

The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume LXXVI No. 4 December, 2015

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2016
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND
AWARDS PROGRAMS
&
COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

ANNUAL MEETING &
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

Little Rock, Arkansas
July 24-28, 2016

President's Corner

It seems like yesterday we were in Sioux Falls, South Dakota celebrating the Centennial of National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Where has time gone? Welcome to the 101st Year of NACAA and I am honored to work with you on the NACAA Foundation for our Second Century.

This issue of *The County Agent* Magazine is filled with everything you will need to submit your wonderful work for awards and recognition, apply for presentations and posters to add to the outstanding professional development and professional improvement opportunities. The NACAA Committee Chairs and Regional Vice Chairs have been contacting your state chair/contact or president to get the information out to you. Please be mindful of deadlines and contact the appropriate Committee Regional Vice Chairs and Chairs if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to hearing about all the amazing work you will be submitting to for recognition as well as sharing with your co-workers from across the country. Thank you for all you do to help your communities, cities,

counties, parishes, regions, and states with unbiased educational information from your respective Land Grant Universities.

I would like to be one of the first to invite you to Little Rock, Arkansas for the 101st NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) the week of July 24-28, 2016. This will be an educational packed AM/PIC. Some webinars are being planned by Committees to get you ready for the conference as well as provide professional improvement and professional development. There are plans underway for Pre-Conference Tours, Super Seminars, Trade Talks, Agent and Specialist Presentations and Posters, Awards and Recognition, and so much more. I would like to let you know there were over four hundred twenty-three hours of educational opportunities in Sioux Falls last year. There are plans for many hours of educational



Cynthia Gregg
NACAA President

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opportunities this year as well. I will be the first to let you know there will once again much to choose from and unfortunately some programs will overlap. This will continue to be a concern for attendees but please know we looked at the schedule and to get everything accomplished programs will have some overlap daily.

I am also excited about all of efforts on our behalf by the Arkansas County Agricultural Agents Association Members. Not only are our amazing co-workers helping committees get ready for us to come to Little Rock in July. They are planning some marvelous opportunities for sharing not only Arkansas Agriculture, but will include quite a bit of Southern Hospitality, Arkansas History and Culture. These opportunities will hopefully give you additional insight into how we are similar as well as different thereby making us better at our jobs and develop a new found appreciation of our co-workers from Arkansas and across the country.

While thinking not only of the professional development, professional improvement, and recognition opportunities listed in this issue of *The County Agent* Magazine, take the time to think about potential leadership positions on a national level. I know many of you hold leadership positions in your respective states. If you are interested in finding out what committee positions are available this year, please look in this issue and apply online. Help NACAA lay the Foundation for the Second Century to insure high quality professional development, professional improvement, and recognition for all NACAA Members.

In addition to *The County Agent* Magazine, go to the NACAA Web Page at www.nacaa.com for more information on presentations, posters, awards, and leadership opportunities. If you have additional questions, contact the Committee Regional Vice Chair or Chair, appropriate Council Chair, and or Board Member.

I am proud and honored to serve you, our NACAA Members. I would like to take time to say thank

you to all of you for your support of Dan and I along with our family on the passing of my Mother. You have no idea how much your emails, cards, calls, and notes have meant to us. Your care and thoughtfulness makes us thankful to have all of you in our lives. It is truly an honor to have you as my co-workers and fellow NACAA Members.

Please read and enjoy this issue of *The County Agent* as there are many opportunities for you to think about participate in this year. I look forward to hearing about what many of you will be sharing with all of us in Little Rock in July. Make your plans now to attend the 2016 NACAA AMPIC in Little Rock, Arkansas in July, "It is a Natural"; come for the educational and recognition opportunities, but there is more to take in while in Arkansas. The agriculture will be amazing and diverse, also take the time to enjoy the hospitality, attractions, and culture of Arkansas, you will be glad you did.

Remember if you need anything I can help you with, please contact me. We are the team who will be creating the foundation for the next century of NACAA. I know this year will be a great one to get us started. Thank you again for all you do!



Life Member Corner

Life After Extension

Is there life after Extension? After 34 years working as a Penn State Extension Dairy Educator, with encouragement from a Penn State buyout, I decided it was time to retire. I did not have any definite plans to continue working after retirement, however; this changed after I received a phone call from Jay Howes, Deputy Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. He asked if I would be interested in working on a project titled "Mid-Atlantic Secure Milk Supply Plan".

What is Mid-Atlantic Secure Milk Supply (MA-SMS) Plan? The MA-SMS plan is a USDA APHIS grant funded project. Funding for the project comes from Homeland Security with emphasis on protecting the United States milk supply in case of a Hoof and Mouth Disease (HMD) or other Foreign Animal Disease outbreak. Currently there are 11 cooperating states in the project including Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The project is administered in each cooperating state by the State Veterinarian.

The underlying concept of the MA-SMS Plan is to maintain the continuity of business. In the event of an outbreak, raw milk from dairy farms in a movement restricted area would still be able to move to processing plants. Strict biosecurity procedures must be followed to allow this milk movement and minimize the spread of the HMD virus. Allowing milk movement under these conditions will help preserve the economic viability of dairy farms and dairy businesses and increase the available supply of dairy products to consumers.

Because dairy cattle may be infected and shedding the HMD virus before clinical signs appear, raw milk transported from dairy farms must be treated as potentially infected. Vehicles and people visiting farms and having contact with raw milk, including milk trucks and drivers, also must be treated as potential methods of disease transmission. Milk truck drivers and milk trucks are considered a moderate to high risk for disease

spread unless strict biosecurity procedures are followed.

Components of the MA-SMS plan for permitting milk to move from farms in a restricted area include measures to be put in place before (pre-event)

there is a HMD outbreak. Pre-event measures include a biosecurity readiness audit for dairy premises that includes appropriate facilities, equipment and supplies, written standard operating procedures, and evidence of training.

What is the current threat of HMD or another Foreign Animal Disease here in the U.S.? FBI Veterinarian Stephen Goldsmith stated at a Pennsylvania Food Defense Awareness Symposium: "Farms make easy targets for people who want to disrupt the U.S. economy and hurt the food supply. Attacking a farm is not as dramatic as blowing things up, but it can cause far reaching damage. People commonly think of bioterrorism as an attack on human health. That is certainly true, but when crops and livestock are targeted, it's more of an economic attack. If a single cow tested positive for hoof and mouth disease, an illness not seen in the U.S. since 1929, the country would likely lose all export markets for all species that can contract the disease."

It is very important that Pennsylvania maintain a secure milk supply as we export 60 percent of the milk produced on our 7200 dairy farms to many of the other cooperating states. My role in the project is to recruit Pennsylvania dairy farms and work with them to become pre-event certified. Educating dairy producers about improving their farm biosecurity is very similar to the work I did as a Penn State Dairy Extension Educator. So yes, there can be life after Extension.

Submitted by:
Gene Schurman
NACAA Life Member Vice Chair Northeast Region



Addison County Milk Truck Decontamination Drill - Photo by Louis Bedor III

APPLYING FOR 2016 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, 2016, 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 Alan Galloway 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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	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	27	23
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d(1), (2), (3) and (4))		76	72
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		3395	2797
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers at page #3)		80	53
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		3475	2850
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		97.76%	97.43%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 15f on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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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 - 2016 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 2016 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 2016 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, 2016. See page 13 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

Excellence in 4-H and Youth (A Call for Presentations)

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 more knowledgeable Cooperative Extension professionals.

ELIGIBILITY:

NACAA members in good standing must submit an on-line abstract of their proposed presentation to the 4-H and Youth National Chair. The National Committee Chair in consultation with Regional Vice Chairs will determine the number of accepted presentations. The National Chair and Regional Vice Chairs 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 National Chair and/or Regional Vice Chair will be final.

ENTRY

The application process for making a presentation at the 2016 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 on-line by March 15, 2016.

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 2016 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, 2016. State Chairs should send all state entries, with the winning entry designated, to their Regional Vice Chair by April 1, 2016.

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, 2016.

State Chairs should send all state entries, with the winning entry designated, to their region Vice Chair by April 1, 2016.

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 CONSUMER OR COMMERCIAL 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
- ___ Consumer or Commercial 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

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, 2016.

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 needs to be determined and developed by you.

Please consider applying to become a USDA SARE / NACAA Fellow, as early in my Extension career I had the opportunity to participate in the program. The total immersion into the Sustainable Agriculture principles became an important part of my clientele services.

If you need further information on the program please do not hesitate to contact me.

Suzanne Mills-Wasniak
NACAA Chair – Sustainable Agriculture
937-224-9654

mills-wasniak.1@osu.edu

**Distinguished Service Award (DSA), Achievement Award (AA) and Hall of Fame Award (HOF) applications are due January 15, 2016.
Apply on-line at www.nacaa.com**

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, 2016.

State Chairs should send all only the winning entry to their regional 4-H and Youth Committee Vice Chair by April 1, 2016. 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, 2016. 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, 2016. 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, 2016.

State Chairs should send the state winning entry to their region vice-chair by April 1, 2016. Regional vice-chairs must send the top three regional finalists to the National Chair by April 15, 2016.

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.

Donors are being solicited for this award. At publishing time for this magazine - a donor has not been secured at this time.

PRE-AM/PIC TOURS FOR 2016

Several NACAA Committees are planning outstanding Pre-Tour activities for the 2016 NACAA AM/PIC being held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Typically NACAA members would submit applications for approval for these functions during the same time as award submissions. However, for 2016, on-line submissions for these events will be held during the same time as the AM/PIC registration - April 1st - May 15, 2016. Additional information for these events will be published in the April edition of *The County Agent* magazine.

2016 Service to American/World Agriculture Nomination Form

DEADLINE: March 15, 2016

ATTENTION Southern 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 2016 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 Southern Region in 2016.
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 Alan Galloway, 900 S. Walnut Ave. Cookeville, TN 38501 or email to: agallow2@utk.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, 2015 and March 15, 2016.

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); cutline 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, 2016 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, 2016.

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

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.

An author(s) listed on the poster application and/or actual displayed poster must be registered for the AM/PIC (minimum of 1 day fee) and be in attendance at "Meet the Authors" session during the AM/PIC. The attendance requirement will be verified; poster(s) not meeting the attendance requirement as stated above will be removed from the poster display area and the abstract will not be published in the proceedings.

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.

Your three entry choices available online are:

1) This poster is being submitted for judging. I **will** display it at the AM/PIC if **NOT** selected as a State winner. Your abstract will be published in the proceedings. You must contact your state Professional Excellence Committee Chair no later than March 15th, 2016 for details on submitting posters for state judging.

2) This poster is being submitted for judging. I will not display it at the AM/PIC if NOT selected as a State winner. Your abstract will not be published in the proceedings. You must contact your state Professional Excellence Committee Chair no later than March 15th, 2016 for details on submitting posters for state judging. **(For Option 2 - you are basically saying....if I'm not the state winner, I don't plan to attend the AM/PIC - and will not display).**

3) This poster is being submitted for display purposes only. Poster is not to be judged, but the abstract will be published in the proceedings. Poster is not submitted to state chair, but must be brought to AM/PIC for display.

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

JUDGING

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**

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 2016 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 2016 Scholarship requests - each participant must have contributed at least \$40 to the NACAA Scholarship Fund before the end of the 2015 AM/PIC 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.

2016 NACAA COMMITTEES

2016 OFFICERS



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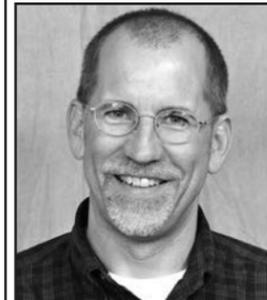
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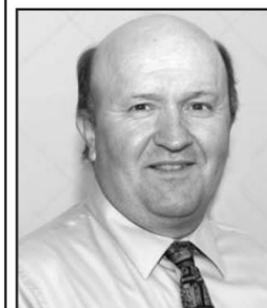
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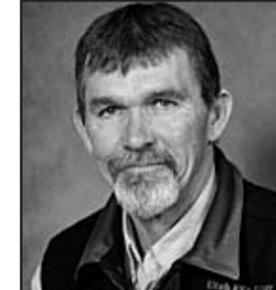
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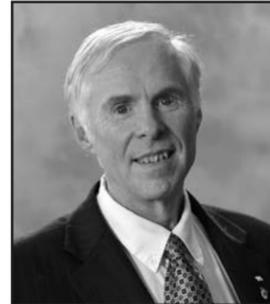


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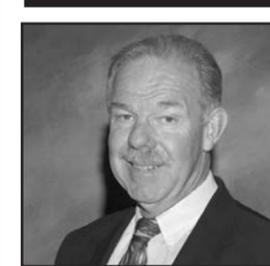


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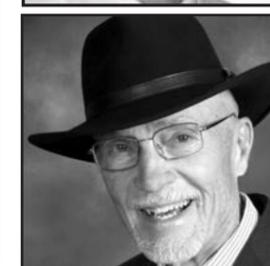
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OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS 2017-2019

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, 2016 and will be due no later than March 1, 2016. Appointments will be made at the Spring Board Meeting.

<http://www.nacaa.com/leadership/application.php>

Professional Improvement Council	Region Open To Application	
Agronomy & Pest Management - Vice Chair	North Central and North East	2 year term
Ag Economics & Comm. Dev. - Vice Chair	North Central and Southern	2 year term
Animal Science - Vice Chair	North East and Western	2 year term
Natural Resources/Aquaculture - Vice Chair	North Central and Western	2 year term
Horticulture & Turf Grass - Vice Chair	Western and Southern	2 year term
Sustainable Agriculture	North East and Southern	2 year term
Extension Development Council	Region Open To Application	
Ag Issues & Public Relations - Vice Chair	North Central and North East	2 year term
Early Career Development - Vice Chair	Western and Southern	2 year term
Administrative Skills Dev. - Vice Chair	North East and Western	2 year term
Teaching & Educational Technologies - Vice Chair	North Central and Southern	2 year term
Program Recognition Council	Region Open To Application	
Communications - Vice Chair	North East and Western	2 year term
Search for Excellence - Vice Chair	North Central and Western	2 year term
4-H and Youth - Vice Chair	North East and Western	2 year term
Professional Excellence - Vice Chair	North East and Southern	2 year term
Public Relations - Vice Chair	Southern	2 year term
Recognition & Awards - Vice Chair	North Central and Southern	2 year term
Scholarship - Vice Chair	North Central and North East	2 year term
Council Chair Openings	Open to General Membership	
Program Recognition Council Chair	Open to General Membership	3 year term
National Committee Chair Openings		
*Administrative Skills	National Chair	1 year term
*Agricultural Issues & Public Relations	National Chair	1 year term
*Teaching & Educational Technologies	National Chair	1 year term
*Early Career Development	National Chair	1 year term
*Agricultural Economics & Community Development	National Chair	1 year term
*Agronomy & Pest Management	National Chair	1 year term
Animal Science	National Chair	1 year term
Horticulture & Turfgrass	National Chair	1 year term
*Natural Resources/Aquaculture	National Chair	1 year term
*Sustainable Agriculture	National Chair	1 year term
Communications	National Chair	2 year term
Professional Excellence	National Chair	2 year term
Public Relations	National Chair	2 year term
Recognition & Awards	National Chair	2 year term
Scholarship	National Chair	2 year term
Search For Excellence	National Chair	2 year term
* Open to Vice Chairs		

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Access the agents toolbox at
PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com

chris@emailir.com | 612.386.8858

Lets Grow
 Safely Together



2.2 Million
 Farms in America

2.6 Million
 Miles of pipeline
 in America

1 Call
 Keeps them
 both safe

Fewer than **1 in 15** farmers with pipelines on their land have EVER called 811 or notified a pipeline operator before digging (18%).



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

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

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

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

2019
Forth Wayne, IndianaSeptember 8-12

