2006. The new system will allow any member to check his/her donation levels and amount of scholarship funds available through the NACAA website. John Donner NACAA Electronic Communications Coordinator and Laura Watts are completing the switch over to the new database format.

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.

On the NACAA website is an example of how to fill out the application for the scholarship award. Anyone wanting guidelines on how to fill out the application should look at that example.

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

Special Assignments

Electronic Communications Coordinator

John Dorner, IV
North Carolina



We purchased "NACAA.com" and moved all content to new web server. All the web pages have been updated to make them easier to maintain and keep current.

All the mailing lists were moved from Penn State to a list server on the new naca.com server.

A general membership mailing list is being hosted on an eXtension server.

2006 Report to the Membership

All but the general mailing list will be eliminated in favor of a system whereby all members will be able to access and use through the new NACAA membership database.

The biggest endeavor has been to create a new online membership database and importing the member information from the previous database. This enables us to integrate the database with the content on the web site and keep all the contact information up-to-date. If your contact information is not correct you can update it yourself or have your state secretary update it for you.

We are also working to import all the previous scholarship information into the database so that those records will be much easier to maintain and search. This should be completed by the annual meeting. This will tie the scholarship information to the member's record and will prevent loss when members change names, move etc. It will also make it much easier to transfer responsibilities when the Scholarship Chairmanship changes.

A WIKI was added to the web site to enable members to learn about and experiment with wikis. This is also a great way for committees to collaborate and communicate.

The e-County Agent and all issues are available online.

Award entry information is available on the site.

Thirty state associations have web pages linked from the NACAA site. If your state puts up a site, please send me the URL so a link can be added.

The membership and promotional brochures are available online.

Suggestions for the web site are always welcome. Committee Chairs are encouraged to post information helpful to their committee work.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Electronic Communications Coordinator. Thank you for the opportunity.

Executive Director

Scott Hawbaker
Illinois



During the last 12 months, as your Executive Director I have served the board and association in a variety of different ways.

One of the primary functions of Executive Director is to assist the President-Elect with the procurement of Donor Support. Support raised for 2006 exceeded \$114,000 in cash and in-kind contributions. These funds are used to offset AM/PIC award functions and general expenses related to our annual programming.

Coordinating membership data with state associations and maintaining the NACAA database continues to be one of my primary responsibilities. Thank you to the state associations for making this process become more and more effective. We were successful in 2006 to have for the first time our membership database on-line. Thanks to support from XS Ag Inc, RISE, and our own Electronics Communication Coordinator, John Dorner, it is now up and running.

My congratulations to Mickey Cummings and the Ohio/Kentucky agents for planning/implementing an outstanding Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Please feel free to contact the NACAA Headquarters for assistance with your association needs. During the year, I respond to hundreds of 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 252 N. Park Street, Decatur, IL 62523 - (217) 424-5144, Fax: (217) 424-5115, email: nacaemail@aol.com or on the world wide web at <http://www.nacaa.com>.

The County Agent

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Thanks to NACAA Board, Leadership, and Membership for Your Support and Trust!

Gary Gao, Ph.D.

NACAA Representative on the Journal of Extension Board
Ohio State University Extension - Delaware County
Horticulture Extension Educator and Associate Professor
Gao.2@osu.edu

It is hard to believe that this is my last article in the County Agent Magazine as the NACAA representative on the Board of Directors for the Journal of Extension. I certainly learned a lot, helped the Journal of Extension (JOE) in many ways, and hopefully represented the interests of NACAA members well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank NACAA board, leadership, membership for your support over the years. It is also quite hard to leave the JOE Board since I have made a lot of friends there. We have developed an outstanding working relationship with other fellow board members during last four and half years.

BE ALL YOU CAN BE! When our past president Glenn Rogers approached me about this assignment, I did not know exactly what the position entailed. Actually, I am still trying to figure out how much this position encompasses. I found out that sky was the limit. This is why I borrowed the US Army's slogan "Be all you can be!" There is almost unlimited opportunity if that person wants to help NACAA and the JOE. I followed Glenn's foot steps and got on the Marketing and Public Relations Committee during my first year. I became the Chair of that committee during my second year. I chaired the committee for a little more than three years. During the last four and half years, our committee completed a new brochure, designed a computer screen sweep, produced two retractable banners, and printed bookmarks to promote JOE and the National Job Bank, the revenue-generating arm of the Journal of Extension. We have accomplished a lot on a shoestring budget. I found out the best way to deal with unknown is to "grab life by the horn," and just run with it.

JOE IS NOT AVERAGE ANYMORE! We all heard that the saying that "he is just your average Joe." JOE used to be quite average in terms of rigor and quality. However, it has improved tremendously over last 10 years. The acceptance rate in 2005 was 32.5%! You might ask "what is the big deal with that?" The acceptance rate was more than 80% not that long ago. Some folks STILL think that any paper gets accepted by JOE if they just submit. Some of the authors actually got very bad when their manuscripts were rejected by JOE. I would tell those folks "don't feel bad, try

harder next time." The quality of manuscripts and accepted papers has improved a lot! JOE board definitely would like to thank our outstanding reviewers and our editor for their hard work.

READ JOE AND GET INSPIRED! JOE is our Journal! "The Journal of Extension (JOE) is the official refereed journal of the U.S. Cooperative Extension System. JOE expands and updates the research and knowledge base for Extension professionals and other adult educators to improve their effectiveness. In addition, JOE serves as a forum for emerging and contemporary issues affecting Extension education. JOE is written, reviewed, and edited by Extension professionals, sharing with their colleagues successful educational applications, original and applied research findings, scholarly opinions, educational resources, and challenges on issues of critical importance to Extension educators." It is the journal for Extension professionals to get new ideas and validate their existing programs. During our JOE summer board meeting in Portland, ME, we met with Levon Bartel, the Dean and Director, University of Maine Cooperative Extension; Doug Babkirk, Program Administrator, University of Maine Cooperative Extension; and Kyle McCaskill, Communications Leader/Editor, University of Maine Cooperative Extension. They all had high praises for the Journal of Extension. Doug told us that he regularly forwards articles in JOE to his folks as part of their professional development. Their comments made me feel really good to be associated with such a high quality journal. Our board members were also impressed by what the folks at University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service were doing.

STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN! JOE is still looking for a few good reviewers. If you have published a few refereed journal articles and would like to be a reviewer, please let me know. It is not surprising for you to know that The Ohio State University, Purdue University, Oregon State University already have a strong representation. It is time for other universities to step up to the plate. We always need a few more "aggie" type reviewers, as our Editor Laura puts it. Please send me an email if you are interested. When you read this article, a new NACAA representative should have been identified. Please email that person directly. Good luck to you!

JOE'S FINANCIAL FOOTING IS SOLID! Many thanks

to USDA, JOE Board's foresight, and hard work of all JOE board members, institution subscriptions have stayed at a steady level while the National Job Bank brought in much needed additional income to sustain its operation. As we all know, there is less and less money to go around, JOE board has done well to keep it going without having to ask for more money from land grant universities. It takes quite bit money to operate a journal. Yes, even an electronic journal! The only major saving between a print journal and an electronic journal is the cost of printing. JOE still has all of the other expenses.

JOE SUBMISSIONS ARE ROLLING IN! As of June 22, there were 144 submissions based on the editor's written report dated June 22, 20006. Fifteen percent of them were rejected by the editor as unsuitable for JOE, 40% returned by the editor to the author for revision, 45% accepted by the editor as suitable for review or publication. There were also 92 papers in publication queue. If you would like to have

papers published in JOE, do not wait until 3months before your promotion and tenure packet is due. Start as soon as you can, write and submit manuscripts on a regular basis. Before too long, you will have a steady stream of publications. Just like how millionaire make their money, multiple streams of steady income. Well, maybe not, their income streams might be more like multiple floods. We Extension people probably know a lot more about the stream, or maybe just a little trickle. Just kidding, guys and gals. We love our job, don't we? That is priceless!

MY SINCERE THANKS TO Y'ALL! Since Mickey Cummings was the NACAA president when I was writing this article, I thought it would be fun to add a little southern touch. I would like to thank Eddie Holland, Steve Munk, Frank FitzSimons, Glenn Rogers, Mickey Cummings, and Chuck Otte and the NACAA board for their trust and support over the years. It has been one heck of a ride!!! Best wishes to you and your family!

Scholarship Auction Tops \$10,000

James "JJ" Jones
Scholarship Committee Chair

Each year at the national AM/PIC meeting an auction is held to raise money for the NACAA Education Foundation. This foundation is responsible for maintaining and administering the NACAA Scholarship program with the help of the scholarship committee. This year's auction proceeds totaled \$10,198.50.

Ninety six items from fifty one members were auctioned off during a live and silent auction. The two high selling items were a deer hunt provided by Eddie Holland and purchased by Mickey Cummings for \$2,000 and a ladies 14 karat gold pear shaped aqua marine slide on a 20' strand of freshwater pearls donated by J.R. Hofstetter Family Jewelers (Ohio agent David Marrison wife's family) purchased by Neil Broadwater for \$1,250.

Also during the auction special drawing tickets were sold for five \$100 awards and one \$1,000 award. To be eligible members must purchase a \$20 ticket and be present at the auction. If a member's ticket is not drawn that member will receive a \$20 donation credit to the scholarship fund. Also, if that member is not present or donates a portion of the



winnings back that member will receive credit for that amount as a donation to the scholarship fund. This year 171 tickets were sold. Bill Sciarappa's ticket was drawn out for the \$1,000. Bill was not present at the auction so a \$1,000 donation in his name was made to the scholarship auction.

The NACAA Scholarship committee would like to thank all of those members who donated and purchased items at the auction and purchased special drawing tickets. Without your support the scholarship program would not exist.

As chairman of the scholarship committee, I would like to thank my committee members and the volunteers that helped set up and run the auction. Your help and hard work made the auction a success.

NACAA Website:

The 2006 NACAA

Proceedings and many of the

presentations made at the

2006 AM/PIC are available at

www.nacaa.com

Does your Land Grant University have Extension job listings or program announcements they would like to advertise?

The County Agent Magazine is now accepting display and classified advertising.

Contact NACAA at (217) 424-5144 for more information.



GRAEDE: A Graduate Program in Agricultural & Extension Education for the 21st Century!

GRAEDE stands for **GR**aduate **A**gricultural & **E**xtension **D**istance **E**ducation

This term describes the 100% distance education graduate program in Agricultural & Extension Education offered by North Carolina State University. This degree program is designed for extension agents, agricultural teachers and other professionals in agriculture who are involved in education in either formal or informal settings.

The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at NC State realizes the world has changed and will continue to change in the future. With the use of technology, it is now possible to deliver education to the student no matter where the student is physically located. Progressive universities no longer believe that education resides in a specific building on a college campus and students must physically show up at that building to receive a graduate education.

To learn more about the program visit the web site at <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agexed/graede>.



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 or send them by snail mail to NACAA, Attn: Call of the Week, 252 N. Park St. Decatur, IL 62523.

Whatever you write for publication on the Internet, someone, somewhere, when you least expect it, will read and challenge it with a question. Several years ago I posted a weekly newspaper column on the Internet and added the smart-aleck comment, "...and what does that have to do with the price of eggs in China." I've used that phrase multiple times over the years with a smile and a wink, but since smiles and winks are not part of the Internet, "Barbara from Culpepper, VA" sent an e-mail asking, "What really is the price of a dozen of eggs in China? I'm really serious about the question!!!" Since my County Agent pledge requires me to immediately answer queries with three exclamation marks, I did not hesitate to drop everything and research the question, and found in 2005 the average price of eggs across China was RMB (Yuan Renminbi) 6.93/Kg, according to Feng Si Qing, Tianjin, China, writing in World Poultry, Vol 22. No. 3, 2006. RMB 6.93 would be equal to about 86 cents in the US today, according to www.xe.com. Assuming a kilogram (2.2 lbs.) would be about two dozen eggs, that would make the price about 43 cents per dozen. Whew! Never again will I doubt that search engines work both for you and against you.

Stu Ellis, U of IL Extension, Decatur, IL.

In these times of shrinking budgets, cost recovery and resource limitations it is often interesting to see how others are stretching available funds. We car pool to main campus, use video conferencing instead of workshops and discontinue subscriptions. Our office manager considers it a primary goal to always conserve and recycle. At the same time the professionalism of the office staff is widely recognized and vigorously guarded. Here are some examples of resource utilization. Note sheets by the telephone are usually sections of documents previously used as recognized by the print on the back side. There is a stack of "gunk" paper by the office printer regularly used when merely printing a draft. We save and reuse the packing material received when a shipment arrives here.

I thought I had a recycling story to tell when the ancient file folder I took from the cabinet finally ripped. This folder had the tab written on both sides, crossed out and written on a second time. Then a total of four labels had been used in sequence (on both sides) as the contents changed over my 9 years here. Today as I pulled this file out it ripped down the middle due to the stress of 9 years of regular service. I took this ripped piece out to the office manager and asked sarcastically if I could now request a "new" used file folder to hold my precious documents. I added quickly that perhaps I could tape the tab piece back on and continue to use it for another 9 years. As the manager got up she said with a smile "No, that would be a waste of tape." She proceeded to retrieve a file folder from her cabinet and explain that this particular piece of office supplies had been used by her when she was in typing class during her Junior year of High School and she had brought it to work for some reason during her first year on the job 36 years ago. That's right - we are still using a file folder after at least 37 years of service to the organization. Why not? It still performs its original function at an acceptable level and does not cost a penny.

I sheepishly accepted a new, used file folder and went back to my desk. Now that's resource conservation at its finest!

John Berry, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Allentown, PA



www.nacaa.com

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

2007

Grand Rapids, MI . . . July 15-19

2009

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

2008

Greensboro, North Carolina...July 13 - 17

2010

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

The County Agent

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