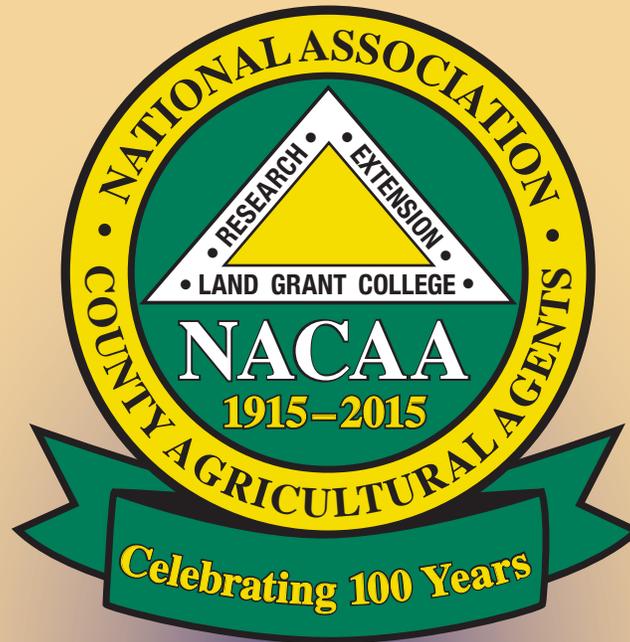


The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume LXXV No. 4 December, 2014

NACAA - 6584 W. Duroc Road - Maroa, IL 61756 - (217)794-3700



2015
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND
AWARDS PROGRAMS
&
COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

ANNUAL MEETING &
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

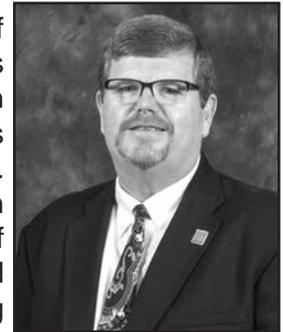
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
July 12-16, 2015

100 Years of Professional Development and Recognition

When a group of county agents met in Chicago in December of 1914 to form what would become the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), there would have been no way that they could envision how their efforts would positively affect thousands of county agricultural agents over the next 100 years. Nor could they realize how the lives of hundreds of thousands of farm and rural families throughout the United States would be so vastly improved by the work of those county agricultural agents.

While professional development opportunities for county agricultural agents was high on the list of reasons which those county agents had for forming NACAA, I can't imagine that those county agents meeting in Chicago over coffee (or some other liquid refreshment?) could foresee how successful NACAA professional development programs would eventually become. Whether you publish in our *Journal of NACAA*, participate in the scores of professional development opportunities available each year at the AMPIC, are an NACAA SARE Fellow, exhibit a research poster at the AMPIC, or participate in one of our study tours or webinars, NACAA professional improvement opportunities are vast and incredibly rewarding.

Another component of professional development is the awards and recognition programs outlined in this issue of *The County Agent*. Your professional association has an incredible array of recognition programs designed to identify groundbreaking and outstanding work done by agricultural Extension professionals, and to highlight those programs for the benefit of the entire profession. These recognition programs are so important to expanding the quality of the work you do, that agricultural companies and organizations each year contribute more than \$100,000 to be used to recognize and reward this outstanding work. That support speaks volumes about the importance and value which the agricultural industry in this country places on your work.



Mike Hogan
NACAA President

So I encourage and challenge each of you to take a look at the dozens of awards and recognition programs outlined in this issue of the magazine, and

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commit to submitting several of the impactful programs which you have designed or delivered during the past few years, **before the deadline of March 15th!** At the Centennial NACAA AMPIC this summer in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, we want to recognize **you** for the outstanding work which you have done.

Also contained in this issue of *The County Agent* is a listing of the leadership of the NACAA Committees which are responsible for the outstanding professional

development programs mentioned above. Volunteer leadership is the backbone of all NACAA programs, and I encourage you to get involved in the leadership of your association. A listing of open Committee Chair and Vice Chair positions can be found on page 28 of this magazine.

So, get your entries and applications submitted before March 15 online, and we will see you and your family in Sioux Falls, South Dakota July 12 – 16!

NACAA Seeks Editor for Journal of the NACAA

NACAA is seeking to fill the (3-Year) Special Assignment of Editor for the Journal of NACAA beginning July 29, 2016 following the 2016 AM/PIC held in Little Rock, Arkansas. (This is a correction from the original email sent)

A brief summary of the position job description can be found at:

http://www.nacaa.com/journal/chair_description.php

A copy of the application can be found at:

http://www.nacaa.com/committees/journal_chair_application.docx and must be submitted by no later than March 15, 2015 and sent directly to NACAA Secretary Matt Herring electronically at HerringM@missouri.edu

Current Editor Stephen Brown from Alaska will be concluding his current 3-year term at the end of the 2016 meeting in Little Rock, and has done an outstanding job serving in this capacity. The NACAA Board of Directors would like to select a new Editor at the Spring Board Meeting (early April, 2015) so that ample time can be taken to cross-train with Stephen to make the transition seamless during the one year period.

For more information regarding the position, please feel free to contact Stephen Brown at 907-745-3360 or scbrown4@alaska.edu or by contacting NACAA Executive Director Scott Hawbaker at 217-794-3700 or nacaaemail@aol.com



Members of the JCEP Leadership Team proudly present the JCEP Professional of the Year Award to NACAA member Woods Houghton.

JCEP Professional of the Year (POY) Award

NACAA member Woods Houghton (New Mexico State University) was awarded the JCEP Professional of the Year (POY) Award at the 2014 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals who demonstrate successful interdisciplinary partnerships across many program areas with colleagues and stakeholders for consistent programs of excellence for a significant part of their extension career. Impact at the local, regional, state or national level is essential. One member from each JCEP Member Organization was selected for the POY Award.

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) sponsors the Professional of the Year Award annually.

APPLYING FOR 2015 NACAA AWARDS PROGRAMS

The General Application process is found on-line at <http://nacaa.com/awards/> and for the majority of the awards listed in this publication, on-line applications are mandatory.

Note: 1) NACAA policy states that all first place national winners and all national finalists must register and attend the AM/PIC to receive their award. (See below under "Attendance Requirement").

All program entries must be in possession of respective committee state chair by March 15, 2015, except where noted. Applying earlier is encouraged.

Current members of the NACAA Board may **not** enter the professional improvement programs with the exceptions of DSA and AA. State chairs, regional vice chairs, and national chairs may participate in the programs which their committees are administering according to criteria determined by the NACAA Board of Directors. Contact NACAA Vice President Cynthia Gregg for further details.

Attendance Requirement

NACAA policy states that all Achievement Award (AA), Distinguished Service Award (DSA), National Finalists, National Winners, and Poster Session Presenters must register for the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference and attend the designated ceremony to receive their award (minimum 1 day registration fee). Decisions on requests for non-attendance and excused absences will be made on a case by case basis by consultation among the respective National Committee Chair, in concert with the National Committee Vice Chairs and the NACAA Vice President. Excuses may be granted to AA, DSA, National Finalists, and National Winners for extreme personal or family illness; circumstances which would seriously jeopardize their job; or similar extreme situations. The intent of this requirement is that awards are inclusive of cash, plaques, and certificates.

In the event a national winner does not receive an excused absence from attending the AM/PIC, the national winner's award will be presented to the next ranking National Finalist who attends the AM/PIC. If none of the National Finalists attend the AM/PIC, a national winner award will not be presented.

In the event a national finalist does not receive an excused absence from attending the AM/PIC, the national finalist award will be forfeited. If a national finalist award is forfeited, there will be no replacement from lower ranking entries.

Note: The National Winner who is asked to make a program presentation at the AM/PIC is eligible for a reimbursement of the AM/PIC registration fee. In case of a team presentation, the value will equal one registration.

WANT ASSISTANCE TO UNDERWRITE YOUR COSTS FOR ATTENDING THE AM/PIC? HERE'S ONE WAY TO DO THAT... PARTICIPATE IN THE NACAA INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Incentive program to members who bring in new sponsors.

The program is as follows:

Sponsor Level	Incentive
\$2,000 - \$4,999	AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed
\$5,000 - \$9,999	AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed and \$500 travel voucher to attend the AM/PIC
\$10,000 - up	AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed and \$1,000 travel voucher to attend the AM/PIC

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	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	1	1
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
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d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	62	47
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	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	24	16
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 10d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		86	63
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 10e and 10c)		3531	2912
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		74	88
h. Total (Sum of 10f and g)		3625	3000
i. Percent Paid (10c divided by 10f times 100)		97.95%	97.836%

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c. Total Print Distribution (Line 14f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	4477	3428
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c times 100)	88.47%	83.11%

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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Scott Hawbaker, Editor - The County Agent, Date: September 25, 2014

ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR COMPLETING AWARD APPLICATIONS

Are you unfamiliar on how to apply for awards or presentations on-line? If you're needing assistance with this process - please refer to a newly created "Quick-Start Guide" which can be found at:

<http://www.nacaa.com/awards/QuickStartGuide-HowtoApplyforanNACAAAward.php>

There is not a separate "Quick-Start" guide for Presentations - but the process is fairly similar to the Award process listed above. To submit a presentation you can easily begin that process by going to:

<http://www.nacaa.com/presentations/presentation.php>

For Award submissions, once you have completed the award application on-line, an automatic email will be sent to your State Chair responsible for reviewing your application. If for some reason you don't have a State Chair assigned from your respective state, an email notification will be sent to your State President notifying that a State Chair has not been identified in the system, and one will need to be assigned.

State Chairs are responsible for selecting "State Winners" in order for your award application to continue the review process at the Regional and National level.

If at any time throughout the award submission process you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact NACAA at nacaaemail@aol.com or by calling 217-794-3700 for assistance. The National office has the ability to review what you have entered and help identify what the problem may be with your submission.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT SESSIONS - 2015 NACAA AM/PIC

PURPOSE:

To provide NACAA members an opportunity to make an oral presentation at a recognized national professional improvement meeting.

To provide NACAA members an opportunity to share successful Cooperative Extension educational programs.

To provide to the NACAA membership professional improvement presentations that will enable them to be a more knowledgeable Cooperative Extension professional.

ELIGIBILITY:

NACAA members in good standing must submit an on-line abstract of their proposed presentation to the National Chair of the Professional Improvement Council Committee or Extension Development Council Committee that administers the professional improvement session in which the proposed presentation would be made. Professional Improvement Council committees include: Agronomy and Pest Management; Agricultural Economics and Community Development; Animal Science; Natural Resources/Aquaculture; or Horticulture & Turfgrass and Sustainable Agriculture. Extension Development Council committees include: Agricultural Issues & Public Relations; Early Career Development; Administrative Skills Development; or Teaching and Educational Technologies.

Author(s) agree that submitted article(s) have not been published or are not currently under consideration for publication in other journals.

The Professional Improvement Council/Extension Development Council Committees will determine the number of accepted presentations.

The Regional Vice Chairs of the Professional Improvement Committees will have full authority to accept or reject a proposed presentation upon evaluation of the title and submitted abstract. Rejection of a proposed presentation by the Regional Vice Chairs will be final. Presentations will be made on Tuesday of the 2015 AM/PIC.

RECOGNITION:

Peer reviewed papers will be selected for presentation and authors

will receive a certificate and will have paper published in the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Proceedings.

ENTRY:

The application process for making a presentation at the 2015 AM/PIC will be handled on-line at <http://nacaa.com/awards/apps/presentation.php>. Please follow the instructions on-line for submitting a presentation application. All submissions must be completed by March 15, 2015. See page 13 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS: CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Extreme weather events from droughts to ice storms in recent years have resulted in costly impacts throughout many aspects of agriculture. To help Extension educators better address these issues, the 2015 NACAA AM/PIC will feature general technical sessions on Climate and Agriculture Professional Development. Members are encouraged to submit Presentations abstracts to share about their programs and research which address: Risk Management and Weather Extremes, Manure Management, Communication Strategies, Climate Adaptation Practices, and Climate Decision Support Tools.

Please log into the NACAA database at www.nacaa.com - then under the Professional Development Header - select the Presentations sub-head - the link for that is <http://www.nacaa.com/presentations/presentation.php>

If you have more specific questions on presentation abstract subject matter, please contact Christopher Jones, University of Arizona, Associate Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources Programs at ckjones@cals.arizona.edu or 928-402-8586.

For on-line submission questions - please contact NACAA at 217-794-3700 or nacaaemail@aol.com

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE USDA SARE/NACAA RECOGNITION PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To recognize members who develop and implement outstanding educational programs in sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is defined as an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term: satisfy human food and fiber needs, enhance environmental quality and the natural resources base upon which the agricultural economy depends, make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls, sustain the economic viability of farm operations, enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.

ELIGIBILITY

All NACAA members in good standing with their state associations are eligible. Team entries are permitted. All team members need not be a current member of NACAA. State Extension Programs Chairs are eligible but must follow established guidelines. Application must be signed by a current NACAA member.

ENTRY

Entries should be submitted electronically (see NACAA web site). Complete on-line general application form and submit with entry that does not exceed 1200 words and reflects program activities and accomplishments within the past three years.

Entries should be organized according to, and will be evaluated according to, the following criteria: Educational Objectives, Program Activities, Teaching Methods, Results, Impact Statement, and Evaluation. All entries should clearly relate how the activities and accomplishments related to the definition of sustainable agriculture listed above. National and regional SARE staff will assist with judging of these entries.

The score sheet for all Search for Excellence Committee recognition programs is located on page 5 of this edition of *The County Agent*. Attach no more than three (3) supporting documents.

Abstract is required with application. Abstract totals do not count in the 1200 words. If team entry, team member names on the abstract must be the same as on the application form. See page 13 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

AWARDS

The SARE Regional Offices will provide each regional winner up to a \$500 honorarium. These awards are not cumulative. The Executive Program Committee reserves the right to adjust awards based on the availability of donor funds.

Each Regional Winner must present his/her program during the 2015 NACAA AM/PIC to be eligible for the honorarium. Consult AM/PIC Program for time and location.

In the event of a team winning entry, one honorarium will be given in the amount indicated above, along with an appropriate certificate/plaque for each team member who is a NACAA member.

All entries will be judged with a designated number of abstracts selected for publication in the AM/PIC Proceedings.

DEADLINE

On-line entries must be completed by March 15, 2015. State Chairs should send all state entries, with the winning entry designated, to their Regional Vice Chair by April 1, 2015.

Guidelines for the following seven SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAMS

ELIGIBILITY

All NACAA members in good standing with their state associations are eligible. Team entries are permitted. All team members need not be current members of NACAA. However, only NACAA members will receive award recognition. Please indicate the members of the team that are non NACAA Members. State Search for Excellence Chairs are eligible but must follow established guidelines. Application must be signed by a current NACAA member.

Entries will not be considered unless all required signatures are complete on the application form.

ENTRY

Submitting entry electronically is mandatory for all Search For Excellence Award Programs (see NACAA web site). Complete **on-line** application form and submit with entry that should not exceed 1200 words. Entry should reflect program activities and accomplishments **within the past three years**. Members are encouraged to apply for multiple Search For Excellence Awards, however **members can only enter the same program in ONE**

Search for Excellence Category.

Entry should be organized and will be evaluated on the following criteria: Educational Objectives, Program Activities, Teaching Methods, Results, Impact Statement, and Evaluation. The score sheet for all Extension Programs is located on page 5.

Attach **no more than three (3)** supporting documents.

Abstract is required with application. Abstract totals do not count in the 1200 words. If team entry, team member names on the abstract must be the same as on the application form. See page 13 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

AWARDS

Donors are being solicited for these awards. If adequate donor funds are secured, the National Winner will receive up to \$500; three National Finalists up to \$250; and state winners up to \$50. These cash awards are not cumulative. The Executive Program Committee reserves the right to adjust awards based on the availability of donor funds.

The National Winner will present his/her program during the NACAA AM/PIC. Length of presentation should be 15 minutes maximum. Consult AM/PIC Program for time and location. Tickets will be required for Brown Bag Luncheon (if offered). Inquire for tickets through on-line registration process.

In the event of a team winning entry, one cash prize in the amount indicated along with an appropriate certificate/plaque will be given only to NACAA members of the team.

All entries will be judged with a designated number of abstracts selected for publication in the AM/PIC Proceedings.

DEADLINE

Entry must be in possession of your Search for Excellence Committee State Chair by March 15, 2015.

State Chairs should send all state entries, with the winning entry designated, to their region Vice Chair by April 1, 2015.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

PURPOSE

To recognize an NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension educational program in forestry and natural resources.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CROP PRODUCTION

PURPOSE

To recognize an NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension educational program in crop production.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURE

PURPOSE

To recognize a NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension educational program in horticulture.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FARM AND RANCH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

To recognize an NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension educational program in farm and ranch financial management.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

PURPOSE

To recognize an NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension educational program in livestock production.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN YOUNG, BEGINNING, OR SMALL FARMERS/RANCHERS

PURPOSE

To recognize NACAA members who have developed and carried out outstanding Extension educational programs for Young (<35 years of age), Beginning (< 10 years management experience), Small Farmer/Ranchers (<\$250,000 annual agricultural sales).

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FARM HEALTH & SAFETY

PURPOSE

To recognize an NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension educational program in farm health and safety.

NACAA SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE SCORE SHEET

- _____ Crop Production
- _____ Livestock Production
- _____ Farm and Ranch Financial Management
- _____ Landscape Horticulture
- _____ Forestry & Natural Resources
- _____ Young, Beginning or Small Farmers/Ranchers
- _____ Farm Health & Safety
- _____ Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

Area:	Points
Educational Objectives	20
Program Activities	10
Teaching Methods	10
Results	20
Impact Statement	20
Evaluation	20

Distinguished Service Award (DSA), Achievement Award (AA) and Hall of Fame Award (HOF) applications are due January 15, 2015.
Apply on-line at www.nacaa.com

USDA SARE/NACAA FELLOWS PROGRAM

PURPOSE

This program is designed to provide hands-on experience and materials for selected NACAA members to study and become familiar with the basics of sustainable agriculture and alternative farm systems as currently practiced within the four regions of the US Department of Agriculture. An understanding of current trends, practices, and underlying strategies within the sustainable agriculture movement will help Cooperative Extension agents or farm advisors, and agricultural professionals with whom they work, build effective outreach programs to provide assistance to those who have made the transition or to help guide producers desiring to begin the transition toward sustainable production systems on their own farms and ranches.

Specific sustainable farming systems will be studied as selected fellows visit two of the USDA regions each year as part of the two year program. The fellows will hear discussions on sustainable agriculture as pertaining to each region and visit selected farms and ranches to view firsthand the application of sustainable agriculture principles studied in the classroom. For more details go to <http://www.nacaa.com> and click on the SARE Fellows button.

ELIGIBILITY

Members of NACAA in good standing with their state associations with responsibility in agricultural production systems are eligible to apply for the Fellows Program.

ENTRY & JUDGING CRITERIA

Complete the on-line general application form and provide information on the following, not to exceed two typewritten pages using a font size 12:

1. Why you wish to attend.
2. Details of your experience and past activities that would demonstrate the understanding of and interest in sustainable agriculture and alternative farming strategies.
3. A plan on how you intend to use the Fellows program information in your local Extension programs and the evaluation methods you will implement.
4. The potential impacts and expected results that your participation could have on your local Extension sustainable agriculture program.
5. The potential benefits to other professionals and clientele in their geographic area. Preference will be given to applicants who plan to train others (extension agents, other professionals and clientele) upon completion of the program.

Successful applicants will be selected on the basis of:

1. Geographic and other diversity considerations. The preference of the sponsor would be to have one individual selected each year from each of the NACAA regions.
2. Experience and past Extension activities in this area of emphasis (10 pts)
3. Plan of Extension work following training (60 pts)
4. Local Extension program expected impacts, expected results and program evaluation methods (30 pts)

It is expected that all applicants will have worked through the **Sustainable Agriculture: Basic Principles and Concept Overview** on-line course designed by USDA SARE. A thorough understanding of the basic principles and philosophies of sustainable agriculture are prerequisite to entry into the Fellows Program.

AWARDS

- Four individuals, one from each NACAA region, will annually be selected for this two year program on a competitive basis (after the initial year there will be 8 individuals in the program in any given year).
- The seminars will occur in the spring and fall of each year with the specific date determined by the host state and SARE region, with input from the participants.
- Economy air travel will be provided to successful applicants to attend each training seminar in the selected region.
- Meals and lodging expenses will also be paid by the program sponsors, but incidental and additional expenses will be the responsibility of the participants.
- Successful participants will also receive a complete USDA SARE library courtesy of the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) in Washington, DC and a \$1,500 stipend to be used for program support, materials or hardware, including the purchase of equipment, such as computers, if desired.

DEADLINE

Entry must be completed on-line by March 15, 2015.

Support provided by: USDA National SARE Program and SAN. The availability of this program will be dependent upon the consent of USDA SARE and the availability of funds.

What is the SARE Fellows Program?

The SARE Fellows program is Opportunity!

It is not only excellent for the professional development of an Extension Educator's career, but provides the opportunity to:

- 1) forge new connections with colleagues from other parts of the nation
- 2) evaluate agriculture within a social, economic and environmental framework
- 3) visit innovative producers that are striving to sustain agriculture for future generations through the use of sustainable practices
- 4) improve your agriculture programs

What are sustainable practices?

They are something that need to be determined and developed by you.

As a past SARE Fellow, I have become committed to sustaining agriculture and the promotion of sustainable agriculture. Please take this wonderful opportunity to apply to become a SARE Fellow (view the USDA SARE/NACAA FELLOWS PROGRAM application and guidelines).

If you need any further information, feel free to contact me anytime.

Steve Van Vleet, PhD
NACAA Chair-Sustainable Agriculture
509-397-6290
svanvleet@wsu.edu

EXCELLENCE IN 4-H and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

To recognize an NACAA member who has developed and carried out an outstanding extension youth development program(s) for 4-H and other youth.

ELIGIBILITY

All members of NACAA with 4-H and youth development programs who are in good standing with their state association may be considered for this program. Previous state and regional winners and national finalists are encouraged to participate again. State 4-H and Youth Chairs are eligible but must follow established guidelines. Team entries are permitted. All team members need not be current members of NACAA. Application must be submitted and signed by a current NACAA member. Entries will not be considered unless all required signatures are complete on the application form.

ENTRY

Entries should be submitted electronically including attached support material and supervisor letter (see NACAA web site). The entry should consist of 1) the on-line general application form; 2) a narrative not to exceed 1000 words; 3) support material not to exceed 5 pages; and 4) a letter from the entrant's immediate supervisor verifying the program accomplishments. Judging of the entry will be based on: problem identification - 10 points; specific target audience identified - 10 points; goals established - 10 points; teaching methods and activities - 25 points; measurable results, target audience reached, changes noted - 25 points; organization, clearness, readability - 20 points. An abstract of 150-250 words is *required* with application based on the above criteria. If team entry, team member names on the abstract must be the same as on the application form. See page 13 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

AWARDS

Donors are being solicited for these awards. If adequate donor funds are secured, the National Winner will receive up to \$500; three National Finalists up to \$250; and state winners up to \$50. These cash awards are not cumulative. The Executive Program Committee reserves the right to adjust awards based on the availability of donor funds.

The National Winner will present his/her program during the NACAA AM/PIC.

In the event of a team winning entry, one cash prize will be given in the amount indicated along with an appropriate certificate/plaque to each NACAA member of the team.

All entries will be judged with the National award winner and National Finalists' abstracts being selected for publication in the AM/PIC Proceedings.

DEADLINE

Entry must be in possession of your 4-H and Youth Committee State Chair by March 15, 2015.

State Chairs should send all only the winning entry to their regional 4-H and Youth Committee Vice Chair by April 1, 2015. The Regional Vice-Chair should review the state winning entries for completeness and send one winning entry for each state submitting entries to the National Chair for judging by April 15.

Agricultural Awareness and Appreciation Award

PURPOSE

To recognize NACAA members or team of members for outstanding use of Public Relations in Daily Efforts that improves the understanding of agriculture in their communities.

ELIGIBILITY

All entrants must be members of both their State and National Associations of County Agricultural Agents. Regarding Team entries, only the lead applicant of the team must be a member of the State and National Association. Public Relations efforts submitted for judging must have been conducted between January 1, 2015 and March 15, 2015. Previous regional winners are ineligible for a period of one year. State Public Relations Committee Chairs are eligible but must follow established guidelines.

ENTRY

Each entry should follow the outline listed in the entry criteria section found below. The report should be typewritten and of sufficient length to cover each section of the entry criteria as outlined. Please title each section of your report according to the entry criteria. Along with each entry, submit an abstract of 150-250 words based on the entry criteria found below and according to the abstract example and format as outlined on page 13. There is not a separate category for team entries.

Complete the on-line application process found at <http://nacaa.com/awards/apps>. No hard copy applications will be accepted. All submissions must be completed by March 15, 2015. See page 13 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Complete the on-line general application form and send it with the following support materials.

County Situation (10 points possible). Describe your county situation; total acreage, farmed acreage, agricultural income, major crops and livestock, total population and farm vs. non-farm shares of total population; economic importance of agriculture, agribusiness and other industries, and community attitudes toward agriculture and public relations opportunities.

Public Relations Objective (30 points possible). Explain how and by whom objectives were established. List Public Relations objectives. They should be pertinent, realistic, specific, measurable and aimed directly at achieving a better understanding of agriculture in your community. Explain the relationship of your objectives to the situation in your county.

Program Execution (30 points). Describe your Public Relations activities; what was done; your role and contributions; actions and responsibilities of others. Explain how activities related to objectives.

Results and Evaluation (30 points possible). Explain your results and how they relate to objectives. List number of persons reached personally through media, etc. Describe effects on attitudes toward agriculture.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

If adequate donor funds are secured, the National Winner will receive up to \$500; three National Finalists up to \$250; and state winners up to \$50. These cash awards are not cumulative. The Executive Program Committee reserves the right to adjust awards based on the availability of donor funds.

The National Winner will present his/her program during the NACAA

AM/PIC. Length of presentation should be 15 minutes maximum. Consult AM/PIC Program for time and location.

In the event of a team winning entry, one cash prize will be given in the amount indicated along with an appropriate certificate/plaque will be given only to NACAA members of the team.

All entries will be judged with a designated number of abstracts selected for publication in the AM/PIC Proceedings.

DEADLINE

Entry must be in possession of your Public Relations Committee State Chair by March 15, 2015.

State Chairs should send the state winning entry to their region vice-chair by April 1, 2015. Regional vice-chairs must send the top three regional finalists to the National Chair by April 15, 2015.

NACAA HALL OF FAME AWARD

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the NACAA Hall of Fame Award is to recognize NACAA individuals for demonstrated commitment, dedication and effective leadership in job performance as an outstanding educator, consideration for association involvement at both the state and national level, and outstanding humanitarian service. This award recognizes NACAA members with sustained and distinguished careers.

This award will be presented annually to one person from each of the four NACAA regions. The Vice Chairs of Recognition and Awards from each region will be responsible for collection of applicants from the states. The Program Recognition & Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any applicant if minimum standards are not met.

ELIGIBILITY:

All current and life members of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents are eligible, except previous winners. The candidate must have previously been awarded the Distinguished Service Award (DSA).

NOMINATION:

Each state association has the opportunity to nominate one applicant from their state association to be forwarded to the Regional Vice Chair of Recognition & Awards. The nomination process at the state level will be determined by each state but the award deadlines will align with the Achievement Awards (AA) and Distinguished Service Awards (DSA). The state may choose a candidate or an applicant may apply to the State Chair of Recognition & Awards. State Chairs will submit State Winners' applications to Recognition & Awards Regional Vice-Chairs by January 15.

Nominations are to be double spaced, typed essays of not more than 500 words describing the activities listed in the criteria section. Nominations are to be accompanied by the application form, a letter from the state president (or vice president if the president is the nominee) verifying the state association's support of the nominee and that the nominee is a member in good standing of both the state and national associations. The nomination packet should contain 2 testimonial letters from clientele who have knowledge of

the educational programming efforts. Nomination materials must be submitted on-line. A one-page bio-summary must also be completed (see sample on web <http://www.nacaa.com/awards/>).

CRITERIA:

- **40% Demonstrated commitment, dedication and effective leadership in job performance as an outstanding educator.** Quality of Extension Programs includes the scope, innovation and appropriateness of the nominee's program to the identified needs of the people and community within his or her assigned area or state.
- **30% Association involvement at the State and National level.** Involvement includes length of membership, committee assignments, offices held, AM/PIC attendance, and special assignments.
- **30% Humanitarian activities and leadership outside of normal Extension programming.** Humanitarian activities may span any length of time and involve any type of service to one's community beyond the normal call of duty.

Examples: Volunteerism (Red Cross, civic organizations, hospital, EMT, church, youth organizations, crisis teams, etc.); Leadership (Civic organizations, community action groups, church, schools, crisis teams, boards, etc.); Personal (Acts of heroism, care of foster children or elderly, philanthropy, etc.)

A cash award of up to \$1000 is to be awarded if donor funds are available. The winners must register for the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference and attend the Monday General Session to receive their award.

- One winner from each region will be recognized at the Monday General Session.
- All state winner applications received by the established deadline will be reviewed and judged by the NACAA Recognition & Awards Committee.

ANIMAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE PRE-TOUR HORTICULTURE TURFGRASS PRE-TOUR NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE PRE-TOUR

The Animal Science, Horticulture & Natural Resources Committees are planning outstanding Pre-Tour activities for the 2015 NACAA AM/PIC being held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Typically NACAA members would submit applications for approval for these functions during the same time as award submissions. However, for 2015, on-line submissions for these events will be held during the same time as the AM/PIC registration - April 1st - May 15, 2015. Additional information for these events will be published in the April edition of *The County Agent* magazine.

2015 Service to American/World Agriculture Nomination Form

DEADLINE: March 15, 2015

ATTENTION North Central Region NACAA Members. You or your state has the opportunity to nominate an individual to receive the Service to American/World Agriculture Award from NACAA for their contribution to agriculture.

PURPOSE:

To recognize a U.S. citizen who has made a major contribution to American/World Agriculture and is so recognized by peers and the general public. Recipient is expected to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference to accept the award, and will receive appropriate expenses to attend the annual meeting.

GUIDELINES:

1. Nominations are encouraged by any member of NACAA in the eligible region. Nominees must be residents of the region hosting the annual meeting and must have the approval of the State Extension Director and the President of your State County Agent Association. The recipient of this award will be from the North Central Region in 2015.
2. The nominee may be a public official, lay leader or other professional individual who has made a significant contribution to American and/or World agriculture, but not limited to, Cooperative Extension and/or research.
3. Entries must be received by March 15. Send to Mark Nelson, PO Box 466, Beaver, UT 84713 or email to: mark.nelson@usu.edu

4. Attach credentials in 1,000 words or less for nomination.

Nominee _____
Title or Position _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Primary reason for recognition (in 10 words or less) _____ _____
Private Citizen _____
Public Official _____
Other (specify) _____
Name of person making nomination _____
Approval Signature of State Association President _____
Approval Signature of State Extension Director _____

COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To recognize NACAA members who excel in communicating programs and ideas to their clientele.

ELIGIBILITY AND JUDGING CRITERIA

Members of NACAA in good standing with their state association are eligible to enter, including team entry members. Extension editors and/or other paraprofessional Extension Communication specialists are not eligible. Submit only one entry per class per individual. All classes are open to entries from one or more NACAA members with the exception of Class 2 - published photo, Class 5 - personal column and Class 7 - individual newsletter, which are open to individual entries only. Entries must have been used by member between March 15, 2014 and March 15, 2015.

Entry materials that have already been state, regional or national winners are not eligible again. First place national winners may not repeat in consecutive years in the same category. Communications Committee State, Regional and National Chairs are not eligible to participate in this program **unless they are one member of a team entry with another person as the primary entrant.**

ENTRY

Electronic submission **must be** made for all 14 categories. However, categories 9 (Video Recordings), 13 (Learning Module/ Notebook) and 14 (Bound Book) may require materials being sent (mailed) to State Chair if file is too large to submit electronically or if unavailable in PDF format. Even in these cases there must be an electronic submission of an abstract and entry information. Maximum file size for submissions is 10MB. Refer to NACAA website for directions on submitting entries electronically.

Note: NACAA will do everything possible to safeguard entry materials. However, it is recommended that members duplicate valuable entry materials in case materials are lost.

ABSTRACT

Each entry must have an abstract. Include member's name, state and county (team entries should list all NACAA members who contributed to the entry); a short summary that includes objective, purpose (why, when, how, audience, audience number and results); and how the entry was prepared (i.e. recorded, edited, printed, or duplicated professionally or by field staff on field office equipment), how distributed and how many were distributed. The abstract should include the member's contribution to the final product. Abstracts for all regional and national winners will be published and posted on the NACAA website. **See page 13 or NACAA website for abstract example and format that must be followed.**

CATEGORIES

1. **Audio Recordings** - 1 to 15 minute presentation. Recording can be a complete program or segment of a radio program, podcast, etc. to be judged. Member(s) must have been a major contributor to the presentation or conducted the interview(s). In the abstract, indicate date and time(s) used, station(s) where program aired and where recorded (agent's office, station, etc.). Submit electronic entries using MP3 file or provide link (URL) in the abstract where recording is located on the web. 10 MB maximum file size.

2. **Published Photo & Caption** - One or more black and white or colored photos taken by member which tell a story. Include a scan of the clipping containing the photo (JPEG or PDF); outline and story, if used (PDF). Also, submit the original photo in JPEG format. Pictures should be at least 1024x768 pixels. Only photo and caption will be judged. 10 MB maximum file size for each file.

3. **Computer Generated Graphics Presentation With Script** - Maximum of 50 slides up to 15 minutes in length or if longer, entrant must designate portion of set to be judged by indicating that portion on the script. Upload in PowerPoint or PDF format. Presentations created with Adobe Presenter, web conferencing or similar software and published online as recordings should be submitted under this category. Include the URL in the abstract. 10 MB maximum file size.

4. **Program Promotional Piece** - One short promotional item used to advertise a program or event and/or alert the reader to an important current issue. It should create awareness and call for action. In the abstract, indicate audience to whom the item was sent and the number distributed as well as results of number registered. 10 MB maximum file size in PDF format.

5. **Personal Column** - Submit PDFs of original copy for two columns for two different dates. Also submit scanned copies of the final published articles. 10 MB maximum file size for each.

6. **Feature Story** - Submit PDF of original copy of one article. Also submit scanned copy of the final published article.

7. **Newsletter, Individual** - Submit PDFs of two issues of a newsletter written by a member that is informal and personal. It may contain several unrelated topics. In the abstract, indicate audience to whom newsletter was sent and the number distributed and how distributed.

8. **Newsletter, Team** - Submit PDFs of two different issues of a newsletter written by one or more members. Non-members may be a part of a team entry (i.e. NRCS). Entry may be a portion of a multi-county, area extension newsletter or multi-agency newsletter. In the abstract, indicate audience to whom newsletter was sent and the number distributed and how distributed.

9. **Video Recordings** - One presentation that one or more members contributed to or produced, not over 15 minutes long. It can be a segment of a longer program. Abstract must be submitted electronically with video being mailed to State Chair by deadline as DVD **if too large to upload/download**. In the abstract, indicate audience, purpose and how the presentation was used. In the abstract, provide link (URL) where video is located on the web (i.e. YouTube) or upload an MP4 file. 10 MB maximum file size for uploaded files.

10. **Fact Sheet** - An educational piece on a single subject produced on a single sheet of paper (size and format unspecified). In the abstract, indicate audience, purpose and number distributed. Submit as PDF or include URL in the abstract. 10 MB maximum file size.

11. **Publication** - An educational publication on one or more subjects that is more extensive than class 10 - Fact Sheet. Publication may be a fact sheet that is more than one page or a bulletin. In the abstract, indicate intended audience, purpose and

number distributed, agent/educator's role in the development, writing and production. Submit as PDF or include URL in the abstract. 10 MB maximum file size for uploaded files.

12. **Website/Online Content** - Entry will consist of abstract and URL address for the website/online content. If site is password protected, be sure to include access credentials. Person submitting should be the person primarily responsible for content, design and maintenance of the site/online content. Examples of online content include wikis, blogs, social media sites, etc.

13. **Learning Module/Notebook** (includes either a notebook form learning module or online learning module) - Entry will consist of total materials written and compiled as learning/teaching aids for specific Extension Programs, (i.e. Master Gardener Notebook). Entry materials can be of several media (print, audio, video, etc.). Significant portions of the entry material should be the work of the entrant(s). The abstract must be submitted electronically with the module/notebook being mailed to State Chair by deadline **if electronic version is unavailable online or if file is too large to submit electronically (10MB)**. If available online, indicate the URL in the abstract.

14. **Bound Book** - The entry will consist of a bound book on one or more subjects that is more extensive than 11 - Publication. The primary author must be a member in good standing. In the abstract, indicate the intended audience, purpose, number printed and the agent/educator's role in the development, writing and production of the book. The abstract must be submitted electronically with the bound book being mailed to State Chair by deadline **if electronic version is unavailable online or if file is too large to submit electronically (10MB)**. If the book is available online, indicate the URL in the abstract.

AWARDS

Awards in each of the fourteen (14) categories are as follows:
*National Category Winner – Plaque and cash if donor available.
*3 National Category Finalists - Plaque and cash if donor available.
*8 Regional Category Finalists – Certificate
*State Category Winners – Certificate

Donors are being solicited for these awards. If adequate donor funds are secured, the National Winner will receive up to \$500; and three National Finalists up to \$250. These cash awards are not cumulative. The Executive Program Committee reserves the right to adjust awards based on the availability of donor funds.

NOTE: First place National Winner and all National Finalists must register and attend AM/PIC to receive award. National winners are expected to prepare a poster display of their award winning entry for the AM/PIC.

In the event of a team winning entry, one cash prize will be given in the amount indicated along with an appropriate certificate/plaque to each NACAA member.

DEADLINE

Completed entry must be posted to the NACAA website by March 15, 2015 and any support material in the Video, Learning Module/Notebook and Bound Book classes that could not be submitted electronically must be in possession of your Communications Committee State Chair by March 15, 2015.

State Chairs must have winning entries selected/approved on the NACAA website by April 1. Regional Vice Chairs must have Regional Finalists selected/approved on the NACAA website by April 15.
SCORECARD FOR THIS AWARD PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/communications_scoresheet.php

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE POSTER SESSION

CHANGES TO THE POSTER SESSION STARTING IN 2015

The purpose of the poster session is first and foremost for showcasing our members' work by giving them the opportunity to present a poster at our Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference.

Secondly, the poster session is a competition among peers. The awards aspect of the poster session is the most challenging and often time's controversial part of the poster session. Over the past few years poster entries have grown to 150 plus, thus making it very difficult to be equitable to our members in regards to poster judging.

Last year in Mobile, AL we had 154 posters entered; 40 in applied research and 114 in extension education. In the first round each poster is judged twice by two judges giving two scores. In order to judge the extension education poster we needed 22 judges so a judge would not have to judge more than 10 posters. Seems' simple doesn't it? No so, try getting 22 people to give several hours of their time at the AM/PIC on Sunday.

However the real problem is in the actual scoring the posters. For example, in the first round, a poster was judged and received a score of a 90 and 80, great for that poster. However another poster receives a score of a 95 and 50, now someone's crying foul. Still yet another receives scores of 80 and 20 leaving them angry and who can blame them.

Keep in mind we have judges that judge hard and some judge easy. By luck of the draw one poster was judged by two easy judges while another was judged by an easy and hard judge. This exact scenario played out in Mobile. The top 10 scoring posters in the first round move on to the final round. I think we are all in agreement here; the current method of judging posters is not equitable to our members.

PURPOSE

To showcase NACAA members' work by giving them the opportunity to present posters at the Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. This award program has two categories to recognize NACAA members:

Applied Research - to give individuals an opportunity to present a poster on applied research they have conducted.

Extension Education - this category is designed to give members an opportunity to present a poster on new or different educational methods or technologies he or she has used.

The poster session will provide an opportunity for authors to discuss with fellow members how they identified the educational or research need in their community and how the need was addressed and the observed results.

ELIGIBILITY

An NACAA member in good standing must submit an abstract to which they have been a contributing investigator. A member can only be the senior author (the first name appearing on the poster) on one poster in each category each year.

The senior member author of the posters must be registered for the AM/PIC (minimum of 1 day fee) and be in attendance at the meet the authors session during the AM/PIC.

ENTRY

Members can choose to enter as display only or the judging proportion of the poster session at the AM/PIC.

If you choose not to participate in the poster judging competition but do want your poster displayed at the AM/PIC please make sure to check the appropriate box during the poster abstract submission process.

When entering the poster judging contest make sure to choose the appropriate selection when submitting your poster if you wish for your poster to be displayed at AM/PIC if not the state winner.

Complete the on-line application process found at <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/poster.php>. No hard copy applications will be accepted. All submissions must be completed by March 15.

Abstract and poster guidelines and requirements can be found at: <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/guidelines.php>

JUDGING (Changes for 2015)

Starting in 2015 only the state winner for each category (Applied Research and Extension Education) will be judged at the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC).

The NACAA Professional Excellence Committee regional chair must be notified by May 1st who the state poster contest winner is for each category.

Poster judging will be based on the following criteria:

- 60% - Scientific/Educational Merit
- 30% - Poster Presentation
- 10% - Follow instructions for presentation/mounting

Judging criteria for Applied Research and Extension Education posters can be found at: <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/scorecard.pdf>.

RECOGNITION

Peer reviewed abstracts will be selected for presentation at the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. Authors will have their abstract published in the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Proceedings (ONLY IF DISPLAYED AT THE AM/PIC) on the website located at: <http://www.nacaa.com/ampic/>.

Participants can also make their poster available online at: http://www.nacaa.com/awards/apps/posters_summary.php. However you must provide a URL address of where the completed poster can be found.

AWARDS

Awards for each category (based upon funding) will be presented during the NACAA AM/PIC Poster Session Awards Breakfast. All participants in the poster session (display only or judged) are invited to attend the awards breakfast.

Best Contributed Poster	\$500 and a certificate w/holder & Ribbon
Second Place	\$250 and a certificate w/holder & Ribbon
Third Place	\$150 and a certificate w/holder & Ribbon
Region Winners	Certificate & Ribbons
Finalists	Ribbons

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS - PLEASE
CONTACT NATIONAL CHAIR KEITH MICKLER AT
Ph: 706-295-6210 OR EMAIL - mickler@uga.edu**

GUIDELINES FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION EDUCATION POSTER SESSION

Mounting of the Poster:

Display boards will be provided. Posters must not exceed the 44" x 44" size limitation. You must provide your own mounting supplies such as pushpins or velcro.

Program Title, Author, Institution and Address:

Poster title, author names, and affiliations *should appear on the top* of the poster. A simple sansserif typeface (i.e., Arial or Helvetica) should be used. Lettering for the title should be at least one half (1/2) inch.

Abstract:

The abstract that was submitted with the poster session application must appear on the poster. The abstract title, author(s) and affiliations can be omitted in the abstract affixed to the poster. However, the word "abstract" should appear at the top of the abstract text. Minimum size for abstract typeface is 16 points.

Extension Education abstracts should show program impact. Applied Research abstracts should include research data.

Supporting Materials:

Material that supports the poster (i.e., workshop workbooks, handouts, etc.) may be placed below the poster on the floor. Room for supporting material is limited to space directly below your poster. You may attach a small pocket below your poster to allow people who are interested in learning more about your program to drop their business card into.

Content:

Do not prepare a poster as if it were a manuscript. Primarily use tables and figures and limit verbiage. Details of the work can be discussed during the "Meet the Author Sessions" with interested parties. Make sure that the selected typeface is easy to read. Lettering for text and illustrations should range in size between 24 and 48 point type.

24 point 48 point

"Quality Matters When Preparing a Poster"

Adapted from Communicaid article by Evie Liss and Bernadine Strik, 1991

- 1. How well is the message conveyed (simplicity and clarity of the message)?** Most people spend less than ten minutes at a poster. Each poster will be reviewed for one to three main points or themes the presenter wants people to retain. Also, each poster will be evaluated for a center of interest to identify and introduce the message.
- 2. How easy is the poster to read at three feet?** The judges will look for posters with text tables and figures in letter (type) sizes that are easy to read at three feet. Readability of lettering style is also important.
- 3. Is the poster visually balanced and organized?** Successful posters do not crowd the information. Details can be shared on a handout. Attractive posters have a logical order with figures, photos, and text throughout.
- 4. Does the poster use colors and contrast to visually attract the readers?** Contrasting colors are used to lead the viewer's eye throughout the poster, and imaginative ways to add color might include photographs, illustrations, charts, or graphs.

Sample FORMAT FOR ALL NACAA ABSTRACTS

Search for Excellence in Livestock Production

TURNING A PROFIT WITH BEEF CATTLE

Covington, C.*¹

¹ Area Livestock Agent, Mississippi State University, Port Gibson, MS, 39150

The purpose of this educational program was to increase the individual profitability of the cow/calf producers in Mississippi. I accomplished this task by working with beef producers in identifying their effective production practices, diagnosing their inefficiencies in production, and prescribing corrective measures to ensure their maximum profitability through the optimum utilization of their farm resources. In order to achieve the overall goal of profitability, several smaller goals needed to be met. I utilized multiple program activities and teaching methods, recognizing that different producers learn in different ways. These educational activities included 129 newsletter/circular letters, 131 newspaper articles, and 135 group activities that reached 1,725 producers over the past three years. The producers participating in the program indicated the value of the information they gained from these educational activities in the form of savings or increased profits to their operations at over \$7.5 million. However, the increase in knowledge by these producers is a much more valuable indicator of its true success and effectiveness.

CALL FOR PAPERS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE 2015 JOURNAL OF THE NACAA

PURPOSE:

To provide NACAA members an opportunity to publish in a recognized national professional improvement format.

To provide NACAA members an opportunity to share successful Cooperative Extension scholarly work such as on farm research demonstrations, applied research, and related Extension activities.

To provide the NACAA membership with additional professional improvement opportunities that will enable them to become a more knowledgeable Cooperative Extension professional.

ELIGIBILITY:

NACAA members in good standing must submit an electronic abstract and full article by following the entry rules listed below. Articles are to be submitted on-line (no hard copy/paper versions will be accepted).

Topics can include research, case studies and innovative ideas that would promote scholarship and professionalism in Extension.

The Electronic Journal Committee will have full authority to accept or reject a proposed article based upon reviews. Rejection or acceptance of a proposed article by the Journal Committee will be final. The Chair of the Journal Committee is listed on the Committee Leadership page.

Author(s) agree that submitted article(s) have not been published or are not currently under consideration for publication in other journals.

RECOGNITION:

Peer reviewed articles will be published on the NACAA website www.nacaa.com/journal.

ENTRY:

Abstract, and proposed article must be submitted online at www.nacaa.com/journal/post_editor.php by March 15 for the Summer edition or by October 15 for the Winter edition. See abstract example. The on-line entry form has designated areas to enter title, author, institution and address, additional authors, and then the main manuscript.

Manuscript Specifications:

Maximum of 2,000 words plus tables, graphics and abstract
First letter of words in title should be capitalized
Literature citations should follow the American Psychological Association style guide: <http://www.apastyle.org/>
In the abstract, Scientific names should be italicized with the genus name Capitalized and the species designation lowercased.

Individual or Group NACAA Scholarship Application Process

Scholarship applications must be completed electronically at ncaa.com

1. Application must carry signature or electronic submission of State Association President or his/her designee, State Scholarship Chair and Appropriate State Extension Administrator.
2. For 2015 Scholarship requests - each participant must have contributed at least \$40 to the NACAA Scholarship Fund before the end of the 2014 AM/PIC (Galaxy IV) to qualify for up to \$1,000 scholarship and a vestment of \$100 (an additional \$60 contribution) for an additional scholarship awards from \$1,001 to \$2,000. (Check with your State Scholarship Committee Chair to confirm this prior to submitting an application. (If one person within the group has not contributed \$40 by the deadline, it disqualifies the entire group).
3. Study or training (1) must start within 14 months of the AM/PIC where scholarship is awarded & cannot be initiated before application is approved by the Scholarship Selection Committee and the Trustees of the NACAA Educational Foundation).
4. Applications will be judged and funded based on completeness, plan for training, how it will be used/ applied post training, and availability of funds.
5. Award is for individual or group professional improvement which may include advanced degrees, graduate credits, tours, seminars, research or other specialized training.
6. Maximum scholarship is \$1000 per year, & a total of \$2,000 during a member's Extension career. (This amount includes scholarships received as an individual or as part of a group.)
7. Scholarship funds will not be awarded until 60 days prior to study or training begins. It is the recipient's responsibility to advise the National Scholarship Chair if impending date of educational activity changes.
8. Report must be made to National Scholarship Chair within 30 days after the training is completed. That report must include a 75-word abstract of the approved educational activity and documentation that the expenses were spent according to the stated educational objectives of the application. The penalty for misuse of NACAA Scholarship Funds is repayment of the funds to NACAA & prohibition from future NACAA Scholarships.
9. Recipients will be selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee with final approval of the Trustees, NACAA Educational Foundation.
10. No scholarship will be awarded a person, if as a result of such grant, any member of the Scholarship Selection Committee, National Board of NACAA, or any Trustee of the Foundation shall derive a private benefit, either directly or indirectly.
11. Selection for Scholarships shall be made on an objective & nondiscriminatory basis, regardless of race, creed, color, gender, or religion of the applicant.

The application form must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee State Chair by June 1. State Chairs will then send onto the Regional Vice Chair prior to June 15. Applications must reach the National Chair by July 1. All attachments must be included with the on-line application process.

FOR GROUP APPLICATIONS - All tour members must meet criteria, including address, home and office phone, contribution of \$40 to the NACAA Scholarship Fund by the end of the previous AM/PIC, whether they received a previous scholarship and if so, how much. This information should be identified through the on-line application process.

2015 NACAA COMMITTEES

2015 OFFICERS



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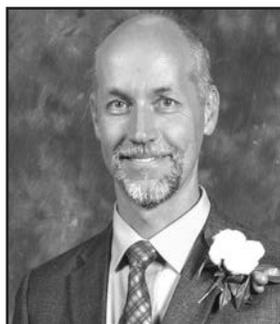


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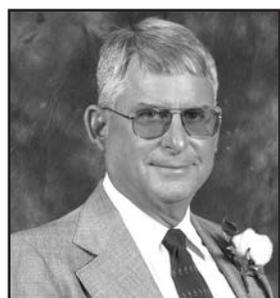
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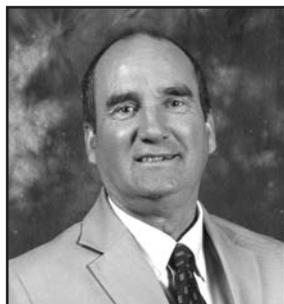
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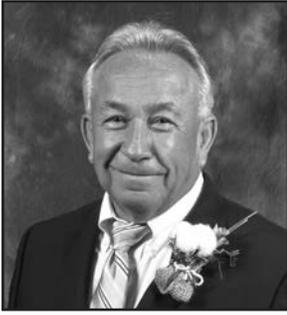
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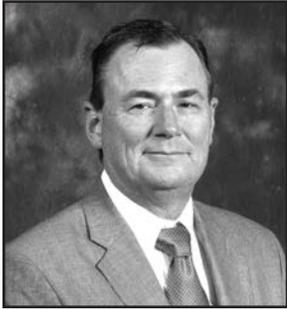
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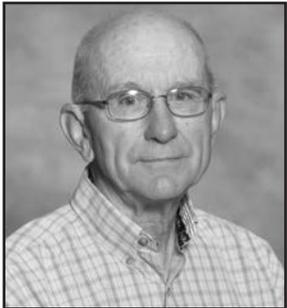
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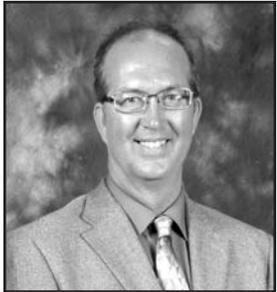


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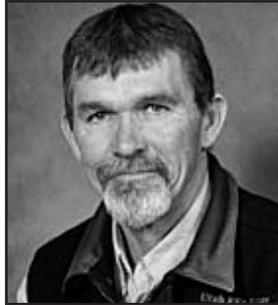
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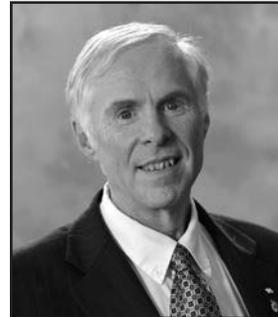
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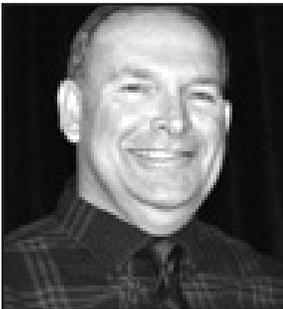
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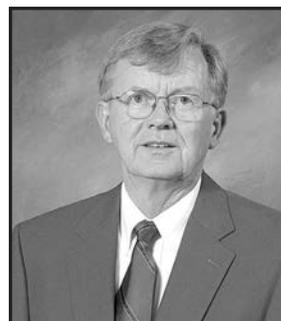
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OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS 2016 - 2018

When you read through the Special Edition of The County Agent, it is obvious that committee work and related activities is the essence of what it takes to achieve NACAA's mission. Historically NACAA has been fortunate to have committed, hard working members fill those leadership positions. This year as every year there is an opportunity for members to expand and share their leadership and professional improvement skills by applying for committee positions that are open. Becoming active in the NACAA committee structure will provide you with a wealth of both professional and personal growth. Give serious consideration to any of the state and national committee positions that are available.

Application/nominations will be available on the NACAA web site shortly after January 1, 2015 and will be due no later than March 1, 2015. Appointments will be made at the Spring Board Meeting.

Professional Improvement Council

Agronomy & Pest Management - Vice Chair
 Ag Economics & Comm. Dev. - Vice Chair
 Animal Science - Vice Chair
 Natural Resources/Aquaculture - Vice Chair
 Horticulture & Turf Grass - Vice Chair
 Sustainable Agriculture

Region Open To Application

Western and Southern 2 year term
 North East and Western 2 year term
 North Central and Southern 2 year term
 North East and Southern 2 year term
 North Central and North East 2 year term
 North Central and Western 2 year term

Extension Development Council

Ag Issues & Public Relations - Vice Chair
 Early Career Development - Vice Chair
 Administrative Skills Dev. - Vice Chair
 Teaching & Educational Technologies - Vice Chair

Region Open To Application

Western and Southern 2 year term
 North Central and North East 2 year term
 North Central and Southern 2 year term
 North East and Western 2 year term

Program Recognition Council

Communications - Vice Chair
 Search for Excellence - Vice Chair
 4-H and Youth - Vice Chair
 Professional Excellence - Vice Chair
 Public Relations - Vice Chair
 Recognition & Awards - Vice Chair
 Scholarship - Vice Chair

Region Open To Application

North Central and Western 2 year term
 North East and Southern 2 year term
 North Central and Southern 2 year term
 North East and Southern 2 year term
 North East and Western 2 year term
 North East and Western 2 year term
 Western and Southern 2 year term

Council Chair Openings

Professional Improvement Council Chair

Open to General Membership

Open to General Membership 3 year term

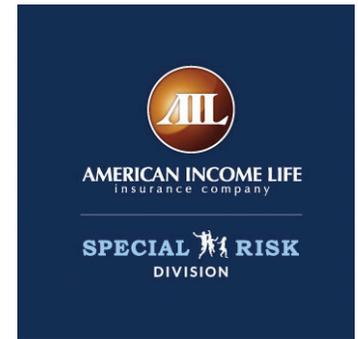
National Committee Chair Openings

*Administrative Skills
 *Agricultural Issues & Public Relations
 *Teaching & Educational Technologies
 *Early Career Development
 *Agricultural Economics & Community Development
 *Agronomy & Pest Management
 Animal Science
 Horticulture & Turfgrass
 *Natural Resources/Aquaculture
 *Sustainable Agriculture
 *4-H and Youth

National Chair 1 year term
 National Chair 2 year term

* Open to Vice Chairs

Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



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<http://www.nacaa.com/sponsors/>



The County Agent

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

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

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

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

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

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

