

The County Agent

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

Utah Great! - Future Bright!

The over 1150 NACAA members, spouses, children and guests who attend the 2017 NACAA Annual meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) in Salt Lake City experienced western hospitality at its best. Our hats are off to the Utah members and volunteers who put in many hours in planning and conducting an excellent meeting. The Salt Palace was beautiful (and large) and it provided a wonderful venue for all the sessions and breakouts. Those who attended gained knowledge from the speakers, posters and exhibitors and grew healthier from having walked a bit more than usual. The 2017 AM/PIC provided many opportunities to learn from each other through presentations and impromptu hallway discussions and from the many agricultural speakers.

The NACAA committees did a stellar job of coordinating the presentations and recognition programs conducted throughout the AM/PIC. The professional improvement provided simply could not be accomplished without the committee members at the state and national levels combining their efforts to encourage participation and select those moving forward in the process. The NACAA AM/PIC provides younger members with the chance to glean ideas and expertise from those presenting about successful programs in their area. All members came away from Salt Lake City reenergized and ready for the upcoming year.

Dr. V. Philip Rasmussen was the recipient of the NACAA Service to American/World Agriculture award. Thanks to Dr. Rasmussen sharing his insights we learned the history and future of technology for precision agriculture.

As NACAA looks to the years ahead, it is imperative members participate in the various awards and recognition programs and avail themselves of the opportunities to present at the AM/PIC. Our sponsors and donors who support our programs invest in our professional improvement programs knowing our members make a difference in the education of farmers and ranchers across the United States. By NACAA members participation we prove our commitment to provide the best and most accurate information to our clientele and to continually grow in our abilities.

The past five years have shown continued growth in membership. With a reenergized effort to maintain and secure new sponsors, NACAA plans to develop even more appealing and useful educational opportunities for our members. Through the efforts of the NACAA board, council chairs, committee chairs, regional vice chairs, state officers and state committee chairs, NACAA will continue being the premier Extension professional improvement association.

It was well stated by Tim Fargo, who said "Who you are tomorrow begins with what you do today." Tim Fargo is the author of Alphabet Success, president of Hammerfest Corporation and a noted keynote speaker.

Let us as NACAA members commit ourselves to making a difference today, writing up what was done and applying for recognition and presentation opportunities next year so other members can grow in their knowledge and ability.



R to L - Newly elected NACAA President Alan Galloway with wife Mary Galloway

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Changing how we think about food and feed safety

In 2011, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) became law, and began changing the way government and industry think of food and feed safety. With FSMA, we began to think in concrete terms about what food and feed safety means, and how we can develop food and feed safety action plans.

The Food and Drug Administration has developed a guidance document that is right in line with preventing feed risks. The document identifies what are feed risks, but points out that not all feed risks are the same. So, the document helps to identify the level at which a feed risk could be considered as an “unacceptable feed risk.” The document is on CVM’s SafeFeed web page, and it’s listed as Guidance For Industry #203. At the bottom of this article, we explain how to get a copy that you can provide to your animal producer clients.

Don’t let the name of the food safety act fool you. FSMA is about human food safety as much as it is about feed safety. When Congress passed the first food safety law more than 100 years ago, it covered animal feed, too. The fact that U.S. food safety law includes safe food for animals makes sense, because a great deal of our food comes from animals, and problems in animal feed can lead to problems with human food safety. There are other good reasons to protect the health of animals, too, regardless of whether they are farm animals or pets.

FSMA requires animal ingredient and feed facilities to take a close look at their operations, determine where the feed risks are, and take steps to prevent those risks from becoming unacceptable feed risks. And even though the law focused on manufacturers, your clients can still apply the same concepts of prevention, and enjoy the same feed safety benefits by avoiding problems.

A basic concept to understand is, what is an unacceptable feed risk.

The mere presence of a contaminant in feed does not necessarily make the feed unsafe for animal consumption, nor does it necessarily make food derived from those animals unsafe for human consumption.

An unacceptable feed risk occurs when the level of a contaminant in feed is high enough to harm the health of animals or the health of humans consuming food derived from those animals.

A contaminant is any biological, chemical, or physical agent in feed that has the potential to cause illness or injury to animals or humans.

The level of a contaminant that presents an unacceptable feed risk for one species might not present an unacceptable feed risk for a different species. And the risks from different contaminants are not the same in all species.

Contaminants are not the only concern related to feed. Essential nutrient levels – either so high that they can cause harm to the animal, or so low that the animal cannot reach its nutritional needs – can also be unacceptable feed risks.

The animal producer’s job is to prevent unacceptable feed risks. And, the best way to prevent an unacceptable feed risk is by knowing where to look for the risks and understanding what we would consider to be an unacceptable risk. That’s where the document we’ve written can help.

A great deal of information is available from a number of different sources, including universities, government websites, and State feed control officials. The Guidance document identifies other sources of information; so, if you can’t find it in the Guidance document itself, you can often find it via one of the sources listed in the document.

The single, 15-page document gathers a great deal of information in one place. It will tell you a lot about feed safety, and how to avoid what we believe are unacceptable feed risks.

To get a copy of it, please come to www.FDA.gov/safefeed. Look under the “Animal Producers” section. There you’ll find Guidance for Industry #203, “Ensuring Safety of Animal Feed Maintained and Fed On-Farm.”

As County Agricultural Agents, you will find a good amount of information to pass on to your clients. But, perhaps an even better use of the document is to e-mail it to your animal producer clients. Because it’s a government document, you are free to distribute it.

And, we welcome comments about it. Please contact Dr. Phares Okelo, at Phares.Okelo@FDA.HHS.gov.

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2017 Service to American/World Agriculture

V. Philip Rasmussen
Emeritus Western SARE Coordinator

Dr. Phil Rasmussen received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Utah State University and his Doctoral degree at Kansas State University. Dr. Rasmussen spent the early part of his career establishing no-till research plots across the intermountain West, encouraging the use of innovative and sustainable technologies. Spending his career as an extension specialist and an administrator who worked with a "one-foot-in-the-field" approach to issues, Rasmussen was able to win the respect of academics and farmers/ranchers alike. Rasmussen conducted innovative research and extension work in conservation tillage; he was so proficient at conservation tillage he was widely known as "No-Till Phil". Conservation tillage reduces or eliminates plowing and saves farmers money and conserves soil and water. Rasmussen was a leader in helping to broaden the use of this practice in Utah from 7,500 acres in 1984 to over 125,000 acres in 2009.

It was his penchant for technology however that led him to work as the State Extension Computer specialist at a time when microcomputers were just beginning to be widely used in natural resource and agricultural management. Rasmussen became the nation's first NASA sponsored Geospatial Extension specialist in 1999, using modern technology for precision agriculture to ensure that resources were used in an environmentally friendly way. Phil served as the coordinator of Western SARE from December 1993 to July 2014 and has been associated with National SARE since 1988, having served on the first SAN Committee. He also served as an assistant director in both the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the Utah State University Cooperative Extension Service.

Phil was a part of the Extension/USDA/Nasa Cooperative Geospatial Extension Program from January 2000 to February 2015. He was funded for the "On-Target Fellowship Program" from July 2005 to July 2011. This program trained Extension agents across the country in geospatial technology. In addition to training and mentoring, these workshops provided each attendee the latest in GPS units, hand held computers and software.

In 2004, when NASA announced the grant awards for Geospatial projects they said the following about Phil's project: "We are pleased to be a part of this worthwhile effort which will benefit all Americans," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. "NASA's unique resources to view the Earth from space will enhance our ability to predict climate, weather and natural hazards as well as to mitigate and assess the effects of natural and human-induced disasters. The information we provide will allow our partners to make



critical, accurate and timely decisions," he said. "Education in the use of geographic information systems and other advanced technologies is critical in today's agricultural economy if we are to remain competitive and protect our natural resources for future generations." Agricultural Secretary Anne Veneman said.

Phil received USU's highest award for service, the E.G. Peterson Extension Award, at commencement exercises in June 1999. R. Paul Larsen, Vice President for Extension at USU at the time, called Rasmussen "a superb specialist who has been exceptionally productive in soil and water conservation, minimum tillage and computer applications".

Rasmussen has published more than two hundred articles and book chapters covering the fields of: agronomic computer applications, soil physics/management/conservation, and sustainable agricultural techniques. Phil has also obtained millions of dollars in grants and other funding in his career.

Phil has also been honored by the NACAA. He was chosen to give the annual address "Becoming a Sustainable Extension Educator in 2009 and was a presenter and author at the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Development Conference in Greenville, NC in 2008 presenting USU/NASA/NACAA Search for Excellence in Agriculture Remote Sensing. Phil was invited to present the "Capstone" sustainability address at the NACAA conclave at the Portland, Oregon AM/PIC in September 2009.

Currently, Phil and his wife, Linda, just finished serving a church service mission on humanitarian farming operations in Europe and the Americas.

NACAA Professional Excellence Poster Competition

National Winners 1st Place - Applied Research



L to R - Michael Rethwisch, (award recipient); Gene McAvoy
Committee Vice Chair; Steven Yergeau, Committee Vice Chair

SMOOTH BROME (BROMUS INERMIS) GROWTH RESPONSE TO RYZUP SMARTGRASS APPLICATION IS EFFECTED BY SURFACTANT

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In 2012, striking differences were noted in adjacent field test plots of smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) treated with RyzUp SmartGrass (active ingredient = gibberellic acid 3). Subsequent investigation noted different surfactants were used between the two sites, providing the first clue that the correct surfactant was critical to crop response to gibberellic acid application. A number of surfactants were screened in a series of RyzUp SmartGrass applications to smooth brome in small plot field trials over the next several years to determine which surfactants were most effective. Natural forage height and extended leaf measurements indicated significant differences due to surfactant included, and that best and most consistent growth responses occurred when non-ionic surfactants which contained ammonium

sulfate were used with gibberellic acid. These combinations resulted in positive economic hay production values across several nitrogen fertility levels in fields, at 30 days and especially at 60 days post treatment. It is thought that the ammonium component of these surfactants help to keep the gibberellic acid from being denatured in the spray tank, while the additional nitrogen is also beneficial.

2nd Place - Applied Research



L to R - Jeremy Pickens, (award recipient); Gene McAvoy
Committee Vice Chair; Steven Yergeau, Committee Vice Chair

BIFENTHRIN TREATED SUBSTRATE FOR CONTROL OF TAWNY CRAZY ANTS (NYL- ANDERIA FULVA) IN CONTAINER NURSER- IES

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Poster URL: <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/uploads/1421.pdf>

Nylanderia fulva (Tawny Crazy Ant) has the potential to become a major pest in the Southeast. *N. fulva* has been reported in every Gulf Coast state and Georgia. There is a great potential for its spread through containerized plant material. Currently in Alabama, *N. fulva* is isolated to a few small areas in Mobile and Baldwin County. Nursery growers have expressed concerns about the potential problems should this ant infest a local nursery. In order to comply with the Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine, growers are required to use approved insecticidal treatments. Many container nursery growers utilize bifenthrin incorporated into their potting mix for fire ant control. Our objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of this treatment in controlling or repelling *N. fulva* in the container nursery. This experiment included the following treatments: untreated control, 12.5 and 25 ppm bifenthrin potted 240 days before

placement (DBP) and 12.5 and 25 ppm bifenthrin potted 14 DBP. Treated media from a local nursery (15 ppm bifenthrin) was also included. Pots were arranged in a randomized complete block design with 26 blocks an infested wooded area. Pots were inspected for the presence of *N. fulva* at 30, 40 and 75 days after placement. No interaction was observed between treatments and sample dates. All treatments had some level of infestation. Both the untreated pots and the pots with 15 ppm bifenthrin had a significantly greater level of infestation when compared to other treatments.

3rd Place - Applied Research



L to R - Bonnie Wells, (award recipient); Gene McAvoy Committee Vice Chair; Steven Yergeau, Committee Vice Chair

DIGGING INTO THE POTENTIAL OF SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION IN THE TRI-COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AREA OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

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Poster URL: <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/uploads/1305.pdf>

The Tri-County Agricultural Area of Northeast Florida leads the state in production of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum* L.), with Hastings in St. Johns County being the official “Potato Capital” since 1908. However, in recent years potato growers have been operating on low profit margins, and production acreage is declining. Growers are looking for alternatives such as sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* L. Lam.) to diversify their farming systems and enhance sustainability. However, information about production in the area is lacking, and growers are relying on Extension for help. In response, field trials were conducted in summer 2016 to evaluate yield, identify the optimal nitrogen (N) rate, and compare row spacing on selected cultivars. ‘Boniato,’ ‘Burgundy,’ ‘Covington,’ and ‘Palmetto’ were planted using two row spacings (40” and 80”) and four N rates (lbs/A) (0, 60, 90, 120). Yields were significantly different for the

four tested cultivars. ‘Boniato’ was the greatest yielding followed by ‘Burgundy,’ ‘Palmetto,’ and ‘Covington.’ The 90 N rate resulted in the greatest yields for all cultivars. Due to insufficient slips, only the 40” row spacing was evaluated. Although ‘Boniato’ and ‘Burgundy’ had greater yields, ‘Palmetto’ may demand a better price with a promising market potential for Florida because of its high content of purple anthocyanin, an antioxidant that not only makes this sweet potato a superfood, but gives it an alluring purple color. The 90 N application rate had the best yield and nitrogen use efficiency, thus may be considered an appropriate rate for sweet potato production in the area.

1st Place - Extension Education



L to R - Michele Bakas, (award recipient); Gene McAvoy Committee Vice Chair; Steven Yergeau, Committee Vice Chair

COMPOSTING GONE WILD: TEACHING SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GARDENERS PROPER COMPOSTING.

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Poster URL: <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/uploads/1427.pdf>

Community and school gardens often have small composting systems to process food scraps and garden waste. Although gardeners understand the benefits of compost, managing the compost pile is often an afterthought. Challenges such as lack of a carbon-rich material, inappropriate setups for garden situations, or little to no maintenance often inhibits success. Rutgers Cooperative Extension has been working with school and community gardeners to

teach proper composting techniques for greater success. This effort is part of a state-wide curriculum for Rutgers Master Gardeners which also includes food safety, pest management, and getting gardens started. Scripted and online audio presentations, and fact sheets have been produced. From 2015- 2016 close to 200 school/ community gardeners, and Rutgers Master Gardeners attended a composting presentation which focused on how to successfully compost with large groups. The emphasis was on managing the end of season garden dump when plants are pulled from their beds and dumped in the compost, in addition to understanding carbon to nitrogen ratios, and having a compost point person who manages the pile. Pre- and post-tests showed an increase in knowledge in important concepts such as moisture and aeration, “green” and “brown” materials, and troubleshooting composting problems. Future efforts include a new website and monitoring composting efforts to determine whether gardeners put into practice the techniques they learned.

2nd Place - Extension Education



L to R - Wendy Becker (award recipient); Gene McAvoy Committee Vice Chair; Steven Yergeau, Committee Vice Chair

FINANCIAL LITERACY FUN ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

Becker, W.¹

¹Extension Agent, Montana State University, Poplar, MT, 59255

Do you have bad credit, good credit, do you even know what credit is? How will that affect your future finance structure? The objective of the financial literacy workshops on the Fort Peck Reservation was to learn how and why we need to know about our individual credit, and how it can affect other decisions, and to learn in an exciting way. Many Native American’s grew up with a different type of credit system such as the barter system, however, increasingly with fiscal management becoming more integrated, this system isn’t as available to Native cultures. With an increased push on the Fort Peck Reservation to obtain jobs skills and become more financially secure, learning about credit

and your financial worthiness has piqued interest for job-seekers as well. Individuals attending the Tribal Financial Literacy workshops, learned about credit structure, how to use it responsibly, and how to use it in everyday situations. Over 66 students and 45 adults participated in 10 different classroom settings learning to use computer programs and apps for the iPad, developed to improve credit savviness. Interaction with participants created an environment of sharing, fun, and education through the use of game-type skill. Others learned to write resumes, check background status, and prepare for potential interviews. Participants in the programs showed a 100% increase in knowledge of building good credit, and improved their ability to increase their credit score. Others indicated an ability to work to improve credit, teach others about credit, and yearly obtain their credit report.

3rd Place - Extension Education



L to R - Matthew VanWeelden (award recipient); Gene McAvoy Committee Vice Chair; Steven Yergeau, Committee Vice Chair

OUTBREAK OF LOCALLY ACQUIRED ZIKA VIRUS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY--PALM BEACH COUNTY’S RESPONSE

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Poster URL: <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/uploads/1375.pdf>

In 2016, reports of Zika virus transmission were confirmed within the Miami metropolitan area. Palm Beach County Extension implemented a multifaceted approach to this developing crisis. Objectives of this program included, 1.) Develop a webpage with informational resources on the Zika virus, 2.) Develop and distribute informational factsheets to the public, 3.) Train pest control applicators on mosquito management, and provide license examina-

tions, and 4.) Reduce potential mosquito larval habitats at a local teaching garden. An informational website was developed to provide the most current information on the disease spread, how individuals can protect themselves and their families, how to reduce *Aedes aegypti* populations in their yards and communities, and how to understand mosquito management techniques undertaken by the local mosquito control division. Additionally, the website provided information for licensed pest management professionals on mosquito management. Agents in this program submitted a fact sheet and article written for the Florida Certified Pest Control Operators magazine on which licenses are required to control mosquitoes in Florida. Four presentations to local pest control professionals on managing mosquitoes and to local landscape professionals and residents to update them on the current issue were conducted. A knowledge gain of 33% (N=40) on Zika mosquito identification and control was achieved. Finally, an assessment in collaboration with community members was conducted at the Mounts Botanical Garden to identify areas that may produce *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes. Extension agents hope to continue this program in 2017 to assist in reducing the spread of Zika virus in South Florida.

2017 COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

Audio Recording National Winner

Mckenzie, P.*¹

¹ Agricultural Extension Agent, NC Cooperative Extension, Henderson, NC, 27536

The objective of this radio segment is to provide the gardening public with timely updates on gardening activities. This segment aired on March 8th, 2017 at approximately 2 pm on WIZS Radio, 1450 am based in Henderson, NC. The audience is estimated at approximately 10,000 listeners. It was recorded at the WIZS production studio. The program results in the gardening public receiving timely tips which help them achieve better results in the garden and landscape. The recording can be accessed at the following link: <http://soundcloud.com/user-96612206/cooperative-extension-with-paul-mckenzie-030817?in=user-96612206/sets/co-op-extension>



L to R - Gary Gao (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walbeim

Bound Book

National Winner

Gao, G.Y.*¹, Ellis, M.*², Welty, C.*³, Brown, M.*⁴, Becker, R.*⁵, Williams, R.*⁶, Prochaska, S.*⁷

¹ Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, Ohio State University South Centers, Piketon, OH, 45661

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⁷ Associate Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University Extension, Marion, OH, 43302

Home fruit production has been very popular since many gardeners desired safe and fresh fruits. Answering questions from the gardeners on fruit production can be very time consuming to county extension professionals. ‘Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide’ has been written to help both gardeners and extension professionals. The content was carefully selected so that we could include as much detail as possible without making the book too big. Most of the fruit crops that can be grown in the Midwest were covered in the book. Common pests and diseases of fruit crops were addressed as well.

The book is organized in 10 chapters, which include “Introduction, Tree Fruits, Small Fruits, Less Commonly Grown Fruits, Landscape Aspects of Fruit Plants, Obtaining and Using Fruits, Pest Management and Disease Control in Home Fruit Plantings, Gooseberries and Currants, Some Sources of Fruit Plants, and Glossary of Terms.” We tried hard to make our writing as clearly and easily understood

without sacrificing scientific merit. Since the serious gardeners tend to be quite well educated, we tried not to ‘dumb down’ our book too much. Our book has been proofread by extension professionals, gardeners and novices.

Many design and format elements were used to attract and hold the attention of the reader. We used 269 illustrations of color pictures and monochrome drawings to support information. Quite a few subheadings were used to help readers find information quickly. A pdf version of the book has been provided. However, the file does not have the highest resolution since there is a 10MB limit on file with our entry submission site. The hard copy of the book is printed on heavy duty glossy paper in full color and in a spiral binding for easy handling and reading.

In summary, The 2017 version has been revised based on the 2009 and 2010 versions since the first two printings were sold out. There are still 50 copies on back order. The hard copy of this version will come out in March, 2017. We certainly hope the 2017 version of the ‘Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide’ will be equally popular!



L to R - Steven Yergeau (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Computer Generated Graphics Presentation

National Winner

Yergeau, S.*¹

¹ Environmental & Resource Management Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Toms River, NJ, 08755

Compaction is a major problem affecting soil health in agriculture and horticulture in Ocean County. Compacted soils inhibit the growth of plant roots affecting the health of crops, pastures, and landscape vegetation. This presentation was given to Rutgers Master Gardeners (RMGs) of Ocean County during two workshops in the spring of 2016. The objective of this presentation is to outline the

causes of compaction, its effects on soil health, mitigation options, and how to measure soil compaction in the home landscape. The slide set of 47 slides is available at <http://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/Resource%20Management/Understanding%20Soil%20Compaction%20-%20Script.pdf>. The purpose of this lecture is to introduce the RMGs of Ocean County to compaction as a horticultural problem, how to diagnose potential soil compaction in the home landscape, and to discuss some methods to mitigate compaction. Audience members were instructed on the use of a soil compaction tester that was available for RMGs of Ocean County to borrow on a voluntary basis at home, and to report their findings back to Dr. Yergeau. This lecture was presented during two workshops; one on April 27, 2016 and one on May 25, 2016 to 74 participants. Of the 74 Rutgers Master Gardeners trained, 43 signed up and tested their home lawns. The information gathered from the lawn testing effort is being used to develop a baseline level of soil compaction in Ocean County and management recommendations for homeowners. The information presented during the workshop was condensed and used to create a webpage titled “Understanding Soil Compaction” (<http://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/UnderstandingSoilCompaction.html>). This lecture was fully developed as a scripted Microsoft PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Yergeau.



L to R - Hemant Gohil (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Fact Sheet

National Winner

Gohil, H.*¹

¹ Agriculture and Resource Management Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Clayton, NJ, 08312

Red leaves in the vineyard are caused by many biotic (viruses, bacteria, and fungus) and abiotic (nutrient deficiencies, cold injury, damage to root systems, etc.) stresses. Anything that can cause blockage or stress in the vascular system where water and nutrients are transported can result in the development of red leaves. Though the timing,

pattern of appearance, and spread could be different, the overlapping of the symptoms, especially the reddening of leaves, makes it very difficult to identify the cause based only on visual symptoms. The fact sheet *Red Leaves in The Vineyard: Biotic and Abiotic Causes* was developed to educate beginning and established wine grape growers on how to differentiate the symptoms between nutritional deficiencies and virus diseases. It also advises wine grape growers not to rely on guesswork, but to get the vines tested for accurate diagnosis as soon as possible. Examples of abiotic and biotic stresses with pictures, description and remedy are presented along with a decision making chart for action to be taken after appearance of the red leaves on grapevines. The content of fact sheet was presented at Wine Grape session of 2017 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey, PA where entrant was an invited speaker. Fact sheet was distributed to growers at that convention (55) and at wine grape twilight meetings (32). The fact sheet (FS1260) is published at Rutgers New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station. Available to download at: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1260/>.



L to R - Andy Overbay (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Feature Story

National Winner

Overbay, A.E.*¹

¹ Extension Agent, ANR, Dairy Science, , Marion, VA, 24354

This feature story was written to recognize the role that strong, positive family relationships have on sustaining the family farm. Specifically, this article for the June 2016 edition of Progressive Forage magazine shared the important role of the author's father played on their farm as mentor and friend. This personal story tells of the working relationship and subsequent loss of a loved one and how "right now" is the time to tell others how important they are to us. This publication was sent to

over 47,500 subscribers. Readers from across the nation and Canada emailed or messaged the author with thank you notes and positive feedback. The entry was supplied to the editor of Progressive Forage as a Word document and distributed both in hardcopy and electronic form. This all original work is available on line at: <http://www.progressiveforage.com/forage-production/producer-features/of-farms-and-fathers>



L to R - Madeline Flabive DiNardo (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Learning Module

National Winner

Flabive DiNardo, M.*¹, Bakacs, M.*², Melendez, M.*³, Nitzsche, P.*⁴, Larson, D.*⁵, Szkotak, R.*⁶, Magron, R.*⁷, Infante Casella, M.*⁸

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⁶ Program Associate II, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Camden County, Cherry Hill, NJ, 08002

⁷ Master Gardener Coordinator, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon County, Flemington, NJ, NJ, 08822

⁸ County Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County, Clayton, NJ, 08312

A team of Rutgers Agents and Master Gardener Program Coordinators joined forces to create a community vegetable gardening curriculum that could be used by volunteer Master Gardeners, schools and community gardening organizations to teach gardeners the basics of establishing

and maintaining a vegetable garden. Our objectives were to: 1) create peer-reviewed presentations, 2) develop program evaluations that could be easily administered and have Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, 3) train volunteer Master Gardeners to deliver the curriculum, 4) facilitate Master Gardeners delivering the curriculum in their local communities. The team identified five topics the curriculum should address and established learning objectives for each one: Starting a Community Garden, Composting, Harvesting & Food Safety, and Insect & Disease Management, Part 1 Integrated Pest Management Techniques, Part 2 Key Plants – Key Pests. Each presentation was reviewed by the department chair and faculty with expertise in the topic. The curriculum consists of scripted and audio PowerPoint™ presentations. The presentations were recorded using PowerPoint™ and converted to MP4 files. Each presentation is accompanied with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and USDA fact sheet resources and pre/post evaluation quizzes. Each pre/post quiz consists of 10 true/false/not sure statements. The evaluations have Rutgers IRB approval. They can be administered using paper and are also available as on-line Qualtrics surveys. The lead author, Flahive DiNardo, was responsible for coordinating team meetings, co-writing scripts, developing program evaluation materials, facilitating IRB and peer reviews, recording four presentations, final editing and the distribution of materials. In the fall of 2016, 137 Master Gardeners attended regional training programs and received the curriculum on jump drives. The curriculum is also available to Master Gardener Coordinators on a Rutgers SAKAI course management website, <https://sakai.rutgers.edu>. Extension colleagues are welcome to have access to the curriculum materials upon request (contact: Flahive@njaes.rutgers.edu). The presentations with accompanying resource materials and evaluation quizzes will be available to the general public on the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station website: www.njaes.rutgers.edu.

Newsletter, Individual

National Winner

Susan Haddock

Extension Agent

UF/IFAS

Hillsborough

The objective of these newsletters is to educate landscape maintenance professionals on a variety of urban topics while presenting in a consistent month to month format that is interesting and fun. Urban landscape management practices affect many aspects of natural resources from water quality to beneficial organisms. Florida has a wide diversity of water resources and the largest area of water resources in the contiguous 48 states. Many of these water resources are downstream of watersheds where approximately 19 million people live. Additionally, Florida has many beneficial insects that are good predators, parasites and pollinators and oc-

cur naturally in landscapes. The purpose of the newsletters is to educate horticultural professionals about how urban landscape inputs (pesticides and fertilizers) aimed at controlling damaging insects or greening up lawns are associated with potentially negatively impacts on natural resources. The primary target audience is commercial horticulture professionals but, the newsletters are designed to be easily understood by urban residents and Master Gardeners. The newsletters are distributed by email campaign monthly to over 550 clients/companies. Four hundred additional newsletters are directly distributed in hard copy to landscape suppliers for their clients. Over 50 newsletters are ‘picked up’ at the Extension office front desk monthly. As a result 98% of respondents to an informal survey (n=107) report that knowledge gained from the newsletter have helped them implement best management practices that protect and preserve water quality and beneficial insects and help them manage properties more responsibly. Respondents also greatly enjoy the Photo Promo and many indicated that is the section they go to first for fun. The newsletter was designed by the submitting Agent and printed on office equipment.



L to R - Rakesh Chandran (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Newsletter, Team

National Winner

Rakesh Chandran

Extension Specialist - Pest Management

WVU Extension

Chandran, R.*¹, Frank, D.*², Rahman, MM*³, Danilovich, M*⁴, Owen, S*⁵

¹ Extension Specialist - Pest Management, WVU Extension, Morgantown, WV, 26506

² Extension Entomologist, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 26506

³ Extension Plant Pathologist, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 26506

⁴ Extension Specialist - Consumer Horticulture, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 26506

⁵ Extension Specialist - Wildlife, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 26506

The IPM Chronicle is a multi-disciplinary quarterly newsletter published by the West Virginia University Extension Service - Ag. and Nat. Res. unit, with assistance from the Extension Service Communications Team. It has been published since 2013 and serves as a credible source of information related to emergent pest management issues relevant to West Virginia, with some topics or regional or national scope. It has a very broad readership ranging from Homeowners to Master Gardeners, County Agents and Growers. The IPM Chronicle is managed by Rakesh Chandran, IPM Coordinator at WVU along with contributions from Daniel Frank (Entomology), Mafuz Rahman (Plant Pathology), Rakesh Chandran (Weed Science), Mira Danilovich (Environmental Plant Damage), Sheldon Owen (Verebrate Pests), and Barbara Liedl from West Virginia State University collaborating and contributing articles on Greenhouse and High Tunnel IPM. Although it is primarily a web-based publication with over 3000 unique readers in 2016, approximately 500 hard copies were distributed at meetings, workshops, and conferences. Keywords are embedded into the files to direct search engines and facilitate the search process.



L to R - Tony Nye (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Personal Column

National Winner

Tony Nye

In 2014 I was invited by the managing editor of the Acreagelife magazine to be a monthly contributor to this hobby/small farm publication. My monthly column is titled Weekend Farmer. The objective of this column is to bring useful farm management and production practice information to small scale farming enthusiasts. Each article authored is sent to the managing editor and professionally edited by their staff. Before final copy is printed,

I review and edit for any corrections. Readership of this magazine is distributed through several means which includes 19,500 distributed print run copies, 10,448 digital subscribers, and an Acreagelife following on facebook of 71,836. In his editorial, James Egolf, Acreagelife Managing editor wrote, "Tony Nye is another name you will recognize, bringing us the voice of both an educator and real-world expert on small-scale agriculture production."



L to R - Nicole Carutis (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Program Promotional Piece

National Winner

Carutis, N.*¹

¹ Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Coudersport, PA, 16915

In an effort to increase use of nutrient retaining, soil stabilizing and organic matter building cover crops, the Penn State Interseeder planted cover crops in between the rows of standing corn on 5 farms across Potter and McKean Counties. The project was funded in-part by the Potter & McKean County Conservation Districts. The goal of the project was to share with farmers alternative ways to increase cover crop acreage on their farms. This flyer was mailed to 233 farmers in Potter and McKean Counties growing corn. 33 farmers attended a cover crop tour showcasing the locations. As a result of the field days, 330 acres of cover crops were planted by three producers in a "PA DEP 303d Ag-impaired Watershed" following corn using a no-til drill for the first time. The total acreage of cover crops to be planted in this watershed is expected to increase by 25% in 2017.



L to R - Amy Scaroni and Kim Counts Morganello (award recipients) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Publication

National Winner

Morganello, K.C.*¹, Scaroni, Amy. PhD*²

¹ Water Resources Extension Agent, Clemson Extension, Charleston, SC, 29401

² Extension Associate, Clemson Extension, Charleston, SC, 29401

“*A Guide to Rain Gardens in South Carolina*” was published in December 2016. The document was developed by Clemson Extension and the Carolina Clear program to provide step-by-step instructions on how to design, build, plant and maintain a residential-scale rain garden. Rain gardens can help residents manage erosion and moisture control issues, direct stormwater runoff, provide for wildlife habitat, beautify the home landscape and help protect clean water downstream; for these reasons, rain gardens are a recommended best practice of Clemson Extension. In the 2016 Rain Garden Guide, text is broken up using color coded headers, bulleted lists and text boxes for “pro tips” and “pop quiz.” This guide uses photographs depicting construction actions such as percolation testing, soil preparation, roof area measurement, berm establishment and more. Diagrams and a rain garden sizing worksheet are included for added function and aesthetics. Multiple rain garden drawings are included to assist with design choices and a plant list provided to assist with appropriate plant selection. Two resource pages provide links to complementing resources such as the Clemson Extension Virtual Rain Garden and the Carolina Yards plant database. *The Guide to Rain Gardens in South Carolina* is intended for residential audiences with the two-fold objective of helping to learn about rain gardens and their potential to protect local water quality, and to provide readers with step-by-step instructions on how to design, build, plant and maintain a residential rain garden. The document was first printed in November 2016 with

1000 copies made. The document is available for purchase at Clemson University Marketplace as well as available as a free download at clemson.edu/raingarden. As of March 2017, over 200 print copies of the manual have been distributed with this number expected to rise at spring workshops and public events. The document was co-authored by Kim Morganello, Clemson Extension Agent, and Dr. Amy Scaroni, Clemson Extension Associate. Contributions and peer review was provided by multiple Clemson Associate Professors, Water Resource and Horticulture Extension Agents, the Director for the Center for Watershed Excellence, a Master Gardener and a professional landscape architect. For years to come, this nearly 20-page rain garden guide will serve as a Clemson Extension resource both in print and digitally.



L to R - Kapil Arora (award recipients) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Published Photo & Caption

National Winner

Kapil Arora

Field Agricultural Engineer

Iowa State University Extension

The photograph was taken by the author in late summer of 2016 when appropriate soil moisture conditions existed to install the drainage tile line. The purpose of taking the photograph was to show the size of the plow and the tractor needed to install a tile line 5 to 6 feet deep in the ground. It is important to maintain good slope or grade in the installed tile line so the water flows down hill. The size of the plow is important so that it can break through soil compaction and any large rocks which a small plow may not be able to break resulting in irregular slope in the installed tile. Size of the tile (diameter) increases with increase in the size of the area to be drained. Number of tile lines needed depends on the field layout and the desired tile spacing based on soil type. All these factors need to be planned out ahead of

time for which learning is required. The photograph and its caption “Plan it” were published in the February 2017 edition of the Wallaces Farmer. Fifty-five thousand copies were printed and distributed in Iowa and neighboring states. The photograph and the caption were also printed in the on-line version of the Wallaces Farmer which has an average of 3,200 daily hits. The purpose of the publishing the photograph and its caption was to draw the attention of Iowa farmers, contractors, and landowners to learn more details about farmland drainage and associated new technologies at an up-coming day-long workshop.



L to R - Jody Gale (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Video Presentation

National Winner

Gale, J.A.*1, Hinkamp, Dennis*2

¹ Sevier County & Southern Region Area Extension Agent, Utah State University, Richfield, UT, 84701

² Media Specialist, Utah State University, Logan, UT, 84322

In an effort to meet home gardeners where they are, USU Extension has developed a series of gardening related YouTube videos. One question asked often is: “what can I do with extra produce from my garden?” This video instructs home gardeners on options for using extra sweet corn. Methods included in the video are:

- How to make drying racks
- Using plastic to create solar heat to assist in drying
- How long to let it dry by reaching proper moisture content
- Storing dried kernels
- Making and using corn flour

This video is available on the USU Extension YouTube channel for educators and home gardeners. The content was developed by Jody Gale and the video was edited and produced by Dennis Hinkamp. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydQ46nhiv20>



L to R - Jacob Overgaard (award recipient) receiving award from National Sponsor Bayer Advanced representative Lance Walheim

Website

National Winner

Overgaard, J.*1

¹ Extension Educator, Agriculture Production Systems, University of Minnesota Extension, Winona, MN, 55987

Farmbytes is a section of our UMN Extension Small Farms website that I have developed to address specific production and marketing topics for the small farms community. Our audience includes specialty crops and livestock (mostly small and alternative, as well as beef and dairy) producers, and are mostly interested in organic and sustainable agricultural production. The first Farmbytes went live in the spring of 2016.

Farmbytes are designed to be easily and quickly digested and are what I consider a “value added fact sheet”. They’re built around video and use limited text to address the issue of short online attention spans. Another goal is to make them more personal. To do this, rather than use text, I record myself introducing the topics on video. For viewers who are looking for more information beyond what’s covered in the videos - manuals, websites, fact sheets, and other resources are provided.

Farmbytes also have an evaluation component. At the end of each, there’s a question asking users whether the Farmbyte was useful, they can check yes or no. As of February, 2017, there are 48 submissions, 92% indicate they are helpful. As of December 2016, the pages have had over 1200 views.

Farmbytes are available at the following URL: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/farmbytes/>

2017 Achievement Award Winners

North Central Region

Indiana - Amanda Dickson
Indiana - Amanda Mosiman
Iowa - Rebecca Vittetoe
Kansas - Marlin Bates
Kansas - Karaline Mayer
Michigan - James Dedecker
Minnesota - Jake Overgaard
Missouri - Travis Harper
Nebraska - Wayne Ohnesorg
North Dakota - Mary A. Berg
Ohio - Mary Griffith
Ohio - Eric A. Richer
South Dakota - Anthony Bly
Wisconsin - Trisha Wagner

Northeast Region

Maryland - Doris Behnke
New Hampshire - Amy Papineau
New Jersey - Amy A Rowe
New York - Libby Eiholzer
Pennsylvania - Juliette Enfield
West Virginia - Daisy F. Bailey

Southern Region

Alabama - Daniel S. Miller
Alabama - Alex Tigue
Arkansas - Grant Beckwith
Arkansas - Sara Beth Johnson
Arkansas - Kevin Van Pelt
Florida - Alicia R Lamborn
Florida - Matt Lollar
Florida - Blake R. Thaxton
Georgia - Adam Speir
Georgia - Jessica Warren
Georgia - Tripp J. Williams
Kentucky - Curtis Dame
Kentucky - P. Andrew Rideout
Kentucky - Kathryn Wimberley
Louisiana - Bobby Bingham
Mississippi - Rocky Lemus
Mississippi - Randall Mckey
North Carolina - Danelle Mcknight Cutting
North Carolina - Richard Goforth
North Carolina - Bart Renner
North Carolina - Dan Wells
Oklahoma - Zack A. Meyer
South Carolina - Amy Dabbs
South Carolina - W. Cory Heaton
Tennessee - Amy L Dismukes
Tennessee - Lindsay Stephenson Griffin

Tennessee - Amanda L Mathenia
Texas - Kimberly Benton
Texas - Kara J. Matheny
Texas - Cooper Terrill
Texas - Michael Wilkes
Texas - Paul Winski
Virginia - Stephen Barts
Virginia - Jennifer Ligon

West Region

Colorado - Todd Hagenbuch
Idaho - Jon Hogge
Montana - Tyler Lane
New Mexico - Jason Lamb
Oregon - Dustin Johnson
Utah - Katie Wagner
Washington - Trevor C Lane
Wyoming - Brian Sebade

2017 Distinguished Service Award Winners

North Central Region

Indiana - Larry Caplan
Indiana - Curt Emanuel
Iowa - Kapil Arora
Kansas - Frannie Miller
Kansas - Brian L Rees
Michigan - Thomas Guthrie
Minnesota - Ryan Miller
Missouri - Todd Lorenz
Nebraska - F. John Hay
North Dakota - Dan Folske
Ohio - Tony Nye
Ohio - Curtis E Young
South Dakota - Connie L Strunk
Wisconsin - Kevin Jarek

Northeast Region

Maryland - Shannon Potter Dill
New York - Aaron Gabriel
Pennsylvania - Robert C Goodling, Jr.
West Virginia - Brian Wickline

Southern Region

Alabama - Derek F. Bryan
Alabama - Shane Harris
Alabama - Mac D. Washington
Arkansas - Rex Herring
Arkansas - Kevin Lawson
Arkansas - Shaun Rhoades
Florida - Sheila Dunning
Florida - Ronald W Rice
Florida - Lindsey Wiggins
Georgia - Stephanie Ray Butcher
Georgia - Winston Eason
Georgia - Mary Carol Sheffield
Georgia - Michael Wheeler
Kentucky - Chris Ammerman
Kentucky - Sarah Fannin
Louisiana - Craig Roussel
Mississippi - Wayne Porter
Mississippi - Anita Webb
North Carolina - Mark Blevins
North Carolina - Carl Crozier
North Carolina - Tim Hambrick
North Carolina - Becky Spearman
Oklahoma - Casey N Russell
South Carolina - Brian Beer
South Carolina - Philip (Andy) Rollins

Tennessee - David C. Bilderback
Tennessee - Laurie Mobley
Tennessee - Ty Petty
Texas - Sara Lindley Allen
Texas - Corrie Bowen
Texas - Josh Brooks
Texas - Chad H Gully
Texas - Shane Mclellan
Virginia - Joyce Latimer

West Region

Colorado - Bruce Fickenschner
Idaho - Steven Hines
Montana - Mike Schuldt
New Mexico - Leigh Ann Marex
Oregon - Gene Pirelli
Utah - Clark E. Israelsen
Washington - Sheila L Gray
Wyoming - Barton Stam

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS & APPRECIATION AWARD



L to R - National Public Relations Chair Kathryn Hopkins, National Winner - Molly Jameson, National Sponsors Malin Westfall, James D. Hruskoci, Ph.D., Bayer CropScience

National Winner

THE LEON COUNTY SEED LIBRARY PROGRAM

Jameson, M.*¹

¹ Sustainable Agriculture and Community Food Systems, UF/IFAS, Tallahassee, FL, 32301

The Leon County Seed Library Program is a result of the partnership between UF/IFAS Leon County Extension and the Leon County Public Library. The objectives are to increase agriculture awareness, gardening skills, library support, and adoption of healthy behaviors by Leon County citizens. Now in its sixth season, the program has allowed patrons to use their library cards to “check out” over 50,000 seed packets at all seven library branches around Leon County, reaching a diversity of citizens. The Extension Agent collaborates with local farmers to select seeds, creates brochures and posters for library distribution, recruits volunteers to assemble seed packets, and partners with the Family Nutrition Program to deliver “Grow Healthy, Eat Healthy” workshops at multiple library branches. The workshops deliver sustainable gardening education, information on how to support local farmers, and healthy food demonstrations to participants. For spring, 2016, nearly 50% of the 9,000 seed packets were checked out in the first two weeks they were available, and in spring, 2017, this increased to 60%, with all seed packets eventually “selling out” each season. Post-survey responses from the Grow Healthy, Eat Healthy workshops documented that 166 of 212 participants (78.2%) surveyed said they intend to use gardening techniques that were presented and 71% of participants who had attended a workshop in the past reported the workshops had influenced their gardening techniques. The Seed Library Program’s success is an indication that many patrons are changing their behavior and will in turn have a better appreciation for agriculture.

EXCELLENCE IN 4-H PROGRAMMING



National Winner - Carol Schurman

National Winner

TEACHING AG SCIENCE AT “FOOD FIESTA!” - SOUTHWEST REGIONAL 4-H CAMP, AND “BE A FOOD DETECTIVE” - INDIANA COUNTY 4-H DAY CAMPS

Schurman, C.*¹

¹ Extension Educator - 4-H/Youth, Penn State Extension, Indiana, PA, 15701

During the summer of 2016, 4-H staff from Indiana County Extension conducted agricultural science programming with 58 youth in three different settings. This included three three-day day camps sponsored by 4-H. The camp theme was “Be A Food Detective”. The camp staff taught basic concepts about food science and safety. When asked if campers had learned more about food science during camp, 95% said “yes”. Campers also indicated (96%) that they had learned more about food safety. 99% of the campers would return to day camp again. “Food Fiesta” was the theme of the 2016 Southwest Regional 4-H Camp. A camp population of 56 campers ages 7 -12 and 24 teen counselors from seven counties were involved with an educational program to teach youth about food science, food diversity, and healthy food choices. This camp population included urban audiences from the greater Pittsburgh area and rural agricultural and coal communities from the Ohio River Valley. This is an overnight resident camp, involving three nights and four days. 98% of the campers indicated they learned something about other cultures, foods, and healthy food choices. Campers also made new friends, met new goals, and felt they followed cabin rules. As a result of camp, most counselors strongly agree or agree that they have a plan for reaching personal goals, can make alternative plans, know who to go to for help, have adults in their lives who care about them, and like to work with others to solve problems. Funds of \$3,050 were obtained to support the camps.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CROP PRODUCTION



National Winner - Sandra Wick

National Winner

POST ROCK DISTRICT CROP PRODUCTION PROGRAM

Wick, S.*¹

¹ District Extension Agent, Crop Production, K-State Research & Extension, Smith Center, KS, 66967

Producers in the crop production enterprise need access to research-based information to operate an efficient and profitable operation. Crop producers deal with many decisions throughout the growing season and I am always looking for ways to help producers make more knowledgeable and sound decisions. My main emphasis is on the agronomic aspect of production agriculture. In the last three years, I have organized **20 research/demonstration plots** illustrating two different crops produced in the Post Rock Extension District which includes soybeans and wheat along with “on-farm” research studies. **Yield and research reports** are published annually and are distributed in the seven area newspapers, on our District website along with given to our walk-in clientele at each of the five District Offices. **Soil testing** has also saved producers 20% on their fertilizer costs. The rental arrangements between landowners and producers can have significant impacts on the risk and returns of those operations. For the last three years, I have implemented a **leasing arrangements survey** in the Post Rock Extension District that has provided leasing arrangements along with averages of rental rates. I have also organized and implemented **25 educational events** such as seminars, workshops, formal field days along with setting up educational displays within the district. In the last 3 years, I have had **916 personal contacts** with producers providing them with research-based information to help them make educational production decisions. I also provided Kansas State University’s research-based information through radio programs for two radio stations along with personal columns as well as on our District website.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FARM AND RANCH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



National Winner - David Marrison

National Winner

HELPING OHIO FARM FAMILIES PLAN FOR THEIR FARM SUCCESSION

Marrison, D.L.*¹

¹ Associate Professor, The Ohio State University, Jefferson, OH, 44047

This Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Financial Management application is for the efforts of David Marrison and Chris Bruynis for their leadership in helping Ohio farm families plan for the succession of their farm to the next generation. The transfer of farm’s to the next generation is one of the most critical risk factors which many Ohio farm families will face over the next decade. Over the past three years, David Marrison and Chris Bruynis have developed teaching curriculum, lead the “Passing on the Family Farm” workshops, held kitchen table meetings with farm families, and have given “hot topic” presentations for commodity and civic groups across Ohio. All of these teaching efforts aimed at helping farm families answer the critical farm transition planning questions.

Participants learned how to develop a farm succession plan and how to increase the management skills of the next generation. The workshop sessions challenged family members to honestly communicate with one another when planning for the future. Participants also learned about business organization structures and strategies, how to treat on-farm and off farm heirs, how to equitably transfer assets, how to plan for adequate retirement income, and how buy-sell agreements, trusts, LLCs and life insurance can be utilized in transition planning. To date, 1,738 Ohio producers have attended workshops at 35 different locations across Ohio. Additionally, the team gave 5 out of state presentations reaching an additional 236 persons and have facilitated 9 farm succession family meetings.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FARM HEALTH AND SAFETY



National Winner - Meredith Vaughn Melendez

National Winner

THE RUTGERS ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY TEAM

Melendez, M.V.*¹, Kline, W.L.*², Kleingunther, C.*³, Schaffner, D.*⁴

¹ Agricultural Agent, RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, Trenton, NJ, 08648

² Agricultural Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Millville, NJ, 08332

³ Bureau Chief, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Bridgeton, NJ, 08302

⁴ Extension Specialist, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901

The on-farm food safety team has trained over 6,000 individuals in the produce industry since 1999. This represents most New Jersey produce operations, including farms who grow for wholesale distribution, on-farm sales, direct market sales, new and beginning farmers, multi-generational farm families, and both organic and conventional producers. The teams' interaction with growers has raised the awareness of food safety from "it is not our problem" to one of the most important aspects in a produce operation. A minimum of eight one-day grower trainings on farm food safety are offered annually with additional single presentations offered at grower meetings throughout the state. Workshop participants are provided with hard copies of training materials as well as a USB drive with supplemental materials, sample record keeping forms and templates to write their own food safety plans. Additionally, the team offers walk through visits with farms to give guidance on current and proposed foods safety practices at the farm. In 2016 over 30 farm walk throughs were conducted.

The team has developed over 40 slide show presentations, written training manuals and Extension fact sheets, produced articles for popular publications, distributes information through social media (Facebook and webinars), through the Rutgers Plant and Pest Advisory and the Rut-

gers Vegetable Online Resource Center website. Results of their Extension activities have been presented at the National Association County Agricultural Agents and American Society for Horticultural Science annual meetings and to various commodity groups. Team members serve on national educational committees for the Food Safety Modernization Act, including the On-Farm Readiness Review committee, the calibration committee for the FSMA Produce Rule curriculum development team and the Northeast Center to Advancement Food Safety. The team collaborates with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and others. They have obtained over \$300,000 in external grants.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



L to R - National Winners - James Henrix, Donna Morgan, Ernest Girouard, Allen Hogan

National Winner

THE LOUISIANA MASTER FARMER PROGRAM (LMFP)

Girouard, E.*¹, Henrix, J.*², Hogan, A.*³, Morgan, D.*⁴

¹ Coordinator, LSU AgCenter, Rayne, LA, 70578

² Associate Area Agent, LSU AgCenter, St. Joseph, LA, 71366

³ Extension Associate, LSU AgCenter, Rayne, LA, 70578

⁴ Area Agent, , Alexandria, LA, 71302

The Louisiana Master Farmer Program (LMFP) was initiated in 2001 through a cooperative effort between the LSU Agricultural Center, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation. This voluntary environmental stewardship program was developed for agricultural producers to focus on addressing sustainability, conservation, and improved water quality through education, demonstration, and ultimately implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). A producer must complete three phases to be awarded certification. These include: 1.) attendance of six hours of environmental education through

classroom instruction 2.) attendance at a field day, field tour, soil quality workshop, or other function where conservation, soil health, or water quality is discussed and demonstrated 3.) development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan with technical assistance available from the Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS.

Louisiana has over 10,000 named waterbodies that are critical to the state's recreation, economy, wildlife diversity, and agriculture. Many of these waterbodies are listed on La. Dept. of Environmental Quality's list of impaired waters, with agriculture listed as one of the leading sources of suspected impairments. With the LSU AgCenter leading the program, the creation of the LMFP became a tremendous educational opportunity to offer commodity-specific, environmental information to all agricultural producers, regardless of commodity.

Since 2001, 239 producers have completed certification, with just over 3300 participating in one or more phases of the program. This represents over two million acres of farm and rangeland in the state of Louisiana, forestry, cattle, poultry, sugarcane, soybean, corn, cotton, rice, grain sorghum, crawfish, and wheat commodities represented. Producers have participated in over 100 Phase 1 trainings and 125 Phase 2 field tours throughout rural areas of Louisiana. The program continues to be successful mainly due to the support and cooperative effort from state and federal agencies, as well as all major commodity groups and industry. Through awareness, education, demonstration, and NRCS' cost-share incentives, producers have been able to positively address many of the soil and water quality challenges that agriculture is faced with.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CONSUMER OR COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE



National Winner - Heidi Lindberg

National Winner

THE COLLEGE OF KNOWLEDGE ONLINE COURSES

Lindberg, H.M.*¹, Runkle, E.*², Cloyd, R.*³

¹ Greenhouse Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, West Olive, MI, 49460

² Professor of Horticulture, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 48824

³ Professor of Entomology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, 66506

The College of Knowledge Online courses are pre-recorded, non-credit courses intended for greenhouse growers as professional development. The courses include approximately 4-hours of videos and voice-over PowerPoint presentations, supplemental reading, quizzes, and tests. There are currently two courses in the Series, College of Knowledge Online: “Greenhouse and Horticultural Lighting” and “Biological Control for Greenhouse Growers.” Students in each of the courses take a pre- and post-test to determine knowledge gain and take a post-course evaluation upon completing the course. Long-term impacts are evaluated using a 6-month post-course online survey using SurveyMonkey. “Greenhouse and Horticultural Lighting” was released in September 2015 and has had three sessions (Fall 2015, Summer 2016, Fall 2016). A total of 140 greenhouse growers who represented 35.5 million square feet of greenhouse production took the course. The students were from 20 countries, 28 U.S. states, and 14 Michigan counties. Ninety-six students finished the course with an average pre-course grade of 73% and an average post-course grade of 92%. According to the long-term impacts survey, 57% of growers made a change in their facility, which encompasses 1.8 million square feet of production space (n=18). In addition, 71% of growers were more confident in their lighting strategy (n=18). “Biological Control for Greenhouse Growers” was released in Fall of 2016 and has been offered for one session (Fall 2016). A total of 133 growers from 9 countries, 24 U.S. states, and 12 Michigan counties, who represented 52.5 million square feet of greenhouse production, enrolled in the course. The average pre-test score was 67% and the average post-test score was 93% (n=114). According to the post-course survey, eighty-one percent of the respondents to the course evaluation reported that they would make a change in their pest management practices as a result of the knowledge gained from the course and 86% reported that it would help protect the crop from pest damage (n=105). Long-term impacts of “Biological Control for Greenhouse Growers” will be evaluated in the summer of 2017.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



National Winner - Jeff Fisher

National Winner

TEACHING CATTLE PRODUCERS CURRENT ISSUES AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Fisher, Jeff*¹, Moore, Jeff*², Dugan, David*³, Grimes, John*⁴, Bergesford, Brad*⁵, Apsley, Dave*⁶, Bowen, Jess*⁷

¹ Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Piketon, OH, 45661

² Extension Agent, OSU Extension, Gallipolis, Oh, 45631

³ Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, West Union, OH, 45693

⁴ Extension Beef Programs Coordinator, Ohio State University Extension, Piketon, OH, 45661

⁵ Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Portsmouth, OH, 45662

⁶ Natural Resources Specialist, Ohio State University Extension, Jackson, OH, 45640

⁷ Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, McArthur, OH, 45651

Beef cattle production in the Ohio State University Extension's Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area (EERA) is one of the leading agricultural industries. OSU Extension Educators have partnered with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Jackson, Ohio since 2011 to delivery annual educational field night programs. Evaluation data and participant feedback helps direct the subsequent year's program content. This application focuses on the most recent three programs. Each year the educators meet to plan the annual event. The educational objectives are to provide information that will improve farm profitability through a variety of management practices. These field night programs were designed using a variety of teaching and learning methods. Each annual program consisted of lectures, small group discussions, demonstrations, walking research plots, and a period for question and answers with the participants and

presenters. Participants were shuttled to 3 or 4 stations on open wagons where they could disembark and see first-hand the principles demonstrated. Incorporating several teaching methods provided participants, with different learning styles, an opportunity to find something that worked for them. Each year a program evaluation was conducted. The learning objectives were identified and converted to learning statements used in a retrospective pre/post-test using a six point Likert scale. Knowledge gain averaged 1.70 in 2014, 1.68 in 2015, and 1.43 in 2016. Information was also collected on what participants thought they learned, what they would like to see improved, what topics they could identify for future years, and some media and frequency questions. After five years of continued growth, we experienced some challenges in 2016 in terms of group size. We are planning on finding ways to better accommodate the size of the group. Because of the open field and barn locations, larger groups are reducing the presenter interaction with the participants and the learning environment shifted from a demonstration to a field lecture.

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



National Winner - Gary Gao

National Winner

APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS AND MULTI-FACETED EXTENSION PROGRAMS OFFERED TO HELP SMALL-SCALE "SUPER FRUIT" PRODUCERS TURN "SUPER BIG PROFITS" IN OHIO

Gao, G.Y.*¹

¹ Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, Ohio State University South Centers, Piketon, OH, 45661

There is a strong demand for information on small-scale production of "super fruits" such as Aronia, blueberries, brambles (blackberries and raspberries), elderberries, goji berries, and wine grapes in Ohio. Key educational programs offered were "Ohio Super Berry and Wine Grape Work-

shop” “Southern Ohio Super Berry and Wine Grape Field Night,” “Ohio Grape and Wine Conference,” “Ohio Grape and Wine Analysis Workshop” and multiple research field days at OSU South Centers. We focused on many aspects of fruit production, such as site and cultivar selection, nutrient management, pest identification management, and nuisance wildlife management. The combined attendance for these educational programs and field days was at least 950. Our educational programs have reached growers with a collective acreage of at least 1,200 acres, and potentially 200 acres in new plantings. Our Ohio Fruit and Vegetable News delivered up-to-date fruit production information to more than 1,000 growers. My Super berry Facebook page reached more than 300 people. Our press releases reached at least 500,000. My statewide presentations reached more than 1,000 during the last three years. I edited and co-authored a Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide. More than 5,000 copies have been sold. Our third printing will be released in March, 2017. I also helped with the revision of the Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide. At least 2,000 copies of this bulletin were sold in 2016. I am also a regular contributor to the American Fruit Growers magazine and had 9 articles published on various issues that young, beginning and small-scale farmers face. My 65 farm visits have helped farmers save at least \$400,000 through frost prevention, pest diagnostics, fertilizer recommendation, water management, and prevention of nuisance wildlife damage. The economic impact of the new blackberry planting of 50 acres using rotatable cross arm trellis system in Ohio is estimated to be \$2,225,000. My Aronia, blueberry, brambles, elderberry, goji berry and wine grape research and extension programs were funded by Ohio Grape Industries Program, Ohio Department of Agriculture and USDA in the amount of \$570,000.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



L to R - National Winners - Blake Thaxton, Libbie Johnson

National Winner

GULF COAST SMALL FARMS: CONNECTING SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCERS WITH

CONSUMERS AND MAXIMIZING PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Thaxton, B.*¹, Johnson, L.*², Unruh, B.*³

¹ Commercial Horticulture Agent, UF/IFAS, Milton, FL, 32570

² Agriculture Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County, Cantonment, FL, 32533

³ Professor of Environmental Horticulture and Associate Center Director, UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center, Milton, FL, 32572

Situation: Consumer demand for locally grown food is rapidly increasing. During the last decade, the number of small farmers marketing directly to consumers has also grown. Despite high interest in locally produced food, farmers are faced with challenges limiting their ability to meet increased demand. Challenges include farmers’ access to new markets and maximizing production through various cropping systems. The Gulf Coast Small Farms team is comprised of state and county faculty from UF/IFAS working together to provide hands-on training programs for farms and small agribusinesses. **Objectives:** (1) The team will expand marketing opportunities for local specialty crop farmers and (2) will identify management practices that increase productivity in protected agriculture production systems. **Methods:** This project was funded by a Florida Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block grant that ran from 2014-2016. To accomplish the objectives, the team offered four field days and one workshop to showcase the trials and marketing materials developed from the project. Marketing materials include six checklist style publications to guide producers entering various markets and regional planting and harvesting calendars housed on the [Gulf Coast Small Farms Team website](#). **Evaluation:** An initial comprehensive online Qualtrics survey was sent to gather baseline data for the project; two similar surveys were sent out at the end of each year of the project to determine practice changes. At production field days and networking events, post reflective evaluations were given to determine knowledge gain. **Results:** Thirty-two participants of project activities have taken steps to sell at new markets. Eighty percent (80%) of participants indicated improving knowledge of cropping systems and protected agriculture. Ten participants made the investment and established protected agriculture structures on their farms, leading to opportunities for an expanded season and increased revenues. **Conclusions:** The marketing toolkit provided a streamlined and standardized approach for producers seeking to enter new markets. The established yields and quality of fresh produce grown in protected agriculture systems have helped growers utilizing these systems to maximize their production. Though the grant has ended, the work will continue to help growers enter new and emerging markets and increase their profit margins.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH EDUCATION (SARE) SEMINAR USDA SARE/NACAA FELLOWS PROGRAM

SARE/NACAA Fellow Candidates for 2017



Anthony Bly

South Dakota State University Extension
Pictured above - (L-R) Mark Nelson, NACAA President; Anthony Bly SARE Fellow Candidate; Kim Kroll, SARE

Fnu Naveen Kumar

University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Photo Unavailable



Amanda Sears

University of Kentucky Extension
Pictured above - (L-R) Mark Nelson, NACAA President; Amanda Sears, SARE Fellow Candidate; Kim Kroll, SARE



Kurt Jones

Colorado State University Extension
Pictured above - (L-R) Mark Nelson, NACAA President; Kurt Jones, SARE Fellow Candidate; Kim Kroll, SARE



2017 NACAA Board of Director (L-R) Front Row: J. Craig Williams, Northeast Region Director; Richard Fechter, President-Elect; Alan Galloway, President; Lenny Rogers, Treasurer; Virginia Rosenkranz, Secretary; Back Row: (L-R) Stan Moore, Policy Chair; Stephen Bronn, Western Region Director; Gene McAvoy, Vice President; Andy Overbay, Southern Region Director; Mark Nelson, Past-President; Bill Burdine, Southern Region Director; Connie Strunk, North Central Region Director

NACAA Hall of Fame Award

The NACAA Recognition and Awards Committee is proud to present these four recipients with the NACAA Hall of Fame Award. The Hall of Fame Award recognizes one member or life member from each NACAA region. Each state can nominate one individual. Based on a 500 word summary and three letters of support, the state nominees are evaluated on their Extension programming, state and national association activities and humanitarian efforts beyond the normal call of duty.



Our thanks to Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance for sponsorship!



2017 NACAA Hall of Fame Winners - Pictured L to R - Richard Gibson, Gary Zoubek, Chris Thome (Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance), N. Fred Miller, Paul Craig.

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2017
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award
Richard D. Gibson
Arizona
35 Years

2017
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award
Gary L. Zoubek
Nebraska
43 Years

2017
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award
N. Fred Miller
North Carolina
28 Years - Retired

2017
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award
Paul H. Craig
Pennsylvania
35 Years - Retired

Retirement - What You Make It.... or What It Makes You

Kenneth G. White - Life Member - Uvalde, Texas

Being from a farming family in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas I knew I wanted to be involved in Agriculture. After graduation from Edcouch-Elsa High School I attended Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, Texas to pursue my Associates Degree. Little did I know back then that the experiences I had during my years there would have a definite impact on my life. Needing a job in college I was offered a job at Rushing Estes Funeral Home. This was back in the days before Emergency Management Services and the local funeral home ran the ambulance service. Needless to say it was different than most college students but hey they furnished me a place to live and got to drive Cadillacs at an early age! Before I finished my Associates Degree the owners of the funeral home offered to pay my way to mortuary school if I would come back and work with them and could become an owner in the business. I told them I appreciated the offer but I had always wanted to go to Texas A & M and become a County Extension Agent.

I was fortunate after graduation from Texas A & M with a degree in Agricultural Education to be offered several positions as Assistant County Agricultural Agent. Being from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas I accepted the position in Liberty a county with rice and soybeans of which I knew nothing about. My parents, trainer agents and professors had always told me to work hard and do a good job and you'll never have to look for work. They were all correct I had the privilege of working in Liberty, Goliad, Collin and Uvalde Counties during my thirty three year career.

One of the greatest things about Extension is you meet, work and develop some of the best friendships anyone could ever ask for. Whether it be a farmer, rancher

or homeowner who adopts a practice you recommend, a 4-H member who develops great leadership skills or one who wins Grand Champion at a livestock show or a fellow Extension Agent.

During my fourteen years in Collin County north of Dallas at a time when it was changing from rural to an urban area I was fortunate to work with both rural and urban residents. Heck I even helped J. R. Duncan with his pastures and lawn before the famous show, "Dallas" was filmed there.

In 1994 I was offered the County Extension Agent job in Uvalde, Texas. Uvalde County is unique in that the two longest highways (US83 & US90) in the United States intersect. Uvalde is located in what is known as the Winter Garden Region of Texas due to the mild winters where a number of winter vegetables are grown. As with many minor commodities there is a lack of funding at the national or university level to address the problems of insects, diseases or weed control. In 1995 working the growers in the area we were able to pass the first vegetable commodity check off program in the state. The Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board was organized in October 1995 and to date has funded over \$760,000.00 in research projects to address issues facing the industry.

Continued on page 25



I retired in 2007 and many people said you will be bored, you're too young or you'll go crazy sitting at the house doing nothing. Retirement is what you make it or let it make you. I continue to serve as the Executive Director of the Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board and have been fortunate to be elected as a Director on our local electric cooperative board as well as a Director on an area Generation and Transmission Cooperative. I also serve as the Fire Chief for our local volunteer fire department and am involved with our church. I'm blessed my 92 and 93 year old parents are still alive and have four wonderful grandchildren to keep me busy.

As I mentioned earlier you meet and develop friendships along the way. As a result of my NACAA membership and involvement I have developed some lifelong friends and one

of the highlights of my life each year is when this group of Life Members gathers at the Flying H Ranch in Llano for our annual deer hunt.

You ask what impact my early years in Uvalde had on my life? On March 29, 2017 a church bus with 13 passengers on board were hit by a young man in a pickup truck. There were 12 fatalities, the young man and one lady in the bus survived. The accident occurred in our fire area and I had to serve as Incident Commander. I never thought back then my funeral home job would have ever prepared me for such an event but it served me well.

PRE-EXCAVATION CHECKLIST VITAL BEFORE DIGGING

The Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance is a dedicated group of pipeline companies working together with the NACAA to help prevent damage to buried utilities while keeping your clients, our infrastructure and our environment safe.

Using a pre-excavation checklist before digging is a vital step in all safe excavation.

Planning

- Call 811 2-3 business day prior to excavation
- Mark proposed excavation area using white paint and/or flags
- Onsite meeting scheduled with high-profile facilities

Onsite

Complete walkthrough of jobsite and inspect for:

- Warning signs/markers
- Old locate paint or flags near the excavation area
- Services to buildings, lighting or other privately owned facilities
- Trench lines from prior excavation
- Cleared pipeline Rights-of-Way

Documenting

- Make sure your 811 ticket covers the scope of work including a valid "work to begin" date
- Make sure all utilities have responded and marked the area or given the "ALL CLEAR"
- Make sure you post your 811 ticket at the work location

Before You Dig

- Review excavation equipment safety information
- Note the hand digging locations within the tolerance zone
- Talk to representatives of critical facilities like pipelines or large fiber optic cables to ensure they are present
- Emergency contact numbers are noted for all buried utilities in the area
- Know how to find the nearest emergency services

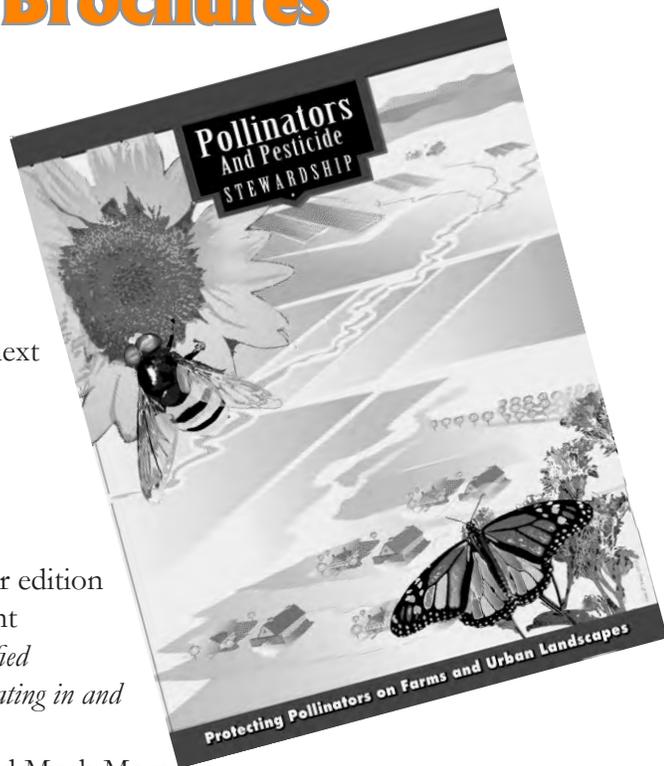
To access the full checklist and additional safety tools, visit PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com.



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



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

2018 Chattanooga, Tennessee.....July 29-Aug. 2	2020 Virginia Beach, Virginia.....July 19-24
2019 Forth Wayne, IndianaSeptember 8-12	2021 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania....July 4-8

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

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	June, 2018 Open Topic Deadline for Articles: May 20, 2018 Mail Date: June 15, 2018
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Get Involved!

The Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance (PASA) is a dedicated group of pipeline companies working together with the NACAA to help prevent damage to buried utilities while keeping your clients, our infrastructure and our environment safe.

You can help farmers and ranchers dig safely and reach the goal of zero damages by utilizing the free tools PASA offers at PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com

Damages caused by "Notification NOT Made" for occupants /farmers decreased by **38%**

- 2016 DIRT Report









Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

































