

# The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER, 2005

## Update on Hurricane Katrina Relief

By: Mickey Cummings, NACAA President

I want to commend our NACAA family on your response to the Hurricane Relief Efforts of the past few weeks. As you know emails were sent to NACAA membership asking each of you to send monetary donations to our Treasurer, Chuck Schwartau. These checks were then forwarded on to a NASULGC committee. This committee would then disperse the funds to Extension Employees through the Extension Directors in the storm affected states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

NACAA has raised more than \$13,000 for Hurricane victims in the affected

states. But wait, there is more to come, there are some states still raising funds. I know of 2 -3 states that will be donating money after events at their State Meetings. Some states have gone beyond the call to help its members. For example, the Alabama Association sent a load of fence posts so Mississippi Beef Producers could repair fences. I heard that Texas and South Carolina also sent needed items to the area. Florida Agents went to the region to relieve County Agents in their daily routines. This allowed these agents to get some rest and to see to their families needs. I think that North Carolina also sent some Agents to the storm stricken areas to work.

You may still be interested in giving to this cause. It's never too late. The people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama will be hurting for a long time. In the latest report from Elmo Collum I learned that all the Employees of Extension in Mississippi have been accounted for and are safe. That's great news. The last report from James Devillier in Louisiana indicated the same. However, the bad news is that some of these people lost their homes and many others had significant damage to their homes.

According to Elmo the towns of Waveland, Pass Christian and Bay St. Louis are completely gone. The Extension Office in Waveland was 3 years old and it no longer exists. The Hancock County Extension Office is now in a trailer and it is the only place in Waveland that has internet capability.

*continued on page 2*



Devastation of the Hancock County Extension Service office located in Waveland, MS.

### **Inside This Issue . . .**

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Mission to Mississippi.....   | 2-3   |
| Animal Science Pre-Tour.....  | 4-9   |
| NACAA Futuring Committee..... | 10    |
| President's Message.....      | 11    |
| 2007 Farm Bill Input.....     | 12-13 |
| Global Harmonization.....     | 14-20 |
| FY 2006 Federal Budget.....   | 22-23 |



Waveland, MS - water pushed this van deep into the debris as it washed through and devastated the Waveland, MS area.

In conversations with Elmo and James I am told that probably 4 or 5 of their co-workers in each state lost their homes. There are as many as 60 agents in the two states that had significant damage to their homes. Some were flooded and some homes had wind damage. This is your opportunity to help your fellow Extension Agents. Some of these people are NACAA Members.

Elmo tells me that there is a tremendous need for fencing material, hay and grazing. Hay land was used for grazing after the storm passed through the region. Also, much of the hay was fed to cattle because grazing was limited due to destruction of fences. Now, the region has been dry for about a month and producers can't over-seed ryegrass until a rain event.

James Devillier tells me that there is a need for 1900 round bales of hay, range cubes, portable corrals and fencing in the parishes of Calcasieu,

Cameron, Lafourche, Terrebone and Vermilion. There is also a need for antibiotics as well. There are as many as 175,000 cattle in these areas. Some of these parishes are still 2/3 covered with water.

Please provide help if you are able. Elmo Collum's phone number and email are 601-857-2284 and [elmoc@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:elmoc@ext.msstate.edu). James Devillier's phone number and email are 225-683-3101 and [jdevillier@agctr.lus.edu](mailto:jdevillier@agctr.lus.edu). Also, if you still want to make a contribution that will go directly to and Extension Agent send a check made payable to NASULGC-Hurricane Katrina Relief to NACAA Treasurer, Chuck Schwartau. These folks are our friends and neighbors. Let's help them all we can.

# MISSION TO MISSISSIPPI

*Editors Note: This article taken from the Macon County University of Illinois "Resource Review" Newsletter is a prime example of one of many efforts made by Extension Personnel across the country to aid with the hurricane devastation relief efforts.*



University of Illinois East Central Region sent a relief mission to Biloxi, Mississippi to aid families in the devastated area. In a three day period Extension East Central Region collected over 410 cubic feet of donated material including: Clothing, shoes, basic health needs, personal toiletries, diapers, baby food, nonperishable food, bleach, cleaning supplies, buckets, brushes, children's toys, books, blankets and linens. As well as cash donations of \$546 that is being sent to a fund at Mississippi State that will go directly to the needs of Extension Families.

This project was an area effort with donation from: Ameren IP; the cargo trailer by Larry Costello, Trail Master of Springfield; truck by Jim and Kay Tipton of Decatur; and two semi loads of livestock feed ADM Animal Feed of Quincy.

## The Trip

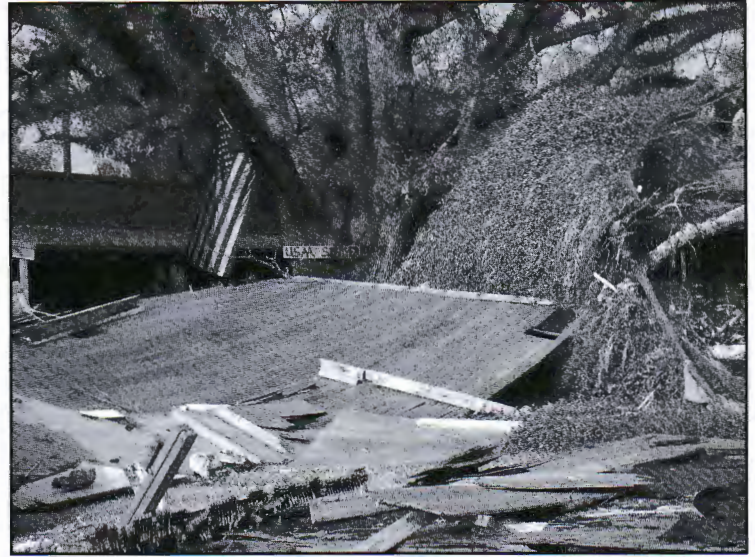
Originally the humanitarian material was to be delivered to Jackson, MS. (the coordination drop off point). A rough list of the materials donated were given to Debbie Montgomery at Mississippi State, upon hearing the list she asked if the donations could be taken directly to the Extension Relief Center in Biloxi, MS., (175 miles south of Jackson).

The truck and trailer left Friday evening and arrived Saturday in the early afternoon. At Hattiesburg, MS (120 mile north of Biloxi) trees that had been moved off Highway 49 lay on both sides of the road. The damage in the communities varied from area to area, but steadily got worse closer to the coast. From Hattiesburg to Gulfport/Biloxi over 40 different Electric Cooperatives were working on the power lines. In Biloxi, the streets were filled with military, Red Cross, Electric and Gas

Utility Vehicles from different states all over the mid-west and east.

The devastation is impossible to describe; houses crushed; houses with all the walls missing with the 2x4 studs holding up the roof or the second story; metal stairways going into the air that are no longer attached to buildings. There were messages painted on the walls saying that the family is OK, or telling of lost family members. It will be years before Mississippi will recover from the hurricane.

Thank you to everyone that has helped



the Mission to Mississippi!! Your kindness and generosity made this possible.

Submitted by Paul Mariman, University of Illinois Farm Management Specialist, Macon County.



**Devastation in Biloxi, MS**

# **NACAA Pre-AM/PIC 2005 Animal Science Professional Development Tour**

Prepared by: Susan Kerr, Washington State University Extension Director-Klickitat County

## **Animal Science Pre-Conference Tour "Borders" on Greatness**

**Sponsor:** ScoringSystem, Inc.

The 19 participants in the 2005 NACAA AM/PIC Animal Science Pre-Conference tour were treated to an exciting overview of New York's vast agricultural industry. From Buffalo to Belmont, from Batavia to the Border, livestock Extension educators from nine states increased their knowledge of cutting-edge issues affecting the livestock industry. Animal identification, quality assurance, group housing veal production, U.S. Customs regulations, automated feeding systems, robotic milkers, poultry processing, commercial sheep production, by-product milling—all this and more were part of two action-packed days in Western New York.

### **July 15, 2005 Stop #1: US Border Crossing, Buffalo, NY**

The first stop on the tour was an up-close view of the USDA inspection station at the United States/Canadian border crossing. Dr. Farooq Hashmi served as host and explained the daily inner workings of this inspection station and point of entry for livestock coming into the U.S., located about two miles from the border itself. He explained the paperwork, policies and protocols involved with importing and exporting animals through the fourth busiest port between the U.S. and Canada. Tour participants saw 26,000 turkey poults on their way to Plainville Farms, a huge turkey production operation in New York. They also saw some Morgan horses



*USDA Veterinary Services Animal Import Facilities in Niagara Falls, NY*

being brought into the U.S. for sale in Pennsylvania.

The tour occurred on the same day that the border was re-opened to the importation of Canadian cattle. Dr. Hashmi explained that six to eight loads of slaughter cattle can be imported daily and every twelfth load is unloaded, run through the chutes and inspected. All feeders are unloaded, inspected and received special identification. This inspection point can handle three loads of cattle a day in addition to other species. Cattle are inspected by appointment only. The cattle handling facilities were immaculate and the envy of any cattle producer!

All imports require the involvement of a custom broker who helps with the paperwork and other importation requirements. Thanks to the efforts of the brokers and the fact that 98% of the livestock importers are

regular customers, it is rare for a commercial livestock shipment to fail. If a manifest remains open, U.S. Customs is alerted that the shipment was never presented for inspection after crossing the border and the shipment is traced; harsh fines and penalties are possible.

The livestock agents traveled next to the border itself. Cameras and law enforcement agents were everywhere. Buffalo city police, New York State Troopers and U.S. Customs agents were all present; one of the latter noticed the tour group and came over to assess the situation. Fortunately, the group passed inspection and was allowed to stay in the country.

A broker happened to be in the area and gave an impromptu presentation about the private broker's role in livestock importation. Each broker has clients, for whom they process invoices via fax to U.S. Customs in

## Professional Development Tour

Washington D.C. Each client must have a federal tax identification number or social security number. There is a minimum of two hours notice for all loads coming into the U.S. Customs accepts or rejects the load and tracks what comes in. Overall, the tour participants were impressed by the level of security witnessed at the border, which included huge radiation detectors that scanned all motor vehicles coming into the U.S. for "dirty" bombs. They also watched as giant mobile gamma-ray machines scanned entire tractor-trailer loads looking for contraband.

### Stop #2: Provitello Veal, Batavia, NY

This Canadian-owned company raises bull calves for veal in a group housing system with an automatic feeding system. Their goal is to produce a better product less expensively.

Calves selected for purchase are primarily three to five days old Holstein calves that weigh 98 to 110 pounds. They receive intranasal Nasalgen®, an Express® product, Iron, Vitamin B and Mu-Se® upon arrival.

Calves are fed milk replacer for 19-20 weeks, then sent to slaughter in Utica, NY at a live weight of 475# for a carcass end weight of 280#. They gain 2.6 to 2.7 pounds per day for a feed conversion of 1.7 to 1.8. Each calf receives 200 gm/day of grain starting at week six or seven.

There are two feeding stations per 60 calves in a group. Each calf has a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip and the automatic feeding system is able to identify each calf and record useful information during each feeding. For example, if a calf's drinking speed is too slow, the calf could be anemic and it is selected for an additional hemoglobin check and perhaps treatment.

The company is very cognizant of animal welfare issues surrounding veal calf raising. Each calf has 17.5 square feet of space in the large group pen with slatted floors. Fans move air at



*Participants of tour, seated (left to right): Bill Seay -VA; Mike Baker- NY; Cory Parsons-OR; Scott Baker- VA; Lanette Butler-SD; Dinah Peebles-MO; Barry Foushee- NC; Arlene Stewart-MO; Susan Kerr-WA; Randy Saner-MO; Mark Stewart-MO; back row l to r (standing): William Kanitz, ScoringSystem, Inc, Tour Sponsor; Lisa Kempisty-NY; Valerie Mitchell-SD; Elaine Mitchell-SD; Everett Chamberlain-NJ; Bob Mickel-NJ; Mitch Ingram-TN; Randy Mills-OR; and Ben Chase-NC.*

180 CFM per calf. Milk is fed at 111°F for optimal calf comfort and intake. Calves are neither dehorned nor castrated. Individual calves' hemoglobin levels are routinely checked via blood tests; calves with levels below the accepted minimum are treated and may end up in the "red veal" market.

The company has a quality assurance program in place, the backbone of which is the RFIAD system that allows a huge amount of data to be kept on each individual animal, including the group's favorite calf, "Buddy."

### Stop #3: Baskin Livestock, Batavia, NY

Have you ever wondered where broken candy bars, stale doughnuts, melted cough drops, discarded fast food buns, outdated pies, expired drink mixes and frozen cannery peas go? From the looks of the piles of these commodities seen on Stop #3 of the tour, they end

up at Baskin Livestock in Batavia. The group walked past huge mounds of bakery waste, by-product feeds and culled candy products and learned how these nutrient sources are processed and blended into livestock rations at the Baskin Livestock operation. This multi-enterprise business raises heifers; operates a trucking business; owns a golf course; and also mills feeds for other hog, poultry and dairy producers. Their milled products are typically 90% dry matter, 10-11% protein, 10-11% fat and less than 5% fiber.

Two of the major issues that the mill has to deal with are sugars that gum up the machinery (a sticky, gummy dust was everywhere) and wrappers on candy bars, potato chips and other by products incorporated into milled mixes. Various sized screens help screen out papers; this waste is incinerated on site.

The livestock operation buys replacement heifers from ME, OH, NC,

NY and New England. These heifers are raised on rations that include by-product such as bakery waste, candy waste, cannery peas, earless sweet corn silage, carrots and/or other items that become available. About 3,000 animals are sold annually and some are exported to Mexico and Canada.

Why does this agricultural business receive 1,000 tons of bakery waste per week from NY, PA and CT? Here's one story as an explanation: a flour mill worker lost his cell phone in a huge batch of flour. Instead of paying for the labor to look for the phone or incur a possible lawsuit from contamination of the flour by the phone or the search process, the company decided to cut its losses and write off this batch of flour. They called Baskin Livestock to pick up this load of flour, which was incorporated into livestock feed. (If an E.T. cow ate the cell phone, she could phone home...).

### **Stop #4: Porter Farms, Elba, NY**

Even though it is a second generation farm, Porter Farms is a work in progress that is always trying new enterprises to see what will happen. They have been certified organic vegetable producers for 15 years. Their main enterprises are sheep production and an organic Community Supported Agriculture vegetable operation. They also sell a few goats and beef each year.

The sheep operation consists of 800 Romanov x Dorset ewes that are rarely on pasture. They glean vegetable fields and are fed cull vegetables, chopped sudan grass, poor hay and cabbage leaves (22% protein on a DMB). The flock does not receive grain produced on the farm because it has a value of \$200/ton on the organic grain market, but a feed content value of \$80/ton.

Most of the ewes lamb in the woods starting in mid-April; 1500 lambs are produced per year and there is a 1.5 weaning ratio. Lambs are creep fed in

the field. This sheep operation also leases out ewes to Amish farmers in the Waterloo area and buys the lambs back at \$60 for 60#. The farm's ewe flock is outside all winter. Ewes are retained until they no longer lamb.

This farm does not use any bank financing, so the sheep enterprise helps provide cash flow for the farm labor force of 8 to 15 laborers per week. Lambs are sold primarily to Muslims at 50-60# off the ewe for \$100. During the rest of the year, animals are sold off the farm by the head, not per pound. The sheep enterprise also buys and fattens lambs, preferring to purchase mismanaged lambs that are thin or wormy and feed them up for sale at 60#.

The farm also buys 30 to 40 pound Boer-cross goats and feeds them out. There is highest demand for these animals in January and February. There is poor local demand for goat, so this is not a major enterprise. Both the sheep and goat herds experience some foot rot and scald.

About 10 naturally-raised beef steers are sold each year. They are marketed as containing no antibiotics or hormones but are not classified as organic. They are not grass fed and grade choice or prime. This beef is sold at \$5 per pound cut and wrapped. Each steer produces eight 50-pound boxes. The operation also does some calf backgrounding.

The organic vegetable CSA is in its tenth year. The season runs for 22 weeks in the summer and has 280 members from Rochester and Buffalo. They pay \$270 per member (\$300 if products are delivered) at the beginning of the season. The 110 acres produces enough to support sales to wholesale markets in Boston, though there are better profits through the CSA than wholesale markets. Typical CSA member deliveries include fresh-picked organic zucchini, squash, green beans, onions, beets, tomatoes, melons, peppers, leeks

and lettuce. The farm sponsors an annual Fall festival for its CSA clients.

Future directions include the production of organic hay, more corn production and somehow working draft horses into the mix!

### **July 16, 2005**

### **Stop #5: Robin and Dan Swartz, Attica, NY**

This 300-acre, family-owned sheep farm markets through just about every outlet possible: direct sales to private customers, sales of 4-H market lambs and show animals, sales of purebred breeding stock and wool sales. However, no sales are made through livestock sale yards, the traditional mainstay of many small farms' "marketing programs." The family breeds purebred Tunis sheep and has had a national champion, but their commercial sheep operation is their main money-making enterprise. One full-time job off the farm brings in income as well. A son is about to head off for an agriculture program at a two-year state college and he plans to return to the farm.

The registered Tunis flock is kept at the barn, separated from the commercial flock. An automatic feeder feeds the barn flock haylage and corn silage. The commercial flock is a closed Dorset-cross flock of 600 ewes. These animals are rotationally grazed through seven pastures of timothy/clover/orchard grass/trefoil pastures; pastures are mowed after they are grazed. Market lambs and pregnant ewes for biomedical research are sold from the commercial flock.

Lambing is done mostly in the barn in February and October. The farm uses fall-born females and males for replacements.

The commercial flock health program consists of Bo-Se®, Orf and CDT vaccinations and worming three to five times a year; the biomedical research

flock also receives IBR and PI3 vaccinations.

The Dorset-type commercial herd's medium wool is kept clean and almost all animals are sheared at once. The wool is bagged and goes to a wool pool within a month; none is stored.

The local ethnic demand for market lambs is very strong; the farm could sell twice as many animals as it currently does and marketing is mostly by word of mouth. In this area, the main ethnic markets include Greeks, Muslims, Pakistanis, Indians and Ethiopians. These consumers want male animals; 70-pound lambs are sold for \$140. The farm allows the consumers to slaughter their animals in a special area in the barn, and some of this is Halal slaughter (according to Islamic laws). Offal consists of just the large bones and hide because the buyers take everything else for consumption. The first generation immigrants are very comfortable slaughtering animals themselves; the second generation is becoming Westernized and are not as involved with slaughtering but still eat lamb.

### Stop #6: Sondericker Farm (NYSCHAP), Attica, NY

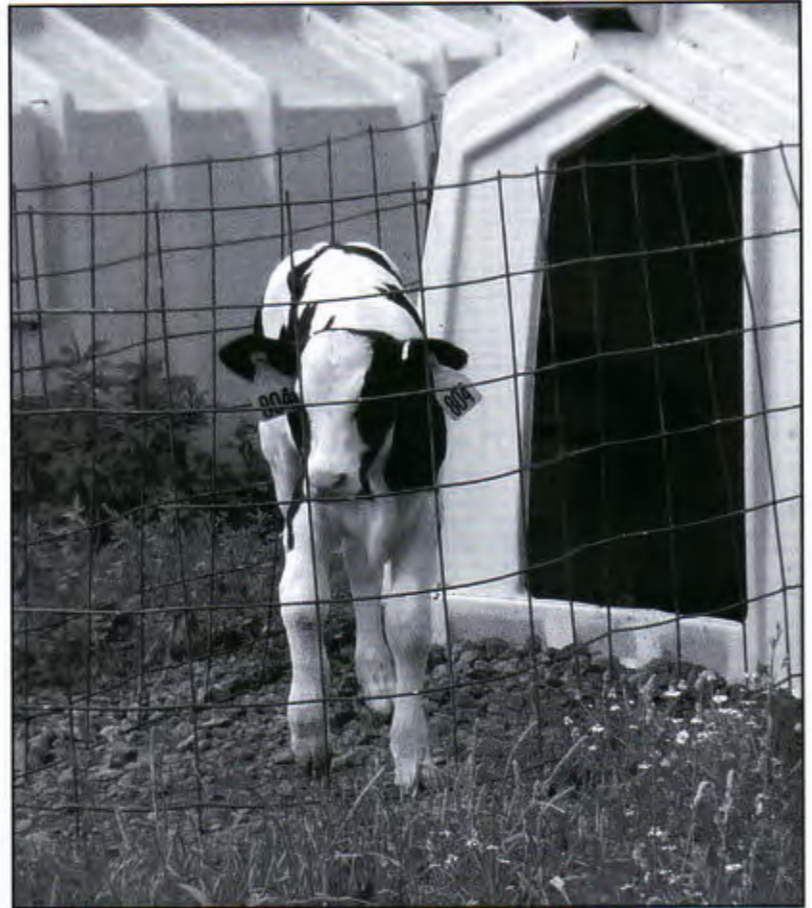
The purpose of this tour stop was to educate the participants about the New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program (NYSCHAP), a program that helps producers assess and reduce disease risks coming onto and leaving the farm. The Sondericker farm is a family operation owned by a father and son; four non-family members are the labor force. This is a 500-cow dairy with a rolling herd average of 22,600. They milk twice daily. They grow their own forage and purchase concentrate.

The owners have been in the NYSCAP program for seven years. They were motivated to enter the program when a cow tested positive for Johne's Disease. After one year in the program, they documented a 7-8% Johne's infection rate. They wanted to control and prevent the disease, not just

manage it. Current Johne's control measures include fecal cultures of adult cows at dry-off; feeding colostrum only from test-negative cows; and putting baby calves in individual hutches. As enrolled members of NYSCAP, the farm receives Johne's and mastitis laboratory testing discounts. Most positive animals test positive after their second or third lactation. These animals are culled.

NYSCHAP is a voluntary program with no enrollment fee. It relies primarily on disease testing and best management practices. It was started in 1998 and 1030 farms are currently enrolled. Farms of any herd size can participate. Current dairy modules include biosecurity and disease prevention. Modules under development include Johne's, mastitis, salmonella, leukosis, BVD, expansion issues, animal welfare and dairy-origin beef quality assurance. There is also a program for beef producers and programs are under development for small ruminants and horses. The program is administered by the NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Partners involved with each farm's NYSCAP plan include a state Ag



*New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program (NYSCHAP) personnel discuss the program with tour group at Sondericker Farm in Attica, NY. Here, calves are kept in hutche with gravel.*

and Markets representative, the herd's veterinarian, a county Extension representative and the owner(s). The team's goal is to produce a negotiated herd plan to address the issues of each NYSCAP module. There is a farm walk-through by the whole team and an annual review process. Areas to address include pre-weaned calf management, heifers/bred heifers, lactating cows and dry cows. Grants are available through NYSCAP to help farms address problems and achieve their goals for each module. Ag and Markets pays private veterinarians for their time spent working on NYSCAP farm plans. These veterinarians can go through a certification process to become NYSCAP implementers and write up herd plans.

The NYSCAP farm plan addresses all aspects of farm sanitation:

manure, meat, milk, calves and cull cows. On this farm, the bulk tank milk is screened with routine culture and sensitivity tests; mycoplasma is a concern. Great emphasis is placed on cleanliness of the calving pen and colostrum management.

Calf management includes feeding one gallon of Johne's-negative colostrum at the first feeding and one-half gallon at the second feeding; subsequent feedings are of whole milk from the line. Calves are kept in hutches on gravel; hutches are disinfected and moved between calves. The farm does not have a problem with calf scours or diarrhea. Calves are weaned at one month and put into small groups. They gain an average of 1.8#/day. Tails are docked at birth.

The milking herd is split into three groups: first calf heifers, second-lactation cows and cows on their third lactation and up. These groups receive haylage, corn silage and cottonseed meal.

Another challenge that this farm is facing is addressing CAFO regulations. They will no longer be able to spread manure on hillsides, so they are digging a lagoon that will allow them to store six-months' worth of manure.

### **Stop #7: HLW Acres, Hermann and Laura Weber, Attica, NY**

If you work full time at Attica State prison, having something else you enjoy doing is very important. For the Weber family, this involves operating a family-owned poultry production and processing operation. When they started with 25 birds in 1989, the Webers had trouble finding someone to process their birds for them, so they decided to start processing their own. Originally they did only custom work but now they retail as well.

The Webers raise 300-400 meat chicks per year using the Joel Salatin pasture-based model. They also raise 100-125 Thanksgiving turkeys annually. They process all these birds on the farm

and also process for others: they process 1500 turkeys annually and can process 50-60 poultry per day. They have a 1,000 bird limit on the number of birds they can grow and process on the farm.

With a New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets 5A license, the Webers can process up to 20,000 units per year for sale to restaurants or individuals. A unit is one chicken; each turkey is four units; ducks and geese are two units each. Their processing facility is USDA-inspected by the state for the federal regulators.

One adult can process 20 birds per hour on the farm. They charge \$1.50 per bird up to seven pounds finished weight for processing. Offal is composted with bedding (straw, hay, wood chips and newspaper). Birds are slaughtered by cutting the throat, not the spinal cord. They are dunked in a 145°F scalding tank for 45 seconds, hung to dry, then sent through the plucking machine for one minute. After complete processing, carcasses are cooled in a walk-in cooler. Ice is produced on the farm to help with the cooling process. The farm has a water quality check four times a year.

The Blackhead/cecal worm disease cycle is a big concern on this farm. The organism is perpetuated through earthworms and cecal worms and their eggs. Earthworms carry the protozoal agent below the frost line, where the organism overwinters. The farm uses the pre-mix Histostat-50® to help prevent Blackhead outbreaks.

The farm has created its own mineral mix and buys no commercial feeds. They buy hay for their small (35 head) cow/calf operation.

Eggs from the laying hen flock are direct marketed for \$1.50 a dozen. Farm-grown turkeys are marketed at 4 to 5 months old and chickens at 8 weeks. The current licensing category requires that the processing shop be inspected, but retail products do not have to be. The state Agriculture and Market laws allow a processor to process birds for

another producer and the producer can sell the processed bird to a third party: the Webers buy birds to be processed for other producers for \$1, process them, label them (producer's name, number of birds processed, processing date and whether or not they are available for re-sale) and sell them back to the producer after processing.

### **Stop #8: Francisco Farms, Belmont, NY**

The proud New York State dairy industry meets the future at Francisco Farms! This robotic milking complex is the first of its kind in Western NY. Tour participants were able to see the 24/7 robotic milking units in action throughout the tour. Each robotic unit saves 8 or 9 hours of labor each day at this 240-cow dairy, which helps address one of the biggest problems of modern dairying.

This system received a \$250,000 energy research grant from New York State. There are four units at the complex and each cost \$140-160,000. Each unit has its own air compressor, chiller and washer. It washes each cow's udder three times with brushes and a non-iodine wash. One robot can handle 60 cows in 24 hours. The robot reads the data in a transponder in each cow's ear and will not allow the cow to enter the milking unit if less than the pre-determined amount of time set for that cow has elapsed. The robot is programmed to allow fresh cows to be milked six times a day, for example. Also, different levels are set for each cow's "kick out" production level: fresh cows are released from the unit after they have milked eight pounds, but other cows are retained until they have milked 15 pounds.

A great deal of data is recorded about each milking on each cow and managers review this information regularly. A change in conductivity can be an early indicator of mastitis, for example. Interestingly, the herd's somatic cell count was 200-222,000 before the



robotic system and is now 140,000. Cows with mastitis leave the robotic herd and are treated at the farm's conventional barn.

It took about a week for the cows to get used to the milking system. They learned that if they wanted to eat, they had to go through the robot, so they learned how to push the gates and enter the milking area to receive grain. Some cows prefer to be milked on the right side and others on the left, so the cows can choose which robotic unit to enter.

Some cows don't like the robotic unit and the unit doesn't fit all cows well—they can't be too tall for the system or have unusual teat placement (such problem cows are called "lunkers" and require more labor). If a cow kicks a hose off or there is another problem, a call is automatically made to a cell phone of the person on duty who comes to the complex to fix the problem. There are more problems with the robotic system in the winter. The units have a battery-powered backup system.

The free stall area was clean and comfortable. Sand bedding is used and manure is spread year-round. The average herd age is 3 years old. The Franciscos are concentrating their

breeding program for the robotic herd for udder composition scores greater than two and are selecting for longer teats.

### Conclusion

From gamma rays to CSAs, from veal to bakery waste deals, this tour had it all. In just two days, tour participants were privileged to experience in-depth visits to eight noteworthy and unique agricultural operations in Western New York State. The tour coordinators and hosts ensured that this was an educational, memorable and high-quality event. Thanks to generous sponsorship from Scoring Systems, Inc., participating Extension educators personally incurred no expenses during the tour.

The animal science pre-conference tour has become a highlight of the annual NACAA conference for many Extension educators. More agents are encouraged to apply to participate in next year's tour in Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky.

The NACAA Animal Science Committee wishes to thank ScoringSystem, Inc for sponsoring the 2005 tour. ScoringSystem, Inc

(www.scoringsystem.com) is a global technology company specializing in information databases. The company develops record-keeping systems for livestock operations that are inexpensive, web based and easy to use.

Special recognition and thanks go to Lisa Kempisty and Mike Baker, the tour coordinators from New York, for doing an outstanding job of putting this year's tour together.

For information on participating in the 2006 Animal Science Pre-Conference Tour in Cincinnati, Ohio, look for application details in the March issue of *The County Agent* or contact Barry Foushee, Animal Science National Chair, with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at (336)318-6007 or [barry\\_foushee@ncsu.edu](mailto:barry_foushee@ncsu.edu). Full scholarships are available thanks to our sponsor.

Members of Animal Science Committee are: Western Region Vice Chair, Randy Mills of Oregon; North Central Region Vice Chair, Mark Stewart of Missouri; North East Region Vice Chair Wendy Sorrell of Vermont; and Southern Region Vice Chair and National Chair, Barry Foushee of North Carolina.

# The County Agent

*The County Agent* is a publication of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents  
President: Mickey Cummings

Editor: Scott Hawbaker - Greendell Publishing  
252 N. Park Street, Decatur, IL 62523  
(217) 877-3425 • Fax (217) 877-5382  
e-mail: [nacaemail@aol.com](mailto:nacaemail@aol.com)  
<http://www.nacaa.com>

Volume LXVI No. 4 November, 2005 *The County Agent* (ISSN 0164-3932) (USPS 0134-900) is published four times per year (Jan., Apr., Aug. Nov.) by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, 252 N. Park Street, Decatur, IL 62523. Subscription price is \$10.00 annually and is included as part of an active member's dues. Periodical Class postage paid at Decatur, IL.

Submit articles and photos to Greendell Publishing at the address listed above.

**POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**  
*The County Agent* - National Association of County Agricultural Agents  
Editor: Scott Hawbaker  
252 N. Park Street, Decatur, IL 62523

**NACAA President**  
Mickey Cummings  
185 Welborn Street, Box 5  
Civic Center Building  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
Ph: (706) 439-6030  
Fax: (706) 439-6036  
[coosa@uga.edu](mailto:coosa@uga.edu)

**NACAA President Elect**  
Chuck Otte  
PO Box 28  
Junction City, KS 66441  
Ph: (785) 238-4161  
Fax: (785) 238-7166  
[cotte@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:cotte@oznet.ksu.edu)

**NACAA Vice President**  
N. Fred Miller  
1175 S. Brady Avenue  
PO Box 389  
Newton, NC 28658  
Ph: (828) 465-8240  
Fax: (828) 465-8428  
[Fred\\_Miller@ncsu.edu](mailto:Fred_Miller@ncsu.edu)

**NACAA Secretary**  
3301 East 10<sup>th</sup>  
Amarillo, TX 79104  
Ph: 806.373.0713  
Fax: 806.373.7946  
[l-church@tamu.edu](mailto:l-church@tamu.edu)



**NACAA Treasurer**  
Chuck Schwartau  
863 30th Ave SE  
Rochester, MN 55904-4915  
Ph: (507) 536-6301  
Fax: (507) 280-2872  
[cschwart@umn.edu](mailto:cschwart@umn.edu)

# Opportunities and Needs With Ethnic and Cultural Food Systems

The Extension Services of Ohio State University, University of Kentucky, Kentucky State and Purdue University will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Tri-State Diversity Conference in Cincinnati on November 17-18. The theme of this year's conference is "Experience the Diversity of Food: Production Through Consumption." Regional and national experts will discuss issues related to production, marketing, and consumption of ethnic and cultural foods.

Specific topics will include: Farm to Table, Food Cultures, Research on Consumer Trends, Aquaculture, Food and School Policy, Religion and Food, Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods, Ethnic Cooking and Culinary Arts, Goat Meat Production and Marketing, Research Changing Appalachian Food Ways, Genetically Modified Foods, How to Coordinate Niche Marketing, Food and Latino Culture, Herbs and Other Plants for Cooking, and Agriculture/Heritage Tourism related to culture.

Karen Williams from Ohio State University Extension says this conference is so needed today considering the changing demographics and needs of our region. This is a must for anyone wanting to understand ethnic and cultural food issues for education, research, or business purposes. The program is open to the public but might be especially valuable to professionals in education, public health, food service, agribusiness, and dietetics. Continuing Education Units from Ohio State University will also be available for purchase.

If you are interested in registering, you can call Ohio State University Office of Continuing Education Management at 614-292-8571 or you can visit [www.ces.purdue.edu/dearborn/diversityconf.htm](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/dearborn/diversityconf.htm) to register online. The early bird registration cost per individual is \$125 by November 1. Reservations for the Sheraton Four Points/ Millennium Hotel can be made by calling 513-352-2100. Room rates are \$99.

---

## NACAA Futuring Committee

Dan Kluchinski (NJ), Chair

The NACAA Futuring Committee was formed in January 2005 by NACAA President Glenn Rogers as an ongoing effort to evaluate our organization's future. The committee's charge was to address the following issues:

- o Increasing younger membership and involvement
- o Attendance at Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference
- o Building relationship with JCEP and other professional associations
- o Different staffing patterns and effects on clientele and the profession
- o Helping members understand issues better
- o Is the NACAA mission changing?

- o Increased relationships with USDA-CSREES
- o Increasing your support for promotion and tenure back home
- o What role does NACAA play as a leader in the changing Extension System?

Members of the NACAA Futuring Committee were selected with the assistance of the NACAA Officers, Regional Directors and State Presidents. The goal was to have a mix of professionals with various backgrounds and disciplines, regional representation, years of experience, and other aspects of diversity that represent our membership.

To date the committee has met via conference calls and one face-to-face meeting at the 2005 AM/PIC in Buffalo. Our work has focused on developing re-

sponses to the above listed issues, gathering information, and preparing to solicit information and input from NACAA members, life members, non-members and others. We welcome your opinions and advice and ask that you look for future correspondence and requests from us through a variety of methods we are currently developing. In the interim, please feel free to contact any of the Futuring Committee members with your ideas and concerns related to our charge at <http://nacaa.com/committees/futuring/>.

The committee will prepare and present a draft report to the NACAA Board prior to their Spring Board meeting in March/April 2006 for review and comment. The final report is to be presented in July 2006 at the AM/PIC in Cincinnati, OH.

# **NACAA Should Ask Some Hard Questions About Itself**

By: Mickey Cummings-NACAA President

I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Osborn Elementary School when Georgia Schools were integrated. I remember the worry of many parents that were concerned about potential riots around our schools because of the new integration policy.

The 1<sup>st</sup> day of school under the integration policy was a curious one. As we all walked into the school the white kids lined one side of the hall and the African American kids lined the other side of the hall. This moment was fairly tense until Ricky, an African American kid we called Moose, looked at me and told me that I was so ugly that my momma had to tie a pork chop around my neck to get the dogs to play with me. Then he laughed and we all started laughing.

A week or two later our principal organized us by classes into 4 or 5 ball teams. Moose and I were on the same team. He played left field and I played short stop. Moose impressed me because he chose to play without a glove. He was an excellent fielder and he could hit the ball farther than anyone in our school including the teachers. After a few weeks we became good friends.

After the regular season all stars were chosen to represent Osborn in a tournament. After the other team had batted in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning we found ourselves behind by 10 runs. I made two errors and our team was not playing well. We were on the threshold of giving up. There were 2 outs and David was batting. He got a hit. Then I got a hit. Then

Larry got a hit. Next came Moose and he hit a grand slam.

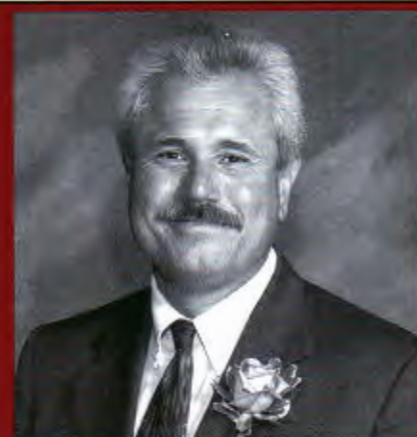
This hit by Moose rallied our team and we fought back and played a wonderful game. Eventually we lost. But, we lost with pride and dignity and the other team respected us because we did not give up. Because of the diversity of our team we were stronger and smarter than we were during the previous year.

The year of integration taught me and a bunch of other 6<sup>th</sup> graders the importance of diversity. Every time I hear of a University paying someone a large sum of money to come and speak to its faculty about diversity I chuckle to myself and think about that 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. All I ever need to know about diversity was learned on a ball field.

What does this have to do with NACAA? While I was on an air plane flight the other day I looked at the diversity of the people on that plane and thought that the strength of our nation is due to our diversity. Further thought led me to the NACAA futuring committee and I began to ask myself questions. These are questions that we should be thinking of as it concerns the future of NACAA.

If diversity causes an organization to become stronger then it's logical to think that NACAA would be stronger if we were more diverse. So, the 1<sup>st</sup> question that we should ask ourselves is "How can NACAA become more diverse?"

Another question that should be asked is, "How can we increase the amount of participation of younger members in NACAA?" We need more involvement from our younger members. We need to



**Mickey P. Cummings**  
NACAA President

find ways for NACAA to involve those members.

Also, elections are important. When an officer is elected that person can affect the policy of NACAA for 3 – 4 years, so, another question we should ask is, "How can NACAA develop potential leaders for tomorrow?"

The final question we should ask is, "How can NACAA increase its professional improvement opportunities"? Over the past 5 or 6 years your NACAA Board has steadily added to the number of professional improvement opportunities that are offered at the NACAA AM/PIC, the Regional Meetings and at the PILD. Maybe it's time that we offered some opportunities at another time. For example, NACAA could develop an electronic refereed journal. Other associations offer a journal. Why can't NACAA?

If you have thoughts or suggestions along these lines please contact the chair of the NACAA Futuring Committee, Dan Kluchinski, at [kluchinski@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:kluchinski@aesop.rutgers.edu).

# 2007 Farm Bill Input Needed

In the coming months, senior officials of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold a series of public forums at various U.S. locations to obtain public input for the development of the 2007 Farm Bill. The dates, locations, and times of the forums will be announced in USDA press releases (<http://www.usda.gov>).

The 2002 Farm Bill (officially entitled the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) authorizes many USDA programs, including farm price and income support programs. New legislation will need to be enacted prior to the bill's expiration in 2007.

USDA intends to develop recommendations for the new farm bill and believes that public input is essential to this process. To comment, please respond to the

questions below by December 30, 2005.

NOTE: All comments, including names and addresses, provided by respondents are a matter of public record. Comments may be viewed at the Department of Agriculture. To make arrangements to view comments, please contact the Office of the Executive Secretariat, Room 116A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3355.

USDA is seeking public comments on the following farm policy considerations:

Question 1: The challenges facing new farmers and ranchers as they enter agriculture.

Some observers note that while farm policy has served agriculture and the

country well in the past, there are "unintended consequences" that should be addressed, such as the capitalization of program benefits into land prices. These higher land prices are cited as a barrier to entry into agriculture for new farmers; a factor in reduced profit for existing farmers; and a cause of weakened competitive position on the part of U.S. farmers compared with farmers in countries with lower-priced land.

How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

Question 2: The competitiveness of U.S. agriculture in global and domestic markets.

# Doc @ Distance

## Grow Your Career!



**Now accepting applicants for the 2010 COHORT!**  
The third class of doctoral students (Cohort 2010) will begin in August 2006.

Earn a joint Doctor of Education degree in Agricultural Education through a cohort program offered by Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University.



<http://docatadistance.tamu.edu> • (806) 742-2816 or (979) 862-0419

As bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade negotiations continue to result in reduced barriers to international trade, exports and imports of agricultural products are expected to become increasingly important factors in U.S. and global agriculture. Obtaining ever-greater access to growing foreign markets and being increasingly competitive in these and in domestic markets is essential for farm economic growth. One key factor in our ability to be competitive depends on the types of products demanded around the world in the next 10 to 20 years and our ability to produce products that meet this world demand.

How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

Question 3: The appropriateness and effectiveness of the distribution of farm program benefits.

A longstanding goal of farm policy has been to enhance and stabilize farm prices and incomes. Current farm programs, including crop insurance, distribute assistance based on past and current production levels. Some argue that the current farm support system encourages increases in farm size and results in the disproportionate distribution of program benefits to large farms. It has

also been suggested that program incentives lead to increased production and lower market prices.

How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

Question 4: The achievement of conservation and environmental goals.

While producing food and fiber are essential functions, agriculture also plays a major role in natural resource stewardship. Some have suggested that future farm policy might be anchored around the provision of tangible benefits such as cleaner water and air. Such an approach may be consistent with future World Trade Organization obligations on domestic support to agriculture, while also expanding farm programs to extend more broadly across agriculture, including private forest lands.

How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

Question 5: The enhancement of rural economic growth.

Farming and rural America once were almost synonymous. Over the years, the demographic and economic

characteristics of rural areas have changed, as has farming's role in the rural economy. This raises the issue of whether more Government attention should be focused on investing in the infrastructure in rural America (for example, investing in new technologies).

How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Question 6: The opportunities to expand agricultural products, markets, and research.

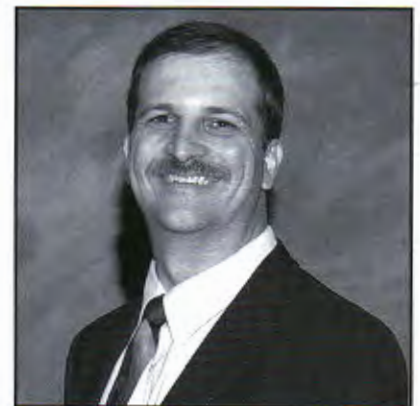
Changes in farm and market structure over past decades have led to suggestions that farm policy could be more flexible by enabling greater support for a broader range of activities helpful to agriculture market expansion. Examples are: attention to product quality and new attributes; organic and specialty crops; value-added products, including renewable energy and bioproducts and new uses for farm products generally; expanded basic and applied research; domestic and foreign market development; and similar activities.

How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

## **Dorner Appointed Electronics Communication Coordinator for NACAA**

John Dorner, IV has accepted a 3 year appointment by the NACAA board of directors as the Electronics Communication Coordinator. Dorner currently serves as an Area Specialized Agent, Information Management (IT Training) for the North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service. He provides training and coordination for educational programs to enhance the technology skills of NCSU Extension staff related to computer hardware, software and the management and delivery of information.

As Electronics Communication Coordinator (ECC) for NACAA, Dorner will maintain the NACAA website, coordinate email lists, and assist with communication efforts to NACAA membership. Dorner replaces retiring Pennsylvania agent Laura Watts, who diligently served NACAA as ECC since the websites inception.



**John Dorner, IV**

# **Global Harmonization**

## **What's the Impact?**

*The NACAA Board of Directors has not and does not intend to take a formal position on GHS - this article is for informational purposes as is will affect NACAA members in their educational duties*

# **Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the classification and labeling of hazardous chemicals is an initiative to promote common, consistent criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health, physical and environmental hazards, and to develop compatible labeling, safety data sheets for workers, and other information based on the resulting classifications. In July 2003 the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) formally adopted the GHS and authorized its translation into official UN languages and dissemination throughout the world. The intent is that countries which lack systems for hazard classification and labeling will adopt the GHS as the fundamental basis for national policies for the sound management of chemicals, and that countries which already have systems will adapt them to be consistent with the GHS. The U.S. has been participating in GHS activities with a number of other countries and key industry, worker, and public interest stakeholders.

The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, or Earth Summit), the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) have all endorsed the need for the GHS, and IFCS and WSSD have set a goal of 2008 for its implementation.

## **Goals and Anticipated Benefits of the GHS**

The twin goals of the GHS are to enhance public health and environmental protection and reduce barriers to trade. Currently, a number of countries operate their own systems for classification and labeling, and companies must comply with differing requirements depending on where they do business. A harmonized system will lead to greater consistency among countries and thereby promote safer transportation and handling of chemicals. For example, harmonized criteria and widely recognized symbols and warnings used in the transport of hazardous chemicals will help protect workers and other potentially-exposed populations from acutely toxic chemicals and chemicals that pose flammability or explosive hazards. A more uniform, harmonized system of requirements should also reduce costs for companies involved in international trade. Thus, harmonization will promote regulatory efficiency and facilitate trade without lowering the level of health and environmental protection afforded by current laws and regulations. Other potential benefits of the harmonized sys-

tem include reduction in animal testing now needed for compliance with divergent national systems and the conservation of scientific resources.

## **Components of the GHS**

GHS hazard classification criteria have been adopted by consensus for physical hazards (flammability, explosivity, etc.) and key health and environmental effects, including: acute toxicity, carcinogenicity, germ cell mutagenicity, reproductive/developmental toxicity, respiratory and skin sensitization, skin and eye irritation/corrosion, target organ/systemic toxicity, and aquatic toxicity. Standardized label elements (symbols, signal words and hazard statements) for each of these hazard classes have been developed and agreed, along with a standard format and approach to presentation of GHS information in safety data sheets. The GHS document also includes guidance on other issues relevant to implementation of the system, including product identifiers, confidential business information, and precedence of hazards.

## **Implementation Considerations**

U.S. participation in the GHS will be voluntary, and may entail adaptation of the system as needed based on U.S. circumstances. The scope of the harmonization effort includes all hazardous chemicals, which is consistent with the U.S. regulatory scheme. Implementation will mean significant changes in how chemicals, including pesticides, are labeled in the workplace, transportation, and consumer use settings. Key U.S. agencies involved in the GHS include the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

While the GHS will classify chemicals essentially based on their intrinsic hazard properties, without full analysis of exposure and risk, the system may apply differently in different settings or stages in the life cycle of a product. For example, the U.S. CPSC uses a risk-based approach to labeling for chronic effects, while OSHA uses a hazard approach and DOT does not require chronic effects labeling. This is expected to continue consistent with the GHS.

The GHS is a voluntary system, in that it does not impose binding treaty obligations on countries, but to the extent that countries adopt the GHS into national regulatory requirements it will be binding on the regulated community.

## **Key International Organizations Involved in the GHS**

The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, or Earth Summit), the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) have all en-

dorsed the need for the GHS. IFCS and WSSD set a goal of 2008 for its implementation.

The UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS, created under the auspices of ECOSOC, is the permanent international body charged with maintaining, updating, and promoting implementation of the GHS. It reports to ECOSOC through the joint Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

The development of the GHS was directed by a Coordinating Group of the Inter-Organization Group for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), and the resulting document was adopted by a consensus of participants from governments, industry, worker organizations, and other stakeholders. Three international focal points were responsible for the technical work: the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for development of health and environmental hazard classification criteria; a working group of the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNCETDG) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) for development of criteria for physical hazards; and an ILO working group for development of standardized hazard communication tools. Each of these international organizations involved affected industries and other non-governmental organizations in their deliberations.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is working with a number of agencies (including ILO and OECD) and countries to provide assistance to developing countries in implementing the GHS. Capacity Building for GHS Implementation was approved by the WSSD in August 2002 as a global partnership activity. The U.S. Government and some stakeholder organizations are members of the WSSD partnership to promote GHS implementation.

### **Links to Other Sites**

The GHS document, reports of meetings, and papers considered by the UN Sub-Committee and Committee are available on the Internet at:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>

---

## **Questions & Answers Regarding Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

For decades countries have used different systems for informing workers and consumers about physical, health and/or environmental hazards associated with the use of chemicals. Such disparities can create barriers for companies engaged in international trade and cause confusion and potential risks to people because of inconsistent labeling. To address these problems, the U.S. and other governments and stakeholders have worked together to develop a harmonized international system. EPA is requesting comments on a white paper that outlines the Agency's initial plans for applying the new system to pesticide labels. This document provides answers to general questions about these plans and the new classification system.

### **1. What is the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals?**

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, or GHS, is a logical and comprehensive approach to defining chemical hazards, classifying chemicals based on the best available data, and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. It was developed through years of international negotiations and is based on harmonizing the approaches taken in the major existing classification systems used throughout the world. The GHS sets out hazard classification criteria and key label elements, including symbols, signal words ("danger" or "warning," depending on the severity of the hazard), and hazard statements (such as "causes skin irritation").

### **2. Why is EPA publishing a White Paper?**

As the Agency responsible for regulating the use, sale, and distribution of pesticides in the United States, EPA maintains criteria for classifying and labeling pesticide products. EPA is planning to revise its policies to be consistent with the internationally harmonized system. Given the size and scale of the pesticide market in the United States and the importance of label review in the U.S. system of pesticide regulation, EPA recognizes that significant effort and time would be required to implement GHS label changes and conduct effective outreach and education activities. Implementation would also require continued coordination at a national and international level. EPA foresees this process occurring in multiple stages over several



years. The white paper outlines EPA's current thinking and invites public comment on how to implement the GHS in ways that will maximize the benefits of harmonization while minimizing the burden on stakeholders and the agency.

### **3. Why was the GHS developed, and why is EPA planning to adopt it?**

The production and use of chemicals is fundamental to all economies. The global chemical business is more than a \$1.7 trillion per year enterprise. In the United States alone, chemicals constitute more than \$450 billion in business, and exports exceed \$80 billion per year. The United States, like many other countries, has developed systems for providing information on hazardous properties and control measures aimed at ensuring the safe production, transport, use, and disposal of chemicals. Existing systems are not always compatible, however, and often require multiple labels and safety data sheets for the same product both within the United States and in international trade. Consequently, users may see inconsistent label warnings or safety data sheet information for the same chemical. Companies involved in international trade need to follow multiple regulations regarding hazard classification and labeling depending on where they do business. In addition to being costly and time-consuming, this complicates compliance efforts and can result in barriers to international trade in chemicals.

The GHS was developed to address these problems by bringing greater consistency to chemical hazard classification and labeling, without reducing the level of protection afforded by existing systems. The major goals of the GHS are to promote safer handling, transport and use of chemicals and to reduce unnecessary barriers to trade. The intent is that countries that already have classification and labeling systems will adapt them to be consistent with the GHS, and that countries that do not now have well-developed

regulatory systems will adopt the GHS as a first step toward development of more comprehensive national strategies for the sound management of chemicals. EPA believes that pesticide users and producers will benefit from greater harmonization of our requirements with those of other agencies and countries, and that adoption of the GHS will both advance our public health and environmental protection goals and reduce trade barriers that confront U.S. companies.

### **4. How has the U.S. been involved in developing the GHS?**

The United States has taken a leadership role in GHS negotiations for more than a decade, beginning with the international community's endorsement of the development of "a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labelling system, including material safety data sheets and easily understandable symbols" at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, or the "Earth Summit"). In addition to EPA, key U.S. agencies involved in development of the GHS include the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, as well as the State Department and other agencies interested in the international and trade aspects of the system. U.S. industry stakeholders and representatives of workers in the chemical industry also participated and joined in the consensus which led to formal adoption of the GHS by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in July 2003.

### **5. How long will it take to change pesticide labels?**

Given the size and scale of the pesticide market in the United States and the importance of label review in the U.S. system of pesticide regulation, EPA recognizes that significant effort and time would be required to implement the GHS label changes and conduct effective out-

reach and education activities. After labeling rules and policies change, there would need to be time for a transition to the new labels. Implementation will also require coordination at a national and international level to avoid unnecessary disruptions. EPA foresees this process occurring in multiple stages over several years. At the international level, bodies such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum have set goals for GHS implementation in the 2006-2008 time frame. This is a very ambitious goal for pesticides.

## ***Viewpoints:***

The American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) submitted these comments as representative of its membership. Membership consists primarily of Pesticide Coordinators from Land Grant Universities who conduct pesticide safety education programs across the country and State Lead Agency personnel who are responsible for testing and certifying pesticide applicators, and enforcing pesticide regulations in the United States.

As the national network of pesticide safety educators/trainers and competency and enforcement personnel, the implementation of the GHS will significantly impact our programs. We have several concerns related to the proposed implementation plan and outreach activities and plans.

First we applaud EPA for adopting all GHS physical hazard classes and corresponding label elements including pictograms and signal words. These will provide the user or handler with substantially more information about pesticide products. We also commend the decision to maintain precautionary statements including first aid and storage and disposal statements. As to the question of requiring telephone numbers as part of supplier identifier information on la-

bels we agree that telephone numbers should be required.

In considering implementation mechanisms, OPP has stated that it has two guiding principles; "the mechanisms used should be fair to the regulated community and should minimize the resource burden placed on OPP and on stakeholders to the extent possible." It is our view that the regulated community consists of a variety of stakeholders. Industry is one group of stakeholders including those who sell, handle or apply pesticides such as: retailers, dealers, applicators, consultants. Worker Protection Standard trainers, handlers and workers are also primary stakeholders. Additionally, those involved with training and regulating pesticide users and handlers must be considered primary stakeholders for any implementation plan to function smoothly and to be effective.

AAPSE embraces proposed implementation option 2. Integrating GHS into ongoing registration and re-registration actions and label changes submitted by industry that come in for OPP review as part of routine business. This would keep costs down and allow more time for outreach to the user community which will facilitate a more smooth, safe transition at the user level.

Updating EPA's acute toxicity data base is well over due. A revised updated data base will facilitate reviewing new labels as GHS changes are made. This work should be completed before any new labels are issued.

AAPSE does not support the idea of a pilot project before final rule changes are in place. If a pilot project is launched and there has been little or no outreach material developed and few or no applicator/user trainings on signal words, symbols and pictograms, EPA is only testing how to get the labels into the market, and not determining whether the handler or end user will have any un-

derstanding of the new labels. Education must come before the labels are on the shelf.

It would be very beneficial to educators and regulatory personnel to have as many questions and situations answered on GHS, as possible, prior to implementation. Experience with other regulatory changes involving pesticides, such as the Worker Protection Standard and the Endangered Species program have demonstrated that when answers to questions are vague or information is not clearly conveyed, at or before the time of implementation, confidence and credibility of trainers and regulators is lost.

Outreach to the user and handler community and its associated costs must be considered as a primary part of the implementation of GHS for pesticides, not as secondary. Outreach is as important to successful and safe implementation as how the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs registration staff will handle approving new labels. In order to effect a smooth transition it will be necessary, early on in the implementation plan, to get basic information into the hands of the people who sell and handle pesticide products; retailers, dealers, applicators, consultants, master gardeners, Worker Protection Standard trainers, handlers, and workers. A mechanism to assist in funding the direct costs and person hours involved in revising all state/national certification exams, study materials, digital/video media and websites should be considered. Since signal words and labels are fundamental to pesticide certification and training, extensive changes will need to occur in a wide array of publications and media.

Based on reference points from the text of the white paper, the timeline which EPA would like to pursue is: rulemaking in 2004, rules in 2005, implementation in 2006 and full compliance in 2008. We believe that not one new label should be allowed on the market until initial out-

reach efforts and support materials are in place. AAPSE strongly suggests that by the time rulemaking is complete the rudimentary outreach of a simple fact sheet that addresses the new usage of signal words, symbols, and pictograms is in place and entered into the training arena, initially as awareness. Full incorporation into training manuals, exams and the long list of other resources which are currently in place should occur during GHS implementation.

On the question of timing on implementation AAPSE offers the following additions to the suggested time frames indicated in the white paper:

### 2004

Initiate rule making.

Initiate development of outreach materials, most particularly a fact sheet that can be utilized in training and added to study manuals as an addendum prior to manual revisions.

### 2005

Finalize rule.

Finalize development of outreach materials. Develop outreach material appropriate to move into trade outlets (attached to containers, including copies in shipping boxes). Work with retailers to provide these materials to customers.

Extension initiates work on updating training materials.

States prepare to decouple existing state regulations tied to the current classification system.

### 2006

EPA and educators initiate formal education campaign.

Fully include new signal words, symbols, and pictograms as formal portion of training programs for applicators, retailers, etc. Revision of existing pesticide safety outreach materials (study manuals, fact sheets, magnets, etc.) continues.

States re-write pesticide applicator certification exams to reflect GHS changes.

### 2007

States complete the process of decoupling existing state regulations tied to current pesticide classification system.

States begin to introduce new exams reflecting GHS label changes.

Extension continues to train applicators and handlers about GHS changes.

### 2008

Full implementation has been achieved.

OPP continues to revise incoming labels

Extension finalizes revisions of any materials that were not revised in 2006 and 2007 and continues outreach education for users and handlers of pesticides.

State implementation of new exams takes place.

AAPSE is willing and ready to work with the EPA GHS Implementation Work Group to facilitate a smooth transition to the new labeling program. It is our primary concern that users understand the hazards presented with the use of pesticides and have the knowledge and skills necessary to use them responsibly.

## **Additional Viewpoints:**

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)<sup>®</sup>, on behalf of its member companies, submits these comments in response to a EPA Notice – Pesticides; Implementation of Globally Harmonized System (GHS).

While the Agency has asked for comments regarding the implementation of GHS, RISE believes that pesticide products required to be registered in accordance with FIFRA should be exempted from GHS requirements for the following reasons:

1) The U.N. states upfront that a primary purpose for GHS is that "Given the large number of chemical products available, individual regulation of all of them is simply not possible for any entity." While this maybe true of chemical products in general, it is not true of pesticide products registered in the United States under FIFRA. Under FIFRA's licensing mandate, unlike other chemical products whether industrial or consumer, every individual product label subject to the requirements of FIFRA must be reviewed and approved by the USEPA. In addition, FIFRA makes it mandatory for label directions to be followed. Before registering a product, EPA must determine that when the product is used according to those label instructions, there will be no unreasonable adverse effects on the environment, to the applicators of the product and anyone subsequently exposed. If GHS labeling was necessary to protect human health, it would only be because EPA has not been meeting its statutory obligations.

2) The GHS is not a harmonized labeling system; it is simply a harmonized

hazard communication system. Because EPA requires pesticides to be labeled, and approves the specific label language, and requires the pesticides to be applied in accordance with the labeling instructions, OSHA explicitly exempted FIFRA regulated products from its hazard communication requirements (59 FR 6170, Feb. 9, 1994). Likewise, pesticides are specifically exempted from the labeling requirements for consumer products under the Federal Hazardous Substance Act: "The term "hazardous substance" shall not apply to pesticides subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act" (FHSA Sec. 2(f)2.). These generalized requirements are not necessary as the specific labeling is mandatory.

3) Hazard communication, proper use and handling of pesticides by commercial applicators and agricultural workers are addressed through specific training required for state licensing or certification of applicators and worker protection standards. Not only is GHS unnecessary to address these, the adoption of GHS will necessitate the complete rewriting present training and materials, as all are based on current labeling categories. The retraining of literally millions of certified applicators, maintenance applicators, service technicians and agricultural workers will be required.

4) In the case of consumer products, GHS Annex 4 on consumer labeling states (A4.2.2.7) that for non-cancer chronic endpoints, if expected exposures are less than an acceptable daily intake, no hazard communication is required. Likewise for carcinogens, if a less than one in a million risk is determined no hazard communication is required (A4.2.2.9). Since meeting these criteria are both requirements for USEPA registration of consumer pesticide products,

hazard communication for these effects should never be required for consumer pesticides.

5) GHS is supposed to facilitate international trade. However, given FIFRA's licensing authority, the GHS does nothing to allow the global sale of products simply based on GHS compliance. A pesticide product produced and labeled for sale in another country will not be able to be sold in the U.S. as it will not bear the EPA approved label, regardless of GHS. In addition, many U.S. pesticide products such as insect repellents and animal products are not regulated as pesticides in other countries, and GHS will just mean there will be even more discrepancy in their labeling than there is now. For example, in Germany insect repellents are regulated under the cosmetics law (as sunscreens are here) and flea and tick products for pets as drugs.

6) USEPA will be burdened with the enormous tasks of reviewing and revising some 20,000 pesticide labels (which, no matter how it is done by EPA, will lead to inequalities and inconsistencies during implementation).

7) Every Agriculture Cooperative Extension office in the United States (with more than 9,600 local extension agents in 3,150 U.S. counties) will be forced to change every pesticide training program and all related reference materials. All Worker Protection Standard and applicator training will have to be redone, PPE recommendations, databases of products, and the list goes on and on. Meanwhile, the debate continues over the current Pesticide Safety Educational Programs (PSEP) budget. The Ag extension offices don't have enough resources available to do the job now.

8) There are myriad of other "unintended consequences" as well if GHS is implemented for conventional pesticide labels. Many states have regulations or even statutory requirements based on the current labeling categories. For example, some require that only products with "CAUTION" labels can be used in certain circumstances. The attached page of internet sites is only a few of the thousands of commercial, government, and public interest sites that make reference to current signal words and in particular "CAUTION" with regard to choosing a product, understanding of labeling, or choosing personal protective equipment. Adopting GHS will cause untold confusion.

Conclusion:

We understand the objectives for attempting to harmonize pesticide labeling, especially with Canada, however, those efforts should focus on only pesticide labeling, and on all aspects of the labeling. The GHS does not accomplish harmonization of pesticide labeling with regard to uses, rates, pre-harvest intervals, or re-entry. We also understand that there is interest on the part of many antimicrobial product producers to adopt GHS and perhaps it may be appropriate to implement it only for this class of pesticides.

In summary, unlike other chemical products, each individual pesticide product and label are already thoroughly reviewed and approved by the USEPA. The EPA's approval process insures that human health and the environment are protected. Implementation of the GHS will do nothing to protect human health or the environment.

Implementation of the GHS will severely strain the already limited resources on

programs within OPP, the states and county extension offices.

RISE believes it is in the best interest of everyone involved for the USEPA to recognize that the GHS program is not appropriate for conventional pesticide products marketed domestically at this time.

**Editors Note:** *The NACAA Board of Directors realizes this topic may very well be controversial within the marketplace. As a professional improvement association, NACAA is providing it's membership with this general overview of the topic in an effort to educate, show differing viewpoints, and is not endorsing either viewpoint provided.*

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### **JCEP 2006 Regional Leadership Workshops**

**Southern Region  
February 1-3, 2006  
Nashville, TN**

**West Region  
February 7-9, 2006  
Phoenix, AZ**

**Northeast Region  
February 22-24, 2006  
Valley Forge, PA**

**North Central Region  
February 28 – March 2, 2006  
St. Louis, MO**

United States Postal Service

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Publication Title<br><b>The County Agent</b>   | 2. Publication Number<br>0 1 3 4 - 9 0 0    | 3. Filing Date<br>October 1, 2005                               |
| 4. Issue Frequency<br>January, April, August, November  | 5. Number of Issues Published Annually<br>4 | 6. Annual Subscription Price<br>\$10.00                         |
| 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)<br>National Association of County Agricultural Agents<br>252 N. Park Street<br>Decatur, IL 62523-1306 |   | Contact Person<br>Scott Hawbaker<br>Telephone<br>(217) 876-1220 |

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)  
Same as Above

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)  
Greenfield Publishing  
252 N. Park Street  
Decatur, IL 62523-1306

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)  
Scott Hawbaker  
Same as Above

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)  
Scott Hawbaker  
Same as Above

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

| Full Name  | Complete Mailing Address                   |
|--|--|
| National Association of County Agricultural Agents | 252 N. Park Street, Decatur, IL 62523-1306 |

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None

| Full Name | Complete Mailing Address |
|-----------|--------------------------|
|           |                          |

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)  
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, October 1999 (See Instructions on Reverse)

| 13. Publication Title<br>The County Agent  |   | 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below<br>August, 2005 |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation   |   | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months  | No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date |
| <b>a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)</b>                                       |   |   |   |
|  | (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies) | 4632  | 3911  |
| <b>b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation</b>  |   |   |   |
|  | (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)                     | 4   | 4   |
|  | (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution               | 0   | 0   |
|  | (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS   | 40  | 40  |
| <b>c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b, (1), (2), (3), and (4))</b> |   | 4676  | 3955  |
| <b>d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)</b>           |   |   |   |
|  | (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541   | 0   | 0   |
|  | (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541  | 0   | 0   |
|  | (3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS   | 25  | 25  |
| <b>e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)</b>                 |   | 185   | 35  |
| <b>f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d, and 15e.)</b>                               |   | 210   | 60  |
| <b>g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c, and 15f.)</b>                                    |   | 4886  | 4015  |
| <b>h. Copies not Distributed</b>   |   | 264   | 485   |
| <b>i. Total (Sum of 15g, and h.)</b>   |   | 5150  | 4500  |
| <b>j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c, divided by 15g, times 100)</b>   |   | 95.70%  | 98.51%  |

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 Publication required. Will be printed in the November, 2005 issue of this publication.  Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
*Scott D. Hawbaker*  
Date: October 1, 2005

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

- Instructions to Publishers**
- Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
  - In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
  - Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
  - Item 15h, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newspaper copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
  - If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
  - In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
  - Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.  
PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

**Does your Land Grant University have Extension job listings they would like to advertise?**

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

**Contact NACAA at (217) 876-1220 for more information.**

*The County Agent*

**Publication Deadlines**

January, 2006  
Awards/Committee Directory  
Submission Deadline: November 7, 2005  
Mail Date: December 1, 2005

April, 2006  
Annual Meeting Registration  
Submission Deadline: March 1, 2006  
Mail Date: March 28, 2006

August, 2006  
Annual Meeting Re-Cap  
Submission Deadline July 27, 2006  
Mail Date: August 20, 2006

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE  
(\$000)**

| <u>Programs</u>   | <u>FY 2005<br/>President's<br/>Budget</u> | <u>FY 2005<br/>Consolidated<br/>Appropriations<br/>Act</u> | <u>FY 2006<br/>President's<br/>Budget</u> |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:</b>                               |   |  |   |
| <b>Formula Programs:</b>  |   |  |   |
| Hatch Act .....   | \$180,148                                 | \$178,707  | \$ 89,354                                 |
| McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry .....                             | 21,884                                    | 22,205   | 11,103                                    |
| Evans-Allen Program .....   | 36,000                                    | 36,704   | 38,250                                    |
| Animal Health and Disease, Section 1433 .....                           | 5,098                                     | 5,057  | 0   |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>   | <b>243,130</b>                            | <b>242,673</b>   | <b>138,707</b>                            |
| <b>Special Research Grants:</b>   |   |  |   |
| Expert IPM Decision Support System .....                                | 177                                       | 157  | 177                                       |
| Global Change, UV-B Monitoring .....                                    | 2,500                                     | 1,984  | 2,500                                     |
| Integrated Pest Management & Biological Control .....                   | 2,725                                     | 2,420  | 2,725                                     |
| Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4 .....                                  | 10,485                                    | 11,145   | 10,485                                    |
| Minor Use Animal Drugs .....  | 588                                       | 583  | 588                                       |
| National Biological Impact Assessment Program .....                     | 253                                       | 251  | 253                                       |
| Pest Management Alternatives .....                                      | 1,619                                     | 1,436  | 1,619                                     |
| Other .....   | 0   | 117,495  | 0   |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>   | <b>18,347</b>                             | <b>135,471</b>   | <b>18,347</b>                             |
| <b>National Research Initiative Competitive Grants .....</b>            | <b>180,000</b>                            | <b>179,552</b>   | <b>250,000</b>                            |
| <b>State Agricultural Experiment Stations Competitive Grants .....</b>  | <b>0</b>                                  | <b>0</b>   | <b>75,000</b>                             |
| <b>Other Research:</b>  |   |  |   |
| Critical Agricultural Materials .....                                   | 0   | 1,102  | 0   |
| Aquaculture Centers .....   | 3,996                                     | 3,968  | 3,996                                     |
| Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program .....            | 9,230                                     | 12,400   | 9,230                                     |
| Supplemental and Alternative Crops .....                                | 0   | 1,187  | 0   |
| Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration .....                     | 0   | 992  | 0   |
| 1994 Research Grants .....  | 998                                       | 1,078  | 998                                       |
| Federal Administration (Direct Appropriation) .....                     | 7,538                                     | 42,546   | 8,832                                     |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>   | <b>21,762</b>                             | <b>63,273</b>  | <b>23,056</b>                             |
| <b>Higher Education:</b>  |   |  |   |
| Graduate Fellowships Grants .....                                       | 4,500                                     | 2,976  | 4,500                                     |
| Institution Challenge Grants .....                                      | 5,500                                     | 5,456  | 5,500                                     |
| 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants .....                         | 11,411                                    | 12,312   | 12,500                                    |
| Multicultural Scholars .....  | 998                                       | 990  | 998                                       |
| Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants Program .....            | 4,645                                     | 5,600  | 5,645                                     |
| Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program .....                   | 2,250                                     | 2,232  | 2,250                                     |
| Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund .....                                    | 12,000                                    | 11,904   | 12,000                                    |
| Interest (Estimated) Earned on the Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund ..... | 2,508                                     | 2,181  | 2,508                                     |
| Secondary/2-Year Post Secondary .....                                   | 1,000                                     | 992  | 1,000                                     |
| Agrosecurity Education .....  | 5,000                                     | 0  | 5,000                                     |
| Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions .....    | 2,997                                     | 3,472  | 2,997                                     |
| Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas .....                     | 0   | 496  | 0   |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>   | <b>52,809</b>                             | <b>48,611</b>  | <b>54,898</b>                             |
| <b>Total, Research and Education Activities .....</b>                   | <b>516,048</b>                            | <b>669,580</b>   | <b>560,008</b>                            |

**OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED FARMERS ACTIVITIES:**

**Section 2501 Legislative Authority:**

|  |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged<br>Farmers and Ranchers Program ..... | 5,935 | 5,888 | 5,935 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE  
(\$000)**

| <u>Programs</u>  | <u>FY 2005<br/>President's<br/>Budget</u> | <u>FY 2005<br/>Consolidated<br/>Appropriations<br/>Act</u> | <u>FY 2006<br/>President's<br/>Budget</u> |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:</b>  |   |  |   |
| <b>Section 406 Legislative Authority:</b>  |   |  |   |
| Water Quality .....  | \$ 12,971                                 | \$ 12,867  | \$ 0                                      |
| Food Safety .....  | 14,967                                    | 14,847   | 0   |
| Regional Pest Management Centers .....   | 4,531                                     | 4,167  | 0   |
| Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation .....   | 1,497                                     | 1,389  | 0   |
| FQPA Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crop Systems .....                       | 4,889                                     | 4,464  | 0   |
| Methyl Bromide Transition Program .....  | 2,498                                     | 3,106  | 0   |
| Organic Transition Program .....   | 499                                       | 1,874  | 0   |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>  | <b>41,852</b>                             | <b>42,714</b>  | <b>0</b>                                  |
| <b>Other Legislative Authorities:</b>  |   |  |   |
| International Science and Education Grants Program .....                             | 1,000                                     | 992  | 1,000                                     |
| Critical Issues .....  | 2,500                                     | 744  | 2,500                                     |
| Regional Rural Development Centers .....   | 1,513                                     | 1,334  | 1,513                                     |
| Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (formerly Homeland Security) .....           | 30,000                                    | 8,928  | 30,000                                    |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>  | <b>35,013</b>                             | <b>11,998</b>  | <b>35,013</b>                             |
| <b>Total, Integrated Activities .....</b>  | <b>76,865</b>                             | <b>54,712</b>  | <b>35,013</b>                             |
| <b>EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:</b>   |   |  |   |
| <b>Formula Programs:</b>   |   |  |   |
| Smith-Lever Formula 3(b)&(c) .....   | 275,940                                   | \$275,520  | \$275,940                                 |
| 1890 Institutions .....  | 32,117                                    | 32,868   | 34,417                                    |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>  | <b>308,057</b>                            | <b>308,388</b>   | <b>310,357</b>                            |
| <b>Smith-Lever 3(d) Programs:</b>  |   |  |   |
| Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program .....                                  | 57,909                                    | 58,438   | 62,909                                    |
| Pest Management .....  | 10,759                                    | 9,920  | 10,759                                    |
| Farm Safety .....  | 0   | 4,563  | 0   |
| New Technologies for Ag Extension .....  | 0   | 0  | 3,000                                     |
| Children, Youth, and Families at Risk .....  | 8,481                                     | 7,478  | 8,481                                     |
| Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification .....                                  | 499                                       | 440  | 499                                       |
| Sustainable Agriculture .....  | 3,792                                     | 4,067  | 3,792                                     |
| Extension Indian Reservations Program .....  | 1,996                                     | 1,760  | 1,996                                     |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>  | <b>83,436</b>                             | <b>86,666</b>  | <b>91,436</b>                             |
| <b>Other Extension Programs:</b>   |   |  |   |
| Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions .....                                    | 3,273                                     | 3,247  | 3,273                                     |
| Renewable Resources Extension Act .....  | 4,093                                     | 4,060  | 4,093                                     |
| Rural Health and Safety .....  | 0   | 1,965  | 0   |
| 1890 Facilities (Section 1447) .....   | 14,912                                    | 16,777   | 14,912                                    |
| Grants for Youth Serving Institutions .....  | 0   | 2,646  | 0   |
| <b>Federal Administration:</b>   |   |  |   |
| Other .....  | 6,653                                     | 21,152   | 6,922                                     |
| Ag in the Classroom .....  | 750                                       | 730  | 750                                       |
| <b>Subtotal .....</b>  | <b>29,681</b>                             | <b>50,577</b>  | <b>29,950</b>                             |
| <b>Total, Extension Activities .....</b>   | <b>421,174</b>                            | <b>445,631</b>   | <b>431,743</b>                            |
| <b>TOTAL, COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION,<br/>AND EXTENSION SERVICE .....</b> | <b>1,020,022</b>                          | <b>1,175,811</b>   | <b>1,032,699</b>                          |

NOTE: The FY 2005 column reflects funding levels contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 with a .8 percent rescission.

# Call of the Week



We encourage County Agents to submit some of their humorous, strange or unusual calls you've had over the years. These are the ones that make you shake your head in amazement or just tickle your funny bone. We know you've had some. Take a minute and E-mail them to us at [nacaemail@aol.com](mailto:nacaemail@aol.com) or send them by snail mail to NACAA, Attn: Call of the Week, 252 N. Park St. Decatur, IL 62523.

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the rural countryside with the firm purpose of motivating his son to work hard by showing him how poor people can be. The father wanted to prepare his son to take over managing the vast family fortune and estate.

They spent a couple of days and nights helping with the daily activities on the farm of a poor family. Sharing meals at night with the family, they learned a little about planning and life on the farm.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"  
"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh Yeah" said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, and they have many friends to protect them."

With this, the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are." Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective. Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for all the bounty we have, instead of worrying about wanting more.

Are there any treasures more valuable than friends? The most valuable treasures are obtained by first giving oneself up as a true friend. Isn't it ironic that we labor night and day for material things, while sometimes we lose track of our true treasures, because we either don't spend time to care for them, or refuse to forgive a friend even though we have the power to restore a treasure to our lives by forgiving?

## ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

**2006**

**Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky... July 23-27**

**2008**

**Greensboro, North Carolina... July 13 - 17**

**2007**

**Grand Rapids, MI... July 15-19**

**2009**

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

## The County Agent

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:  
The County Agent - NACAA, 252 N. Park Street  
Decatur, IL 62523 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker



\*\*\*\*\*ALL FOR ADC 64240  
-CHARLES OTTE  
119 E 9TH STREET  
PO BOX 28  
JUNCTION CITY KS 66441-0028