

The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume LXXVIII No. 2 June 2017

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

2017 AM/PIC Ready...Set...Go!

In just a week or two, many of you will be venturing to the great state of Utah to explore, learn and venture into the urban oasis of Salt Lake City.

The Utah Association of County Agricultural Agents, along with help from the Western Region State Associations, have worked hard to prepare for this year's AM/PIC, and are ready for your arrival.

In order to meet our hotel demand, 2 additional hotels were added to our list of conference hotels. The Fairfield Inn & Suites Downtown Salt Lake City, and the Hampton Inn Salt Lake City Downtown. If you plan to ship items to the AM/PIC ahead of your arrival, we suggest you ship directly to the hotel your reservation was submitted to (found on your confirmation letter).

Addresses for the hotels are as follows:

Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown
215 S Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Salt Lake Plaza Temple Square
122 S Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Holiday Inn Express
206 S W Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Hampton Inn SLC Downtown
425 300 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Fairfield Inn & Suites Downtown SLC
130 W 400 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Just as a reminder, the 2017 AM/PIC conference hotels are all within 10-15 minutes of travel time from the airport. Salt Lake City has a Trax (train) system which will take you within 1 block of 3 of our hotels. Here are some instructions on how to get from the airport to the Radisson Hotel Downtown.

When you get to the airport you will need to get your luggage and go East through terminal 1 to the Trax Rail station just east of terminal one. When you get there you can buy a ticket for \$2.50 and then get on the train. The train comes

every 20 minutes and operates from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. You will travel into downtown Salt Lake City. As you get into the downtown area you will get off the train at the **Temple Square Trax Stop**. For the Radisson Downtown Hotel - you will then walk back to the west about 1 block. The Salt Lake Plaza is directly North of this Trax Stop, and the Holiday Inn Express is on the South Side of the Convention Center (around the block). For the Fairfield Inn & Suites - stay on the Trax for the **Gallivan Plaza Station** - and the hotel is within 2 1/2 blocks. For the Hampton Inn - take the same **Gallivan Plaza Station** - and your walk will be approximately 3 1/2 blocks.

For a map showing the Trax stops - please view https://www.rideuta.com/-/media/RideUTA/Maps/UTA_RAIL_Map.ashx

You are also more than welcome to take a taxi from the airport to any of the conference hotels - approximate rate will cost \$26. Or give Uber a try for \$11-\$15.



Exploring Commonalities Between 4-H and Agricultural Programs in States with Unique Challenges



Betsy Greene (University of Arizona) and Janet Schmidt (Washington State University)

With the help of NACAA Scholarship funding, we had an incredible opportunity to participate and present at our NACAA Western Regional AM/PIC in Kona, Hawaii (October 2016), and then to add on additional touring following the meetings.

The first aspect of the trip involved participation in the Western Regional NACAA AM/PIC in Kona on the Big Island. Beginning with a get acquainted activity on Wednesday evening, a full day of scholarly presentations and a final day of Farm tours on Friday, this meeting brought together Western Regional members to share programming and professional development beyond the annual NACAA AM/PIC. And, following a recent move from the Northeast region (Vermont) to the Western region (Arizona), this portion was especially useful for Betsy to meet and interact with Western region members. Janet gave an oral presentation titled “Women, Farm and Food-Using Webinar Technology to Grow Agricultural Opportunities for Women”, while Betsy presented one of three posters (equine, beef, and dairy) reporting on results of a statewide Arizona livestock/equine industry members survey. Her poster was titled “Identifying Equine-Related Cooperative Extension Program Priorities via a Statewide Survey”.

The official tours from the meetings began at Greenwell Coffee Farm in Kealahou, giving agents a great view of their business, from seedling grafting, use of outdoor drying tables, learning about coffee “peaberries”, and of course, wonderful coffee tasting. The next stop was at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) in Kailua. There we had a tour of two sustainable operations, Kampachi Farms, LLC, a research fish operation, and Big Island Abalone Farm, which has a sustainable shellfish system (and grilled Abalone samples for the tour group!). We had a full day packed with great information on some of Hawaii’s agricultural businesses.

At this point, our small group broke away from the official tour and visited the University of Hawaii CTAHR Mealani Research Station in Kamuela for a tour and discussion of research on the pasture system and cattle. We met with Marla (Manager) at the extension building and got some background about the facility. With just under 200 acres, 160 of those used for grazing, the station raises Angus/composite animals (Brahma, Holstein (to increase milk), Tarentaise, Santa Gertudis, and Hereford). Marla shared that the key purpose was education. With the extremely high cost to import grain, much of their herd was grass finished, and they rotated their grazing between 3 acre pens. They separated animals by class (finishing steers, replacement heifers then cow/calf) in order of needed energy (a couple

different schemes/trials), then they changed to finishing steers/replacement heifers together followed by cow/calf pairs to meet the needs while getting maximal utilization of the fields. Their stocking density work averaged about 1.5 head per acre.

One of their service activities was to teach students to artificially inseminate cattle, work on corn and Leucenia (a grass type) research, and focus on low stress handling of the animals. There was an Investigative Garden, a Perennial Peanut collection, a Forage Demonstration Garden, and also research involving corn silage/grain, economics, and genetics. They also had a large grant to support an "Ag Venture" program to teach youth about agriculture.

One interesting tidbit from this facility: They were having issues with Fireweed (toxic to cattle and horses), so they tried a biocontrol (a specific moth), which did work... until the moths started liking the ivy common in backyards more than the Fireweed, and ended up in people's houses. The second aspect of the trip included meeting with Extension colleagues from Hawaii Extension after the regional meeting to examine the organization and delivery of livestock/equine/pasture and 4H programming on the island. In particular, we wanted to explore both the ranch side of their agricultural operations and also the delivery methods that Extension employs to effectively engage and energize their audiences to make changes. Even though



the geography is considerably different in Hawaii than our states (Arizona and Washington), we felt that many of the challenges would be similar and methodology for program delivery would have great applicability. With personnel and other leadership changes occurring in many states in the west, we were looking at processes and procedures to be gleaned to become more efficient and effective in our daily work, while still building confidence in Extension's ability to serve the needs of clientele. Hawaii Extension (few people) has modeled how to deliver high quality extension education across a large area with limited infrastructure in place.

Hawaii has very unique range of geographic and environmental challenges and conditions relative to equine/livestock operations. Although Hawaii and Arizona and Washington are all extremely different in climate and landscapes, they have some very close similarities in the fact that the audiences are very spread out and for folks travel to

cont. on page 4

The County Agent

The County Agent is a publication
of the National Association of
County Agricultural Agents
President: Mark Nelson

Editor: Scott Hawbaker -
Greendell Publishing
6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756
(217) 794-3700 • Fax (217) 794-5901
e-mail: nacaemail@aol.com
<http://nacaa.com>

Volume LXXVIII No. 2 June, 2017 **The County Agent**
(ISSN 0164-3932) (USPS 0134-900) is published four times per year (Dec., March, June, Oct.) by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756. Subscription price is \$10.00 annually and is included as part of an active member's dues. Periodical Class postage paid at Jefferson City, MO. *Submit articles and photos to Greendell Publishing at the address listed above.*

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The County Agent • National Association of County Agricultural Agents
Editor: Scott Hawbaker
6584 W. Duroc Rd., Maroa, IL 61756

one or two sites for extension activities (in Hawaii's case: islands) is not feasible for most clientele. We were very interested in examining how they go about delivering and disseminating their programs.

Our NACAA Scholarship tour began with a meeting in Hilo with 4-H Agent Becky Settledge. She spoke to us about a very successful Ag Awareness program, and we identified it as a common thread between our states relative to an ever increasing lack of Ag awareness. She did a great program in Hilo to help folks understand where their food comes from while providing food system education for the youth. We also had a commonality between challenges with 4-H enrollments, working with volunteers, volunteer training and management, and working with the youth. Finding, training, and keeping good leaders and volunteers as well as the challenges with so much competition for the youth's time (e.g. soccer, etc.) were also common issues across the states. As with Arizona horse projects/clubs, many youth in Hawaii do not have access to a situation where they can keep their animals at home like many of the traditional 4-H clubs.

Becky brought us to Kulalau Ranch and Victory Gardens where we met with about 15 of the 4-H club members who were preparing to do a Haunted Woods/Petting Zoo activity. They were making decorations in covered areas as the rain poured down around us. They took a break from preparation to show us all of their 4-H club animals and activities, which involved raising pigs in Pig Tractors: Ke Pua'a mahi'ai, which was designed by the farm owner. The pigs are raised on locally produced feed, including left over bread and vegetables, and they graze in their 10x10 pens, which are moved daily. The project pigs are farrowed on site, with the youth involved in all aspects of care and management. Since most of the club members didn't live in a situation which could support "project animals", the farm kept all project animals on site, and youth spent a great deal of time working to care for their animals. Also, the farm had some grant support for greenhouse projects.

The 4-H Club members also participate in duck projects, and were working on fundraising for a trip to a China orphanage to help them establish a garden/farm to contribute to food production. The farm also had sheep, rabbit, and chicken projects. One limitation for the farm was limited access to the only two processing facilities on the island, since larger cattle operations were monopolizing the processing time. They were working on trying to get a mobile slaughter facility to support the "backyard" or smaller farm producers. Some other tidbits regarding the club/farm operation, they used the pig tractor grazing to maintain the soil and keep it balanced, with 170 inches of rain each year, they used native grasses and sweet potatoes as a good portion of their feed sources. Finally, they could



sell their organic duck eggs for \$8.00/dozen.

We interacted with some other agricultural industry members and had great discussions with agents at the meetings and during our post meeting tour. All in all, we gained insight on Hawaii issues and found commonality in some of the challenges of "land based separation" as well as club member resources. It was a worthwhile trip and we have shared and came away with some new ideas for application in Washington and Arizona livestock and equine programming. We wouldn't have had this opportunity unless we had the supplemental funding from the NACAA Educational Foundation - Scholarship Program.

Thank you NACAA and NACAA Educational Foundation!

**CHECK OUT OUR
WEB SITE**

www.nacaa.com

**For the latest news &
information regarding
NACAA meetings,
membership database
updates, award
submissions/recognition,
NACAA Supporters and
the list goes on....
and on...and on!**



2016/2017 NACAA



Report to the Membership

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP 2016 / 2017

President

R. Mark Nelson

Utah



Serving as your president this past year has been a humbling, challenging and yet gratifying experience. It certainly has been the highlight of my Extension career. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your NACAA President.

I can report that your association is as strong today, as it has ever been. This past year, I'm honored to have worked with the NACAA Board of Directors, as we did our best to keep our organization viable for future years to come. We are all very appreciative of our Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker. His years of experience have once again proven to be highly valuable as we planned this years Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

One the most enjoyable parts of being NACAA President, is representing our association at a variety of functions throughout the year. In October, I was able to attend the Western Region NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Hawaii. The Hawaii agents did an outstanding job hosting the conference. There were a wide variety of member presentations held during the conference as well as an opportunity to tour the big island of Hawaii. On this tour, we were able to examine unique research projects being coordinated by Hawaii Extension.

NACAA Southern Region Director Bill Burdine, and myself, were able to visit Puerto Rico during their association meeting, celebrating Puerto Rico's 50th anniversary of being a land grant University. Agents from Puerto Rico joined NACAA for the first time last year so I was excited to attend their meeting and welcome them to NACAA. The Puerto Rico agents did a wonderful job of showing us a wide variety of Puerto Rico agriculture from plantain to pineapples to dairies.

I was also able to attend the JCEP Leadership Conference in Orlando, and the PILD Conference in Washington DC this past spring. Many NACAA members gave presentations at both of these conferences. I was able to garner a wide variety of good ideas to take back to my home state of Utah.

I was also able to represent NACAA at the "Falcon 2016" conference which was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This conference was geared for 1994 land grant universities.

I am really looking forward to seeing our association members at the 2017 NACAA AM/PIC. The agents from Utah have worked very hard to make sure you have a great time enjoying our state. This years meeting promises to offer you a wide variety of educational activities along with the opportunity to experience first-hand the knowledge, hospitality and enthusiasm of my fellow Utah colleagues.

All in all, it promises to be a great meeting and I hope you have already made your plans to join us for a great week of learning, sharing, and western hospitality.

President

Elect

Alan B. Galloway

Tennessee



NACAA is highly indebted to the many sponsors and donors who see value in what we do for our members and what NACAA members do for their clientele. The support from sponsors and donors of our programs provide the ability to recognize the amazing programs of NACAA members each year. Without their generosity, NACAA simply would be unable to showcase and recognize the excellence educational efforts accomplished by NACAA members. We have had long-term relationships with many of our sponsors and some have partnered with us more

recently. This year NACAA will receive around \$130,000 in sponsorship and grants.

Maintaining a relationship with each sponsor becomes increasingly difficult in today's business environment. Many agricultural businesses and industries continue to consolidate or merge. These changes means there are fewer companies out there who understand the impacts and connections NACAA members have with farmers, ranchers, local businesses and their communities across the country. When these agricultural business merge often the current sponsorship is reduced and sometimes eliminated as the new management of the company determines their direction and where they will choose to place their emphasis and sponsorship dollars.

Another major factor in keeping sponsors is being able to show the impact of the dollars they provide. Much like our universities ask us to show the impact of our educational programs. Sponsors like to see large numbers of members participating in the programs they sponsor. Over the years we have lost sponsors simply because few members chose to showcase the work they were doing by applying for recognition. Each of us conduct workshops, write articles and publications and meet with and teach something to our clientele each and every day. NACAA members must participate by applying to the many recognition programs or presentation opportunities to help show our sponsors we are using their funds efficiently and to provide needed information to younger members. Many great educational programs began from an idea or concept obtained from another member at an NACAA annual meeting and professional improvement conference (AM/PIC).

Many of our sponsors fund the awards and recognition programs because they believe in what we do. We must continue to provide feedback and thank our sponsors each year to ensure they know how much we appreciate their support.

NACAA continues to provide an incentive to members who identify and assist in securing a new sponsor. Many NACAA members know personally, went to school with and/or regularly contact agricultural leaders of many businesses who could be NACAA sponsors. Please pass along these potential sponsors and inquire about the incentive.

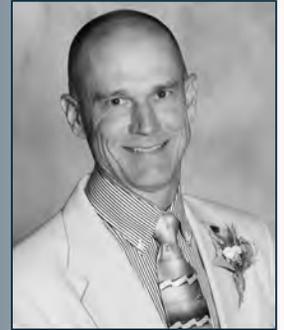
The NACAA board will continue to work with our current sponsors and to locate and solicit new sponsorship. This year plans are being made to enhance our process for soliciting sponsorship. With the help of NACAA members across the country we hope to continue our current recognition programs and expand them by creating new needed ways to highlight the great work conducted by NACAA members.

It has been an honor to serve as NACAA president elect and assist in a small way in the many functions of our association. I appreciate the support of the members and administrators from Tennessee and the confidence they have shown by nominating me to serve in this capacity. I look forward to many more years of service to NACAA and helping all current members and potential members see the value of participation in their professional association. I hope to see many of you in Salt Lake City for what will be a fantastic 2017 NACAA AM/PIC.

**Vice
President**

Richard Fechter

Kansas



This has been a year of personal growth and awesome opportunities to interact with and learn from many dedicated leaders within NACAA. As the NACAA Vice President this past year, my role has been to provide leadership for the operation of the NACAA's three councils and 18 standing committees. The Vice President chairs the Executive Program Committee, which is made up of the three council chairs. Much of the committee work load begins and ends with the duties of the three council chairs. This year's council chairs are: Kurt Jones of Colorado, Extension Development Council; Sherri Sanders of Arkansas; Professional Improvement Council and Keith Mickler of Georgia, Program Recognition Council. It has been an honor working with these three individuals. They devote many hours coordinating and communicating with their committees for the benefit of our association. A big thank you to them! Kurt Jones is completing is term as Extension Development Council Chair and we will welcome Brian Haller from Arkansas as the new Council Chair after the 2017 AM/PIC.

The 18 National Committee Chairs and 62 Regional Vice Chairs log many hours carrying out the many NACAA awards and professional improvement programs, and deserve special thanks for their hard work as well.

NACAA committees are the lifeblood of our organization and account for the bulk of the work the national association does on behalf of the membership. The bulk of committee work revolves around achieving the three clear aspects of NACAA's mission: First, to provide professional development opportunities tailored specifically for agricultural Extension agents. Second is to recognize and reward professional excellence among

our peers and third is to provide leadership development opportunities. NACAA committees provide these types of professional opportunities not only at the AM/PIC, but also through various webinars that are held during the year.

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone involved with recruiting committee leadership for the ensuing year; especially the council chairs and regional directors for their tireless efforts to guarantee all our vital committee positions are filled. Committee positions offer excellent leadership opportunities for our members. I encourage all members to seriously consider the various leadership opportunities offered each year within the organization. This includes national leadership positions on the Board of Directors, which are open to ALL members. Your professional association works for you because of the volunteer leadership of so many dedicated members. Many of your colleagues who have served in these leadership positions have said that their personal growth and leadership skills had benefitted tremendously because of serving their professional association in one of these leadership positions.

I have appreciated the opportunity to be part of the leadership team representing NACAA at several conferences this past year including the JCEP Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida and the PILD Conference in Washington D.C. While at the PILD Conference, President Nelson, Past President Gregg, and I had the opportunity to meet with several USDA and NIFA agency leaders.

This year at the AM/PIC we will have a NACAA National Committee Member Workshop and Luncheon on Sunday along with a NACAA National Committee Recognition Breakfast on Wednesday. If you are currently serving as a State Chair/Contact and will be attending the 2017 AM/PIC, mark your calendar for the committee meetings on Monday afternoon. Your input is valuable and will insure we continue with high quality presentations, posters, and awards in future years.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Vice President this past year, and thank you for the trust you have placed in me. Also, thank you to my Kansas colleagues for their support of my service to NACAA. This has been an outstanding year and wonderful experience serving as your NACAA Vice President.

Secretary

Matt Herring

Missouri



Completing my third and final year as NACAA secretary, I have taken a moment to reflect on the role and some of the changes in the past year.

As Secretary of the Association, my primary responsibility is to record minutes of the board meetings and other activities of the association and keep our membership informed through posting minutes to the NACAA website. The board holds meetings before and after the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. We hold winter and spring board meetings and monthly teleconferences. During the meetings I take minutes, but also make audio recordings that I play back to try to capture details I may have missed. Draft minutes are reviewed by the board and then approved at a meeting that is at least two weeks after board members receive the draft minutes. After the minutes are approved by the board they are posted on the NACAA website. Links are also established to board documents. The board decided in 2010 to restrict access to association financial information and so these reports are not available through the website, but can be requested from the NACAA Treasurer.

The Association Secretary serves as the chair of the Internal Publications Committee. This committee is charged with oversight of the content of the NACAA website, The County Agent magazine and the Journal of NACAA. Stephen Brown completed his third and final year as editor of the Journal of NACAA at the 2016 AM/PIC. The board greatly appreciates Stephen's efforts as editor. In 2015, the NACAA board selected Lee Stivers to succeed Stephen as editor and asked her to work with him for a year to learn more about the role. Lee took over as editor at the 2016 AM/PIC and has done a great job. She has worked to keep the list of journal article reviewers current. She also is planning to update article submission instructions and instructions for reviewers. The NACAA Journal provides members an avenue to publish in a peer-reviewed journal, and is an opportunity to share program and research results with our membership.

As I reported last year, the board made a decision to purchase fireproof filing cabinets to store association records after we learned that storing records at the National Agriculture Library would no longer be an option. Alan

Galloway located five cabinets at a very reasonable cost and arranged to transport them to Scott Hawbaker's office. The Publication Committee met in November to review the Association's records. Scott Hawbaker is working to categorize and alphabetize records to be stored in the cabinets. This effort should make the association records both safe and accessible to the membership.

It has been an honor to serve the membership of NACAA and I look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City in July!

Treasurer

Wes Smith

Georgia



It has been a good year serving as your Treasurer. I appreciate the support of GACAA, University of Georgia administrators and my county. As most of you realize, I have decided to retire by the end of 2017, so therefore will only serve two years as NACAA Treasurer. Although serving a third year would have been possible, I felt with all the "moving parts" of the position responsibilities, it was in the best interest of NACAA to have someone who was currently employed. I think we have two very capable candidates running for Treasurer.

The Association is in good financial order. There were certain procedural changes made this in dealing with meal expenses at the AM/PIC with hope that it will be a lesser financial burden on the hosting state association. As we move forward, the intention of the board will be to make even more changes to assist hosting states.

As I finish my career as an agent, it has been a challenging yet rewarding career. I have enjoyed working with my local producers. Being a member of GACAA and NACAA has been very good for me both personally and professionally. Both organizations allowed me opportunities to learn from colleagues and make lasting friendships.



Past President

Cynthia L. Gregg

Virginia



The past four years have flown by and I want to say Thank you to all of you. It has been an honor to serve on your NACAA Board representing all of you. Once you are Past President, you still have many assignments to accomplish in addition to being an advisor to the NACAA Board.

As Past President, one of my responsibilities is to update the AM/PIC Handbook. This handbook is utilized by states who are considering, or who have received approval from the NACAA Voting Delegates to host an upcoming meeting. It's been several years since this document has been modified. Extensive updates have been made to this document and it will go before the NACAA Board for approval at the 2017 Pre-Board Meeting. I hope this proves helpful to states and regions thinking about hosting an Annual Meeting.

NACAA President Nelson, requested that I serve as the NACAA Board representative on the NACAA Educational Foundation this past year. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity and work alongside our associations' past leadership. I've enjoyed seeing our members support the NACAA Educational Foundation and reap the benefits as well. The goal is to have \$1Million by 2025, to insure scholarship for many years to come. We are getting closer to completing this goal early; however, we need to continue our plan to grow the Foundation, as this will enable additional scholarship for years to come. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, you can vest yourself either monetarily or by donating an item to the Scholarship Auction and the amount the items brings is credited to you. Contact the Scholarship Committee Members for more details.

This year I am serving as President of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Board. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to represent NACAA and JCEP at the ANREP/NACDEP Conference in Vermont and the ESP Conference in New Jersey. The conferences were very educational and worthwhile experiences. Each Association is different, but one commonality we have is professional development for all our members. I have had the opportunity to attend the Extension Council on Organization and Policy (ECOP) while serving as JCEP

Policy Chair

Rick Gibson

Arizona



President. This Year's JCEP Leadership conference was well attended and our first Virtual Town Hall was a success. This year we received over eighty presentation submissions for twenty-eight presentations spots available. We have some amazing work going on and we are fortunate to have co-workers from across the country willing to share with all of us. The Public Issues Leadership Development Conference held in Washington, DC is an opportunity for Extension Volunteers and Educators to come together to advocate and educate National Elected Officials on Cooperative Extension. The attendees get a chance to fine-tune their message at the Conference. This year there was a One Ask for Cooperative Extension across the country. One highlight this year, in addition to visiting elected official on the Hill, was the chance to hear from two Communication Directors. We all learned a lot from them. I had the opportunity during PILD, to visit USDA NIFA, with President Mark Nelson and Vice-President Richard Fechter. It was a great visit and a special Thank you to USDA NIFA Chief of Staff Bill Hoffman for all of his help in making this visit possible. This year an additional highlight was getting to meet two members of the Beachhead Team, the two young men were part of the Presidential Transition Team and working at the USDA. I will never forget that experience.

This year I had the esteemed privilege to represent NACAA at the National Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) Awards Conference administered through Outstanding Farmers of America. NACAA Members nominated a majority of the top ten finalists. In representing you, I judged, gave a speech, attended the sessions, enjoyed the tour, and participated in the awards program. This program is very impressive, and I strongly encourage you to nominate one of your Outstanding Young Farmers for future award consideration. Please contact Ray Hicks, NACAA Liaison, for more information on the nomination process.

Dan and I will be forever grateful to all of you. Your support throughout these past four years has been amazing and humbling. I have heard others say this is a once in a lifetime experience that you will always be in awe of, grateful for, and amazed by; those words are so very true.

I am truly thankful for the trust you placed in me four years ago. Please know I always strived to have your best interests and needs in the forefront every day. To my Virginia Colleagues, thank you for everything you have done for me. I am honored to work with each of you.

I'm looking forward to the outstanding meeting the Utah Extension agents have planned for us and will see everyone in Salt Lake City! Safe travels!

The position of Association Policy Chair has many assignments and all are important to the NACAA organization. Probably the most essential of those assignments is the opportunity to serve as the link between the Policy Committee members, the NACAA Board of Directors, and the NACAA membership. I have enjoyed working with the Board members these past two years as they have dedicated themselves and their time to the improvement of our professional improvement association.

The Policy Committee also has the responsibility of safeguarding the intent of the NACAA by-laws, assisting in the preservation of NACAA professional standards, reviewing reports and proposed actions before they are presented to the Board of Directors, and when invited, offering an opinion on new measures under consideration by the Voting Delegates, Board of Directors, NACAA committees, and the membership at large. In this assignment, the committee chair ensures that association activities do not go beyond the boundaries set by the Association Bylaws and policy statements.

In addition to these assignments, the Policy Committee offers a historical perspective, clarifies and/or interprets policy, and proposes measures to meet the challenges of changing internal and external conditions. They also review and, where necessary, revise the pages of the NACAA Policy Manual. This past year our assignment was to review Chapter V, Elections. We are pleased to report that the assignment is complete.

Policy chairs serve for two years and are past national presidents. The chair has no official vote on the Board of Directors but must ever be vigilant to help the Board best represent the interests of the NACAA membership. Three years ago, the NACAA by-laws were changed by voting delegates to allow membership of the Policy Committee to include all past presidents from the previous ten years plus all active member past presidents no matter how long ago they served.

For the past year, members of the Policy Committee have included: Chuck Otte, Fred Miller, Rick Gibson, Phil Pratt, Stan Moore, Paul Wigley, Paul Craig, Henry

Dorough, Mike Hogan, and Cynthia Gregg. Even though Glenn Rogers is no longer technically a member of the Committee, I have chosen to request his insights on key issues. We are pleased to formally welcome Mark Nelson to the committee beginning with the 2017-18 year. I wish to publicly thank each of these wonderful colleagues for their past and continuing service to NACAA. I appreciate their support and assistance throughout my tenure as Committee chair.

The incoming chair for the coming two years will be a Michigan friend and colleague, Stan Moore. Stan has been kept up-to-date with current issues and questions during this past year so I fully expect a seamless transition between the two Committee chairs at the conclusion of the AM/PIC. I know that Stan will be an excellent chair. The Board and the entire Association can have confidence in his preparation, understanding, and commitment to the best interests of the organization.

NACAA is a vibrant and energetic professional improvement association. In its organization, it is firm in its commitment to the vision of its founders but, at the same time, it is sufficiently resilient, because of its Bylaws and policies, to easily adapt to changing demographics and constraints. In my service as policy chair these past two years, I have come to find over and over again that these fundamental concepts are true. NACAA in its one hundred plus years of existence has a proud heritage. At the same time, it will continue to be relevant to the needs of its members as it moves ever forward into the future. I am proud to be a member of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

**North Central
Region Director**

Chris Bruynis

Ohio



Serving the NACAA membership as the North Central Regional Director has been a great experience for me personally and professionally. I have met many colleagues, made great friends, and learned an amazing amount from all of you. I just need time to incorporate all the great programming ideas into my programming efforts back in Ohio!

My hope is that I have served you well, representing your concerns to the NACAA Board to improve this association. Just like our respective extension organizations are changing, NACAA must continue to evolve as an organization to meet the needs of its members.

I attended the JCEP Leadership Conference with many of our state association presidents in February. In addition to many great presentations, this conference is one of the opportunities for the NACAA Board to exchange ideas with state association. I always come away with ideas on how to tweak NACAA to meet the needs of our members. I also represented our membership while serving on the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) planning committee and assisting during the conference in April. The conference went extremely well as we attended many great breakout sessions, conversed with our USDA National Program Leaders, and held many rewarding visits with our Congressmen on Capitol Hill.

What an honor it has been to serve the membership of NACAA in the North Central Region! I look forward to completing my term as your Regional Director and have full confidence that Connie Strunk will serve us well as the next Regional Director. I hope to see many of you in Salt Lake City, Utah for the 102nd NACAA AM/PIC!

**North East
Region Director**

Ginny Rosenkranz

Maryland



I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the North East Region on the NACAA Board this year. I have enjoyed attending the North East states association meetings this past fall and this spring, and I have been impressed with the creativity, talent and dedication the extension professional's exhibit. The quality of each states Professional Improvement Conference at their annual meetings is a credit to their membership. Many of the states planned excellent tours where I learned so much and enjoyed very much.

I have also enjoyed the challenges of assisting with the Joint Council Extension Professionals (JCEP) and Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD). Both conferences were well attended and had many excellent breakout sessions, and I would like to encourage all members to plan on attending the next year's meetings.

I would also like to encourage all NACAA members to step out of their comfort zone a bit to look at giving back to their National Association, either as a chair or vice chair for a committee, become a SARE Fellows or write an article for the Journal of NACAA. I have found that the more I give, the more I receive!

Another challenge I helped with was assisting the North East with the decision to make a bid to host a National meeting in 2021. I became a part of a subcommittee with Dan Kluchinski from NJ, and Craig Williams from PA, that looked at many of the cities in the North East to select an exciting city that could offer us what we needed for a successful AM/PIC. We examined various important aspects - convenient access to great locations for our many tours, one that provided excellent access by air, train and personal transportation, and one that could offer our NACAA members adequate comfortable space for the conference. I would also like to thank my colleagues in Maryland for giving me the opportunity to serve as the North East Director for NACAA these last two years. The opportunity only comes once in a person's career, and I am very thankful for the trust that they extended to me.

enjoyed representing NACAA at their business meetings. It is great to see all of the posters, presentations and program recognition awards received by the agents. And best of all, I enjoy just interacting with agents from these states.

A Special Thanks to all of the Southern Region states that have hosted, are considering hosting or have considered hosting an AM/PIC during my tenure as director. You have all been great to work with and I appreciate your willingness to undertake this task. Hosting a national meeting is one thing that will definitely bring your state association membership closer together.

The more time you spend involved with this organization, the better appreciation you develop for the tremendous opportunities provided by the NACAA. There is no other Extension organization that provides Extension professionals with the depth of professional development and leadership opportunities as the NACAA. I would urge every member to take advantage of the opportunities that the association can provide to them over the course of their careers as County Agricultural Extension Agents.

I look forward to many great achievements by NACAA as we move on into the future.

**Southern
Region Director**
Jerry Brown
Kentucky



It seems hard to believe that my term as a Southern Region Director is coming to an end. Serving as a Regional Director has been a highlight of my career. It has to be the best job in the NACAA! It has been a pleasure to serve on the board and to represent NACAA at all of the state association meetings that I have attended.

**Southern
Region Director**
Bill Burdine
Mississippi



First, I would like to thank the Kentucky Association of County Agricultural Agents for their confidence in me and allowing me to serve as a Southern Region Director. It also has been a pleasure to get to know and to work with each of the NACAA officers and regional directors. I also want thank them for their dedication to the association.

The first year of my term as Director is almost complete. Somehow it feels like I have served for years, but also like I just started, but trust me when I say it's been a great ride so far. I've heard former Directors say that this is the best job in NACAA and now I know why. We get to meet so many new people and see new things during our travels. The people in Extension really are what makes Extension the vibrant, ever-changing organization that it is.

While serving on the board, I have seen the value to our organization of our committee structure. This is where the real work takes place to make NACAA successful. Hopefully we can continue to enhance communications between committees of the state associations and the NACAA committees. Our state officers and state committee chairs are the backbone that makes our national program recognition and professional improvement efforts successful.

During my state visits, I've seen states coping with shrinking budgets develop new delivery formats and create new partnerships so they can continue to help the people of their state live better lives. I was impressed by one states' manner of providing monetary awards for great programs. Another state really assists its new members in getting programs moving in the right direction. Yet another pushes NACAA membership with a strong mentoring program. I've seen Old Gen X'ers (like me) work with Millennials to better reach our audience. Extension is mandated to be an 'Agent of Change' to help people do better. Change is

There are great things going on in every state that I have visited and there are many great association leaders in every state. Their professional development sessions and tours are interesting, educational and well planned. I have

always hard but in visiting state associations, I realize how much change is taking place. Kudo's to all in Extension who are stepping out of your comfort zone and making changes for the better. You've inspired me to do better.

The NACAA Board puts in many hours to make NACAA the association you need and want it to be. We hope to provide you with both professional and personal growth opportunities. If we are failing you, let us know. If we get something right, let us know we're heading down the right path. We are a large, dynamic and diverse group of individuals with many different needs but we are trying to offer everyone something of benefit. If you haven't benefitted, did we fail you or have you not grabbed onto an opportunity. Just food for thought.

I offer a special Thank You to the Puerto Rico Association for the amazing educational tour they provided of the island. It was one of the highlights of my career. You went above and beyond with your graciousness. I made friends I'll never forget.

In closing, I thank the Mississippi Association for giving me this opportunity. It has been great. If anyone from the Southern Region has an idea or problem, please give me a call.

**Western
Region Director**
Stephen Brown
Alaska



What an honor it has been to serve my first term as the Western Region Director. When I started my Extension career in 1992, it was unthinkable to me that I would ever be on the NACAA national board. I was told by my first County Director that active participation in NACAA would do great things for my career and that has turned out to be very true.

Over this past year I have made many new friends and have met some truly amazing up-and-coming future leaders. In April I had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the Oregon Agents Association. I was impressed by the breadth and depth of knowledge those Extension professionals exhibited. It was my first trip to Eastern Oregon and I was really impressed with its rugged beauty.

I was told that being a Regional Director is the best board position to have and that has turned out to be true. The challenge has been the long distances I must travel when

coming from Alaska. A visit to any state almost always starts with a middle of the night flight out of Anchorage (usually between midnight and 3 am.) It could be worse...I could be from Hawaii where the travel distances are even greater.

I attended my first Public Issues Leadership Development conference in Washington D.C. I would encourage all of our member to attend if possible. The workshops and breakouts were extremely useful. I had made appointments to meet with the Alaskan legislative delegation, but they had to back out at the last minute for security briefings. On the way back to the hotel I thought it was curious that there were bumper to bumper pizza delivery cars going into the Pentagon complex. Later that day we fired missiles at Syria so I guess folks were working late!

The Western Region is the only region that conducts its own Professional Improvement Conference. This past year's meeting was in Kona, Hawaii. Many kudos go out to the Hawaii Association for conducting an outstanding meeting. The 2017 Western Professional Improvement Conference will take place October 24 & 25 and will be hosted by New Mexico. The Western PIC is a great alternative to the AM/PIC.

My only regret this past year is that I was not able to attend the JCEP meeting. I am President of the Alaska State Fair and our annual meeting and board election occurs at the same time as the JCEP meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Western Region members for their support. It has been an honor and I look forward to one more year. See you in Salt Lake City!

**Professional
Improvement
Council Chair**
Sherri Sanders
Arkansas



The Professional Improvement Council (PIC) is one of the three Councils that make up the committee structure of NACAA. The purpose of this council is to further the professional improvement of our members. The Council consists of six committees: Agricultural Economics & Community Development, Agronomy & Pest Management, Animal Science, Horticulture & Turfgrass, Natural Resources/Aquaculture/Sea Grant and Sustainable Agriculture.

The educational activities consist of presentations, educational tours, and super seminars planned for AM/PIC. One of the greatest attributes of the NACAA AM/PIC is that most of the presentations given are by other agents or specialists from across the country. Not only is this advantageous for promotion in rank for the presenter, it is “real-world” useful information that other participants can take home, modify and use in their own area of work. Between the member led presentations, pre-tours and super seminars planned, everyone will have ample opportunities to experience a wide variety of topics. Animal Science, Horticulture and Turfgrass, Natural Resources & Sustainable Ag – SARE committees have planned educational pre-tour opportunities. The Ag Economics and Community Development committee will offer a Super Seminar Tuesday morning, examining long term lease and crop insurance issues important to Extension professionals. Reading the Farm will be conducted as a super seminar, hosted by the Sustainable Agriculture SARE committee, to provide the background information required to plan and facilitate a Reading the Farm Program. Sustainable Agriculture has chosen four new SARE Fellows to begin their journey.

NACAA is an organization with numerous opportunities for professional development and leadership. One method of involvement is through the committee structure, which provides a way for members to share their talents for the benefit of NACAA. This next year, I encourage you to try something new with NACAA, apply for a committee position, participate in a pre-tour, apply to be a presenter, apply for an award or perhaps put your hat in the ring to become a SARE Fellow!

Finally, with sincere gratitude, thank you to the committee chairs, vice chairs and state chairs. I truly appreciate your hard work and dedication. My sincere appreciation is extended to Richard Fechter for his leadership.

**Agronomy
and Pest
Management**
Wade Parker
Georgia



Committee members:
Wade Parker, Southern Region
Aaron Asser, Western Region
Jim Lewis, Northeast Region
Ted Wiseman, North Central Region

This year has been an extremely exciting and successful year for the Agronomy and Pest Management committee. We were very pleased with the attendance and interest of last year’s Super Seminar on unmanned aircraft that our committee hosted a webinar this past February on topics related to precision planting and fertilizer applications. The webinar featured Dr. John Fulton, Associate Professor/Precision Agriculture specialist at Ohio State University and Dr. Wes Porter, Assistant Professor, Irrigation and Precision Ag Specialist, University of Georgia.

Dr. Fulton and Porter did an excellent job covering production agriculture technology. Our land-grant institutions must work hard to stay on top of the cutting edge technology that farmers are now using and implementing. We must stay relevant.

We are also excited about the 17 Agronomy related seminars that you will have the opportunity to hear in Salt Lake in a few weeks. The majority of these presentations focus on pest management education and research projects. Improvement seminars will be held Tuesday afternoon during the AM/PIC. Be sure to review the AM/PIC Program upon your arrival. I am sure there is a topic or two that interests you. We would also love to have you join us for the annual Agronomy and Pest Management Committee meeting Monday afternoon. Input from our members is always welcome.

Thank you to the committee vice-chairs who have all contributed to a successful year. This AM/PIC will wrap-up my service on this committee. This experience has been rewarding and fulfilling and I encourage rising agents to take advantage of these professional opportunities. See you in Salt Lake!

**Agricultural
Economics &
Community
Development**
David Bau
Minnesota



The Agricultural Economics and Community Development committee is pleased offer professional improvement opportunities for NACAA members. This year’s AM/PIC will include a Super Seminar Tuesday morning, examining farm legal issues important to Extension professionals. There will be member presentations on a variety of topics important to Extension professionals on Tuesday afternoon.

This year's super seminar will take place on Tuesday, July 11th from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. Speakers include Laurence Crane with National Crop Insurance Services will discuss use of crop insurance across the country and other crop insurance issues. Bill Hopkins will discuss Ranching Issues on Public and Private Land? Steve Clyde will discuss: Agriculture Water Rights: Protecting the Future of Our Nation? We are able to offer this seminar through the generous sponsorship of the National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS).

Our committee was very pleased by the number of abstract submissions for this year's AM/PIC. We were able to accept the following presentations on Tuesday afternoon. Topics include:

- Business Executive Training for Women --- Betty Berning, Minnesota MR 253 A 1:30 to 1:50
- Northeast Ohio Beginning Refugee and Immigrant Farmer Training Program --- Ms.Jacqueline Kowalski Ohio MR 253 A 1:50 to 2:10
- Making it in Michigan Conference and Trade Show Facilitates Economic Activity in the Agri-Food Sector --- Brenda J.Reau Michigan MR 253 A 2:10 to 2:30
- Farm \$EN\$E: Easy, Applicable Farm Financial Management Training --- Juliette Enfield Pennsylvania MR 253 A 3:20 to 3:40
- Impact of Grant Funding on a Small, Rural Farmers Market --- Shannon P Dewitt Tennessee MR 253 A 3:40 to 4:00
- Gaining a Better Understanding of Consumer Preferences of Local Produce --- Libbie Johnson and Matthew Lollar Florida MR 253 B 1:30 to 1:50
- Role of Agricultural Extension in Disaster Response and Recovery: Hurricane Matthew Success Story --- Dr.Bonnie C.Wells Florida MR 253 B 1:50 to 2:10
- Increased Local Food Access, New Farmers and Tribal Youth Development Result from Community Collaborations --- Iris Mayes Idaho MR 253 B 2:10 to 2:30

The members of the Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee are:
 North Central Region Chair and Vice Chair – David Bau, MN
 Southern Region Vice Chair – Lenny Rogers, NC
 North East Region Vice Chair – Shannon Potter Dill, MD
 Western Region Vice Chair – Jody A Gale, UT

Animal Science

Brian Beer

South Carolina



Committee Members:

Chair: Brian Beer, SC

Northeast Region Vice-chair: Elizabeth Claypoole, NY

Western Region Vice-chair: Kellie Chichester, WY

North Central Region Vice-chair: Chris Penrose, OH

Southern Region Vice-chair: Rebekah Norman, TN

Each year the Animal Science Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the two-day Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Seminar and Tour. This is a tremendous professional improvement opportunity for our members and a great way to network with colleagues from across the country having similar interests.

The 2017 Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Tour is scheduled for July 6-8 2017. Kim Chapman from Utah has a great tour planned for this year's meeting. The tour will begin in Salt Lake City, travel toward Richfield, and return to Salt Lake City. Tour highlights include; Moore Mountain to discuss public land grazing and a project to increase Quaking Aspen population; Johnson Mountain Ranch, a family cattle operation that also has a wildlife enterprise; Producers Livestock Marketing, Utah's largest livestock market; the East African Refugee Goat Project; and a roaster hog operation that direct markets to local Polynesian population.

This year's tour will have 35 participants from 18 different states. Each year the committee seeks sponsorships for the tour, with participants funding the remainder. We express our sincere appreciation to this year's sponsors: Livestock Marketing Association, Utah Beef Council, and Purina, Land O' Lakes. Also, thanks to all the tour stops and to our local meal sponsors for their vital role in making the tour possible.

In Salt Lake City you will have the opportunity to hear about some successful Extension programs and research being conducted by your peers. There will be 13 presentations offered during the Animal Science Professional Improvement Seminars on Tuesday afternoon of the AM/PIC. Presentations will cover beef cattle, dairy, equine, small ruminant and forage topics. Be sure to review the AM/PIC Program when you arrive in Utah so you can find the time and place of the presentations that interest you.

I'm confident you will learn something that can be used in your programs when you return home.

The Animal Science committee has made arrangements with the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) to offer certification exams during the AM/PIC on Wednesday afternoon. Contact any member of the Animal Science Committee for more information. In addition, continuing education units (CEU's) will be available for those who attend Tuesday's seminars.

Please join us for the full Animal Science Committee meeting on Monday afternoon. We will be planning the committee's activities for 2017-2018. Input from NACAA members is critical to insure that committee activities are meeting the membership's needs. We invite you to be part of the planning process by attend the committee meeting. 2017 will conclude my second term as Animal Science Committee Chair. It was a privilege to be a committee chair and serve the NACAA membership by planning meaningful professional development opportunities during the past two years. Thank you to the committee vice-chairs. Each of you contributed during committee discussions and helped guide decisions that will make the 2017 AM/PIC in Salt Lake City a great professional development experience for NACAA members.

Natural Resources & Aquaculture

Libbie Johnson
Florida



Natural Resources/Aquaculture
Libbie Johnson, Committee Chair, Southern Region, Florida
Pat Rector, North Central Region Vice-Chair, New Jersey
Darren Snyder, Western Region Vice-Chair, Alaska
Todd Lorenz, North Central Region Vice-Chair, Missouri

The Natural Resources/Aquaculture Committee has had an active 2016-2017. We developed and administered an evaluation to determine what the natural resource educational needs are for our members. Results will be shared and we will start building a long range plan during our AM/PIC committee workshop on Monday, July 10 from 1:30 pm-2:30 pm. We welcome your input, so please check the schedule and plan to join us during our committee workshop.

We are eager to welcome a diverse line up of speakers during the Professional Improvement Council Seminars

on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 11th.

- Examination Of The Rutgers Environmental Stewards Program After 10 Years—Amy Rowe, M. Bakacs, and P. Rector
- Rethinking Teaching and Learning Stormwater Practices—A National Resource For Professionals: Katie Pekarek
- Pennsylvania Conservation Practices Survey—Kelly Patches and C. Houser
- Expanding the Dark Skies Initiative Along Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches In The Florida Panhandle—Ray Bodrey, E. Lovestrand, and S. Jackson
- Aquaculture In Action—Jacqueline Takacs and J.A. Frederick
- Understanding Soil Compaction in Ocean County, New Jersey—Dr. Steven Yergeau
- Aquatic Invasive Plant Species and Breeding Mosquitoes - Perfect Together? Pat Rector, P.J. Nitzsche, M. Rosellini, S. Mangiafico and D. Ross
- Utilizing Switchgrass to Mitigate or Remove Nutrients from Conventional Septic System Drain Fields on Coastal Plain Soils—James W. Lewis, Jr.
- Increasing Natural Resources Capacity through Changes in County Educator Position Descriptions—Dr. Andrew J. Londo, Julie Fox, and Jacqueline Kirby-Wilkins
- WSU Water Irrigation System Evaluation (WISE)—Don W. McMoran

Finally, with the help of Kevin Heaton (Garfield County Extension Director, Utah State), we will be offering an educational and scenery packed pre-tour of southern Utah on July 7th and 8th. Stops will include two national parks (Zion and Bryce Canyon), a desert tortoise preserve, an active open pit coal mine, a sage grouse habitat restoration area, a hike to Brian Head Peak, a trophy mule deer ranch, and local hospitality with a traditional Dutch oven meal. Follow our progress on social media—we will be sure to tag the conference during our travels.

If you are interested in learning more about our committee or taking a more active roll, please join us on Monday, July 10th at 1:30. See the conference agenda to find out which room.



Horticulture & Turfgrass

Sarah Denkler
Missouri



Committee Members:

- Sarah Denkler, Committee Chair
- Cynthia Lauderdale, Southern Region, Vice-Chair
- Michael Bush, Western Region, Vice-Chair
- Marjorie Peronto, Northeast Region, Vice-Chair
- Patrick Byers, North Central Region, Vice-chair

The Horticulture and Turf grass committee have collaborated to develop an excellent slate of 15 presentations related to horticulture in Extension during the AM/PIC in Salt Lake City, Utah. There will be three professional improvement sessions offered on Tuesday July 11 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. The topics are grouped by research, general horticulture and volunteers.

In addition, the group has worked with Brittany Hunter Research Agronomist with Aqua Yield, formerly of Utah State University, to prepare a tour of horticultural enterprises in and around Salt Lake City, Utah on July 7 and 8, 2017.

The tour will begin on Friday, July 7 in Salt Lake City leaving in one vehicle from the hotel at 12:00 pm. The first stop is the Sego Supreme plant introduction program at the Utah State University Botanical Center with tour guides Richard & Bill Varga. From there we will travel to Perennial Favorites Nursery in Layton where Bill Varga will continue the tour. This nursery grows Sego Supreme releases and other plants adapted to the west. We will end day one with a short drive back to Salt Lake to tour Red Butte Gardens and to enjoy a Catered Dinner at the Place Heritage Park near Red Butte before returning to the hotel.

Saturday morning, we depart by 8:00 am from the hotel and continue the tour at the Salt Lake City Farmers Market. Once finished we will visit Aqua Yield sustainable fertilizer before continuing the tour at Olson's Greenhouse. From there we will take lunch at Grantsville/Tooele at Fawson's Farm before departing to head back to Salt Lake City to the county jail garden for a tour and discussion.

We cannot thank our sponsor, Bonnie Plants and their representative Cheryl Lange, enough for the chance to observe and learn during this educational tour. It is a privilege to network with our colleagues for an extended period and to visit with Cheryl and Bonnie Plants.

Please join us for the Horticulture and Turf grass committee meeting on Monday, July 10 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. where we will discuss horticultural issues and introduce the new committee leadership to begin planning for 2018. As committee chair, I would like to thank the regional vice chairs for all their help and support. The committee also thanks everyone who has helped make these educational opportunities possible including state chairs and the NACAA leaders/organizers/officers, especially Sherri Sanders and Scott Hawbaker for their easily accessible guidance and advice over this past year.

Sustainable Agriculture

Suzanne Mills-Wasniak
Ohio



The Sustainable Agriculture Committee has been active in 2016 and early 2017 revising SARE Fellows application procedures. Applicants for the SARE Fellows program are now required to have their immediate supervisor sign a Letter of Approval at the time the applications are submitted. The selected candidates must complete the two year fellowship (trips to the four regions) before they are considered to be Fellows.

In 2017 the SARE Fellows Program celebrates its' tenth year. Thirty-eight Fellows from twenty four states have completed the USDA – SARE Fellows Program through 2015. Please join us on Tuesday, July 11th during the Sustainable Agriculture presentations for a celebration of the program, to hear and learn from the graduating SARE Fellows, and to welcome the 2017 SARE Fellows candidates.

In 2017 the SARE Fellows program had nine applicants. After reviewing the applications the committee selected one applicant from each of the four NACAA regions to be a Fellow. Please congratulate the 2017 SARE Fellows:

- Northeast Region – Fnu Naveen Kumar, Maryland
- North Central Region – Anthony Bly, South Dakota
- Southern Region – Amanda Sears, Kentucky
- Western Region – Kurt Jones, Colorado.

The 2017 SARE Fellows candidates represent four new states thereby bringing the number of states with SARE Fellows to twenty-eight.

We welcome Amy Garrett from Oregon State University as the 2016 SARE Fellow from the Western Region.

In 2016 SARE Fellows experienced Sustainable Agriculture in Idaho (Western Region) and West Virginia (Northeast Region). Sustainable Agriculture Committee vice Chair from the Western Region attended and participated in the Idaho trip. The Sustainable Agriculture Committee extends a THANK YOU to the Idaho and West Virginia Sustainable Agriculture organizing committees for the outstanding educational experiences afforded the SARE Fellows.

In Salt Lake City there will be two rooms devoted to Sustainable Agriculture presentations. One room will have the 2014 SARE Fellows presentations on their SARE Fellows experiences and how they plan to use what they have learned in their respective programs. We will also welcome the 2017 SARE Fellows candidates during the presentations. Please refer to your presentation schedule for the times and Room number.

It would be impossible for a committee to function without the dedicated Regional vice Chairs, working towards positive program impact. I would like to express my gratitude to Northeast vice Chair Michelle Infante – Casella, Southern vice Chair Debbie Roos, and Western vice Chair Matt Palmer.

I wish to thank Professional Improvement Council Chair Sherri Sanders and Scott Hawbaker for their counsel and patience.

The Sustainable Agriculture committee looks forward the seeing you in Salt Lake City.

**Extension
Development
Council Chair
Kurt Jones
Colorado**



The Extension Development Council’s (EDC) committees – Leadership and Administrative Skills, Agricultural Issues and Public Relations, Early Career Development, and Teaching and Educational Technologies – help members improve their skills related to the art and science of extension practice. This focus on skills and methodologies to conduct extension work effectively makes NACAA unique from other subject-specific professional organizations.

The Council’s efforts at the 2017 AM/PIC include informational seminars on Tuesday morning, July 11. The

presentations are part of four concurrent sessions featuring 12 hours of training. There are some exciting and diverse topics that have been accepted. Our council is also offering two additional seminars this year. Early Career is partnering with first timers committee for some information on making the most of your AM/PIC experience, and Ag. Issues has planned a super seminar to help County Agents identify the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule training and outreach needs of their growers through the development of a statewide produce safety action plan. We hope you will join us!

Over the year, educational programming extended beyond the confines of the AM/PIC through one webinar. The Early Career Development Committee offered a “First Timers Webinar” in late April. These sessions are archived and available for those who missed the live broadcasts (see the NACAA website for the URL).

One piece of advice that I received as a relatively new agent was to join NACAA and get involved in committee work. It is something that I have taken to heart, and it has helped me in my career tremendously. I encourage NACAA members to increase your participation in the Extension Development Council’s activities, and offer guidance and ideas on how we can better to serve your needs. Please share any ideas with your State Committee Chair or Regional Committee Vice-Chair, or attend out Committee Workshops on Monday afternoon, July 10 at the AM/PIC.

Finally, I offer my appreciation to our committee chairs, regional vice-chairs and state chairs as well as Vice President Fechter for their individual and collective leadership and guidance during the past year.

**Agricultural
Issues &
Public Relations
Meredith Vaughn
Melendez

New Jersey**



The Agricultural Issues and Public Relations committee has been busy preparing for the 2017 NACAA conference in Salt Lake City. Our session will take place on Tuesday morning in Salt Lake. We have a great lineup of speakers who will focus on topics including: developing and delivering unique programs, developing a team for emerging issues, the On Farm Readiness Review for the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, marketing and reporting to stakeholders, helping farmers meet food safety regulations, water conservation education, how to with the OYF

Young Farmer of the Year Award and Extension’s role in the watershed planning process. I hope you can find time to join us in this session filled with important information relevant to your producers.

The committee has also been hard at work preparing for our super seminar that will take place on Wednesday afternoon. The focus of this seminar is to update agricultural agents on the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and the On Farm Readiness Review preparedness tool. Kristin Woods from the Produce Safety Alliance and Wesley Kline from Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the On Farm Readiness Review development team will be joining us to share timely information and answer your questions.

While the AI&PR committee no longer has responsibilities to the OYF program, we still hold it close to our heart and support NACAA involvement with the program. I was lucky enough to nominate a NJ farmer that become a national winner in 2016, and was fortunate to attend the annual meeting that year. I have been so impressed with the farmer winners and nominees recognized by OYF, and encourage you to nominate one of your own farmers. Former AI&PR chair Don McMoran will be giving a presentation in the AI&PR session on what he learned through the process of nominating a farmer who won the national title. OYF information and application forms can be found at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/other_awards.php . Nominations are due by August 1st.

Finally I would like to offer my appreciation to the AI&PR committee members and Kurt Jones our Extension Development Council Chair. They have been incredibly helpful and responsive in our collaborations to organize our programs. We look forward to seeing everyone in Salt Lake!

**Early Career
Development**

Nicholas Simmons

Florida



The Early Career Development Committee has been busy during the past year thanks to the efforts of our committee members:

- Ed Martin, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Emily Adams, Ohio State University Extension
- Jenny Carleo, Rutgers University Extension Service

The focus of the Early Career Development Committee is to develop professional improvement opportunities

that assist members with early career development. The education provided typically involves tools and resources to help an early to mid-career employee succeed. Presentation at past conferences have included mentoring, promotion, work/life balance, and publishing in Extension and other professional journals.

One of the educational programs developed by the Early Career Development Committee is educational sessions at the 2017 AM/PIC in Salt Lake City, UT. Six abstracts from members have been accepted for presentation on Tuesday, July 11th beginning at 8:30 am. These topics are applicable to more than just early career professionals. Following is a list of accepted presentations:

CHALLENGES OF BEGINNING EXTENSION AGENTS AND THE BENEFITS OF PEER-LED TRAINING

Nicole Carutis, Penn State University

FROM A CHECKMARK TO A RELATIONSHIP

Mary Berg, North Dakota State University

AND THE SURVEY SAYS...METHODS AND OUTCOMES FOR EXTENSION OUTREACH OFFERINGS

Sheila L Gray, Washington State University

YOU, TOO, CAN PUBLISH AN ARTICLE IN THE JOURNAL OF NACAA

Lee Stivers, Penn State University

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR COMMISSIONERS A WATERMELLON: GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Carrie Stevenson, University of Florida

HOW TO GIVE A MEMORABLE INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Gary Fredricks, Washington State University

The other main product of the Early Career Development Committee was the NACAA AM/PIC First Timers Webinar held on Thursday, April 21st, 2017. The purpose of this webinar was to better prepare participants for the 2017 AM/PIC by reviewing the conference program, logistics, and the registration process. Approximately 21 participated in the live presentation and the presentation was also archived. We partnered this year to incorporate more information from the committee working with First Timer’s at the AM/PIC. The First Timer’s Reception will be held on Sunday, July 9th, the luncheon on Monday, July 10th. State Early Career Development Chairs and other parties interested in early career development issues are encouraged to attend

the Early Career Development Committee meeting at this year's AM/PIC. Our meeting will be held on Monday, July 10th from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2017 – 2018 year and the 2018 AM/PIC. Please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the committee members.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Early Career Development Committee Chair the past two years. I have enjoyed working and meeting many of you and look forward to seeing you at annual meetings in the future.

We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City!

**Leadership &
Administrative
Skills**

**Randy Saner
Nebraska**



“Leadership and Administrative Skills” is a slight change of our name. We added Leadership to the name because many of our daily work responsibilities relate to more community leadership than administrative skills, therefore the name change. Many people look up to us as leaders in our community. This means sometimes doing things you would not normally think of in our job description. Leadership skills like these bring us closer to the community and help us to bring financial resources as well as local volunteers for our program. Administrative skills are vital as we evaluate and manage staff. From these skills, I have learned to develop the ability of persuasion, integrity, caring, honesty, and tolerance within my work role. Our organization must strive for high standards and continually work to improve below standard performance, as this will affect the entire extension system.

By being a member of NACAA, we have a wealth of knowledge available from colleagues. The Leadership and Administrative Skills program will offer seminars for its members that continually update their knowledge.

This year our Tuesday morning session, will feature four presentations.

- Iowa’s Madeline Margaret Schultz will present “WOMEN IN AG: DESIGNING A COMPREHENSIVE EXTENSION AND OUTREACH STRATEGY.”
- Florida’s Daniel J. Leonard will present “SERVING OUR STAKEHOLDERS: AN ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER TRAINING SERIES ON CUSTOMER SERVICE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING.”

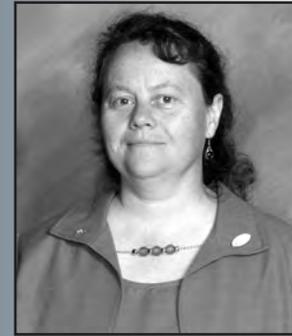
- Utah’s Taun Beddes will present “CREATING ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR EXTENSION PROGRAMMING.”
- Washington’s Mark D Heitstuman will present “WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY BLUE MOUNTAIN EXTENSION TEAM: DELIVERING IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS ACROSS A DIVERSE 5-COUNTY REGION.”

If your administrative or leadership interest involves working with volunteers, generating alternative funding, delivering high impact programs across a diverse region, or designing outreach strategies, plan to attend these seminars.

As extension changes to meet the needs of our clientele, we need to be forward looking at the issues that affect society while celebrating our rich history. Hope to see you at these impactful seminars.

**Teaching &
Educational
Technologies**

**Susan Kerr
Washington**



Hello everyone – it is ironic that someone considered a troglodyte by her Extension colleagues is the national chair of the Teaching and Educational Technology committee! That is one of the strengths of NACAA, though—there is a leadership role for anyone willing to step up and do the work.

From the 2017 NACAA Committee Handbook: “The Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee focuses on the development of programs to assist members in learning non-traditional Extension education skills. Possible areas of focus could include electronic multi-media skills, computer networking, compressed video, electronic communications, distance education, and traditional teaching skills. This charge includes the development of professional improvement opportunities, securing resources to fund these activities, and promoting these activities to members. Professional improvement program ideas should come from the total NACAA membership to this committee through the various State Chairs.”

The TET committee hosted three webinars in the past year related to apps. On Nov. 16, 2016, Sarah Smith from Washington State University presented “WSU Carcass Calculator App: From Development to Use.” Natalie

Kinion and Trevor Lane from Washington State University presented “There’s an App for That!” on Jan. 17, 2017. Blake Thaxton from the University of Florida presented “Increase Your Agriculture Awareness with an App” on Feb. 15. The first two webinars were recorded and are available on the NACAA web site at <http://www.nacaa.com/prof-dev/Webinars.php>.

TET presentations will be given during the Extension Development Council seminar session from 8:30-11:30 on Tuesday, July 11. Presenters and their workshop titles are: “Developing an Extension Program Using a Hybrid Teaching Approach” by Sergio Arispe; “Ten Digital Skills Extension Agents Need” by Nicole Carutis; “The Edtechln: A Key Resource for County Agents” by Daphne Richards; “High Tech and High Touch – Using Webinar Technology to Grow Agricultural Opportunities for Women” by Janet L Schmidt; “Developing a Power Point Using Proven Teaching Methods” by Suzanne Stumbo; and “Adobe Spark for Program Impact Reporting” by David A. Yates. We will also save time for an open discussion of technology topics of interest to attendees because that activity was such a success at last year’s AM/PIC.

If possible, please join TET committee members at the Extension Development Council workshop on Sunday, July 9 from 2 to 5 PM and our committee workshop on Monday, July 10 from 1:30 to 2:30 PM. In addition to contacting your regional committee chairs or state chairs any time during the year, these workshops are an excellent way to influence TET committee activities in the year ahead. Also, please consider serving on this committee as either a state committee chair or regional vice chair when the opportunity arises. Your colleagues who served as regional vice chairs on the TET committee in 2016-17 were: Matthew Lollar (FL), Southern Region Committee Vice Chair; Jennifer Rees (NE), North Central Region Committee Vice Chair; Michele Bakacs (NJ), Northeast Region Committee Vice Chair; and Susan Kerr (WA), Western Region Committee Vice Chair and National Committee Chair.



**Program
Recognition
Council Chair
Keith Mickler
Georgia**



The Program Recognition Council (PRC) is one of the three Councils that make up the committee structure of NACAA. The Council consists of seven committees: 4-H and Youth, Communications, Professional Excellence, Public Relations, Recognition & Awards, Scholarship, and Search for Excellence. The Program Recognition Council provides a vehicle to recognize the professionalism, performance and outstanding programs of NACAA members.

These committees help the NACAA recognize the outstanding work of our members in their respective states, regions and counties. Each year the committees review numerous entries to determine state, regional and national winners. Committees have worked hard to recognize NACAA members for their outstanding efforts. Program Recognition Council committees will award over \$32,000 to members during the AM/PIC. Without these committees and the members that have stepped up to participate in the committee leadership, it would be impossible for the NACAA to offer such an award program.

Each year it is a challenge to fill vacancies within the national committees. Members should look at becoming a committee member. If any member is interested or curious about being a committee member and/or the time commitment, I encourage them to speak to the current committee members or attend the committee meetings during the AM/PIC. I think that they will find that the fulfillment of the committee work far outweighs the time commitment.

The activities of this council focus on special personal recognition, presentations, programs, posters and other forms of recognition at the AM/PIC. In July, there will be a wide variety of presentations in Salt Lake City, Utah. I encourage you to attend sessions with the goals of networking as well as identifying programs and methods for use or adaptation.

This begins my first year of three as council chair; I am very gracious for the opportunity to serve as your Program Recognition Council Chair. This opportunity is a challenge and blessing at the same time. My role would be impossible if not for the excellent group of chairs and vice chairs that have worked hard fulfilling this council’s duties. I wish to thank each member for his or her time and hard work.

Communications

David L. Marrison

Ohio



The NACAA Communications Committee is pleased to report that Bayer Advanced has continued sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2017. Their support of this awards program is very much appreciated!

Our committee continued to work this year on expediting the judging of all entries in a timely fashion and developed a “Frequently Asked Question” help sheet to help state chairman answer questions from their membership. We also held two ZOOM meetings to help members learn how to apply for the NACAA Communication Awards.

We continue to see large numbers of entries in the fourteen communication award categories. The caliber of award entries is outstanding. Our members are producing excellent materials and are to be commended for the quality of their submissions. As a whole, the competition was very close and the quality of submitted items was top-notch. In total, we had 810 total entries (up from 586 in 2016) were made from across the nation. The Southern Regional led the way with 446 entries submitted in the Southern Region. Congratulations to the Florida Association for having 100 applications submitted at the state level to lead all states by a large margin. The North Central Region submitted 235 entries, the Northeast Region submitted 83, and the West Region submitted 46.

The following is a summary of the entries made in each category.

- Audio recording had 38 entries
- Published Photo and Caption had 50 entries
- Computer Generated Graphics had 48 entries
- Promotional Piece had 110 entries
- Personal Column had 87 entries
- Feature Story had 76 entries
- Individual Newsletter had 57 entries
- Team Newsletter had 35 entries
- Video Presentation had 84 entries
- Fact Sheet had 74 entries
- Publication had 73 entries
- Web Site had 55 entries
- Learning Module had 23 entries
- Bound Book had 15 entries

I am appreciative to the regional vice-chairs for the communication committee. The regional vice-chairs are: North Central Region Chair - Michelle Buchanan (Kansas), North East Region Chair - Marjorie Peronto (Maine), Southern Region Chair – Donna Hamlin Beliech (Mississippi) and West Region Chair – Mark D. Heitstuman (Washington). A special thank you is extended to all the State Communication Chairs for their diligence and timeliness in conducting their state contests.

I would like to thank Keith Mickler, NACAA Program Recognition Council Chair and Scott Hawbaker, NACAA Executive Director for their assistance throughout the year with questions and concerns. If you have any suggestions for improving the NACAA Communications Contest, please contact David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu or call 440-576-9008.

Search for Excellence

Stanley A. McKee

Pennsylvania



The current Search for Excellence (SFE) committee is comprised of four regional vice chairs and myself. The regional vice chairs include Amy-Lynn Albertson from North Carolina, Steve Van Vleet from Washington, Jennifer Schutter from Missouri, and Greg Strait from Pennsylvania.

The committee held an organizational meeting by Zoom/conference call in December 2016. We discussed procedures for promoting SFE entry submissions and for scoring the entries to be received. A description of the criteria was posted on the awards section of the NACAA website for consistency in judging entries. During the conference call we also confirmed the division of responsibilities regarding the SFE categories that each would lead. They were as follows:

Consumer or Commercial Horticulture – Jennifer Schutter
Livestock Production – Steve Van Vleet
Crop Production – Greg Strait
Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer – Stan McKee
Forestry & Natural Resources – Amy-Lyn Albertson
Farm & Ranch Financial Management – Amy-Lynn Albertson
Farm Health and Safety – Greg Strait
Sustainable Agriculture – Stan McKee

Each regional vice chair was responsible for organizing a team of judges for each respective category, judging the entries, and reporting the results to me by May 1, 2017. All the entries forwarded by the states were judged before the end of April, and national winners, finalists, and state winners were notified of their final placing by May 1st.

The number of completed entries per category was as follows:

- Consumer or Commercial Horticulture – 20
- Livestock Production – 16
- Crop Production – 16
- Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer/Rancher – 8
- Forestry & Natural Resources – 10
- Farm and Ranch Financial Management – 6
- Farm Health and Safety – 7
- Sustainable Agriculture – 9

The total number of entries received was an increase of 17 over last year, and the highest number of entries over the last 4 years. There is certainly an opportunity for more Members to participate by submitting entries in SFE. The entries are not difficult to prepare and submit, and the program provides a great opportunity for individual and team recognition. Our 2017 winners and finalists will be recognized during their respective SFE luncheons at the upcoming AM/PIC. The committee will continue to promote the SFE awards program, and encourage more applications next year.

The recently added Forestry and Natural Resources category increased to 10 entries this year. There are still opportunities for sponsorship with this new category, and suggestions of potential sponsors would certainly be welcome.

Thanks:

Thanks to each state chair for their efforts in promoting SFE to their membership and selecting state winners.

Thanks to each regional vice chair for all their efforts to facilitate the judging of the entries and the other associated tasks of the committee.

Thanks to Program Recognition Council Chair Keith Mickler for his assistance and support during the year.

Thanks to the NACAA Board for their support of the Search for Excellence program.

Thanks to NACAA Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker for his support and assistance to me when questions or situations with entries arose. He was always prompt and provided exceptional follow-up.

4-H & Youth

JJ Jones

Oklahoma



The 4-H and Youth committee is responsible for reviewing and judging the Search for Excellence in 4-H and Youth Programming Award as well as reviewing and choosing presenters for the Excellence in 4-H and Youth programming seminars. Each year the membership makes it extremely difficult to choose the award winners and seminar presenters and this year was no different.

For the Search for Excellence in 4-H and Youth Programs there were 34 entries from all four regions. Judging was very difficult and the scores were extremely close. Same goes for the applications for presenters. Each year the committee has to make difficult decisions on who to invite to present at the AM/PIC meeting.

I would like to encourage the membership to continue to make this process difficult on the committee. If you applied this year and were not chosen, apply again next year. In some cases, the scores were separated by less than five points. If you have not applied, please do. The committee knows that our membership is doing some outstanding work and that work needs to be shared with others. The committee would like to thank the NACAA board for allowing us this opportunity and we look forward to the future.

Professional

Excellence

Mike Haberland

New Jersey



The Professional Excellence committee is responsible for organizing and conducting the poster session before and during the AM/PIC. Presenting a poster is a great way for members to showcase their work in Extension Education or Applied Research, generate discussion during the conference “Meet the Authors” sessions, and get their abstract published in the Conference Proceedings. It takes a lot of dedication and work to make this happen and without the regional vice-chairs and state chairs, the poster session would not be possible. Current regional vice-

chairs are: North Central Region, Eric Barrett; North East Region, Steven Yergeau; Southern Region, Gene McAvoy; and Western Region, Mylen Bohle.

The Professional Excellence Committee would like to thank Syngenta for once again sponsoring the poster session awards and breakfast at the 2017 AM/PIC.

This year we will have an excellent session with a total of 166 posters presentations (51 Research and 115 Extension Education) on display in Salt Lake. For 2017 we implemented pre-AM/PIC regional judging of state winners to select the 24 National Finalist posters (three from each region for both categories). This will make more efficient use of the volunteer judge's time during the AM/PIC. Two teams of four judges, comprised of a NACAA peer member from each region, will judge the posters during the AM/PIC to determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place award winners. Judging criteria is found on the NACAA website, and can be reviewed to prepare for next year's posters.

Posters are to be in place no later than 1:00 p.m. Sunday, July 9 and stay through 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, 2017. "Meet the Author's Poster Sessions" will be from 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. during the breaks on Monday, July 10 and Tuesday, July 11.

National winners and finalists will be formally recognized during the poster session awards breakfast to be held on Tuesday, July 11 starting at 6:30 a.m.

During the awards breakfast the top three posters in each category will receive a cash award and plaque; national finalists and state winners will receive a certificate.

work. There is a tremendous amount of great Extension work that many educators and agents are doing and much of this work would make an excellent entry in the Ag Awareness and Appreciation award program in 2018.

Congratulations to Molly Jameson from Florida, who is the Ag Awareness and Appreciation National Winner. Molly will present her winning entry during the Ag Awareness and Appreciation Recognition Luncheon on Monday in Salt Lake. Her topic will be the Leon County Library Seed Program. Congratulations also go National Finalists Edwin Lentz from Ohio and Newton Mccarty and team from New Mexico.

State winners include Craig Askim from North Dakota, Curtis Dame and Darrell Simpson from Kentucky, Zachary Taylor, Bill Stone, Minda Daughtry and Daniel Campeau from North Carolina, Kacy Atkinson of Colorado and Janet Laminack and David Annis of Texas.

I want to send a sincere thank you to all of the hard working judges, Public Relations Committee regional vice-chairs and state chairs for their commitment to the difficult work of judging the excellent entries this year.

The Public Relations Committee is looking forward to having entries from all of the four regions in 2018 and challenges everyone to submit an entry in one of the NACAA awards programs and especially in the Ag Awareness and Appreciation Award program. We would like to send a sincere and special thank you to Bayer CropScience for sponsoring the Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award this year. It has been my pleasure to serve as the National Chair. I have enjoyed working with our Regional Chairs and reviewing all of the great programming our agents and educators are doing across the country on behalf of the agricultural industry.

Public Relations

Kathryn Hopkins

Maine

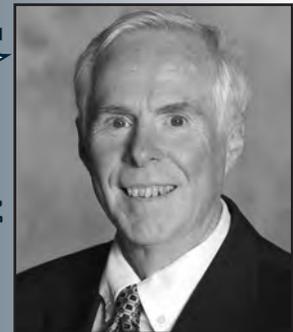


The Public Relations Committee is responsible for conducting the Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Awards (A4) program. The Ag Awareness and Appreciation program is a great way for NACAA members to highlight educational programs that demonstrate the public relations component of Extension work. It is also an opportunity to showcase how Extension agents and educators enrich the public's understanding of agriculture in their communities. The Ag Awareness and Appreciation award program had 12 examples of outstanding quality of public relations

Recognition & Awards

Stephen E. Hadcock

New York



The committee welcomed Sherry Beaty as the new Southern Region Vice Chair. Joni Harper, Amber Yutzy, and Donna Hoffman have continued to serve as Vice chairs for their respective regions. As the "old pros," these ladies have provided great leadership in their respective regions.

Making our jobs easier are the many state Recognition and Awards State Chairs. The state chairs helped to make our jobs easier this year with the cooperation and adherence to deadlines set by our committee. On behalf of the National Committee, I extend our sincere thanks to them.

On Tuesday morning, 62 Achievement Award recipients will receive their awards at a Breakfast in their honor. This is the 43rd year that NACAA has presented this award with this year's recipients joining 2,111 fellow Achievement Awards winners. The 2017 Achievement Award winners have demonstrated their ability to conduct high quality educational programs for their clientele and gain the respect of co-workers for their work. Achievement Award recipients have accomplished this in less than 10 years. A special thank you goes to NACAA President Mark Nelson and American Income Life's Bill Viar, who will assist with the awards presentation on Tuesday morning.

This year is the 79th year our national professional organization is presenting the Distinguished Service Award. These members were chosen by their respective states to receive one of the most prestigious awards given by NACAA. This year's recipients will be recognized during the Annual Banquet on Wednesday evening. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to 61 NACAA members from across the country and join 7,271 past recipients. These DSA recipients are being recognized for providing outstanding educational programming, are respected by their clientele and co-workers, and have worked for more than ten years.

The Committee also is fortunate to facilitate the selection of Hall of Fame recipients each year. This is the 12th year for this prestigious award. Four outstanding Hall of Fame winners will receive their awards at Monday's general session. Recipients of this award are recognized for their outstanding work as an Extension Educator and for being involved in their communities. They have provided leadership for professional organizations, churches, and humanitarian service organizations. This year's inductees make one proud to be a member of NACAA.

The committee wishes to thank the Ag Pipeline Alliance for continuing their financial support for the Hall of Fame award. The committee expresses our appreciation for the continued support of the Achievement Awards Breakfast by American Income Life Insurance Company for 44 years and they have provided sponsorship for 62 years overall to NACAA programs. Altria Client Services is the sponsor of the Awards Booklet and the committee wishes to say thank you for your continued support of the Annual Banquet.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for the honor to serve as Chair of this committee. One cannot but feel

pride and the sense of accomplishment when reading the abstracts of this year's recipients. They all are entitled to this recognition and the committee is proud to do what we can to make it happen.

Scholarship

Dwane L. Miller

Pennsylvania



The Scholarship Committee is charged with the responsibility of promoting the scholarship program by obtaining funds from NACAA members, friends of NACAA, and others interested in the scholarship effort. The committee works with the NACAA Educational Foundation to award scholarships for professional development to NACAA members. Primary activities include: promotion, review, and awarding of scholarships; administering the live and silent auction at the AM/PIC; and soliciting donations to the scholarship program through various means. I would like to say thank you to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their hard work during the past year: Sheila Gray, West Region Vice-Chair; Brian Haller, Southern Region Vice-Chair; David Handley, Northeast Region Vice-Chair; Travis Harper, North Central Region Vice-Chair; Charles Moody, Life Member Representative, and all of the state chairs. I would also like to recognize the NACAA Educational Foundation for their help and support of the scholarship program. Through their guidance and stewardship of the investments, we continue to be able to provide funding for excellent professional development activities.

The scholarship committee continues to work with state scholarship chairs to encourage donations to the scholarship program. During the period of May 16, 2016 through May 15, 2017, NACAA members and friends contributed \$20,887 to the scholarship program. Thank you all for your generous support! We had another tremendously successful scholarship auction at our 2016 AM/PIC, which raised \$10,489. This past year, 14 individual and 2 group scholarships were awarded for continuing education and professional development, in the amount of \$18,889.

The Scholarship Committee would like to recognize the following members for reaching designated giving levels to the NACAA Scholarship Program during the period of May 16, 2016 through May 15, 2017. Certificates of appreciation will be awarded to these members during the regional meetings at the Salt Lake City AM/PIC:

\$100-\$249

North Central Region: Darla Campbell, Russ Euken, Adele Harty, Michael S. Holder, Paul A. Mariman, Ted R. Probert and Mark Storlie

Northeast Region: Tanner Delvalle

Southern Region: Amy-Lynn Albertson, Craig S. Allen, Renee Allen, Mark Blevins, Andy Braswell, Ed Burns, Jesse Clark, Terra Freeman, Lindsay Stephenson Griffin, Fred M. Hall, Donna Patterson, David R. Perrin, Ruby Rankin, Casey N. Russell and Rick Wimberley

West Region: Nicole Anderson, Michael R. Bush, Gary Fredricks, Susan Kerr, Tracy Mosley, Curtis J. Utley and Debbie Williams

\$250-\$499

North Central Region: Gary W. Lesoing and William Keck

Northeast Region: Karen A. Baase, Richard Brzozowski and David T. Handley

Southern Region: Liz Felter, Greg Hoover, Rickey G. Hudson, Andrew E. Overbay, Lenny Rogers, Sherri Sanders, M. Kent Stanford, Joe G. Taylor, Carla Vaught and Jeffery D. Via

West Region: Mark Nelson

\$500-\$999

North Central Region: Mary Sobba

Northeast Region: Wendy M. Sorrell

Southern Region: Paula J. Burke, Rex Herring, Ray Hicks, and Lance Kirkpatrick

\$1,000-\$2,499

North Central Region: Stuart Hawbaker

Southern Region: Keith Fielder and William A. Hogan, Jr.

*** I would also like to give special thanks to one of our life members for reaching a huge milestone in contributions. Congratulations to Eddie Holland from Texas for reaching the \$20,000 level! ***

\$20,000-\$24,999

Southern Region: Eddie R. Holland

The committee would like to remind the membership of the opportunity to submit applications for scholarships. These scholarships can be used for members' professional improvement, which can include funding advanced degrees, tours, seminars, research, or other specialized training.

- All applications are electronically completed on the NACAA website. Applications can be submitted anytime throughout the year. Deadline for applications is June 1st.

- In order to be eligible for up to \$1,000 in awards, members need to be vested at \$40 in the scholarship program. Members need to be vested at \$100 to be eligible for up to

\$2,000 in awards. This contribution must be made before the end of the previous year's AM/PIC to qualify (ex: contribution must be received by the end of the 2017 AM/PIC to apply for an award in 2018).

- Other criteria can be found at the NACAA website under the "Awards" tab.

Vestment in the scholarship program can occur in a variety of different ways. Here are some possibilities:

- Bring items to the silent and live auction at the AM/PIC. You receive credit for the amount the item sells for.
- Purchase tickets (\$20 each) for the special cash drawing, held at the AM/PIC. Non-winning tickets receive credit for a donation to the scholarship program.
- Some states have auctions or other fundraisers in which they designate proceeds towards the NACAA Scholarship Program.
- Direct donations by individuals. You can also directly donate online with a credit card! Simply visit the NACAA website and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on "Donate to the NACAA Educational Foundation – Scholarship"

The process of submitting applications is still continuing. All applications that have been submitted by the June 1st deadline will be reviewed by the scholarship committee at the 2017 AM/PIC in Salt Lake City. Please consider bringing an item or two for this year's auction, and taking a chance to win some cash!

Life Member

Neil Broadwater

Minnesota



The Life Member Committee Team consists of Regional Vice Chairs Russell Duncan, South Carolina; Eugene Schurman, Pennsylvania; Dave Phillips, Montana; and Melvin Brees, Missouri. With Russell and Eugene having served two year terms following this year's AM/PIC, Eddie Holland, Texas and Paul Craig of Pennsylvania will be filling those slots for the 2017-19 term.

With over 2,500 Life members as part of NACAA, the committee is committed to working on behalf of those members to advise the NACAA Board on life member activities and offer assistance when needed. This year we received approval from the Board to launch a Life Member page on the NACAA web site to provide information

to life members across the country. We thank Scott Hawbaker, NACAA Executive Director, for setting up the page for us and we hope this can grow in the number of items posted to help our life members stay informed. Please check out the page at <http://www.nacaa.com/committees/LifeMemberInformation.php>. Let us know what you think.

At the 2015 AM/PIC in Sioux Falls, the Life Member Committee set up a rotating schedule by region for the year 2015-16 to find someone to write an interesting article for a Life Member page in each The County Agent magazine publication. Those four articles were published with the cooperation of Scott Hawbaker who puts the magazine together. We continued this rotation of articles during the 2016-17 year. We hope you have read them and enjoyed learning about some of the things Life Members are doing after retirement. We plan to continue this series of articles for the 2017-18 year as well. If you have an interesting story to tell and may want to submit an article you are welcome to contact your Life Member Regional Vice Chair.

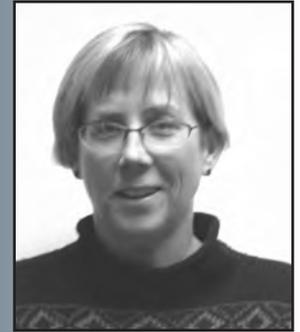
The life members hold an annual business meeting each year during AM/PIC. At that meeting a memorial service is held to honor all NACAA members who have passed away during the past year. Names are gathered by the Regional Vice Chairs with the cooperation of state life member contacts. Two challenges we face each year is to make sure we have a life member contact in each state and then, for them to be able to find or be aware of the individuals who have left us so we can be provided with the information needed for the “In Remembrance” publication and memorial service.

In your particular state, if your association is having an event or activity, keep in mind the life members so they can participate and/or stay connected. Life members often like to hear what is going on in your state, appreciate having the opportunity to be part of the association meeting or going on that tour or visit you have planned for educational purposes. Life members have a wealth of education and experience. Sometimes they may be able to help with a workshop or educational program where help is needed. State Associations may also be able to use life members as a resource for ‘educating’ decision makers concerning state Extension Service needs. So think about contacting a life member near you when something is happening.

Finally, I wish to thank the NACAA Board for always making sure Life Members are part of the association’s plans for AM/PIC. Life Members help make the AM/PIC better by them being there and being involved. Life members appreciate it. I also wish to thank the Utah Life Member Committee for helping set up a great Life Member program that include tours and activities at this year’s AM/PIC. It should be a lot of fun as well as be of

educational value to our life members who attend. And, to be able to renew acquaintances, see old friends and make new ones during the activities scheduled should make for a successful visit to the Salt Lake City area. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

**Journal of
NACAA
Lee Stivers
Pennsylvania**



The purpose of the Journal of NACAA is to give members the opportunity to publish in a peer reviewed journal and thereby advance their credentials. Because the Journal does not focus exclusively on research, it is an opportunity for agents and educators to publish articles on innovative activities, case studies or emerging opportunities. First time authors are especially encouraged to submit articles in order to gain experience and confidence in publishing. Following twelve months of job shadowing with Stephen Brown, I began my term as editor of the Journal of NACAA with the December 1, 2016 issue. I am very grateful for the assistance Stephen provided, and still provides, to me to make this a smooth transition.

The journal publishes on June 1 and December 1 each year. Submissions must be electronically submitted by March 15 for the June edition, and September 15 for the December edition. We received fourteen submissions for the December 2016 issue; twelve papers were published. For the June 2017 issue, we received sixteen submissions.

In December I surveyed the current list of peer reviewers to keep that list updated, and to collect more detailed information on what topics each reviewer was interested in reviewing. We currently have fifty-seven peer reviewers, with a wide range of interests and expertise. Our peer reviewer pool is a real strength of our journal, and we sincerely appreciate their service to NACAA and its members.

Based on feedback from several reviewers and authors, we have begun to take steps to make the submission and review process a blind process. The best practice for a peer reviewed journal is to have blind reviews where reviewers do not know who the authors are, and authors do not know who is providing the reviews. I am also working on revising and updating the submission instructions, and creating guidelines for reviewers.

I welcome comments and questions from authors and reviewers, both prospective and experienced. Please drop me an email anytime at ljs32@psu.edu.

Thanks to 2016/2017 Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers

Nicole Anderson	Oregon	Salvatore Mangiafico	New Jersey
William Bamka	New Jersey	Jeff McCutcheon	Ohio
Pamela J. Bennett	Ohio	Keith Mickler	Georgia
Jerry Bertoldo	New York	Tracy Mosley	Montana
Carol Bishop	Nevada	Rebekah Norman	Tennessee
Liz Bosak	Pennsylvania	Andy Overbay	Virginia
Stephen Brown	Alaska	Michael Pace	Utah
Chris Bruynis	Ohio	Angelique Peltier	Illinois
Beth Burritt	Utah	Chris Penrose	Ohio
Carl J. Cantaluppi, Jr.	Retired	Marjorie Peronto	Maine
Brent Carpenter	Missouri	Hans Schmitz	Indiana
Wayne Flanary	Missouri	Bill Sciarappa	New Jersey
Sheila Gray	Washington	Mary Carol Sheffield	Georgia
Adele Hartly	South Dakota	Bill Shockey	West Virginia
Michael Heimer	Texas	Mark Stewart	Missouri
Steven Hines	Idaho	William Strader	North Carolina
Jessica Kelton	Alabama	Gary L. Strickland	Oklahoma
Susan Kerr	Washington	Stephen Van Vleet	Washington
Richard Kersbergen	Maine	Richard W. VanVranken	New Jersey
James Keyes	Utah	Todd Weinmann	North Dakota
Jeremy M. Kichler	Georgia	Michael Wheeler	Georgia
Stephen Komar	New Jersey	John Wilson	Nebraska
Rocky Lemus	Mississippi	Tim Wilson	Florida
Don Llewellyn	Washington	Jeff Wilson	Mississippi
Ayanava Majumdar	Alabama		

contributions to the well-being of the community, state and nation.

Seeing these young people interact and become friends is inspiring. They all come from different backgrounds but have a common cause in deriving their livelihood from agriculture. They share heartaches and triumphs alike. They listen to the older alumni and learn from them. It's like a big family.

At the 2017 61th Annual Awards Congress, 12 of the 21 nominations were made by NACAA agents which resulted in 4 of the top 10 candidates and 2 of the top 3 who thanked their Extension Agents for their help in getting nominated. NACAA is doing an outstanding job of recognizing these young farmers but we need to keep on encouraging these to fill out the nomination forms. The 2018 Congress will be held in Sacramento California, February 15-18. Applications for the program are due August 1 and can be found at <http://www.ofafaternity.org/nomination-forms>.

I thank you for allowing me to representing you and NACAA during my assignment.

For more info please feel free to contact me at Ray Hicks, rhicks@uga.edu, (912) 682-8670.

Many thanks and appreciation is extended to the NACAA officers and board for their support of me representing our association on the Extension Journal, Inc. (EJI) board. My tenure began in January of this year in the capacity of serving as the liaison to NACAA for Extension Journal, Inc.

National Outstanding Farmers of America

Ray Hicks
Georgia



“Certified Grown” was the theme of this year’s Outstanding Young Farmers Congress which was held in Greenville, SC, February 9 -12. The Southern region of Young Farmers really laid the welcome mat out for all the applicants and alumni, from great workshops to educational tours to delicious food. The Outstanding Farmers of America Organization is made up of past nominees of the program. It is designed to facilitate an exchange of ideas and friendship that encourages excellence and involvement in agriculture and the local, state, and national community. There are approximately 1,500 members across the nation who utilizes their connections with each other in a strong networking format to assist farmers and promote the importance of America’s farming community.

The National Outstanding Young Farmers program is administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America and supported by NACAA, John Deere and the United States Junior Chamber. Applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 40, deriving a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming. They are judged on progress in agricultural career, extent of soil and water conservation practices, and

Extension Journal Inc.

Melody Rose
Tennessee



Journal of Extension

JOE is a scholarly, double-blind, peer-reviewed online journal representing the best of Cooperative Extension from across the nation. All JOE submissions are peer reviewed with high editorial standards and scholarly rigor expected from all papers submitted and from the reviewers. Should your paper be published in JOE, consider that a huge achievement!

The Journal of Extension remains a rigorous, refereed journal for Extension professionals. Well over a million visited the JOE site during 2016, along with 282 submissions received for publication. For more on the numbers, see

the February 2017 Editor's Page, "JOE by the Numbers 2015" found at: <https://www.joe.org/joe/2017february/ed1.php>.

You can also find the top 50 most read articles for 2016 at: <https://www.joe.org/website-statistics/top-articles-2016.php>. Tracking of the top 50 most read articles goes back to 2005. If you are interested in being a reviewer and have breadth across several areas as well as depth of expertise, please visit JOE: <http://www.joe.org/about-faqs.php#rp01>.

You can apply to become a JOE reviewer by sending the name and e-mail address of a reference who can speak to your ability to serve as a reviewer and a file containing your curriculum vitae to Robert Ricard at: robert.ricard@uconn.edu.

A YEAR WITH THE NEW EDITOR

In late 2014 EJI president (at that time), Dr. Michelle Rodgers, along with Past-President Dr. Joseph Donaldson set the pathway to find a new editor to replace the longtime JOE editor Dr. Laura Hoelscher who retired on December 31, 2015.

A search committee was appointed with Terry Meisenbach chosen to lead the committee. The search committee consisted of Dr. Karen Cannon, Dr. Debra Maddy, Dr. Eli Sagor, and Dr. Keith Mickler. At the September 2015 EJI board of directors meeting; Debbie Allen was appointed new editor for JOE, effective January 1, 2016.

Debbie has done an outstanding job in this position for the last year, with many positive changes occurring along the way. Many components of the JOE website have been revamped, allowing for more clarity and easier access to visitors, along with the elimination of repetitious and outdated information. Authors should find the submission process more user friendly and the site easier to navigate.

Debbie has also written a new resource for prospective authors entitled, "Strategies for Success." Read here for more information: <https://www.joe.org/for-authors-getting-published-in-joe-strategies-for-success.php>. New and improved versions of JOE submission guidelines, style and guidance for avoiding common manuscript problems, and JOE Manuscript Submission Checklists are also available, thanks to Debbie's passion for assisting authors accomplish their goals of being published. See here for more info: <https://www.joe.org/for-authors-submission-guidelines.php>.

National Job Bank
Extension Journal, Inc.'s additional product is the National Job Bank <http://jobs.joe.org/>. The National Job Bank provides access to a broad range of faculty positions in

teaching, research, extension and outreach along with the professional positions involving education, research and/or outreach missions.

The National Job Bank allows the job seekers free registration and accounts, quick access to employers that are ready to hire, ability to communicate to employers online, and alerts when a relevant job becomes available. Employers to search through and find key individuals for positions they wish to fill.

SPECIAL THANKS

I have big shoes to fill after Keith Mickler's retirement from the EJI board of directors on December 31, 2016. He represented and served as the NACAA's representative to the EJI board for ten years. Luckily, Keith remains on the EJI Board as a member-at-large. I certainly hope I can serve in the capacity he has, and represent NACAA with pride.

Since joining the EJI Board in January, it has been a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to serve with other members of the Extension family from across our nation. The friendships and contacts I have made are priceless. Serving as the NACAA representative on the EJI board has truly been an honor and privilege.

**Executive
Director**

Scott Hawbaker

Illinois



It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. When the position of Executive Director was created during the 1998 AM/PIC in San Antonio, Texas, nobody knew what truly to expect. Would this new role be worth the investment? Would there be enough work to keep this person busy? Hopefully during my 19 year tenure, those questions have been answered. From my perspective, I'm keeping busy, and do appreciate the opportunity to work with NACAA.

It's been a pleasure working with the 2016-2017 Board of Directors and NACAA membership overall. Each year brings new challenges and objectives, but the mission remains strong, and I'm proud to be a part of this 102 year old Association. I'm here to serve NACAA, and will continue to do my best to meet the memberships expectations for years to come.

Connecting with Life Members....

What I have learned As a New Life Member Chair

By Thomas A. Dudek, Retired Senior Horticulture Educator and Life Member Chair, Michigan State University Extension

In late 2016, I made up my mind to retire from Michigan State University Extension on January 2, 2017. I have been a member of NACAA ever since I started my role as an Extension educator 35 years ago. Along the way, I served in many capacities for our state association including a term as president. One item kept coming up in all those roles; that being connecting with Life Members. These men and women in many cases still want to remain connected to their state and national associations.

I volunteered to be chair our Life Members for our state association, the Michigan Association of Extension Agents, and quickly decided to survey all the other states to see how they were continuing to keep in touch with Life Members. I asked them what they did to maintain contact with their Life Members. I received responses from 11 state association contacts from across the country.

I received the following feedback and thought it might be helpful to share this with you:

-All respondents stated that they encouraged their Life Members to attend the AM-PIC's.

-One state reported that a group of 7 retired agents meet monthly for coffee and intelligent conversation.

-Most states pay the Life Member's dues from their associations treasury.

-Three states indicate that they invite Life Members to their spring/summer professional improvement tours/training for current staff.

-Two states indicated they have one or two formal position (depending on the membership size) on their state association board for Life Members. And they attend a quarterly meeting.

-Most states responded that they send out their state association newsletter to Life Members 3-4 times

per year. This most often is by email or if it is mailed the association pays the cost for postage to those members who receive it in that fashion.

-A couple of states indicated they invite Life Members to the All Extension Annual Conference in their respective state.

-Golf seems to be a common event for many retired agents and a couple of states indicate they hold one or two outings a year for Life Members to drive, chip and putt!!

Last summer, in Michigan, the county I was based in hosted the Michigan Association of Extension Agent's day and a half summer Professional Improvement Tour. We also invited Life Members to a picnic barbecue dinner that was hosted by the association. Eight Life Members attended the dinner and one Life Member spent the full day and a half on the tour with us. We plan to do something similar this year in Southwest Michigan.

Some agents just walk away after their careers and want to slip away into another life. While some continue to stay involved with their communities, farms and such. I hope this brief article can help those state Life Member Chairs find ways to connect with their members.



"Current Michigan Association of Extension Agents and Life Members Participate in 2016 Professional Improvement Tour in Ottawa County, Michigan."

Pesticide Stewardship Brochures

NACAA has partnered with Syngenta on eight general pesticide stewardship brochures and two flyers to assist with pesticide educational efforts. These brochures are not specific to any geography, target site, pest, product, or company. These brochures are available to NACAA members FREE of charge for your use in programming efforts. Enter the number of copies you are interested in next to the specific brochure/flyer and submit to the address listed below. Your supply will be sent at no charge.

- ___1) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - English edition
- ___2) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Spanish edition
- ___3) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Aerial Applicator edition
- ___4) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Pest Management Professional edition - *(for commercial, licensed or certified applicators and technicians under their supervision, for treating in and around structures)*
- ___5) The Value of Buffers for Pesticide Stewardship and Much More
- ___6) Pollinators and Pesticide Stewardship
- ___7) Dress for Success! Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide
- ___8) For Pesticide Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators - Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide (English, 2 pages, 8th gr. reading level)
- ___9) For Pesticide Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators - Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide (Spanish, 2-pages, 8th gr. reading level)
- ___10) An Ounce of Prevention! Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Schools and Child Care Facilities – *(discussing all aspects of IPM, including safe pesticide use)*



Available Formats:

Quantities of the actual brochures that will be “well-used” can be ordered free of charge from carol.somody@syngenta.com by emailing this order form or a short note. No PO boxes, please! A copy of this form is also available at: <http://www.nacaa.com/countyagent/PesticideStewardship.php>

PDF versions of the brochures can be viewed or downloaded from the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship (PES) website at <http://pesticidestewardship.org/Pages/Resources.aspx> or from any of the partner websites. Any organization is also welcome to post these brochures on their own website.

Word versions of the brochures can be requested by any organization desiring to modify or extract content. Email carol.somody@syngenta.com to discuss logo swaps with or without content changes. Artwork and photos can be used if conditions of use are met. PowerPoint presentations to go with the brochures are also available upon request.

Pesticide educators are also welcome to use or adapt any content that appears directly on the PES website – it is not copyrighted. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of pesticide safety and stewardship education!

Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



Science For A Better Life

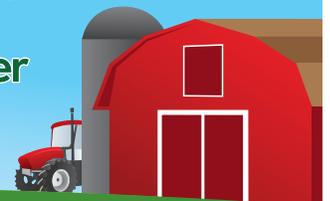


Join the Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance in our effort to protect your clients and our environment.

Access the agents toolbox at
PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com

chris@emailir.com | 612.386.8858

Lets
 Grow
 Safely Together



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

2.2 Million Farms in America

2.6 Million Miles of pipeline in America

1 Call Keeps them both safe



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

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

2019
Forth Wayne, IndianaSeptember 8-12

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

2020
Virginia Beach, Virginia.....July 19-24

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

October, 2017

AM/PIC Recap

Deadline for Articles: September 15, 2017

Mail Date: October 5, 2017

December, 2017

Committee/Awards Directory

Deadline for Articles: December 5, 2017

Mail Date: December 30, 2017

March/April, 2018

AM/PIC Registration Edition

Deadline for Articles: February 15, 2018

Mail Date: March 20, 2018

It's not too late to join the NACAA CARIBBEAN AG TOUR

December 1-10, 2017

Payment (per person): Est. \$2,725

Deadline extended to July 30th

If you're attending the AM/PIC - stop by
Exploration by Thor's booth to talk with Alex!

Departing from San Juan, Puerto Rico - with stops at:
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Antigua, Barbados and
St. Lucia. For a more detailed itinerary - please go to:

[http://www.nacaa.com/prof-dev/
NACAACaribbeanAgTour%202.pdf](http://www.nacaa.com/prof-dev/NACAACaribbeanAgTour%202.pdf)

Upcoming Tours

France & Malta Tour

Horticultural & Garden Tour -

2 possible tours with early interest
already ramping up -

May 13-24 and May 20-31.

More to come in Salt Lake.

