

The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume LXXVIII No. 4 December 2017

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



2018
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND
AWARDS PROGRAMS
&
COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

ANNUAL MEETING &
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

Chattanooga, TN
July 29 - August 2, 2018

President's Corner

Expanding Presentation Opportunities in 2018

NACAA members will have approximately 24 more presentation slots available at the 2018 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) in Chattanooga. After careful study and realignment of the Wednesday morning schedule almost an hour and one-half and six additional breakout rooms are being made available prior to the brown bag luncheons. In response to past AM/PIC evaluations and member needs, this change accomplishes two goals. First, it provides members with additional presentation opportunities at a professional meeting which aids their documentation for promotion and tenure. Secondly, the schedule change helps when multiple interesting presentations are occurring at the same time. Members will now have more presentations from which to choose to attend. The Tuesday schedule of presentations remains the same as past years.

The NACAA council chairs, committee chairs and vice-chairs are working diligently to plan for the additional presentations. The challenge will now be on NACAA members to apply for and submit abstracts in the various programs to provide more presentations. The success of the schedule change will be reviewed carefully to determine whether it is continued at future AM/PICs. Knowing more slots are available, hopefully even more members will be encouraged to submit to present in 2018.



Alan Galloway
NACAA President

The schedule change also shortens the Wednesday morning general session. Members will definitely want to attend the Monday and Wednesday morning general sessions. The keynote speaker and the Hall of Fame award presentations on Monday morning along with the other parts of the program will be very educational and inspiring. The Wednesday morning session will include the presentation of the Service to American/World Agriculture. Comments from past recipients of the award have been very highly received.

These changes and program plans are just a few of the details being worked on by the NACAA board, committees and the Tennessee members to ensure a top notch NACAA AM/PIC. Please take advantage of the many awards programs (communication, posters, etc.) and the presentation opportunities offered by your professional association in this edition of the County Agent. Your involvement not only improves your abilities, it aids other members as they learn of successful programs and ideas from their fellow members.

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Life Member Corner

What Being a Life Member Means to Me

Paul H. Craig,
NACAA Life member, 2016

The PA County Agents Song
goes like this (in the key of C):

*"We are, we are, we are, we are,
The County Agents bunch*

*We are, we are, we are, we are,
the crowd that has the punch"*



Paul H. Craig

Many of my friends from PACAA and others from across this great nation, who attended the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh or the AM/PIC in Charleston, SC, should hopefully remember singing this traditional song. This song was written in 1915 by some of the earliest County Agents in PA. Imagine that. Over a hundred years ago. Boy would I like to sit down and tell stories with those men. (I'd say men and women however in 1915 there would not have been any female ag agents.) Today, traditionally at most statewide PACAA meetings this song is sung robustly, often led by someone standing precariously on a table or chair. Most recently it has been accompanied by a mandolin. The smiles on the faces of members say it all.

For me belonging to an association was as much for the fellowship and companionship as the



The event is held at what is called White Deer Hunting Camp located about 30 minutes south of State College, PA. Attendance has ranged from 60 to 90 in recent years.



This gathering has taken place annually since the 1950's.

other membership opportunities such as program recognition, leadership, etc. When I was hired in Washington County, PA in 1979 there were 3 ag agents, 2 4-H and 2 FCS agents on staff. Imagine that?? We had quite a team and would travel as a group to statewide annual meetings and such. We became more than coworkers. We became special friends because of the time spent together. In this job in Extension I learned, from the County Agent, Mr. Ed Woods, the value of teamwork of county agents and how working together provides so many career and personal opportunities. Ed was part of regional groups of agents in the SW corner of PA who worked and played together. If it was a wool pool round up or a district livestock or dairy show or fall hunting camp these men welcomed me into their circle and I was a better agent because of it. (Ed also told me to always sign up for the Hospitality Committee, but that is another story.)

In PA, like many other states, annually efforts are made to provide opportunities for active and retired Extension workers to meet and visit. These might be a regional or statewide association meeting with an invitation to life members to join. Or a luncheon meeting or a bar-be-que. A wonderful time is had by all. Stories and updates about family or trips or other old acquaintances are shared. Recently I learned about a group of County Agents from PA in the 50's and 60's that were called "Yellow Dogs". But that's another story for another time.



Both specialists and agents are invited to attend. Recently additional activities have been added such as target shooting, fishing and card playing.

Another great tradition in PA that helps to build “family” was started 47 years ago. This is the publication and distribution of a booklet about retirees from PSU College of Ag and Cooperative Extension. The Epsilon Sigma Phi Retirement Committee solicits brief yearly updates from all Extension retirees and publishes a booklet with annual updates. This year the booklet was 47 pages of updates. All of these extra efforts help to maintain the special feeling of family and identity between current and former members of “The County Agent Bunch”.

I suppose that family feeling is why I so value my Life Membership in NACAA. During my 36 years in Extension I have made so many friends and have had so many experiences from across Pennsylvania and the USA. My wife, Carol and I still enjoy traveling and attending the AM/PIC’s. The times spent visiting and swapping stories, the together times with some of the finest folks I know makes it all worthwhile to me. And it is not just other Life Members that I enjoy being around. The younger agents help keep me excited about Agriculture in the 21st Century. Wow! Robots, drones, 300 bushel corn and 100 bushel beans, Oh My!!

What does your association do for your Life Members?? Just think someday you, hopefully, will be a Life Member. Then you, too, will have the occasion to share your experiences as a life member if you continue to participate in activities. Paying the one time lifemembership fee is one thing that your state association can do. Another action would be to

maintain contact with these retired men and women. The days of retirees not having a computer and email address is rapidly ending. Simply having an email list of your life members is one task your state membership chair should maintain. You can then easily invite them to local, regional or statewide activities.

Life Membership in NACAA is provided for any former member of NACAA who has retired or is retiring from Cooperative Extension by completing an application. There is a one-time \$50.00 lifetime membership fee which is frequently paid by your state association. If not, an individual may pay this fee.

Lifetime membership does not include a subscription to The County Agent magazine. However a subscription may be purchased: 1 year- \$10.00, 5 years - \$45.00, or lifetime - \$100.00. If a Life Member contributes \$50.00 to the Educational Foundation a free one year subscription is provided or if you contribute \$1,000 you qualify for a lifetime subscription to the magazine or a free registration to the next AM/PIC. Contact Scott Hawbaker for additional information. All contributions must be made prior to April 1.

Our association has a long and storied history. If you would like to find out more about the early years check out the History book and power point presentation available on the NACAA website. I would also encourage you to maintain/strengthen contacts with your state life members. They will welcome the opportunity and will have many experiences to share with you. They will also like to hear some of your experiences. Today’s Extension is certainly different than only a few years ago. However, the men and women who belong to the National Association of County Agricultural Agents are just as dedicated and proud to be part of “the County Agent bunch”!

We are, we are, we are, we are a handsome looking crowd
We don’t believe in boasting, in fact it’s not allowed.
But if your cow gets dopey
And falls off at the pail
We’ll put her on her feet again by twisting on her tail.

Chorus:
Hallelujah, keep more livestock
Hallelujah, more manure
Hallelujah, balanced rations
All farms must pay more.
The County Agent Song

*1915, composer Anonymous
Revised 10/92*

APPLYING FOR 2018 NACAA AWARDS PROGRAMS

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

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

All program entries must be in possession of respective committee state chair by March 15, 2018, except where noted. Applying earlier is encouraged.

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

Attendance Requirement

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

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

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

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

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

Incentive program to members who bring in new sponsors. The program is as follows:

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

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| f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e) | | 3188 | 2638 |
| g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3)) | | 72 | 77 |
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*If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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I certify that 95% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

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 Scott D. Hawbaker Editor - The County Agent September 19, 2017

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

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ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR COMPLETING AWARD APPLICATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALL FOR PRESENTERS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT SESSIONS - 2018 NACAA AM/PIC

PURPOSE:

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

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

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

ELIGIBILITY:

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

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

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

The Regional Vice Chairs of the Professional Improvement Committees will have full authority to accept or reject a proposed presentation upon evaluation of the title and submitted abstract. Rejection of a proposed presentation by the Regional Vice Chairs will be final. Presentations will be made on Tuesday of the 2017 AM/PIC.

RECOGNITION:

Peer reviewed papers will be selected for presentation and authors

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

ENTRY:

The application process for making a presentation at the 2017 AM/PIC will be handled on-line at <http://nacaa.com/awards/apps/presentation.php>. Please follow the instructions on-line for submitting a presentation application. All submissions must be completed by March 15, 2018. See page 13 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

Presentation Sample Score Sheet

| | | Points possible | Points awarded |
|----------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Writing | Format – Does the abstract follow the sample format? | 5 | |
| | Grammar – Rate the level of correct use of grammar? | 10 | |
| | Punctuation – How well is correct punctuation used? | 10 | |
| Abstract | Statement of Issue – How well does the abstract clearly describe the issue that needs to be addressed? | 15 | |
| | Methodology - How well does the abstract demonstrate the procedures to complete project? | 10 | |
| | Impact – Are results clearly stated? Did results lead to action? | 15 | |
| | Extension Education – Describe dissemination of information. How well does the abstract demonstrate how this information was used to educate the clientele/public? | 15 | |
| Topic | Applicable to Other Regions – Would this project be plausible for use in other regions? | 10 | |
| | Interest Level – Does this abstract show an issue that is of interest to the clientele/public? | 10 | |
| | Total | 100 | |

Guidelines for the SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAMS

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

ENTRY

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

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

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

Abstract is required with application (350 word maximum). Abstract totals do not count in the 1200 words. If team entry, team member names on the abstract must be the same as on the application form. See page 12 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

AWARDS

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE

Entry must be in possession of your Search for Excellence Committee State Chair by March 15, 2018.

State Chairs should send all state entries, with the winning entry designated, to their region Vice Chair by April 1, 2018.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PURPOSE

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

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CROP PRODUCTION

PURPOSE

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

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CONSUMER OR COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE

PURPOSE

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

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FARM AND RANCH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

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

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

PURPOSE

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

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

PURPOSE

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

cont. on next page

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN FARM HEALTH & SAFETY

PURPOSE

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

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

PURPOSE

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

NACAA SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE SCORE SHEET

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

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

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

PURPOSE

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

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

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

ELIGIBILITY:

NACAA members in good standing must submit an on-line abstract of their proposed presentation to the 4-H and Youth National Chair. The National Committee Chair in consultation with Regional Vice Chairs will determine the number of accepted presentations. The National Chair and Regional Vice Chairs will have full authority to accept or reject a proposed presentation upon evaluation of the title and submitted abstract. Rejection of a proposed presentation by the National Chair and/or Regional Vice Chair will be final.

ENTRY

The application process for making a presentation at the 2018 AM/PIC will be handled on-line at <http://nacaa.com/awards/apps/presentation.php>. Please follow the instructions on-line for submitting a presentation application. All submissions must be completed on-line by March 15, 2018.

Distinguished Service Award
(DSA), Achievement Award (AA)
and Hall of Fame Award (HOF)
applications are due
January 15, 2018.

Apply on-line at www.nacaa.com



USDA SARE/NACAA FELLOWS PROGRAM

PURPOSE

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

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

REQUIREMENT:

Each application will contain a Letter of Recommendation / Support from the applicant's immediate supervisor (whoever approves travel and leave) and/ or the university Director of Extension / Assistant Director for the program area with an emphasis on Agriculture and Natural Resources program area.

The title SARE Fellow will not be awarded until the completion of the program seminar and reporting requirements. To complete the program, a SARE Fellow Candidate must attend all trips to the four regions of the United States and provide a presentation at the following NACAA AM PIC following the last trip.

ENTRY & JUDGING CRITERIA

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

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

Successful applicants will be selected on the basis of:

1. Geographic and other diversity considerations. The preference of the sponsor would be to have one individual selected each year from each of the NACAA regions.
2. Experience and past Extension activities in this area of emphasis (10 pts)

3. Plan of Extension work following training (60 pts)
4. Local Extension program expected impacts, expected results and program evaluation methods (30 pts)

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

AWARDS

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

DEADLINE

Entry must be completed on-line by March 15, 2018.

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

What is the SARE Fellows Program?

The SARE Fellows Program is Opportunity!

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

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

What are sustainable practices?

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

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

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

John Porter
NACAA Chair – Sustainable Agriculture
(402) 444-7833
john.porter@unl.edu

EXCELLENCE IN 4-H and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

ENTRY

Entries should be submitted electronically including attached support material and supervisor letter (see NACAA web site). The entry should consist of 1) the on-line general application form; 2) a narrative not to exceed 1000 words; 3) support material not to exceed 5 pages; and 4) a letter from the entrant's immediate supervisor verifying the program accomplishments. Judging of the entry will be based on: problem identification - 10 points; specific target audience identified - 10 points; goals established - 10 points; teaching methods and activities - 25 points; measurable results, target audience reached, changes noted - 25 points; organization, clearness, readability - 20 points. An abstract of 150-350 words is *required* with application based on the above criteria. If team entry, team member names on the abstract must be the same as on the application form. See page 12 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

AWARDS

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE

Entry must be in possession of your 4-H and Youth Committee State Chair by March 15, 2018.

State Chairs should send all only the winning entry to their regional 4-H and Youth Committee Vice Chair by April 1, 2018. The Regional Vice-Chair should review the state winning entries for completeness and send one winning entry for each state submitting entries to the National Chair for judging by April 15.

Agricultural Awareness and Appreciation Award

PURPOSE

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

ELIGIBILITY

All entrants must be members of both their State and National Associations of County Agricultural Agents. Regarding Team entries, only the lead applicant of the team must be a member of the State and National Association. Public Relations efforts submitted for judging must have been conducted between January 1, 2017 and March 15, 2018. Previous regional winners are ineligible for a period of one year. State Public Relations Committee Chairs are eligible but must follow established guidelines.

ENTRY

Each entry should follow the outline listed in the entry criteria section found below. The report should be typewritten and of sufficient length to cover each section of the entry criteria as outlined. Please title each section of your report according to the entry criteria. Along with each entry, submit an abstract of 150-350 words based on the entry criteria found below and according to the abstract example and format as outlined on page 12. There is not a separate category for team entries.

Complete the on-line application process found at <http://nacaa.com/awards/apps>. No hard copy applications will be accepted. All submissions must be completed by March 15, 2018. See page 12 for abstract example and format that must be followed.

ENTRY CRITERIA

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

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

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

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

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

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

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

cont. on next page

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

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

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

DEADLINE

Entry must be in possession of your Public Relations Committee State Chair by March 15, 2018

State Chairs should send the state winning entry to their region vice-chair by April 1, 2018. Regional vice-chairs must send the top three regional finalists to the National Chair by April 15, 2018.

NACAA HALL OF FAME AWARD

PURPOSE:

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

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

ELIGIBILITY:

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

NOMINATION:

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

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

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

CRITERIA:

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

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

A cash award of up to \$1300 is to be awarded if donor funds are available. The winners must register for the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference and attend the Monday General Session to receive their award.

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

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

PRE-AM/PIC TOURS FOR 2018

Several NACAA Committees are planning outstanding Pre-Tour activities for the 2018 NACAA AM/PIC being held in Chattanooga, TN. Typically NACAA members would submit applications for approval for these functions during the same time as award submissions. However, for 2018, on-line submissions for these events will be held during the same time as the AM/PIC registration - April 1st - May 15, 2018. Additional information for these events will be published in the April edition of *The County Agent* magazine.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE

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

ELIGIBILITY AND JUDGING CRITERIA

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

Entry materials that have already been state, regional, or national winners are not eligible again. First place national winners may not repeat in consecutive years in the same category. Communications Committee State, Regional, and National Chairs are not eligible to participate in this program unless they are one member of a team entry with another person as the primary entrant. Please note that NACAA policy states that the National Winner and National Finalists of the Communications Contest must register for the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference and attend the designated ceremony to receive their award (minimum 1 day registration fee) or the award will be forfeited.

ENTRY

Electronic submission **must be** made for all 14 categories. However, categories 9 (Video Recordings), 13 (Learning Module/ Notebook) and 14 (Bound Book) may require materials being sent (mailed) to State Chair if file is too large to submit electronically or if unavailable in PDF format. Even in these cases there must be an electronic submission of an abstract and entry information. Maximum file size for submissions is 25MB. Refer to NACAA website for directions on submitting entries electronically.

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

ABSTRACT

Each entry must have an abstract. Include member's name, state and county (team entries should list all NACAA members who contributed to the entry); a short summary that includes objective, purpose (why, when, how, audience, audience number and results); and how the entry was prepared (i.e. recorded, edited, printed, or duplicated professionally or by field staff on field office equipment), how distributed and how many were distributed. The abstract should include the member's contribution to the final product. Abstracts for all regional and national winners will be published and posted on the NACAA website. **See page 12 or NACAA website for abstract example and format that must be followed.**

CATEGORIES

1. **Audio Recordings** - 1 to 15 minute presentation. Recording can be a complete program or segment of a radio program, podcast, etc. to be judged. Member(s) must have been a major contributor to the presentation or conducted the interview(s). In the abstract, indicate date and time(s) used, station(s) where program aired and where recorded (agent's office, station, etc.). Submit

electronic entries using MP3 file or provide link (URL) in the abstract where recording is located on the web. 10 MB maximum file size.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. **Publication** - An educational publication on one or more subjects that is more extensive than class 10 - Fact Sheet. Publication may be a fact sheet that is more than one page or a bulletin. In the abstract, indicate intended audience, purpose and number distributed, agent/educator's role in the development, writing and production. Submit

as PDF or include URL in the abstract. 10 MB maximum file size for uploaded files.

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

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

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

AWARDS

Awards in each of the fourteen (14) categories are as follows:

- National Category Winner - Plaque and cash if donor available.
- 3 National Category Finalists - Plaque and cash if donor available.
- 12 Regional Category Finalists - Certificate
- State Category Winners - Certificate

Donors are being solicited for these awards. If adequate donor funds are secured, the National Winner will receive up to \$500; and three National Finalists up to \$250. These cash awards are not cumulative. In the event of a team winning entry, one cash prize will be presented to the lead entrant of the application. The Executive Program Committee reserves the right to adjust awards based on the availability of donor funds.

Four entries in each category will be selected as National Finalists. The National finalists will be notified in May of their status by the National Communications Chair. **NEW IN 2018: The National Winner will not be announced until the Communications Award Luncheon at the AM/PIC. Please note that NACAA policy states the National Winner and National Finalists of the Communications Contest must register for the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference and attend the designated ceremony to receive their award (minimum 1 day registration fee). In the event a national winner (as deemed by the judges) does not receive an excused absence from attending the AM/PIC, the national winner's award will be presented to the next ranking National Finalist who attends the AM/ PIC. If none of the National Finalists attend the AM/PIC, a national winner award will not be presented.** In the event a national finalist does not receive an

excused absence from attending the AM/PIC, the national finalist award will be forfeited. If a national finalist award is forfeited, there will be no replacement from lower ranking entries.

ABSENCE POLICY

Decisions on requests for non-attendance and excused absences will be made on a case by case basis by consultation among the respective National Committee Chair, in concert with the National Committee Vice Chairs and the NACAA Vice President. Excuses will be granted for National Finalists and National Winners for extreme personal or family illness; circumstances which would seriously jeopardize their job; or similar extreme situations. The intent of this requirement is that awards are inclusive of cash, plaques, and certificates.

DEADLINE

Completed entry must be posted to the NACAA website by **March 15, 2018** and any support material in the Video, Learning Module/Notebook and Bound Book classes that could not be submitted electronically must be in possession of your Communications Committee State Chair by **March 15, 2018**.

State Chairs must have winning entries selected/approved on the NACAA website by April 1. Regional Vice Chairs must have Regional Finalists selected/approved on the NACAA website by April 15.

SCORECARD FOR THIS AWARD PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/communications_scoresheet.php



CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE POSTER SESSION

PURPOSE

To showcase NACAA members' work by giving them the opportunity to present posters at the Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. The AM/PIC poster session provides an opportunity for authors to discuss with fellow members how they identified an educational or research need in their community and how the need was addressed and the observed results.

This award program has two categories to recognize NACAA members:

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

Extension Education - gives members an opportunity to present a poster on new or different educational methods or technologies they have used.

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

Entry materials that have already been state, regional, or national winners in prior years are not eligible again.

ENTRY

Complete the on-line application process found at <http://www.nacaa.com/posters> "My Poster Submissions" No hard copy applications will be accepted. **The on-line submission must be completed by March 15, 2018.**

Members can choose to enter their poster as display only at AM/PIC or to be judged for a possible award and recognition. Please make sure to choose the appropriate selection when submitting your poster application!

Your three entry choices available online are:

1) This poster is being submitted for judging. **I will** display it at the AM/PIC if not selected as a State winner. Your abstract will be published in the proceedings. A pdf of your final poster entered for judging is due to your state professional excellence chair by April 1.

2) This poster is being submitted for judging. If NOT selected as a State winner, **I will not** display it at the AM/PIC **and my** abstract will not be published in the proceedings. A pdf of the final poster entered for judging is due to your state professional excellence chair by April 1.

3) This poster is being submitted only for display at AM/PIC. Poster is not to be judged, but the abstract will be published in the proceedings. Your poster must be on display at the AM/PIC by 5pm Sunday.

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

JUDGING

Judging will be at the State, Regional, and National levels. Only the 12 Regional Winners for each category (Applied Research and Extension Education) will be judged at the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC).

Judging criteria for Applied Research and Extension Education posters can be found at: <http://www.nacaa.com/posters/posterscorecard2017.pdf>

AWARDS

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

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Best Contributed Poster | \$500 and a certificate w/holder & Ribbon |
| Second Place | \$250 and a certificate w/holder & Ribbon |
| Third Place | \$150 and a certificate w/holder & Ribbon |
| National Finalists | Certificate & Ribbon |
| State Winners | Certificate |

People's Choice Awards Ribbon. New for 2018, all conference attendees will be able to cast one vote each for their favorite research and education posters. A link to vote will be provided at the AM/PIC.

RECOGNITION

Authors will have their peer reviewed abstract published in the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Proceedings (ONLY IF THE POSTER IS DISPLAYED AT THE AM/PIC) on the website located at: <http://www.nacaa.com/ampic>

During the online abstract submission process, authors can make their poster available for online viewing by entering a URL address where the completed poster can be found.

DEADLINES

March 15th - (NACAA entry deadline) – all poster abstracts due.

April 1st - State chair approves poster abstracts submitted from their state.

April 1st – Author deadline to submit pdf of final poster entered for judging to their State chair.

May 1st – State Chairs submit pdf of state poster winners to Professional Excellence Committee Chairs for national finalist judging.

June 5th - National finalists are announced. Twelve finalists (3 per region) for each category will be judged at AM/PIC (24 total posters).

Posters must be hung by 5 pm on Sunday at the start of the AM/PIC for the abstract to be included in the proceedings.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE
CONTACT NATIONAL CHAIR
MIKE HABERLAND Ph: 856-216-7130 x3
Email: mike.haberland@rutgers.edu**

ALL ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION - MAXIMUM WORD COUNT 350

Sample FORMAT FOR All NACAA ABSTRACTS

Search for Excellence in Livestock Production

TURNING A PROFIT WITH BEEF CATTLE

Covington, C.*¹

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

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

CALL FOR PAPERS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE 2018 JOURNAL OF THE NACAA

PURPOSE:

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

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

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

ELIGIBILITY:

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

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

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

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

RECOGNITION:

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

ENTRY:

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

Manuscript Specifications:

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

Individual or Group NACAA Scholarship Application Process

Scholarship applications must be completed electronically at ncaa.com

1. Application must carry signature or electronic submission of State Association President or his/her designee, State Scholarship Chair and Appropriate State Extension Administrator.
2. For 2018 Scholarship requests - each participant must have contributed at least \$40 to the NACAA Scholarship Fund before the end of the 2017 AM/PIC to qualify for up to \$1,000 scholarship and a vestment of \$100 (an additional \$60 contribution) for an additional scholarship awards from \$1,001 to \$2,000. (Check with your State Scholarship Committee Chair to confirm this prior to submitting an application. (If one person within the group has not contributed \$40 by the deadline, it disqualifies the entire group).
3. Study or training (1) must start within 12 months of the AM/PIC where scholarship is awarded & cannot be initiated before application is approved by the Scholarship Selection Committee and the Trustees of the NACAA Educational Foundation).
4. Applications will be judged and funded based on completeness, plan for training, how it will be used/applied post training, and availability of funds.
5. Award is for individual or group professional improvement which may include advanced degrees, graduate credits, tours, seminars, research or other specialized training.
6. Maximum scholarship is \$1000 per year, & a total of \$2,000 during a member's Extension career. (This amount includes scholarships received as an individual or as part of a group.)
7. Scholarship funds will not be awarded until 60 days prior to study or training begins. It is the recipient's responsibility to

advise the National Scholarship Chair if impending date of educational activity changes.

8. Report must be made to National Scholarship Chair within 30 days after the training is completed. That report must include a 75-word abstract of the approved educational activity and documentation that the expenses were spent according to the stated educational objectives of the application. The penalty for misuse of NACAA Scholarship Funds is repayment of the funds to NACAA & prohibition from future NACAA Scholarships.
9. Recipients will be selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee with final approval of the Trustees, NACAA Educational Foundation.
10. No scholarship will be awarded a person, if as a result of such grant, any member of the Scholarship Selection Committee, National Board of NACAA, or any Trustee of the Foundation shall derive a private benefit, either directly or indirectly.
11. Selection for Scholarships shall be made on an objective & nondiscriminatory basis, regardless of race, creed, color, gender, or religion of the applicant.

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

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

2018 Service to American/World Agriculture Nomination Form

DEADLINE: March 15, 2018

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

PURPOSE:

To recognize a U.S. citizen who has made a major contribution to American/World Agriculture and is so recognized by peers and the general public. Recipient is expected to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference to accept the award, and will receive appropriate expenses to attend the annual meeting.

GUIDELINES:

1. Nominations are encouraged by any member of NACAA in the eligible region. Nominees must be residents of the region hosting the annual meeting and must have the approval of the State Extension Director and the President of your State County Agent Association. The recipient of this award will be from the Southern Region in 2018.
2. The nominee may be a public official, lay leader or other professional individual who has made a significant contribution to American and/or World agriculture, but not limited to, Cooperative Extension and/or research.
3. Entries must be received by March 15. Email to Gene McAvoy at gmcavoy@ufl.edu.

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

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

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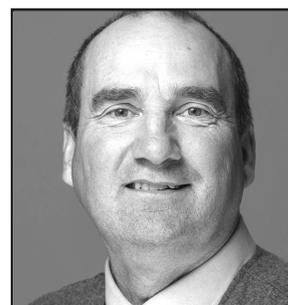
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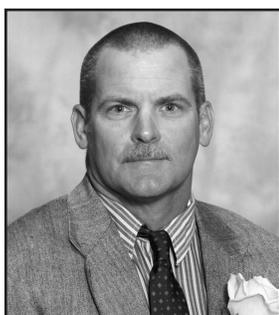
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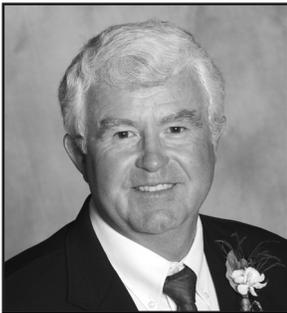
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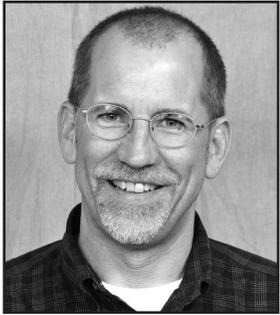
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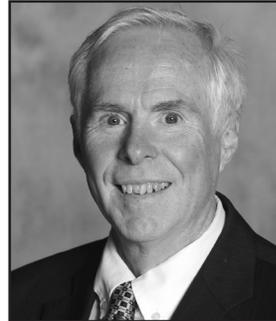
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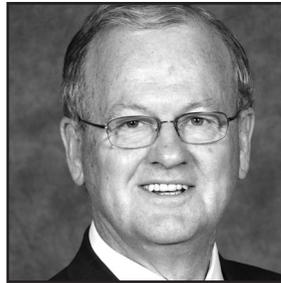


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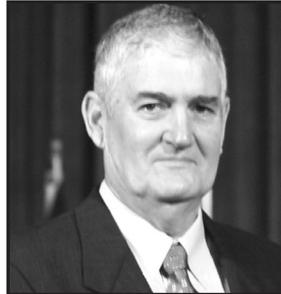
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OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS 2018 - 2020

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

Application/nominations will be available on the NACAA web site shortly after January 1, 2018 and will be due no later than March 1, 2018. Appointments will be made at the Spring Board Meeting.

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

Professional Improvement Council

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

Region Open To Application

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

Extension Development Council

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

Region Open To Application

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

Program Recognition Council

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

Region Open To Application

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

Council Chair Openings

Professional Improvement Council Chair

Open to General Membership

Open to General Membership 3 year term

National Committee Chair Openings

*Leadership & Administrative Skills
 *Agricultural Issues & Public Relations
 *Teaching & Educational Technologies
 *Early Career Development
 *Agricultural Economics & Community Development
 *Agronomy & Pest Management
 Animal Science
 Horticulture & Turfgrass
 *Natural Resources/Aquaculture
 *Sustainable Agriculture
 Professional Excellence
 Public Relations
 Recognition and Awards

National Chair 1 year term
 National Chair 2 year term
 National Chair 2 year term
 National Chair 2 year term

* Open to Vice Chairs

Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



Science For A Better Life



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

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| March/April, 2018 | June, 2018 | October, 2018 |
| AM/PIC Registration Edition | Open Topic | Committee/Awards Directory |
| Deadline for Articles: February 15, 2018 | Deadline for Articles: May 20, 2018 | Deadline for Articles: September 5, 2018 |
| Mail Date: March 20, 2018 | Mail Date: June 15, 2018 | Mail Date: September 25, 2018 |

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



Connect with 811
 Call before you dig.

Let's
Grow
 Safety Together

