The County Agent

A publication of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents

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President's Corner

2023 AM/PIC a Tremendous Success

The 108th Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Des Moines, Iowa was an enormous success. I want to thank the Iowa Association, led by Kapil Arora and Denise Schwab, for hosting and showing us the best of Iowa hospitality and agriculture. Iowa did a phenomenal job of organizing and implementing every aspect of the conference. To the 100's of Iowa members and volunteers who helped us, thank you. You were more than hosts, you were friends.

It was wonderful to reconnect with old friends and colleagues from across the country and to welcome new ones. I was especially impressed by the substantial number of first-time attendees, who showed enthusiasm and talent. I was honored to work with the Early Career Development Committee to organize the first-timer program, which was held off-site for the first time in NACAA history. It was a fantastic opportunity to fellowship and enjoy some delicious food.

I want to thank the NACAA Council Chairs, Committee Chairs, and Vice Chairs for planning the professional development and recognition programs. These individuals devote countless hours to NACAA throughout the year to provide us with valuable resources, networking, and advocacy. The conference offered a wealth of information and knowledge, with more than 115 member presentations, 38 applied research, and 72 Extension education posters, Search for Excellence presentations, trade talk sessions, super seminars, committee workshops, trade show exhibits, and general sessions.

2023-2024 NACAA President Keith Mickler and wife Candice

The awards and recognition programs were a highlight of the conference, as we celebrated the achievements and contributions of our members. The Search for Excellence Awards and the Communication Awards highlighted the diversity and quality of our programming. The Distinguished Service Award and the Hall of Fame Award honored the outstanding careers of our most respected colleagues. Congratulations to all the winners!

I hope you enjoyed the messages delivered by our distinguished speakers during the general sessions. On Monday, we presented the 2023 Service to American/World Agriculture Award to Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, former President of the World Food Prize and U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia. On Wednesday, we heard from Dr. Manjit Misra, Director of USDA-NIFA, both speakers encouraged and inspired us.

This year, we made a historic addition to our state flag presentation during the Opening Session of our AM/PIC. We proudly displayed the flags of the six US territories: Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia. These territories are home to 1862 land-grant institutions that have an Extension mandate, just like the states. I was honored to craft the stand for the new flags. We hope to welcome NACAA members from these territories in the future. Until then, we are delighted to present all the flags that stand for our diverse and inclusive community.

continued on page 3

Happy Faces from the 2023 AM/PIC

President's Corner...cont. from pg. 1

"The only constant in life is change." This is a quote by the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, and it is truly relevant to our profession as county agricultural agents. We live in a world that is constantly changing, and we must adapt to the new challenges and opportunities that come our way. That is why I am honored and humbled to serve as the president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, an organization that has been at the forefront of change and innovation for over a century.

As president, I promise to work with the board to adapt to the changes around us and keep NACAA relevant to the needs and desires of our members, while preserving our rich traditions. I have seen firsthand how NACAA has helped countless farmers, ranchers, and communities across the country with its educational programs, research projects, and advocacy efforts. I have also witnessed how NACAA has fostered a strong network of friendship and collaboration among its members, who share a common passion and vision for agriculture.

In the coming year, I look forward to working with you and for you to continue the legacy of NACAA. I invite you to join me in exploring new ways to enhance our professional development, expand our outreach and impact, and celebrate our achievements and diversity. I also encourage you to share your feedback, ideas, and suggestions with me and the board, so that we can better serve you and the association. Together, we can make NACAA stronger and more successful than ever. Please feel free to contact me at mickler@uga.edu or 706-295-6210 if you have any thoughts, ideas, or concerns. I would love to hear from you.

I want to share with you a book that has helped me balance my work, family, and personal life. It is called Juggling Elephants, written by Jones Loflin and Todd Musig. The book uses the metaphor of a circus to illustrate the universal problem of too much to do, too many priorities, too much stress, and too little time. It teaches you how to be the ringmaster of your own circus, and how to focus your time and energy on the things that matter the most.

Juggling Elephants is a fun and practical guide for anyone who feels overwhelmed by their many roles and responsibilities. It will help you learn how to prioritize your time and energy so you can enjoy more of the things that matter to you. Most importantly, it will teach you how to run your circus instead of letting it run you.

The book is full of practical tips and insights, such as:

- The relationship between the ringmaster and performers affects the success of your circus.
- Every member is important and must be fully engaged in the right acts to make the team successful.
- Constantly offer positive reinforcement for good behavior and give constructive feedback for negative behavior.
- People have needs that extend way beyond obvious ones.
- People sometimes need to laugh, relax, and not take themselves so seriously.
- Intermission is an essential part of creating a better performance.
- What have you done to improve your performance in one or more of your rings?
- Your circus is only as good as your next performance.
- Let the performance begin.

If you are interested in reading this book, you can get a copy of Juggling Elephants from their website www.jugglingelephants.com/ or I'm sure Amazon. The book is only 131 pages long, but it is full of valuable insights on how to balance your work, family, and personal life.

I thank you for your trust and support. I am proud to be a part of this amazing organization and this wonderful family of county agricultural agents. I hope to see you all at the next annual meeting and professional improvement conference in Dallas, Texas in 2024. As they say, "Everything is Bigger in Texas!" Let's make it the biggest and best event in NACAA history. ~Keith

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Phone (217) 794-3700 • Fax (217) 794-5901
E-mail: nacaaemail@aol.com

Professional Excellence 2023 Applied Research Poster Session National Winners

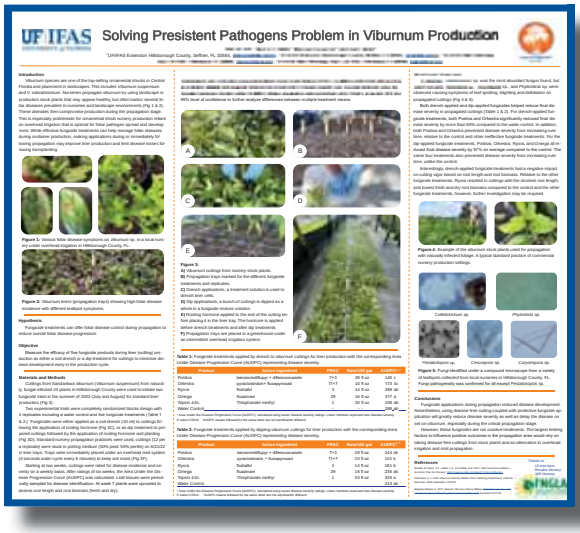
1st Place

SOLVING PERSISTENT PATHOGENS PROBLEM IN VIBURNUM PRODUCTION

Wael Elwakil
Extension Agent II, Fruit & Vegetable Production
UF/IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County
Seffner

Authors: Wael Elwakil, Shawn Shawn Steed, Marrissa Cassaway, Gary Vallad

1. Elwakil, W. Extension Agent II, Fruit & Vegetable Production, UF/IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County, Florida, 33584
2. Shawn Steed, S. Multi County Agent IV, Environmental Horticulture Production, UF/IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County, Florida, 33584
3. Cassaway, M. Biological Scientist II, UF/IFAS Plant Pathology Department, GCREC, Florida, 33598
4. Vallad, G. Professor of Plant Pathology, UF/IFAS Plant Pathology Department, GCREC, Florida, 33598


UF IFAS Solving Presistent Pathogens Problem in Viburnum Production

Introduction

Hypothesis

Objective

Materials and Methods

Conclusions

References

Situation: Viburnum species are one of the top-selling ornamental shrubs in Central Florida and placement in landscapes. This includes?Viburnum suspensum?and?V. odoratissimum. Nurseries propagate viburnum by using landscape or production stock plants that may appear healthy, but often harbor several foliar diseases prevalent in nurseries and landscape environments. These diseases then compromise production during the propagation stage. This is especially problematic for ornamental shrub nursery production reliant on overhead irrigation that is optimal for foliar pathogen spread and development. While effective fungicide treatments can help manage foliar diseases during container production, making applications during or immediately following propagation may improve liner production and limit disease losses following transplanting. Objectives were to measure the efficacy of five fungicide products during liner (cutting) production as either a soil drench or a dip-treatment for cuttings to minimize disease development early in the production cycle. Methods: Two cutting propagation trials were conducted with drip and drench applications of 5 treatments and a control. Treatments were replicated 4 times in a complete randomized block. Disease incidence was measured weekly and destructive sampling for dry shoots and roots weight was conducted at the end of the trails. Results: Drench and dip applications of tested fungicides showed a reduction in disease severity. However, some drench fungicide applications had a negative effect on cutting vigor. Conclusion: Fungicide applications during propagation reduced disease development. Nevertheless, using disease-free cutting coupled with protective fungicide application will greatly reduce disease severity as well as delay the disease onset on viburnum, especially during the critical propagation stage.

2nd Place

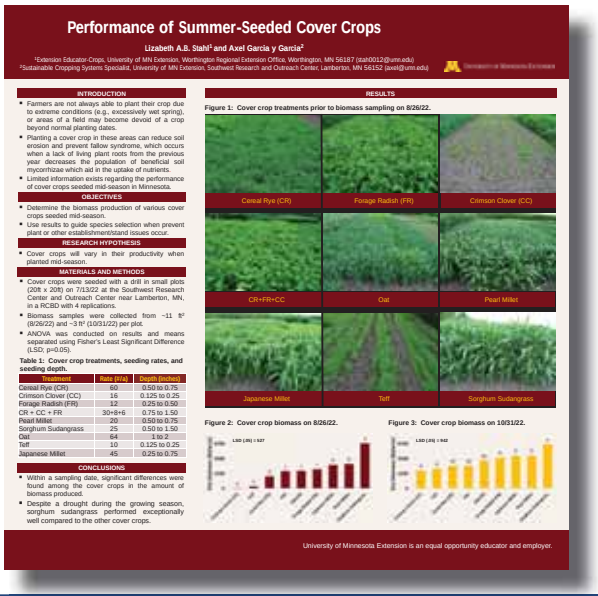
PERFORMANCE OF SUMMER-SEEDED COVER CROPS

Lizabeth Stahl
Extension Educator - Crops
University of Minnesota
Sherburn

Authors: Lizabeth Stahl, Axel Garcia y Garcia

1. Stahl, L. Extension Educator - Crops, University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota, 56171
2. Garcia y Garcia, A. Sustainable Cropping Systems Specialist, University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota, 56182

Farmers are not always able to plant their crop due to extreme conditions (e.g. a prevent plant situation due to an excessively wet spring), or areas of a field may become devoid of a crop (e.g. drown-out spots) beyond normal planting dates. Planting a cover crop in these areas can reduce soil erosion and prevent fallow syndrome, which occurs when a lack of living plant roots from the previous year decreases the population of beneficial soil mycorrhizae which aid in the uptake of nutrients. Limited information exists regarding the performance of cover crops seeded mid-season in Minnesota. This research trial was initiated to determine the biomass production of various cover crops seeded mid-season. This information in turn, will be used to help guide cover crop species selection when prevent plant or other establishment/ stand issues occur. Eight single cover crop species and one mix (3 cover crop species) were seeded with a drill in small plots (20ft x 20ft) on 7/13/22 at the Southwest Research Center and Outreach Center near Lamberton, MN, in a RCBD with 4 replications. Biomass samples were collected from ~11 ft2 on 8/26/22 and from ~3 ft2 on 10/31/22 in each plot. ANOVA was conducted on the results and means were separated using Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD; p=0.05). Within a sampling date, significant differences were found among the cover crops in the amount of biomass produced. Despite a drought during the growing season, sorghum sudangrass (Sorghum x drummondii) performed



Performance of Summer-Seeded Cover Crops

Lizabeth A.B. Stahl[1] and Axel Garcia y Garcia[2]

[1]Extension Educator-Crops, University of MN Extension, Worthington Regional Extension Office, Worthington, MN 56187 (stahl0012@umn.edu)
[2]Sustainable Cropping Systems Specialist, University of MN Extension, Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton, MN 56152 (axel@umn.edu)

INTRODUCTION

- Farmers are not always able to plant their crop due to extreme conditions (e.g., excessively wet spring), or areas of a field may become devoid of a crop beyond normal planting dates.
- Planting a cover crop in these areas can reduce soil erosion and prevent fallow syndrome, which occurs when a lack of living plant roots from the previous year decreases the population of beneficial soil mycorrhizae which aid in the uptake of nutrients.
- Limited information exists regarding the performance of cover crops seeded mid-season in Minnesota.

OBJECTIVES

- Determine the biomass production of various cover crops seeded mid-season.
- Use results to guide species selection when prevent plant or other establishment/stand issues occur.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

- Cover crops will vary in their productivity when planted mid-season.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Cover crops were seeded with a drill in small plots (20ft x 20ft) on 7/13/22 at the Southwest Research Center and Outreach Center near Lamberton, MN, in a RCBD with 4 replications.
- Biomass samples were collected from ~11 ft² (8/26/22) and ~3 ft² (10/31/22) per plot.
- ANOVA was conducted on results and means separated using Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD; p=0.05).

Table 1: Cover crop treatments, seeding rates, and seeding depth.

Treatment	Rate (lb/a)	Depth (inches)
Cereal Rye (CR)	60	0.50 to 0.75
Crimson Clover (CC)	16	0.125 to 0.25
Forage Radish (FR)	12	0.25 to 0.50
CR + CC + FR	30+8+6	0.75 to 1.50
Pearl Millet	20	0.50 to 0.75
Sorghum Sudangrass	25	0.50 to 1.50
Oat	64	1 to 2
Teff	10	0.125 to 0.25
Japanese Millet	45	0.25 to 0.75

CONCLUSIONS

- Within a sampling date, significant differences were found among the cover crops in the amount of biomass produced.
- Despite a drought during the growing season, sorghum sudangrass performed exceptionally well compared to the other cover crops.

RESULTS

Figure 1: Cover crop treatments prior to biomass sampling on 8/26/22.

Cereal Rye (CR) | Forage Radish (FR) | Crimson Clover (CC)
CR+FR+CC | Oat | Pearl Millet
Japanese Millet | Teff | Sorghum Sudangrass

Figure 2: Cover crop biomass on 8/26/22.

Figure 3: Cover crop biomass on 10/31/22.

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exceptionally well compared to the other cover crops evaluated, resulting in an average of 6,823 pound/acres of dry biomass on 8/26/23. Meanwhile, crimson clover (Trifolium incarnatum) and Teff (Eragrostis tef) resulted in only 81 and 337 pounds/acre of dry biomass, respectively, at this time. Most cover crops increased their biomass by the 10/31/22 sampling date, but still did not reach the amount produced by sorghum sudangrass.

3rd Place

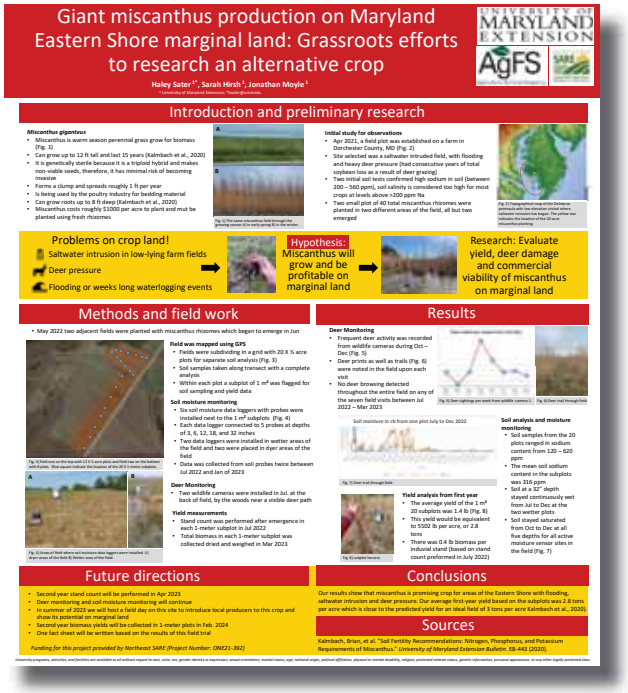
GIANT MISCANTHUS PRODUCTION ON MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE MARGINAL LAND: GRASSROOTS EFFORTS TO RESEARCH AN ALTERNATIVE CROP

Haley Sater
Agent Associate – Agriculture and Food Systems
University of Maryland Extension
Salisbury

Authors: Haley Sater, Sarah Hirsh, Jon Moyle

[1.] Sater, H. Wicomico County Agriculture Educator, Univeristy of Maryland Extension, Maryland, 21801
[2.] Hirsh, S. Somerset County Agriculture Educator, Univeristy of Maryland Extension, Maryland, 21853
[3.] Moyle, J. Poultry Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland, 21801

The Eastern Shore of Maryland has historically been a productive area for growing conventional grain crops. However, in certain areas close to the Chesapeake Bay tributaries or low elevation three serious challenges have arisen: saltwater intrusion, frequent flooding events and increased deer pressure. These once fertile fields for growing agronomic crops have been left fallow or suffered total yield losses. Preliminary research has indicated that an alternate grass crop could withstand these marginal conditions. Giant miscanthus (Miscanthus giganteus) is a sterile hybrid warm season grass that was bred to be a biomass crop. It has a



potential market on the Eastern Shore because it is used in local poultry houses as a bedding material. The goal of this study is to evaluate a 10 acre commercially managed field of miscanthus in an area where all three factors (saltwater intrusion, deer pressure, and flooding) are present. Our research methods included observations about deer traffic using wildlife cameras, soil moisture monitoring at different depths in six areas of the field and 20 12 m subplot yield measurements. Results indicate that miscanthus can be grown successfully on marginal land with a first-year yield average of 2.8 tons per acre.

Professional Excellence 2023 Extension Education Poster Session National Winners

1st Place

CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES: A CLEMSON EXTENSION PROGRAM FOR SOUTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY GARDENS

Amy Dabbs
Statewide School & Community Gardening Coordinator
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON

Authors: Amy Dabbs, Justin Ballew, Carmen Ketron, Rob Last, Zack Snipes, S. Cory Tanner, Stephanie Turner, Mary Vargo, Lori Kinley, Laura Scott, Chase Sanders, Rachel Greene

[1.] Dabbs, A. Statewide School & Community Gardening Coordinator, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29414

[2.] Ballew, J. Fruit and Vegetable Research Associate, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29229
[3.] Ketron, C. Urban Horticulture Agent, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29532
[4.] Last, R. Horticulture Extension Agent, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29812
[5.] Snipes, Z. Assistant Program Team Leader- Horticulture Area Horticulture Agent, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29401
[6.] Tanner, S. Horticulture Program Team Director, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29634
[7.] Turner, S. Horticulture Extension Agent, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29648
[8.] Vargo, M. Horticulture Agent Master Gardener Coordinator, Clemson Extension, South Carolina, 29607
[9.] Kinley, L. Associate Director of Online Development, Clemson Online , South Carolina, 29634
[10.] Scott, L. Instructional Designer, Clemson Online, South Carolina, 29634
[11.] Sanders, C. Digital Learning Designer, Clemson Online, South Carolina, 29634
[12.] Greene, R. Digital Learning Designer, Clemson Online, South Carolina, 29634

In response to increased grant funding to address food access and equity through community gardening, Clemson Extension developed the online training course “Cultivating Communities.” The online course teaches community gardeners essential skills to create sustainable community gardens.

Participants begin by developing garden teams and assessing the needs and skills of their community through S.W.O.T. analysis and reciprocal mapping exercises. Students learn about site analysis, soil preparation, raised bed vs. in-ground gardening, and irrigation basics through engaging instructional videos. Additional topics covered include food safety, crop selection, integrated pest management, and garden management. In addition, practical assignments, including soil and irrigation water testing, help participants gain access to their local county extension agents and local resources while discovering valuable information about their chosen site.

Teams of community gardeners must successfully engage in all coursework and submit three practical activities that jumpstart the community garden development process. Upon course completion, participants receive an interactive digital badge to share with their network.

The South Carolina Association for Community and Economic Development (S.C.A.C.E.D.) funded the pilot cohort in April 2022. The organization awarded $3,000 to twenty-one community garden grant applicants. S.C.A.C.E.D. required each community garden site's team to complete the course before receiving the funds. The leader of each group received an educational materials box with books and equipment to support the community garden.

Over eighty participants enrolled in the pilot, and Clemson Online issued sixty-eight interactive digital badges to those community gardeners who completed the training. Twenty gardens received final funding for implementation. Additional cohorts for new grant awardees will take place spring of 2023.

2nd Place

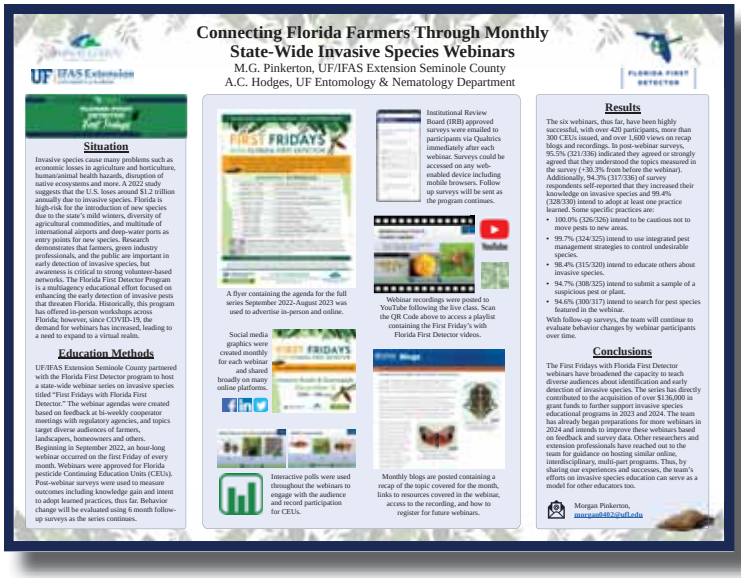
CONNECTING FLORIDA FARMERS THROUGH MONTHLY STATE-WIDE INVASIVE SPECIES WEBINARS

Morgan Pinkerton
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Agent
UF/IFAS Extension
Sanford

Authors: Morgan Pinkerton, Amanda Hodges

[1.] Pinkerton, M. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County, Florida, 32773
[2.] Hodges, A. Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) Program Director, University of Florida, Florida, 32611

Invasive species pose significant threats including economic losses in agriculture, human and animal health hazards, disruption of native ecosystems and more. A recent study suggests that the U.S. loses around $1.2 trillion annually due to invasive species. Florida is high risk for the introduction of invasive species and thus, education is critical to protecting agriculture and natural resources. Research demonstrates that farmers, green industry professionals, and the public play an important role in early detection of invasive species, but awareness is critical to developing strong volunteer-based networks. UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County partnered with the Florida First Detector Program to host a state-wide First Friday webinar series on invasive species. Bi-weekly cooperator meetings with regulatory agencies guided creation of agendas targeting diverse audiences of farmers, landscapers, homeowners, and more. Beginning in September 2022, an hour-long webinar occurred on the first Friday of every month. Webinars were approved for Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Pesticide Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in 11 categories. Monthly webinar recap blogs and video recordings were also shared broadly. Post-webinar surveys were utilized, and 6-month follow up surveys will be implemented to measure outcomes as the program continues. The six webinars, thus far, have been highly successful, with over 420 participants, more than 300 CEUs issued, and over 1,600 views on recap



blogs and recordings. In post-webinar surveys, an average of 95.5% (321/336) indicated they agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the topics measured (+30.3% from before webinar). Additionally, 94.3% (317/336) self-reported increased knowledge on invasive species and 99.4% (328/330) intend to adopt at least one practice learned (i.e. reporting suspect pests, using caution to avoid spreading invasive species, employing integrated pest management, etc.). The First Fridays with Florida First Detector webinars have broadened the capacity to teach diverse audiences about invasive species identification and early detection. The series has directly contributed to the acquisition of over $136,000 in grant funds to further support invasive species educational programs in 2023 and 2024. Since the series began, other researchers and extension professionals have directly reached out for guidance on hosting interdisciplinary webinars based on this model.

3rd Place

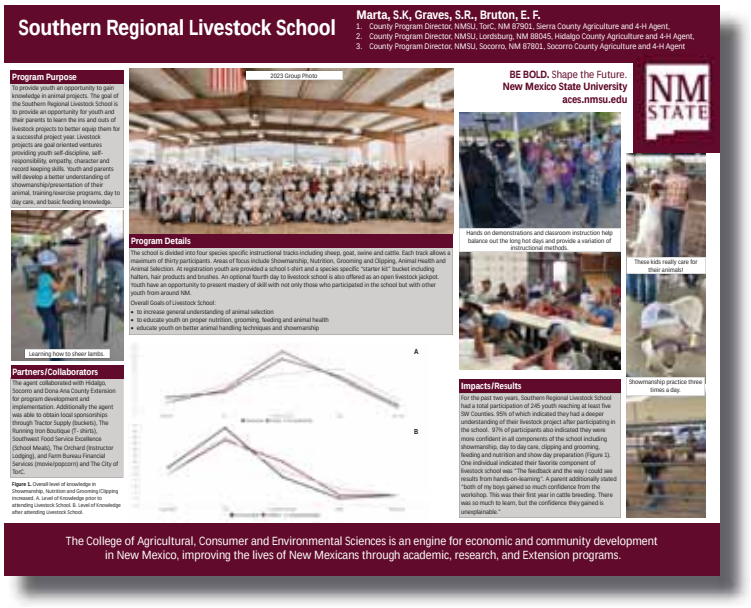
NM SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIVESTOCK SCHOOL

Sara Marta
Sierra County Program Director
NMSU

Authors: Sara Marta, Savannah Graves, Emily Bruton Marta, S. Sierra County Program Director, NMSU Cooperative Extension County Program Director, New Mexico, 87901

[1.] Graves, S. Hidalgo County Extension Program Director, NMSU Cooperative Extension, New Mexico, 88045
[2.] Bruton, E. Socorro County Extension Program Director, NMSU Cooperative Extension, New Mexico, 87801

The goal of the Southern Regional Livestock School is to provide an opportunity for youth and their parents to learn the ins and outs of livestock projects to better equip them for a successful project year. Livestock projects are goal oriented ventures providing youth self-discipline, self-responsibility, empathy, character and record keeping skills. Youth and parents will develop a better understanding of showmanship/presentation of their animal, training/exercise programs, day to day care, and basic feeding knowledge. The school is divided into four species specific instructional tracks including sheep, goat, swine and cattle. Each track allows a maximum of thirty participants. Areas of focus include Showmanship, Nutrition, Grooming and Clipping, Animal Health and Animal Selection. At registration youth are provided a school t-shirt and a species specific "starter kit" bucket including halters, hair products and brushes. An optional fourth day to livestock school is also offered as an open livestock jackpot. Youth have an opportunity to present mastery of skill with not only those who participated in the school but with other youth from around NM. For the past two years, Southern Regional Livestock School had a total participation of 245 youth reaching at least five SW Counties. 95% of which indicated they had a deeper understanding of their livestock project after participating in the school. 97% of participants also indicated they were more confident in all components of the school including showmanship, day to day care, clipping and grooming, feeding and nutrition and show day preparation. One individual indicated their favorite component of livestock school was "The feedback and the way I could see results from hands-on-learning". A parent additionally stated "both of my boys gained so much confidence from the workshop. This was their first year in cattle breeding. There was so much to learn, but the confidence they gained is unexplainable."



AUDIO RECORDING

National Winner
FARM SAFETY PODCAST

David Fourqurean
Calhoun

Team Members: Fourqurean, D[1], Stone, J[*2], Shadrick, V[*3]

[1.] Extension Agent for ANR, Kentucky Association of County Agriculture Agents, Calhoun, Kentucky, 42327
[2.] Extension Agent for ANR, Kentucky Association for County Agriculture Agents, Madisonville, Kentucky, 42431
[3.] Extension Agent for ANR, Kentucky Association for County Agriculture Agents, Dixon, Kentucky, 42409

This submission is a podcast produced to remind producers of the importance of Safety Precautions while preparing for the Spring Season. It was published through the Kentucky Ag Matters Podcast, a show produced by Jay Stone (Hopkins County ANR Agent), David Fourqurean (McLean County ANR Agent), and Vicki Shadrick (Webster County ANR Agent). The entire podcast was 15 minutes and was recorded on February 8th at the Christian County Farm Bureau Office in Hopkinsville, KY. The podcast was hosted on Podbean and shared to Amazon Music/Audible, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Podbean, Spotify, and Iheart radio. Agriculture, and farming, is known as one of the most dangerous occupations in today's world. Often, we can do everything correctly and still have accidents that can end in either serious injury or death. Topics for this show included basic safety considerations when dealing with Equipment Power Take Off shafts, Grain Bins, Highway Safety with Equipment, and Safe handling of Livestock and Horses. Statistics shared included children's deaths and severe accidents related to farm life, and how many accidents on the farm occur when folks get too comfortable engaging in everyday activities. Listeners were left with the timely tip to all ways pay attention and free yourself from distractions during all farm related activities. Distribution for this podcast averages 283 downloads per month to 23 states and 13 foreign countries.

COMPUTER GENERATED PRESENTATION WITH SCRIPT

National Winner
BACKYARD BIRDS

James Davis
Multi-County Extension Director
UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension
BUSHNELL

Team Members: Davis, J[*1]

[1.] Multi-County Extension Director, UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County , BUSHNELL, Florida, 33513

The beneficial and economic impacts of birding is astounding. Birding alone is a multi-billion-dollar industry. Over 45 million people in the United States are "birders". In Florida, birding, along with wildlife viewing generate over four billion dollars and creates as many 44,000 jobs. Birders from all over the world flock to popular areas Central Florida areas such as Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive or Circle B Bar Preserve. The objective of the "Backyards Birds" presentation was to provide residents knowledge on common birds found in their area. This presentation was delivered to 33 participants of The Villages Enrichment Academy. This is a series called "Meet Your Local Wildlife" that was designed to deliver quality presentations to affect behavior change. As a result of this presentation, participants reported that they had designed their landscape to attract wildlife and have taken up birding as a hobby. The presentation focuses on common backyard birds, starting with Florida's state bird the Northern Mockingbird. Slides provide

some general information on the species profiled, while the script is more in-depth. There are a total of 46 slides. All photographs belong to the author.

PERSONAL COLUMN

National Winner

HOUSTON CHRONICLE WEEKLY GARDEN COLUMN

Brandi Keller
Houston

The Houston Chronicle is one of the largest newspapers in the United States. Between subscribers and those that can access the articles, there is a potential reach of 850,000. The weekly gardening column started as a question-and-answer format in response to Winter Storm Uri in 2021. The first official weekly garden column started May 4, 2021 and has continued since then. The Saturday column is written to help guide the public on gardening, landscaping, and other horticultural topics. I incorporate seasonal guidance, annuals, perennials, woody ornamentals, upcoming events, soil testing, yard maintenance, water conservation, and public questions. Even though ornamental, we receive many questions throughout the year on growing wildflowers. This was an appreciation piece compared to my fall wildflower-planting article. The Houston Astros garden topic was in direct response to the World Series win, capitalizing on local excitement and cool season flowers. Two article links: Getting lost in the bounty of wildflowers was published on April 23, 2022. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/lifestyle/home-garden/article/GARDEN-BRANDI-0423-17119910.php and Planting an Astros garden was published on November 12, 2022. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/lifestyle/home-garden/article/Celebrate-Houston-s-World-Series-win-with-an-17574331.php#photo-23149261.

FEATURE STORY

National Winner

T'WAS THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: THE END OF CHRISTMAS TREE SEASON IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Jim Hamilton
County Extension Director
NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
BOONE

Team Members: Hamilton, J[*1]

[1.] County Extension Director, Boone, North Carolina, 28607

During November and December, millions of Christmas trees are harvested and sold in box stores, retail lots, and on the farm across the United States. However, many consumers are unaware of the years-long process it takes to get that tree from seedling, to the farm, to the living room. To reach consumer & tourist audiences, the article, through narrative and storytelling, describes the many steps in the journey of our Christmas trees and about the growers who produce them. It appeared in the regional magazine, Carolina Mountain Life, in the magazine's Winter 2022/2023 issue, which has a circulation of 25,000 copies per issue and is distributed throughout North Carolina's High Country and neighboring regions including southwest Virginia & northeast Tennessee. The article also appears in the online version of the magazine at https://issuu.com/carolinamountainlife/docs/carolinamountainlife-winter2022-2023/s/17625694

NEWSLETTER

National Winner

SOUTH CAROLINA 4-H HONEY BEE PROJECT

Mallory Maher
4-H Extension Agent
Clemson Extension
Walhalla

Team Members: Maher, M[*1], Eidt, S[2]

[1.] 4-H Extension Agent, Walhalla, South Carolina, 29691
[2.] Fairfield County 4-H Agent, Clemson Extension, Winnsboro, South Carolina, 29180

The South Carolina 4-H Honey Bee Project is an independent-study project that engages youth (ages 5-18 years) in the active role of beekeeping, learning the basics of entomology and gaining an appreciation for the role of pollinators in our world. Youth receive a record book and project-related educational materials with registration. Mallory Maher, Oconee County 4-H Agent, and Stephanie Eidt, Fairfield County 4-H Agent, both with Clemson Extension/South Carolina 4-H, serve as the project coordinators for the Honey Bee Project. Youth involved in the project set goals and plan activities to achieve those outcomes, actively maintain a hive and record their experiences in a record book, and learn valuable life skills with the help of an experienced mentor. Project participants receive a monthly newsletter prepared and written by Mallory Maher and Stephanie Eidt. The newsletter was designed using the online graphic design program, Canva and distributed electronically through MailChimp. Fifty-seven participants received a monthly newsletter for the project from April 2022 until August 2022. 100% of participants (n=16) who completed the survey agreed or strongly agreed that the project helped them learn techniques for managing honey bees, made them more appreciative of honey bees, and made them better stewards of the environment.

EDUCATIONAL VIDEO RECORDINGS

National Winner

SPLIT-APPLYING NITROGEN FOR CORN: 3 TIPS FOR SIDEDRESS APPLICATIONS

Brad Carlson
Extension Professor
University of Minnesota Extension
Mankato

Team Members: Carlson, B[1]

[1.] Extension Professor, University of Minnesota Extension, Mankato, Minnesota, 56001

The University of Minnesota Extension Nutrient Management team engages in comprehensive communications offerings including educational videos. This video discusses sidedressing nitrogen fertilizer for corn, a practice that has increased greatly in popularity in Minnesota over the last decade. Because this is a practice that is relatively new to many farmers it was decided that a video should be produced discussing some of the tips and nuance regarding applying in-season N. Extension Educator Brad Carlson wrote the script for this video to cover the most commonly asked questions about sidedressing. Brad narrated the content, with the video being shot at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN. Additionally, Brad arranged for the filming of much of the B roll that is used as background for the video. The video was filmed and edited by a private contractor during the summer of 2022. It was posted to the Nutrient Management blog and YouTube on March 7, 2023. The internal web link is: https://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2023/03/split-applying-nitrogen-for-corn-three.html The YouTube link is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhEmnHn89fc As this submission is being prepared just two days after the video was posted, however the YouTube video has had 144 views already.

FACT SHEET

National Winner

PREVENTING OVER-FERTILIZATION IN GARDENS

Natalie Hoidal
Extension Educator
University of Minnesota Extension
Farmington

Team Members: Hoidal, N[*1], Reiter, M[2]

[1.] Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Farmington, Minnesota, 55024-8087
[2.] Former Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Farmington, Minnesota, 55024-8087

While many Extension programs focus on reducing excessive nutrient use in agriculture, there has been less attention to the over-fertilization of home landscapes. In 2022 University of Minnesota Extension vegetable crop and turfgrass educators Natalie Hoidal and Maggie Reiter analyzed the results of 137,845 soil tests from the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory. We found that the median phosphorus concentration in home landscapes was over 2.5x as high as the median phosphorus concentration in agricultural fields, and about 3x above the threshold for what the University of Minnesota considers to be sufficient for growing vegetables and healthy lawns. This fact sheet was developed by statewide educator Natalie Hoidal for two field days: the West Central Research and Outreach Center's annual Hort Night on 7/28/2022, which was attended by approximately 300 people, and a pilot soil health workshop for Dakota County Master Gardeners, which was attended by 22 people. At each event, the fact sheet was handed out as part of a hands-on demonstration on soil health practices for gardeners. The goals of the fact sheet are to prompt gardeners to test their soil, to reduce the use of too much phosphorus in home landscapes and to encourage gardeners to use alternative soil health practices in their gardens like cover crops. The fact sheet was reviewed by Christy Marsden (University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Education Manager), Carl Rosen (University of Minnesota Nutrient Management Specialist), and Chip Small (University of St. Thomas professor). Beyond these field days, it was shared as a blog post in the University of Yard and Garden newsletter, where it reached 1096 people, and it is being incorporated into a train-the-trainer program for Master Gardeners about soil health and nutrient management. Following the Dakota County Master Gardener event, the coordinator shared: "Tuesday night was amazing! So many people of contacted me to say how much they appreciated the information you shared. We loved the handouts with your explanations, the question and answer time, shared cover crop seeds… The night was an absolute joy!"

PUBLICATION

National Winner

PEST FRIENDS BOARD GAME

Grant Loomis
Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Hailey

Team Members: Loomis, G[*1], Thomas, J[*2]

[1.] Extension Educator, , Hailey, Idaho, 83333
[2.] Extension Educator, University of Idaho Extension, Rupert, Idaho, 83350

The pest friends board game is an educational board game curriculum which focuses on teaching farmers, agricultural professionals and future pest managers the principles of integrated pest management (IPM). The game simulates a growing season of a fictitious crop. Players use limited actions and resources to carry out IPM practices like scouting, modifying habitat, using pesticides or researching potential pests. Each action can affect the crop yield and the insects living in the field. The player's score is determined by their remaining money and crop health at the end. The final rulebook for the game shown here was written by Thomas and Loomis. These two educators initially came up with the

concept after researching IPM and game-based learning. They then created a simple prototype which they used for playtesting. After multiple revisions and testing they created the final version of the game. The team applied for and received a grant to increase production and hire a professional artist. Much of the graphic design such as the tiles and action cards was developed by Thomas. These two made final decisions on graphic layout. The mechanics of the game were created by Thomas and Loomis. The game is produced using the Game Crafter, a print on demand service. Young or new farmers find the game particularly helpful to understand how each of their actions can have an effect on insects and the crop. Currently, the game is being used in Idaho with Master Gardeners, for high school ag classes and for pesticide recertification classes. It is also being used to train future agricultural professionals and pest managers as part of higher education coursework. It is being used in such a manner at the at multiple Universities in Idaho, Texas and California. 25 copies of the game have been distributed to educators in multiple states. Based on collaborator reports, the game has been played with over 500 individuals. 350 additional copies are in print and will be distributed in April 2023. More than 100 of these copies have been spoken for by extension professionals in multiple states.

WEB SITE / ONLINE CONTENT

National Winner

GOOD GROWING BLOG

Chris Enroth
Horticulture Educator
U of I Extension Unit 10
Macomb

Team Members: Enroth, C[*1], Johnson, K[*2], Swihart, E[*3]

[1.] Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Macomb, Illinois, 61455
[2.] Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Jacksonville, Illinois, 62650
[3.] Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Moline, Illinois, 61264

The Good Growing blog is a weekly blog produced by University of Illinois Horticulture Educators Chris Enroth, Ken Johnson, and Emily Swihart. The blog covers a wide range of horticultural topics, from fruits and vegetables to flowers, trees, invasive species, pollinators, pest management, and more, "Keeping you (and your garden) growing with good ideas." Each author is responsible for writing, posting, and formatting their blog posts. The blog is part of the University of Illinois Extension webpage, which utilizes Drupal. The blog was started in 2015 and has grown to be the most viewed University of Illinois Extension blog. From March 15, 2022, to March 8, 2023, the blog received over 290,000 views.
Link to the Good Growing Blog - go.Illinois.edu/GoodGrowing

LEARNING MODULE/ NOTEBOOK

National Winner

AGRICULTURAL TOURISM LEARNING MODULE HELPS PRODUCERS MAKE DECISIONS

Melissa Fery
Small Farms Extension Agent
Oregon State University
Eugene

Team Members: Fery, M[*1], Comerford, A[2], Moran, T[3], Chaney, D[4]

[1.] Small Farms Extension Agent, Oregon State University, Eugene, Oregon, 97402
[2.] Agritourism Program Coordinator, Oregon State University, Salem, 97301
[3.] Small Farms Program Coordinator, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, 97330
[4.] Instructional Editor, DEC Education Services, Corvallis, Oregon, 97330

Producers' interest in adding an agricultural tourism component to their farm or ranch business is increasing. As there was not a comprehensive training where producers could obtain information on operating an agritourism business and hosting the public on their property, we developed an online learning module entitled "Developing a Successful Agricultural Tourism Business" which launched in March 2022. This was also a way to assist producers in other parts of the state that did not have Extension faculty working on this topic. The self-paced module guides participants through topics like assessing risks, reducing liability, understanding regulations and permitting, determining marketing strategies and providing high-quality customer service. Throughout the module, producers are encouraged to develop an action plan to guide their next steps in the exploration and development of agritourism activities when applied to their operation. We wrote original text and supporting downloadable factsheets to cover important information. Photographs and images are placed throughout for visual learning. We created six videos describing various types of agritourism and signage options and recorded and edited five farmer interviews to share how agritourism works for their operations and challenges they encountered. Additionally, two stakeholders provided expertise content through video, and we supplied links to other resources to provide more information. Registration is continuously open, and participants have access to the materials for one year to accommodate different production seasons. Since its launch, the course has been accessed by 155 participants across Oregon and nearby states. So far, the course evaluation has been completed by 35% of the participants. Data shows that 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the course helped them improve their understanding of agricultural tourism and how it relates to their farm. As a result, 33 producers plan to add an agritourism activity to their business while others have identified that agritourism is not an option for them. Over seventy-five percent of respondents indicated at least one action they intend to take. The module can be accessed at https://beav.es/wYh. A separate link that avoids registering will be emailed to the state chair who will forward it to the regional chair if selected.

PUBLISHED PHOTO

National Winner

THE STRUTTING TOM

James Davis
Multi-County Extension Director
UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension
BUSHNELL

The photo was taken February 21, 2023, alongside a road in Sumter County, Florida. Equipment used was a Nikon D500 with a NIKKOR 200-500 mm lens. Photographic info: 1/1000 sec: ISO 800: f/6.3 at 500mm. Size: 3117 x 3258. This picture was used in print and presentations multiple times. 1.) The UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County Newsletter. Target audience are advisory committee members, homeowners, landscape professionals, youth, and volunteers. Title: "The Strutting Tom". The newsletter was delivered to 40 residents. Date published 3/14/23 2.) Facebook post as a part of the Wildlife and Invasive Species Education™ group. Total reach was 443 people, 457 post impressions, 30 post engagements with two shares and 11 likes. Date published 3/3/23. https://www.facebook.com/WISEsumter and https://www.facebook.com/HernandoExt. 3.) The picture was also posted on the Florida Birds and Wildlife Facebook group. This group has over 45,000 members. The picture was uploaded on 2/27/23 and received 105 likes. 4.) The virtual Wildlife and Invasive Species Education™ webinar series on 3/10/23. Presentation titled: Common Birds Found in Central Florida V. Picture is on slide 33. This picture was used for identification and biological information to 16 participants. 5.) The picture was used in the Wildlife and Invasive Species Education™ monthly e-newsletter. The title of the article was "The Wild Turkey". This newsletter has 269 subscribers. Link: https://mailchi.mp/971ee486185d/wise-monthly-newsletter-8748638?e=5b124cb8e0

The premise of this picture was to demonstrate and capture the appearance and behavior of a male Wild Turkey during the mating season in full strut. Body feathers fluffed out and tail feathers fully fanned. The beard protruding from the chest. The head turning a bright blue and the caruncles a vibrant red. This picture illustrates the magnificence of the Wild Turkey courtship.

EVENT PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE

National Winner

THE FARMERS' SHARE A BREAKFAST FOR DINNER EVENT

Lindie Huffman
ANR Agent
University of Kentucky
Falmouth

Team Members: Huffman, L[*1]

[1.] ANR Agent, University of Kentucky, Falmouth, Kentucky, 41040

It is estimated that farmers and ranchers receive a mere 14.3* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend. According to the USDA, off-farm costs, including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution, and retailing, account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States. While America still produces one of the cheapest and safest food supplies, consumers and farmers are feeling the effects of inflation. The 2017 USDA AG Census shows an average net farm income of -$1,400 for the 919 farms in Pendleton County. PCFM had 33 vendors in the 2021 market season, the average market sales per vendor over a 27-week season were $2,971. With a personal mission of "keeping farmers farming and keeping families fed," Lindie Huffman, Pendleton County ANR Extension Agent, developed an agricultural awareness program inspired by statistics from the National Farmers Union (NFU). The breakfast-for-dinner event "The Farmers' Share" was hosted on a Tuesday Night Market at the Pendleton County Farmers' Market during National Farmers' Market Week. Partnering with a local food truck to plan the menu and provide the "breakfast," #lindiecountyagent secured a $750 Kentucky Proud grant, gathered ingredients from eight local farms to provide a full breakfast at "The Farmers' Share" price of 0.52 cents. Patrons could purchase this rib-sticking meal of two eggs, fried potatoes, biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon, milk, honey, butter, jam, and maple syrup. ALL 65 meals were sold. The program's purpose was to bring awareness to general consumers on the true cost of shopping on a large scale and the value of shopping local, while also bringing up Tuesday night market attendance. The program marketing package was developed and distributed by Lindie via flyers to local businesses, Facebook Events, and Facebook Live, with a social media reach of 3,293. Each shopper received a brochure developed by Lindie that shared the importance of shopping locally and awareness of the small profit margins each farm family faces, so they would think a little differently as consumers on their next trip to the grocery store. Participants were shocked by the price and impressed by the meal quality.

BOUND BOOK / eBook

National Winner

A BEGINNER'S FIELD GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING BEES

Lisa Mason
Horticulture Extension Specialist
Colorado State University
Centennial

Team Members: Mason, L[*1], Sayre-Chavez, B[2], O'Brien, C[3], Seshadri, A[4]

[1.] Horticulture Extension Specialist, Arapahoe County, Colorado State University Extension, Centennial, Colorado, 80112
[2.] Student, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80521
[3.] Student, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80521
[4.] Research Entomologist, USDA/ARS/WRRC, Davis, California, 95616

Bees are crucial pollinators for sustainability in natural, agricultural, and urban ecosystems. Colorado is home to 946 bee species (Scott et al., 2011) and is the seventh fastest growing state (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018). Given

that native bee populations are declining worldwide, more effort is needed to increase public awareness and generate engagement to help mitigate bee populations' decline (National Research Council, 2007).

A Beginner's Field Guide to Identifying Bees was developed to bridge the gap between scientific research and the public's growing interest in learning more about bees. While bees are difficult to identify, the reader will learn more about identification characteristics for specific bee genera, biology and life cycles, and unique facts to help foster an appreciation for bees in their own landscape and community. This book has 113 images and covers 43 bee genera. Appendices include taxonomy, bee nest examples, and habitat information.

The intended audience for this book is anyone interested in learning more about bees visiting flowers in their own landscape. The book is also a complementary resource for community scientists participating in the Native Bee Watch Community Science Program, a program run through Colorado State University Extension. The pocket-sized book can easily be used in the field, lab, at home in the flower garden, or at a Master Gardener help desk.

First author and Extension Horticulture Specialist Lisa Mason took the lead at writing the content. The bee genera included in the field guide was based on research (Mason and Arathi, 2019; O'Brien and Arathi, 2018; O'Brien and Arathi, 2019; Scott et al., 2011). Mason also designed and completed the layout in Adobe InDesign, took many of the photographs, and solicited additional photographs.

The book is free and available to download on the CSU Extension website at NativeBeeWatch.org, and 500 copies have been printed and spiral bound. The direct link to the book can be found here: https://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2022/03/BeginnerBeeFieldGuide_11March2022_LowRez.pdf

NACAA 2023 Search For Excellence Award Winners

Search for Excellence in Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

NATIONAL WINNER

BEE A FRIEND TO POLLINATORS: POLLINATOR EDUCATION & AGRICULTURAL LITERACY FOR SC EDUCATORS

Amy Dabbs
Statewide School & Community Gardening Coordinator
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON

Team Members: Dabbs, A[*1], Elingburg, E[2], Enright, T[3], Griffin, B[4], Maher, M[*5], Snipes , Z[*6], Roach, K[7], Savereno, T[*8], Whitener, P[*9], Scott, L[10], Sanders, C[11], Kinley, L[12]

[1.] Statewide School & Community Gardening Coordinator, , Charleston, South Carolina, 29414
[2.] Director of Educational Programs, The Bee Cause Project, Charleston, South Carolina, 29414
[3.] Director, The Bee Cause Project, Isle of Palms, South Carolina, 29451
[4.] Community and School Garden Coordinator, The University of Georgia, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512
[5.] Oconee County 4-H Youth Development Agent, 4-H Youth Development Program Team, Clemson Extension, Walhalla, South Carolina, 29691
[6.] Clemson University, Assistant Program Team Leader - Horticulture and Area Horticulture Agent, Clemson Extension, Charleston, South Carolina, 29401
[7.] Area Commercial Horticulture Agent (former), Clemson Extension, Walhalla, South Carolina, 29691
[8.] Forestry & Wildlife Agent, Clemson Extension, Bishopville, South Carolina, 29010
[9.] 4-H Natural Resources Program Leader, Clemson Extension, Clemson, South Carolina, 29634
[10.] Instructional Design Manager, Clemson Online, Clemson, South Carolina, 29634
[11.] Digital Learning Designer, Clemson Online, Clemson, South Carolina, 29634
[12.] Associate Director of Online Development, Clemson Online, Clemson, South Carolina, 29634

Clemson Extension and the non-profit organization, The Bee Cause Project have partnered to address the need for K-12 educators and students to learn about pollinators' critical role in food production and environmental stewardship. The initial

step towards this goal was developing a comprehensive lesson plan called “Bee a Friend to Pollinators: Create & Advocate for Pollinator-Friendly Schools and Community Spaces”. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed plans to utilize the lesson and activities to create pollinator-friendly habitats at schools.

In the wake of national school shutdowns, teachers and students were eager to return to hands-on garden-based learning opportunities. A grant from the South Carolina Department of Agriculture was used to develop an online course and digital badge program for teachers that helped students leap from the screen to the schoolyard.

The online professional development course “Bee A Friend to Pollinators: Pollinator Education & Agricultural Literacy for SC Educators” built on the foundation of the original lesson plan and expanded to lead educators into the world of the small but mighty pollinators that live alongside us. Participants learn about pollinators and plants that provide us with our favorite foods. As a requirement for course completion, participants must develop a detailed plan to make their campus more pollinator-friendly, utilizing the knowledge gained in the online course.

Clemson Extension 4-H Youth Development, Horticulture, Natural Resources extension agents, The Bee Cause Project, and the University of Georgia Extension provided the educational content and curriculum. The course, developed by instructional designers at Clemson Online, is the first externally certified course in Quality Matters™ for Clemson Online Extension programming.

The pilot cohort of the class was held in the Summer of 2022, with more than 40 teachers from Georgia and South Carolina earning interactive digital badges and renewal credits from the South Carolina and Georgia Departments of Education. After the first cohort, the Bee Cause Project established a Habitat Grant Pilot Program. It awarded 15 participating schools a total of $15,000 in grants to put their pollinator-friendly habitat plans into place.

Search for Excellence in 4-H Programming

NATIONAL WINNER

MIAMI COUNTY JUNIOR CHEFS

Amanda Bennett
Ext. Educ., ANR
Ohio State University Extension
Troy

Team Members: Bennett, A[*1], Barton, A[2], Adams, J[3]

[1.] Ext. Educ., ANR, Troy, Ohio, 45373-3239
[2.] Ext. Educ., FCS, , Troy, Ohio, 45373-3239
[3.] Ext. Educ., 4-H/Youth, Troy, Ohio, 45373-3239

Many youth today are two generations removed from households where healthy food is prepared from fresh ingredients. This makes food preparation and nutrition education for today’s youth important. For youth to make informed, healthy decisions about their food, they need to have skills and knowledge about nutrition and cooking.

The county extension office has offered a unique cooking program for youth ages 6 through 12 since 2018 reaching over 398 youth. Youth are introduced to USDA’s myPlate nutrition guidelines and Four Steps of Food Safety (clean, separate, cook and chill). Participants move through five stations where they practice the steps of following a recipe, demonstrate food and kitchen safety practices, learn basic knife skills, identify common and unique kitchen equipment, interactively engage in hands-on food preparation, learn about how and where their food grows, and prepare food to take home.
Each year the program centers on a theme. Previous themes include: international food, during which the youth learned a little about the culture of the country of the day, were exposed to and prepared traditional cuisine, and learned about the agriculture community of the country. In 2021, each day of the program centered on elements from popular children’s books and, in 2022, the theme highlighted food central to three popular holidays.
The program was evaluated each year via an online survey completed by the parents. The survey consisted of questions gauging use of new skills (89% agreed), increased interest in cooking (82% agreed), plans to incorporate a recipe or a skill in the future (82% agreed), and increase in overall confidence in the kitchen (96%). Additional comments included: “[My daughter] loved the program! She even made the pizza quesadillas for the family one night!” and “Thanks for showing my daughter that cooking can be fun because I am a terrible cook and don’t really enjoy doing it. Now she helps me in the kitchen!”

As a result of the program, the county extension office has gained outside partnerships with a local baker, butcher, the health department, and has brought in over $5,000 in sponsorships.

Search for Excellence in Crop Production

NATIONAL WINNER

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY VIRTUAL BREAKFAST SERIES

Phil Kaatz
Extension Educator
MSU Extension
LAPEER

Team Members: Kaatz, P[*1], Anderson, E[*2], Curell, C[*3], Falor, J[*4], Fronczak, S[*5], Gross, P[*6], Jean, M[*7], MacKellar, B[8], Kelley, L[*9], Staton, M[*10]

1. Senior Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, LAPEER, Michigan, 48446
2. Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Centreville, Michigan, 49032
3. Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Baldwin, Michigan, 49304
4. Extension Educator, Michigan State University, Bad Axe, Michigan, 48413
5. Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Coldwater, Michigan, 49036
6. Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, 48858
7. Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, 48858
8. Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079
9. Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Centreville, Michigan, 49032
10. Senior Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension, Allegan, Michigan, 49010

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in March of 2020, extension programming went from primarily a face-to-face format to all virtual programs. The Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series, initiated in 2018, was perfectly positioned for this new learning environment. Stakeholder focus groups asked MSU Extension to provide relevant, timely, up-to-date education in short interactive sessions. The MSU Field Crops Team planned and implemented online Zoom meetings for field crops producers, agribusiness professionals, governmental agency personnel, and others interested in field crops. Throughout the growing season, from April through September, timely and relevant crop and pest management topics were identified and strategically scheduled. Weekly sessions were facilitated by MSUE educators and featured a different MSU campus specialist with a different topic on issues or concerns such as weeds, diseases, insects, soil fertility, and crop management. The MSU State Climatologist also provided detailed weekly weather updates. Following the presentations, a 25-minute question and answer session was allotted for participants. When a rapid response for agriculture is necessary in times when extreme weather occurs, the series was nimble, flexible, and pivoted to help navigate situations.

At the onset of the pandemic, producers and agribusiness pesticide applicators also struggled to obtain recertification credits for restricted use pesticides (RUP). Virtual Breakfast provided an avenue for obtaining RUP and Certified Crop Advisor recertification credits. The series was positioned at the right time to meet the needs of field crops producers, crop consultants, and agribusiness personnel by providing education and needed re-certification credits.

Between 2020 and 2022, there were 9,183 live participants for the series. Every major crop producing area of Michigan representing 58 out of 83 counties had participation. Additionally, 13 different states and 11 foreign countries had participants.

Participants completed online evaluations annually and based on the respondents, (N=383), an average of 97% increased knowledge. Respondents indicated they changed management on 726,431 acres, representing a value of increased revenue or savings worth $8,817,431, and averaged $11.50/acre.

Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources

NATIONAL WINNER

IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ON EQUINE FARMS

Laura Kenny
Equine Educator
Penn State
Collegeville

Team Members: Kenny, L[*1], Smarsh, D[2], Kirkland, B[3], Reed, H[*4], Brackenrich, J[*5], Thompson, N[*6], Duppstadt, L[7]

[1.] Equine Educator, Penn State Extension, Collegeville, Pennsylvania, 19426
[2.] Assistant Professor and Equine Extension Specialist, Penn State, State College, Pennsylvania, 16802
[3.] Former Educator, former Penn State, Washington, Pennsylvania, 15301
[4.] Educator, Penn State, York, Pennsylvania, 17402
[5.] Educator, Penn State, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, 15370
[6.] Educator, Penn State, Coudersport, Pennsylvania, 16915
[7.] Educator, Penn State, Bedford, Pennsylvania, 15522

Equine operations are notorious for poor pasture management in Pennsylvania, and frequently contain large bare areas of ground which can lead to soil erosion and nutrient loss to surface water. In most cases, this poor management simply stems from a lack of agronomic and environmental background and knowledge. The objectives of this program were to increase knowledge of basic pasture management concepts and techniques among horse farm managers; increase adoption of pasture management practices on horse farms; and improve the overall condition (self-assessed) of pastures on horse farms to reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff risk. The program includes two educational offerings: Equine Environmental Stewardship Short Course and Equine Pasture Walk Workshops. The Short Course has been offered as an 8-10 topic lecture-based short course both in-person and virtually 3 times from 2020-2022, with 108 registrants. In addition, 3 hands-on Pasture Walks have been offered on farms in 3 counties with 29 registrants. Post-program evaluations show significant knowledge increases and intent to adopt programs learned during the programs. Two-year follow-up surveys for the Short Course revealed that pasture quality on participating farms had improved by 23% and that 75% of respondents stated that the course overall "Significantly" impacted their farm management decisions. All respondents reported adopting at least one pasture management practice learned during the course, including selecting new forages to seed in pastures, soil testing every three years, and resting pasture after grazing. As a result, all respondents reported that their pastures now have greater than 70% total cover (the threshold for minimizing erosion) and 50-70% desirable cover (providing feed for horses and reducing the need for purchased feed). It is estimated that this program impacted 1,544 acres and 548 horses.

Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Business Management

NATIONAL WINNER

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS, KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Jessica Groskopf
Extension Educator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Scottsbluff

Team Members: Groskopf, J[1], McClure , G[*2]

[1.] Extension Educator, , Scottsbluff, Nebraska, 69361
[2.] Associate Extension Educator, Nebraska Extension , Lincoln, Nebraska

Nebraska's "Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options" online farm financial management course exemplifies Excellence in Farm and Ranch Business Management due to its long track record of adult learner success. This course uses "flipped classroom" techniques to teach farm financial management. Twenty-two online sessions of "Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options" have been completed in Nebraska since June 2020, with 137 registered participants.

The flipped classroom method relies on learners watching lessons prior to class. It allows students to complete assignments and engage in discussion during scheduled class time. "Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options" is a four-class financial management course that uses this technique. This curriculum focuses on balance sheets, cash flow statements, and income statements.

"Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options" transitioned online during the COVID-19 Pandemic. To accomplish this, Nebraska Extension developed a course website with updated video lectures and homework related to a realistic case study farm. Rather than attending an in-person class at the local Extension Office, participants engaged in an hour and half long Zoom discussions.

As a result of this curriculum, course participants increased their confidence in every category: developing basic financial documents, calculating financial ratios, interpreting financial benchmarks, and discussing their financial situation with others.

Here are what learners have said about this course when asked, "What was the most important thing you learned in this workshop?":

I feel more confident about my understanding of financial records. It is also important for me to know which records are important to keep and how to best organize them
The simple examples of how to lower liabilities and increase assets. I liked that they were ideas that could be implemented on my operation right away.
The potential for calculating and getting a handle on the financial aspects of the business, no matter how large or small. This is a great tool for planning for the future for our small Ag business.
I realized the value of having these statements prepared to aid in decision-making when the time presents itself, and I am less intimidated by the work of doing them.

Search for Excellence in Livestock Production

NATIONAL WINNER
OSU CATTLEWOMEN'S BOOT CAMP

JJ Jones
Area Agricultural Economics Specialist
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
ADA

Team Members: Toothman, O[*1], Patterson, D[*2], Patterson, J[*3], Denman, T[*4], Bay, D[*5], Biggs, R[6], Jones, J[*7]

[1.] Creek County Ag Edcuator, OSU Extension, Kellyville, Oklahoma, 74039
[2.] Rogers County Ag Educator, OSU Extension, Claremore, Oklahoma, 74017
[3.] Adair County Ag Educator, OSU Extension, Stillwell, Oklahoma, 74960
[4.] Carter County Ag Educator/Multi County Specialist, OSU Extension, Ardmore, Oklahoma, 73401
[5.] Ellis County Ag Educator, OSU Extension, Arnett, Oklahoma, 73832
[6.] Extension Specialist, OSU Extension, Stillwater, Oklahoma, 74074
[7.] Area Agricultural Economics Specialist, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820-1406

According to the 2017 Census of Ag there are 46,267 beef cattle operations in Oklahoma. Of those 26,523 (57.3%) have female operators and 17,539 (37.9%) are principally operated by females. Yet female attendance at OSU Cow/Calf Boot Camps and other extension programs have averaged less than 10%. At the same time other extension programs such as Annie's Project and Women in Agriculture conferences have had tremendous success empowering women agricultural producers to become better business operators. The OSU Cattlewomen's Boot Camp is a project that combines elements of two successful programs, Annie's Project and the Oklahoma Livestock Boot Camps. Using teaching models

from the boot camps and Annie's Project, the program creates an informative and engaging learning experience for female producers covering various methods on how to manage the production, financial, and market risks when operating a beef cow/calf operation. Forty-six female producers attended the camp in June 2022. Topics covered at the camp include cattle handling, general herd management practices such as ID, ear tagging, and castration, cow body condition scoring, heifer and bull selection, calving season management, reproduction, parasite control, farm business planning, budgeting, farm financial statements, record keeping, record keeping systems, nutrition, forage systems, forage analysis and testing, cattle health and vaccinations, marketing, beef quality assurance certification and estate planning or succession planning. Pre and post-tests scores showed an increase in knowledge gained of 24.4% with the largest increase coming in the areas of risk management and parasite management. Self-evaluation from participants indicated an increase of knowledge of 74.3% with the largest increase coming in forage production and herd nutrition. When asked about perceived adoption of practices taught during the camp, the average adoption rate was 73.5%. The perceived value of the camp to their operation ranged from $100 to $3,000 with an overall total value of $23,635.

Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture

NATIONAL WINNER

ALABAMA BERMUDAGRASS HAY GROWERS SUMMIT TARGETS ADVANCED PRODUCERS

Kent Stanford
Associate Extension Professor/Extension Specialist
Alabama Extension
Crossville

Team Members: Stanford, M[*1], Marks, L[*2], Thompson, G[*3], Dillard, L[*4], Mullenix, K[*5], Daniel, J[*6]

[1.] Associate Extension Professor/Extension Specialist, Alabama Extension, Crossville, Alabama, 35962
[2.] Regional Extension Agent - Animal Science & Forages, Alabama Extension, Centre, Alabama, 35960
[3.] Regional Extension Agent - Animal Science & Forages, Alabama Extension, Belle Mina, Alabama, 35615
[4.] Extension Forage Specialist, Alabama Extension, Auburn University, Alabama, 36849
[5.] Extension Beef Systems Specialist, Alabama Extension, Auburn University, Alabama, 36849
[6.] Regional Extension Agent - Farm and Agribusiness, Alabama Extension, Guntersville, Alabama, 35976

The Bermudagrass Hay Growers Summit is an in-state Extension workshop that began in 2017 and is based on a grassroots need to educate advanced hay producers seeking more than basic hay production instruction. The original objective was to provide current information and timely updates for bermudagrass hay producers in northern Alabama. Typically held in February, the timing allows for immediate implementation of certain practices prior to spring green up. It has evolved into a statewide event after proven success as a regional offering. The workshop utilizes a traditional lecture format with varying educational components, based primarily on past participant evaluations. Educational topics have covered insect pests, weed control, fertilizer requirements and application timing, nutrient management, industry perspectives, nutrient availability, cash flow budgeting and hay storage techniques. Average attendance for the target audience is 18 people, with a total of 11,266 acres under their management each year. Due to university restrictions for in-person programming, the 2021 meeting was conducted virtually and open to anyone (95 in state; 33 out-of-state attendees). Extension news articles, email blasts, social media posts, word of mouth and local advertising are utilized each year to promote the workshop. A mix of PowerPoint presentations, speaker panels and round table discussions throughout the day encourage group interaction. Evaluation results over six years (2017-2022) indicate 98.2% of participants found the information useful to their operation and 98.8% reported the program met their expectations. The average rating (1-5 scale) of all topics delivered was a 4.63 across all years, indicating satisfaction with selected topics. Evaluation results show a 29.4% average increase in knowledge and the average, annual economic impact from implementing the information presented of $17,704.60 per person. While it is important to reach new and beginning farmers and ranchers, progressive producers need continued education designed to meet their production needs in an ever-changing enterprise.

Search for Excellence in Young, Beginning or Small Farmers/Ranchers

NATIONAL WINNER

RU READY TO FARM: GETTING ROOTED IN THE GARDEN STATE

William Hlubik
County Agent 1, Professor
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
North Brunswick

Team Members: Hlubik, W[*1], Pearsall , B[*2], Errickson, W[*3], Errickson, L[4], Melendez, M[5], Eberly, L[6], Muehlbauer, M[*7], Besancon, T[8]

[1.] Middlesex County Agricultural Agent , North Brunswick, New Jersey, 08902
[2.] Senior Program Coordinator, North Brunswick, New Jersey, 08902
Monmouth Agricultural Agent , Freehold, New Jersey, 07728
[3.] Director of Rutgers Gardens, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901
[4.] Mercer County Agricultural Agent , Trenton, New Jersey, 08638
[5.] Program Assistant and Videographer, North Brunswick, New Jersey, 08902
[6.] Hunterdon County Agricultural Agent, Flelmington, New Jersey, 08822
[7.] Associate Extension Specialist in Weed Science, Chatsworth, New Jersey, 08019

The Rutgers Beginner Farmer Training Program-"RU Ready to Farm" is addressing the continuing viability of the agriculture industry in New Jersey by providing education, support and guidance for new and beginning farmers. The average age of farmers in New Jersey is approaching 60 years old, and many growers do not have a succession plan or a next generation to take over the farm. The strong support of the public for farmland preservation and for purchasing local farm products provides the framework for success of new farmers with sound business plans. The goal of our program is to provide the necessary training and networking to increase the chances of success for new farmers. This is accomplished through a three- phase program. Phase 1 includes on-line training, classroom instruction and field trips to successful small farms. In phase 2, participants plan, grow, and distribute 50 CSA farm shares of vegetables and flowers to customers. Phase 2 includes season long hands-on guidance on production, harvesting, packaging, and marketing with farm coaches. In phase 3, our team provides support for participants to secure their own land or work with experienced successful farmers. As a result of this program 86 participants have completed phase 1 of the program. This project has generated $70,000 back into our program through fees and farm sales to help insure long term project sustainability. As a result of the program there are 9 active farmers growing on 80 acres and 8 established farms that have employed program participants. Pre and post program surveys and structured interviews indicate that 90% of participants had a significant increase in knowledge and skills because of the program. Twelve participants completed phase 2 of the program and provided 46 farm shares to over 92 people for an estimated $15,730 value of produce and flowers. A Word Press website and Canvas platform were developed to provide educational information and resources. Evaluation tools were subject to IRB approval with most survey questions utilizing a 4-point Likert scale.

NACAA 2023 Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award

NATIONAL WINNER

INCREASING AWARENESS OF SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IN FORSYTH COUNTY

Leslie Rose
Extension Horticulture Agent
NC State University
Winston-Salem

Team Members: Rose, L[*1], Bowman, A[*2], Darnell, T[*3], Richard, C[*4], Smith, P[*5]

[1.] Horticulture Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27105

[2.] 4-H & Livestock Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27105
[3.] Area Agent - Commercial Horticulture, Field Crops, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27105
[4.] Horticulture Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27105
[5.] Natural Resources & Environmental Systems Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27105

Forsyth County, North Carolina, is located in the central Piedmont region of the state. The county is largely urban, but is also home to small farms, a substantial nursery and landscape industry, wineries, livestock, and other agricultural activities. The spotted lanternfly is a non-native, invasive pest which can infest a variety of important agricultural crops and landscape plants, thus posing a threat to the agriculture industry. The first population of spotted lanternfly in North Carolina was confirmed in Forsyth County in June 2022. Shortly thereafter, the Forsyth County team of agriculture agents, including April Bowman, Taylor Darnell, Celine Richard, Leslie Rose, and Phyllis Smith, formed the Forsyth County Spotted Lanternfly Education Program. The Program includes a variety of activities intended to raise awareness in the community about the threat of spotted lanternfly and to train residents on identifying, reporting, and managing the insect. Educational efforts include written information, verbal announcements, one-on-one education, and workshops focused on spotted lanternfly identification and management. In its first year, the Forsyth County Spotted Lanternfly Education Program has reached thousands of people, including training over 50 residents in specific strategies to manage the invasive insect. The program is ongoing, as awareness of the spotted lanternfly will continue to be important to reduce the threat it poses to North Carolina agriculture.

2023 SERVICE TO AMERICAN/WORLD AGRICULTURE AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Kenneth M. Quinn
Former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia

Kenneth M. Quinn's two careers span 52 years of public service. He is recognized internationally for his success in confronting hunger, enhancing rural development and thwarting terrorism by promoting "Peace through Agriculture."

Quinn was born in the Bronx, NY, and grew up in Dubuque, Iowa. Following college graduation he was inspired to begin a 32 year career (1967 – 1999) with the American Foreign Service dominated by anti-terrorism and humanitarian assignments. His first assignment was village pacification in Vietnam (1967 – 1974). With the war raging, he worked to improve rural roads and infrastructure while ag extension agents were introducing IR-8, the miracle rice varieties developed in the Philippines using breeding techniques credited to Dr. Norman Borlaug. The improved roads and extension assistance resulted in increased ag production and access to ag inputs, markets, medical services and educational opportunities. As the rural economy improved, the appeal of the Viet Cong was reduced. Quinn addressed similar situations throughout his career and successfully applied the important strategies that he learned early in his career to improve lives and livelihoods elsewhere.

Serving along the Cambodian border, Quinn was also involved in life and death decisions earning the Army Air Medal for accompanying helicopter operations in combat situations. He also was first to report the flood of refugees into Vietnam fleeing the Khmer Rouge and the Killing Fields of Cambodia.

Because of his Vietnamese language skills and his knowledge of the war torn area, Quinn served as interpreter for President Gerald Ford in meetings with Senior South Vietnamese officials. He was instrumental in rescuing thousands of Vietnamese refugees in the days immediately before South Vietnam collapsed.

Quinn assisted Iowa Governor Robert Ray from 1975 till the early 1980s -welcoming the Tai Dam from Laos, rescuing the Vietnamese "boat people", and serving as the Executive Director of the Iowa SHARES program which sent lifesaving food and medicine along with volunteer doctors and nurses to sustain those escaping the Cambodian civil war in refugee camps in Thailand.

In the fall of 1980, Quinn hosted a delegation of Chinese Governors that came to Iowa to learn about productive

agriculture. The Chinese group was led by Governor Xi Zhongxun, the father of Xi Jinping, the current President of China. Governor Xi became the chief architect of agriculture transformation and the Chinese economic development which followed. In 2012 Quinn hosted a U.S.-China High Level Ag Symposium with then Chinese VP Xi Jinping as keynote speaker.

In the early 1990s Quinn served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the East Asia Bureau for the State Department where he oversaw development projects emphasizing infrastructure improvement and increased ag productivity in the Philippines, the Middle East and Cambodia. Quinn served as the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia (1996-1999). As a result of these programs, the Khmer Rouge surrendered in March, 1999, ending the genocidal war which had claimed over 2 million victims out of an original population of 7 million.

Dr. Borlaug and businessman John Ruan, Sr. founded the World Food Prize in 1986 hoping it would become the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" and that Central Iowa would be seen as the Hunger Fighting Capital of America and the World. Ambassador Quinn served as World Food Prize President (2000 – 2020). Using his international contacts and exceptional communication and organizational skills, the visions of Borlaug and Ruan have been realized.

The $250,000 World Food Prize is awarded annually to individuals who have increased the productivity, quality and distribution of food. From 1987 – 2022, 51 individuals (43 men and 8 women) from 21 countries have been named WFP Laureates. Ambassador Quinn considers the following as significant achievements he initiated during his tenure as WFP President:

The laureate is announced in a ceremony at the State Department in Washington, D.C. each spring. The newest Laureate (s) receive their award in October at the Iowa State Capitol building in a unique ceremony that is televised and webcast live and is said to rival that of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application recognizes achievement in international agriculture and food production by an individual under the age of 40.
The Iowa Hunger Summit highlights efforts of Iowans to alleviate hunger both at home and abroad.

The World Food Prize youth education programs to inspire the next generation of students to be leaders combating hunger. Over 10,000 students from 26 U.S. states and 10 foreign countries participate annually. This has been accomplished through the Global Youth Institute, Borlaug- Ruan International Scholarships, Wallace-Carver USDA Fellowships, the Iowa Youth Institute and Youth Institutes in 23 other states and 2 foreign countries. Details of these programs are available on the World Food Prize website (https://www.worldfoodprize.org/).

The Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium is a three-day conference that focuses on the issues of global food security and nutrition. It annually attracts over 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries and has been referred to as "the premier conference in the world on global agriculture." The Symposium provides a neutral place where citizens from adversarial countries can meet, compare notes, work together to resolve common problems and continue the legacy of Dr. Borlaug.

Quinn initiated a $36 million campaign which transformed the former Des Moines Public Library into the WFP headquarters and Norman Borlaug Hall of Laureates. It is a destination for all to visit in Des Moines.

To honor Dr Borlaug, Quinn initiated the successful campaigns for Dr. Borlaug to receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 and the installation of Borlaug's statue in the US Capitol on March 25, 2014, the centennial of Borlaug's birth.

On August 26th, 2014, Iran held a centennial observance of Dr Borlaug's birth. Ambassador Quinn spoke at the Iranian celebration. Quinn was the first former U.S. Ambassador ever invited to address a conference organized by the Iranian government.

In retirement Ambassador Quinn continues his work in service to US/ World Agriculture as a Foot Soldier in the Green Revolution promoting food for peace.

JCEP CREATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

NATIONAL WINNER

Jason de Koff
Specialist
Tennessee State University
Old Hickory

Team Members: de Koff, J*1
Specialist, Old Hickory, Tennessee, 37138

IIn 2010, I began my career as an Extension specialist with Tennessee State University. I strive to identify unique opportunities to disseminate information on emerging issues using relevant and engaging learning methods. I believe the following examples make me an excellent candidate for the JCEP Creative Excellence Award.

I received a USDA-NIFA grant in 2012 to build a mobile biodiesel demonstration (Fig. 1) to show farmers the equipment and process of making biodiesel from seed to fuel. This demonstration was also used at local schools to show youth other applications of agriculture and engage them in discussion about bioenergy. I developed a biodiesel bingo game that allowed youth to learn about the different types of feedstocks that could be used to produce biodiesel (Fig. 2). In 2022, I was invited to use this and other materials I had developed as part of the FEM STEM Bahamas Green Energy Workshop where I presented on bioenergy and engaged students in activities related to bioenergy (Fig. 3). In 2015, I was awarded a grant from Southern SARE to develop and implement a curriculum based on biomass energy which also incorporated the mobile biodiesel demonstration. This curriculum won an award from the American Society of Agronomy and can be found on the Extension Foundation's website at https://farm- energy.extension.org/biomass-energy-training-curriculum-tn/ (Fig. 4). Impacts of the train-the-trainer program found that 94% of agents increased their knowledge of no-till production of winter canola, on-farm biodiesel production and the REAP program. Evaluations of workshops that involved the mobile biodiesel demonstration observed increases in knowledge, interest, and awareness of biodiesel production and biodiesel feedstock production. The bioenergy program resulted in over 2,000 direct contacts, over 100,000 indirect contacts, 7 fact sheets, 5 videos with over 30,000 total views, features on RFD-TV, Mother Earth News, the American Society of Agronomy (Fig. 5), and local news broadcasts.

In 2018, I received a grant from Southern SARE to develop and implement a train-the- trainer curriculum focused on soil health which can be found at https://www.tnstate.edu/faculty/jdekoff/SoilHealth.aspx (Fig. 6). As part of the project I also engaged in establishing demonstration plots for Extension agents to use in their programming (Fig. 7) and created a soil health test kit for agents to use in the field (Fig. 8). There was also a fact sheet, which was a NACAA National Finalist, and video which has received over 7,000 views, that were developed as part of the project. Evaluations found that 96% of agent participants increased knowledge of soil health principles.

In 2018, I also received a grant from USDA-NIFA to engage farmers in Extension training related to using drones in agriculture. The workshops that were developed and implemented allowed farmers to "fly before they buy" a drone and engaged farmers on topics that included how drones could be used in agriculture, the laws and regulations for using drones, and different types of drones, sensors, software and their associated costs (Fig. 9). As a part of this project, I also developed a curriculum that was used to train farmers, extension agents, teachers, crop consultants, and research faculty so that they could get their Part 107 remote pilot certification. A number of activities were developed to assist participants in learning the material (Fig. 10). In 2022, I was invited to speak on the drone program for a Crop Science Society of America symposium at their annual meeting and at the Alabama Precision Ag workshop in 2023. Also in 2023, I participated in a USAID Farmer-to-Farmer project where I engaged students at the College of Agriculture, Science and Education in Jamaica in learning about drones and created drone maps of their agricultural research fields (Fig. 11). The drone program resulted in 6 fact sheets, 9 videos (17,000+ total views), three trade publications, and was a NACAA National Finalist in the Search for Excellence, Crop Production. This program engaged over 350 farmers across 14 counties in Tennessee and evaluations found that 54% of farmers increased their interest in purchasing a drone in the next 2 years and 80% of agents had increased capacity to assist stakeholders with questions related to drones and software.

These programs have allowed me to earn success and provide important impacts to stakeholders in Tennessee and other parts of the world. The delivery methods and hands-on, relevant opportunities that I incorporated allowed me to make greater impacts than the material alone would have allowed. I believe these creative additions are the blueprint for developing engaging Extension programs and make me an excellent candidate for the JCEP Creative Excellence Award.

To see Figure images - please go to: https://www.nacaa.com/file.ashx?id=13d48fe9-2210-4940-bcca-b73cba982246&w=2000&h=2000

DAN KLUCHINSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

NATIONAL WINNER

Steven Yergeau
Environmental and Resource Management Agent
Rutgers University Cooperative Extension
Toms River

I plan on attending and presenting at the 2023 National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference (AMPIC) from August 12 to August 17 in Des Moines, Iowa (https://www.nacaa.com/am-pics/des-moines- 2023). This year's conference theme is "Growing: People. Places. Products. Profits." The AMPIC is a showcase for Extension professionals from varied backgrounds to highlight their work and exchange strategies to adapt to challenging situations and new, unique ways to deliver their programming.

Since 2017, I have been the New Jersey State Committee Chair for Natural Resources and Aquaculture. I plan on attending a variety of sessions at the AMPIC appropriate for supporting and increasing my knowledge in these areas. I hope to use this additional knowledge in the programs that I develop and conduct, which focus on water resource protection and sustainable land management. The information that I will receive at this conference will be implemented to better educate the county residents, Master Gardeners, Environmental Stewards, municipal and county government agencies, and non-governmental organizations in Ocean and Atlantic Counties on managing water resources and guiding recommendations on maintaining environmentally-friendly landscapes.

In addition, I hope to share my own program experiences in Natural Resources and Aquaculture with my colleagues. For example, I have partnered with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission to evaluate mosquito control methods for rain barrels. Extension provides information on practices to reduce the potential for mosquitoes to breed in rain barrels. The relative success of these practices, however, had not been previously studied, so this project was developed to evaluate the effectiveness of Extension-recommended mosquito control methods appropriate for rain barrels. Since many homeowners may be reluctant to use rain barrels because of the potential for increasing mosquito populations, having science-based information on how to effectively control mosquitoes allows Extension professionals to assure rain barrel owners that they are conducting the best practices possible. This will also help with wider adoption of rain barrels as a practice and more water being conserved for the future.

Receiving this scholarship would be such an honor as I had the privilege of working with Dan Kluchinski as our Department Chair for a few years before his passing. I hope to respect his legacy by making the most of my experiences at the NACAA AMPIC in Des Moines, Iowa this year.

NATIONAL WINNER

Brooke Latack
Livestock Advisor
University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Holtville

I am applying for the Dan Kluchinski Memorial Scholarship Award to aid in funding my travel to the 2023 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Des Moines, Iowa from August 12-17, 2023. I have been serving as livestock advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension since October 2017. I have been a member of NACAA since 2021. I was able to attend the virtual AM/PIC in 2021, but the 2023 AM/PIC will be my first in-person national NACAA meeting. I have submitted a presentation abstract, several communication award applications, and a search for excellence application. If selected for any of those submissions, I will be able to share more about the

livestock programming done in the desert area of California, including feedlot cattle research and extension. I have also been selected as the California recipient of the Achievement Award that I will be receiving at the 2023 AM/PIC. I had the opportunity to attend the 2022 Chad Reid Western Region NACAA PIC to present a poster, network, and learn from other extension professionals in the western region. It was extremely helpful to hear from colleagues close to my programmatic area and I look forward to learning and networking more with extension professionals on a national level at the 2023 NACAA AM/PIC. Being able to hear research and extension programming done by others throughout the country will provide valuable professional growth that I can bring back to my programmatic area and help provide clientele with an even more robust and effective program. I particularly look forward to learning from others involved in the livestock extension sector and potentially find collaborators for future research and extension efforts. If awarded, the Dan Kluchinski Memorial Scholarship award will help make travel to the 2023 NACAA AM/PIC possible to experience the opportunities presented by NACAA. As I am in the early stage of my career, this professional development opportunity will strengthen my programming and ultimately benefit clientele in the desert area of California.

NACAA Hall of Fame Award

The NACAA Recognition and Awards Committee is proud to present these three 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 of the NACAA Hall of Fame Awards

2023
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award

Larry Howard

Nebraska
37 Years - Retired

Larry Howard has been a valuable asset for Nebraska Agriculture during his 35-year Extension career, providing education programs and community leadership as a single Agricultural Agent/Educator in Cuming County, Nebraska's top agriculture and top livestock county. Larry continues to provide leadership in his community and to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in his role as an Emeritus Professor.

Larry's Extension education program focused on beef, swine, and dairy production for adults and youth. His efforts helped the people of Cuming County become the first and only Nebraska county to garner over $1 billion in market value of agricultural products. The county leads the state and has been in the top 30 nationally in all agriculture products and is in the top five nationally in beef production. In the last five years of his career, his livestock program was expanded to cover ten northeast Nebraska counites. Larry's programs were innovative, cutting edge and were often the first to address local needs. In addition to educating local clients, Larry helped US military members with livestock management issues and hosted out of state and international visitors on numerous occasions. Larry has received 13-National, 14-Regional, and 35-State NACAA awards including the Search for Excellence award as a national winner two times and as a national finalist five times. He has been recognized by UNL for outstanding team programming six times and received service awards from the Nebraska Pork Producers and the Nebraska Beef Council. Innovative and award-winning programs and his desire to make a difference in people's lives are the hallmarks of Larry's work.

Involvement in professional associations has been a mainstay throughout Larry's career in Extension and continues into retirement. He joined NACAA in 1985 and has been involved at all levels of NACAA, the Nebraska Chapter of NACAA, JCEP, ESP and Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association. He has served in leadership roles during four JCEP workshops, four NACAA AM/PIC's, served as NACAA Director on the Board, served as NC Vice Chair for three different NACAA committees and has attended 30 AM/PIC's. He was recognized very early

in his career by receiving numerous service awards including the NACAA AA and DSA. He also received the ESP DSA and the Mid-career award.

Humanitarian activities have always been very important to Larry throughout his life. He has worked with volunteers during his entire career and knows the value of giving back to his community and region. He has been involved in numerous volunteer activities beyond his job assignment and has served in leadership roles in many organizations at the community, county, state, and regional levels. He has received award recognition several times for his volunteer work including being inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, received the prestigious AKSARBEN Good Neighbor award, and his local Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Recognition award.

Larry Howard has made a career of education, leadership, and service with a long record of achievement. The Nebraska Chapter of NACAA is proud to nominate him for the 2023 Hall of Fame Award.

DSA awarded in 1996

2023
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award

Lee Stivers

New York
26 Years - Retired

I have had the good fortune of being involved in food and farming for most of my life, specifically with agricultural research and extension, for thirty-five years. It has been a tremendously interesting, rich, and often challenging professional road. The road carried me through three highly acclaimed land-grant universities: the University of California at Davis, Cornell University, and Penn State University. It allowed me to work with an astonishing variety of horticultural producers: farmers growing hundreds of acres of lettuce in the Salinas Valley of California, farmers managing thousands of acres of processing vegetables in western New York, smaller direct marketing operations in New York and Pennsylvania, organic growers big and small, urban farmers, greenhouse growers both high- and low-tech and even tiny backyard farmers in coastal Guyana. Reflecting on this time, I find common threads woven through these experiences.

Sustainable Agriculture-It's More Complicated Than I Thought. In 1985 I headed off to UC Davis for graduate school, convinced that organic farming was the only thing that could address the problems of modern agriculture. I had been working in New England in food cooperatives, local farms and in developing organic certification standards. My eyes were opened by the scale and complexity of California agriculture and the rigorous agricultural science training UC Davis provided. The concept of "sustainable agriculture" was just gaining traction at that time. It seemed to me more functional, nuanced, and scientifically based. I carried that concept of sustainable agriculture with me throughout my research and extension work in New York and Pennsylvania.

Science is Our Foundation. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to study at UC Davis because that is where I learned to think like a scientist and to do science in the field. I am similarly thankful to Cornell and the Penn State faculty with whom I collaborated. They supported me in doing applied research and publishing it as part of my extension work. Agricultural extension and research go hand in hand, strengthening each other to serve our clientele best.

You Can't Do It Alone. The most productive, impactful, and satisfying experiences I have had in my career have all been collaborative efforts. Examples of these experiences include:

Working as one of three area specialists covering a six-county, 70,000-acre vegetable production base in western New York.

Leading a partnership between Cornell University and New York vegetable producers to establish a research farm in western New York.

Being an integral part of Pennsylvania's statewide team of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) trainers.

Collaborating with twelve states' greenhouse specialists to publish a weekly e-newsletter titled "eGRO."

Teaming up with Pennsylvania co-workers on multiple statewide multi-year variety evaluation trials.

Being a member of a group of faculty, extension educators, and farmers working together on an award-winning beginning farmer project.

My involvement with PACAA and NACAA has been one of the true highlights of my extension career. I sincerely regret not joining earlier when I was with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

DSA awarded in 2009.

2023
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award

Paul Wigley

Georgia
35 Years - Retired

Paul Wigley has devoted his life to the agronomic and economic success of farmers in Southwest Georgia and beyond. His work and volunteer contributions impact the agricultural industry and rural communities across the country and globally.

Paul's career as a University of Georgia Extension agent spanned 1978-2013, including a two- year post-retirement encore contract. After retirement, he served as a crop consultant to some of the top-producing peanut farmers in the United States. In both career roles, Paul conducted local trials for determining the products and practices that help Southwest Georgia peanut farmers deliver the highest crop performance under insect, nematode and disease pressure. In more than 40 replicated trials, Paul evaluated more than 40 products in 80-plus combinations and systems to make recommendations on controlling nematodes and disease in peanuts. More than 800 visitors from across the United States and nine foreign countries have viewed his research plots and replicated trials. His data provides a cornerstone for control recommendations in every U.S. peanut producing state, particularly regarding Rhizoctonia limb, pod, and peg rot. In just one decade – between 2000 and 2010, the application of his research findings led to more than $14 million in additional farm income in Calhoun County.

Paul's work is peer-reviewed and highly lauded. The Georgia Peanut Education for Excellence program recognized Paul three times as the extension agent with the best overall educational program for peanut production in Georgia. The American Peanut Research and Education Society has repeatedly invited him to present to an international audience. He was nominated for the prestigious Bailey Award four times and was honored with the 2009 D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Public Service Extension.

In addition to career accomplishments, Paul also lent his time and expertise to help advance our industry and raise the next generation of agricultural leaders. He served as president and treasurer for the Georgia Association of the County Agricultural Agents and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He is recognized as a premier livestock judge, serving more than 400 county, regional, district and state livestock shows in three states. He also led showmanship clinics, where he taught children about life as well as showmanship. Paul also is credited with four state champions, six reserve state champions, and more than 25 division champions at the state swine show.

His passion for people and his personal ministry is evident in his church leadership, which includes teaching Sunday School, chairing a successful $250,000 capital campaign, and in his musical pursuits. The regionally acclaimed Pachitla Creek Pickers perform bluegrass and gospel music at churches and other venues across the southeast.

Paul's impact over four decades has helped farmers succeed agronomically and economically. He's contributed to the cultural well-being of rural communities and agricultural leadership by helping dozens of young people develop the ethics and character needed to lead on farm and in the agricultural industry. Ultimately, his life's passion and commitment helped create strong farms and a robust agricultural community that thrives generationally.

DSA awarded in 1995.

2023
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award

Janet Schmidt

Washington
38 Years - Retired

"Making the Best Better"

When establishing a working title for embodying the work of Janet L. Schmidt one quickly aligns Janet's work with the motto of 4-H, "Making the Best Better." Janet L. Schmidt is a WSU alumnus who received a BS in Animal Sciences in 1979 and a MS in Adult and Continuing Education in 1981. Caring and compassionate, the WSU Extension faculty member is a long-time advocate of 4-H youth and livestock producers in the state of Washington.

Schmidt began her career with WSU Extension in 1984, serving Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, and Clark Counties in positions including: 4-H Agent, Area Livestock Agent, and County Chair. In 1995, she moved to Whitman County and was a 4-H Youth Educator until 2004 when she added County Director and a mentorship with administration of the WSU Extension Program in Whitman County before retiring in 2021.

To support the vision and mission of 4-H youth development and Extension, Schmidt routinely solicits and secures funding for innovative education programs such as 4-H and FFA Youth livestock field days, 4-H youth robotics camps and other STEM programs, and the Pacific Northwest Sheep & Goat Judges School and Show Management Conference. Schmidt's techniques and examinations of the successes of such programs have been published in peer-reviewed journals and Extension publications and presented internationally, nationally, and locally at conferences, forums, and other events. Her expertise in pasture management has been called upon every semester since 2014 as she disseminates her knowledge to students in the Animal Sciences Equine Management course.

Schmidt's devotion to supporting 4-H youth and educating livestock producers in Washington have not gone unnoticed. Her contributions as an individual and as a member of a team resulted in numerous honors and awards from the National Association of 4-H Agents and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. In addition, she was named Faculty of the Year in 2015 by the WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

Janet has continued to exemplify what it means to be a leader and a mentor through her work with the Washington Extension Agents and Specialist Association (WEASA) and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). At the state level, she has been a constant presence as an officer and as state chair for many committees throughout the years. Perhaps most importantly, she has been an ever-present mentor for new members, helping them navigate the organization and making sure each officer is primed to fulfill their duties. At the Regional level, Janet has served as the Western Region Vice Director and Director.

In the community, Janet has invested herself heavily in serving her stakeholders well beyond her job responsibilities. She chooses to spend her personal time volunteering on Palouse Empire Fair Board, doing market sales, carcass contests, 4-H leaders, fund raising as well as donating blood. Janet leads by example and because of this Washington State and NACAA are a better place. Thank you for your years of service and for "Making the Best Better!"

DSA Awarded in 1995.

NACAA 2023
Distinguished Service Award Winners

NORTH CENTRAL REGION


Illinois
Andrew Holsinger


North Dakota
Rick Schmidt


New Jersey
Rebecca Magron


Arkansas
Amy Heck


Indiana
Bryan Overstreet


Ohio
Shelly Dee Jepsen


New York
April Wright-Lucas


Arkansas
Craig Allen


Iowa
Madeline Schultz


Ohio
Sam Custer


Pennsylvania
Laura Kenny


Florida
Kevin Camm


Kansas
Cade Rensink


South Dakota
Amanda Bachmann


West Virginia
Alexandria Smith


Florida
Frank Dowdle


Michigan
Jeannine
Schweihofer


Wisconsin
Tina Kohlman

SOUTHERN REGION


Florida
Grantly Ricketts


Minnesota
Betsy Wieland

NORTHEAST REGION


Alabama
Bridgette Brannon


Georgia
Mark McCann


Missouri
Gene Schmitz


Maryland
Doris Behnke


Alabama
M. Landon Marks


Georgia
Chris Tyson


Nebraska
Kelly Feehan


New Hampshire
Kelly McAdam


Alabama
Edward Sikora


Georgia
Clark Macallister

NACAA 2023 Distinguished Service Award Winners cont.

Kentucky
Lindie Huffman

South Carolina
Rick Willey

Virginia
Neil Clark

Kentucky
Philip Konopka

South Carolina
David Dewitt

WESTERN REGION

Louisiana
Jeremy Hebert

Texas
Dena Floyd

California
Betsy Karle

New Mexico
Jack Blandford

Mississippi
Trent Barnett

Texas
Tommy Phillips

Colorado
Brian Kailey

Oregon
Melissa Fery

Mississippi
Brady Self

Texas
Ricky Thompson

Idaho
Rebecca Mills

Utah
Joshua Dallin

North Carolina
Jenny Carleo

Texas
Scott Willey

Montana
Shelley Mills

Washington
Steve Norberg

North Carolina
Steve Duckett

Texas
Wes Utley

North Carolina
Dan Wells

Texas
Tyler Fitzgerald

Oklahoma
Chad Webb

Virginia
Scott Jerrell

NACAA 2023 Achievement Award Winners

NORTH CENTRAL REGION


Illinois
Nathan Johanning


Nebraska
Sarah Sivits


Indiana
Molley Hasenour


North Dakota
Anitha Chirumamilla


Indiana
James Wolff


Ohio
Erika Lyon


Iowa
Josh Michel


Ohio
Garth Ruff


Kansas
Travis Carmichael


South Dakota
Jaelyn Whaley


Michigan
Monica Jean


Wisconsin
Carolyn Ihde


Minnesota
Claire Lacanne


Missouri
Tamra Reall

NORTHEAST REGION


Maine
Glenda Pereira


Alabama
Geni Payne


Maryland
Kelly Nichols


Arkansas
Colin Massey


New Jersey
William Errickson


Arkansas
Phil Horton


New York
Katelyn Walley-Stoll


Florida
Danielle Sprague Williams


Pennsylvania
Anna Hodgson


Florida
Daniel Leonard


Florida
Kevin Athearn

SOUTHERN REGION


Alabama
Gavin Mauldin


Georgia
Alicia Holloway


Alabama
Darrue Sharpe


Georgia
Aubrey Shirley

NACAA 2023 Achievement Award Winners cont.

Georgia
Brian Hayes

Oklahoma
Olivia Toothman

Virginia
Laura Maxey-Nay

Kentucky
Jessica Barnes

South Carolina
Andrew Jeffers

Virginia
Roy Flanagan

Kentucky
Nicole Rhein

South Carolina
Janet Steele

WESTERN REGION

Louisiana
Heather Kirk-Ballard

Tennessee
Lester Humpal

Arizona
Juan Arias

Oregon
Scott Duggan

Mississippi
Kyle Lewis

Texas
Jesse Rodriguez

California
Brooke Latack

Utah
Benjamin Scow

Mississippi
Drew Gholson

Texas
Sierra Stephens

Colorado
Scott Stinnett

North Carolina
Daryl Anderson

Texas
David Oates

Idaho
Jason Thomas

North Carolina
Blake Szilvay

Texas
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Montana
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Texas
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