

The County Agent

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**NACAA
President
N. Fred Miller
and Wife Debbie**

Great Lakes, Great Sights, Great Times, and a Great Meeting!

As President of NACAA, I join everyone who attended this year's Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) in expressing our thanks and appreciation to 2007 AM/PIC Chair Phil Durst and the Michigan agents/educators, life members, and volunteers for a job well done! Serving as hosts to over 1400 Extension agents, family members, and guests they, the residents of the Grand Rapids vicinity, and the staff of The Amway Grand Hotel opened their doors to NACAA and made us all feel welcome.

Congratulations also to President Chuck Otte who worked with the above team and our NACAA committees to develop an inspirational and educational program that exposed us to new ideas and skills that will help us "transform the future." This was the focus of the opening night presentation by Jay Laffoon who set the tone for the entire meeting when he advised us that "to transform the future, we need to expect excellence and pursue with passion what we are meant to be." Certainly a multitude of opportunities were available during this year's meeting to pursue excellence with a passion. You can see examples of the quality workshops/training shared during this year's AM/PIC by visiting the NACAA website at <http://www.nacaa.com/ampic/2007/>. All members are encouraged to review these presentations for ideas that can help you in your role as an Extension agent ...and see what you missed!

The Wednesday Tour Day was a highlight of the week for many 2007 AM/PIC participants. Michigan boasts having the second most diverse agricultural production in the United States and this diversity was featured in the 30+ tours offered during this year's conference. The tour descriptions only scratched the surface of the experiences offered to tour participants this year. For example, on a tour of Oceana County, participants got to see cherries being harvested at the NJ Fox and Sons fruit growing operation. They then toured Peterson Farms, the largest fruit processing plant east

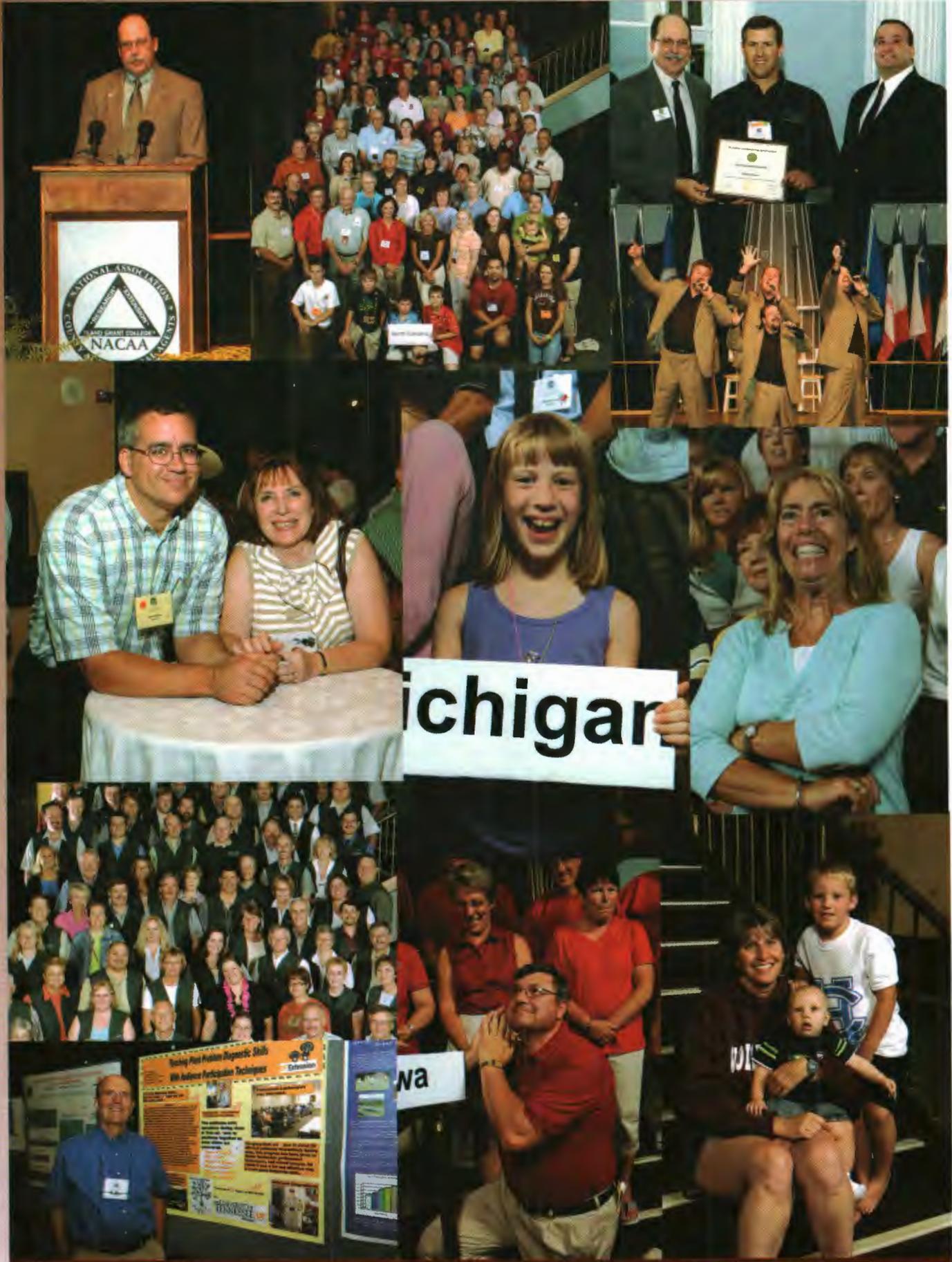
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2007-2008 NACAA Board of Directors, Seated front row (L-R): Leon Church, Secretary, TX; Phil Pratt, Vice President, OK; Rick Gibson, President-Elect, AZ; Fred Miller, President, NC; Chuck Otte, Past-President, KS; Paul Wigley, Treasurer, GA; Back Row (L-R): Steven Munk, Policy Chair, SD; Paul Craig, Northeast Region Director, PA; James Devillier, Southern Region Director, LA; Dirk Webb, Southern Region Director, OK; Michele Hebert, Western Region Director, AK; Chuck Schwartau, North Central Region Director, MN.



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IMPRESSIONS OF GRAND RAPIDS



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President's Message

of the Mississippi River and witnessed state of the art quick freezing techniques. After a short drive, the next stop was the Country Dairy, a farm that produces value-added products such as cheese, ice cream, and chocolate milk while providing local school children with the opportunity to participate in "Moo school." Asparagus production and marketing was featured at the next two stops and participants learned how growers have learned to deal with ever increasing foreign competition. Finally, both the youngsters and the young at heart on the tour were treated to a dune buggy ride over the Silver Lake Sand Dunes and dipped their feet in the chilly waters of Lake Michigan.

The above tour was just one example of the many outstanding tours offered during this year's AM/PIC Tour Day. The day was capped off with some Bar-B-Que at the world renowned Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Surrounded by some of the most beautiful artwork and gardens in the country, everyone "chowed down" and shared their day's experiences and bragged about the quality of their tour. It was a special day that continued the tradition of tour excellence offered to our members each year.

Whether you consider the quality tours, outstanding keynote speakers, informative Trade Talks, Search for Excellence presentations, or the numerous other workshops and seminars, it is obvious that this year's Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference was an exemplary professional improvement opportunity. When you couple this with the opportunities offered your family members and the relative low cost of attending this meeting, it is impossible to beat the value provided by the AM/PIC. Given the success of this year's meeting, future AM/PIC host states have their work cut out for them to match the quality of this year's conference. But if past experience holds true, feel confident that North Carolina ('08), Oregon ('09), Oklahoma ('10), and Kansas ('11) will come through. Mark your calendar now for July 13-17 and make plans to join us in Greensboro for the 2008 AM/PIC. Help us continue the tradition of AM/PIC excellence and learn what we mean when we say North Carolina – A Place to Grow!

Next year, in addition to the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference, NACAA members will also have an opportunity to attend Galaxy III. Mahlon Peterson and Pat Hogue have been doing a great job representing our organization on the Galaxy Planning Committee and plans are beginning to come together. This is a new endeavor for our organization with no precedent or policy manual to follow. The NACAA Board has been given the charge by the voting delegates to participate fully in the planning process for Galaxy III. It is our intent to fulfill this charge within the limits defined by our available resources.

At this year's AM/PIC, Dr. Tom Koonz reminded us that NACAA belongs to its members and not University Administrators. Keeping this in mind, the determining factor for the Board when making decisions relative to our NACAA professional improvement programs will be maximizing potential benefits to NACAA members. The

upcoming year will be a learning experience and the Board recognizes there is a reduced hope for success if it operates in a vacuum of information. The NACAA Regional Directors play an important role helping to communicate the desires of the NACAA membership to both the Galaxy and 2008 planning committees so all members are encouraged to share your suggestions and feedback with them.

Additional challenges for the coming year have been identified by the Development

and Planning Committee and include the development of an online Journal dedicated to publishing peer reviewed articles of our members. NACAA is fortunate to have a dedicated team of individuals serving on National Committees and in other leadership roles. These individuals are willing to "step up to the plate" and form the team that will meet these challenges and make things happen for NACAA. Will you consider joining this team and help transform the future of NACAA? I encourage you to make it your goal to become more active in your state association and perhaps even apply for a national leadership role. It is an excellent way for you to add value to the only professional organization established specifically to meet your professional improvement needs while also increasing your personal value in the eyes of your peers and supervisors.

As NACAA President, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity and privilege to serve you in the coming year. I look forward to the challenges, the shared experiences with other members, and the new and renewed friendships to be forged in the coming year. Chuck Otte and the Michigan team encouraged us to take a look at the future of Extension. As Extension Professionals, join me in the coming year as we strive to grow the skills necessary to take up their challenge and truly begin to transform the future.



N. Fred Miller
NACAA President



Poster Session Winners Announced at 92nd AM/PIC

Applied Research:

National Winners:

- 1st place Elvin Andrews, Georgia
- 2nd Place Charles Pinkston, Alabama
- 2nd Place Aaron Esser, Washington *
- 3rd Place Clint Bain, Tennessee

Region Winners:

- NC George Silva, Michigan
- NE Ronnie Helmondollar, West Virginia
- W Randy Mills, Oregon
- S John Gavin, Arkansas

AWARD SPONSORED BY PROPANE
EDUCATION RESEARCH COUNCIL
(PERC)



Elvin Andrews presented 1st Place Award by
Mark Leitman, PERC

SEDGE CONTROL IN BLACKBERRIES WITH HALOSULFURON AND SULFENTRAZONE

Andrews*, E.L.¹, Czarnota, M.A.²

¹ Extension Agent, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Lakeland, GA 31635

² Extension Specialist, University of Georgia, Horticulture Department, Griffin, GA 30223

There are approximately 800 acres of blackberries (*Rubus* spp.) grown in the state of Georgia, and planted acreage in Georgia and the Southeast continues to rise. As with many of the other small fruit growers, the weeds from the sedge family (Cyperaceae) continue to plague growers. Growers throughout Georgia (and the Southeast) have experienced heavy infestations of yellow and purple nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus* and *C. rotundus*). At present, there are no herbicides labeled for selective postemergent sedge control. There are, however, several postemergent herbi-

cides that are known to be safe to plant in the blackberry family (Rosaceae) and control sedges e.g. Sandea (halosulfuron) and Spartain (sulfentrazone). Experiments conducted in the summer of 2006 (Lakeland, GA) found that both halosulfuron and sulfentrazone provided good control of yellow nutsedge (>80% control) as well as safety to the blackberries.

2nd Place - Applied Research



Charles Pinkston presented 2nd Place Award by
Mark Leitman, PERC

PHOSPHORUS FOR BLOOMING PLANTS

Pinkston*, C.B.¹, Mitchell, C.C.²,
Wheeler, E.J.³, and Cullman and Marshall
County Master Gardeners

¹ Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Coop. Ext. System, Cullman County, Cullman, AL 35055

² Extension Agronomist-Soils, Dept. Agronomy & Soils, Auburn University, AL 36849

³ Urban Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Coop. Ext. System, Marshall County, Guntersville, AL 35976

Garden centers and retail fertilizer companies often promote high P fertilizers for blooming plants with no regard to soil test P levels. Master Gardeners in Cullman and Marshall Counties in northern Alabama wanted to determine if applying a high P fertilizer to a soil that was high in P would actually improve flowering for summer annual flowers. Identical experiments were conducted in 2006 at two locations in North Alabama. Soil test prior to establishment indicated that both sites tested extremely high in ex-

tractable P; no additional P was recommended. Ten treatments replicated 4 times were applied that included various N:P ratios, two commercial fertilizers for blooming plants and poultry broiler litter (a 3-3-2 grade fertilizer). The highest N and P rate applied was equivalent to 120 lb. N and 120 lb. P₂O₅ per acre applied twice during the growing season. Annual blooming plants were planted in each plot and monitored during the growing season. Additional P fertilization had no effect on number of blooms, bloom quality or vegetative quality. Nitrogen fertilization alone up to 120 lb. N per acre produced healthier plants and more blooms at both locations.

2nd Place - Applied Research

FALL FERTILIZATION FOR SPRING WHEAT PRODUCTION IN THE DRYLAND CROPPING REGION OF WASHINGTON

Esser,² A.D.¹, Laney, C.², Swannack, S.³,
Koenig R.⁴

¹ Extension Agronomist Washington State University Extension, Lincoln-Adams Area, Ritzville, Washington 99169.

² Wheat Producer, Lincoln County, Sprague, Washington, 99185

³ Wheat Producer, Whitman County, Lamont, Washington, 99185

⁴ Washington State University Extension Soil Fertility Specialists, Pullman, Washington 99134

Producers throughout the dryland cropping region (8-14 inches precipitation) of Washington continue to adopt conservation tillage leading to increased spring wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) production. Fall applied nitrogen for SW production is of interest to manage workload, capture historically lower fertilizer prices, and improve grain protein in hard wheat. At risk is leaching nitrogen lower in the soil profile below the root zone costing producers and the environment. A

3rd Place - Applied Research



Clint Bain presented 3rd Place Award by Mark Leitman, PERC

EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT WEANING METHODS FOR BEEF CATTLE

Bain*, C. H.¹, Campbell, T. P.², Rawls, E. L.³

¹ Extension Agent I, University of Tennessee Extension, Dyer County, Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024

² Extension Director, University of Tennessee Extension, Dyer County, Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024

³ Livestock Economist, Professor, University of Tennessee Extension, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

The disproportionate weight loss of calves due to stress from weaning can lead to an economic loss for producers. To address the concern and determine the effectiveness of different weaning methods, a demonstration was conducted on 1 beef cattle operation in Dyer County, TN. The demonstration was conducted to determine the difference in total separation weaning, fence-line weaning, and using a plastic weaner method to wean beef calves. The on-farm demonstration was conducted on 104 head of 6-8 month old calves. The calves with the plastic weaners had an average weight increase of 11.2 lbs over a 7 day period post weaning, the fence-line weaned calves had an average weight decrease of 20.3 lbs, and the total separation weaned calves had an average weight decrease of 34 lbs. The average increase in value of the calves with plastic weaners after 7 days compared to the total separation calves was \$70.34/head. The average increase in value when compared to the fence-line weaned calves was \$32.90/head. The results of this demonstration were presented to agricultural extension agents at the Tennessee Western Region Agriculture Marketing

Update. Seventy-five percent of the producers that received this data at a beef cattle producer meeting stated they would consider fence-line weaning or utilize the plastic weaner method. Eighty percent of the producers surveyed stated they would be willing to market their calves in a pre-conditioned sale if the following were required: weaned, bunk fed, double vaccinated, de-wormed, de-horned, castrated, electronically identified and source and age verified.

Extension Education

National Winners:

1st Place, Robert Bellm, Illinois

2nd Place, Dale Baird, Illinois

3rd Place, William Whittle, Virginia

Region Winners:

NC Dennis Bowman, Illinois

NE Susan Schoenian, Maryland

W Janet Schmidt, Washington

S Susan Scott, Arkansas

1st Place - Extension Education



Robert Bellm presented 1st Place Award by Mark Leitman, PERC

ILLINOIS CROP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Bellm,* R.C.¹, Clark, G.M.², Epplin, D.R.³

¹ Extension Educator – Crop Systems, University of Illinois Extension, Edwardsville Extension Center, 200 University Park Drive, Suite 280, Edwardsville, IL 62025-3649

² Extension Educator – Crop Systems, University of Illinois Extension, Mt. Vernon Extension Center, 4112 N. Water Tower Place, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

³ Extension Educator – Crop Systems, University of Illinois Extension, Whiteside County Extension Unit, 100 E. Knox, Morrison, IL 61270

The impetus behind development of the *Illinois Crop Management Conferences* was the realization that other crop-related programs conducted in the Illi-

nois were not meeting the educational needs of Certified Crop Advisers and more progressive growers. The campus-based *Illinois Agricultural Pest Management Conference* is experiencing declining enrollment at least partially due to participant cost, travel and time commitment. Local county *Agronomy Days* are economical and easy to access, but do not provide the depth of information desired by agronomic professionals, or provide a vehicle for cost-recovery by Extension.

The *Illinois Crop Management Conferences* were designed to overcome these programmatic problems. Three regional conferences, each lasting two days, were developed to provide the latest research information in the area of crop management. Regionalization of the program improved participant access, while reducing time and travel costs. Regionalization also allowed each conference to focus its information on local agronomic issues and solutions. With a registration fee of \$100 per participant, Certified Crop Advisers earn up to 13 hours of CEU credit at a reasonable cost per CEU.

Now in their third year, the *Illinois Crop Management Conferences* draw 300 participants annually. Surveys indicate that participants find the format and content well suited to their educational needs.

2nd Place - Extension Education



Dale Baird presented 2nd Place Award by Mark Leitman, PERC

EXTENSION PROGRAMS ADDRESSING SOYBEAN YIELD LOSS DUE TO SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE (SCN) IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Baird,* D.L.¹, Higgins, R.A.², Toman J.³

¹ Extension Educator, Crop Systems, University of Illinois Extension, Rockford, IL 61107-6412

² Extension Educator, Integrated Pest Management, University of Illinois Extension, Matteson, IL 60443

³ Associate Regional Director, Northeast Region, University of Illinois Extension, Matteson, IL 60443

Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) is a microscopic, roundworm that feeds in soybean roots and is the most damaging soybean pathogen in Illinois. Severe SCN field infestations may result in stunted, chlorotic soybean plants. In high organic matter northern Illinois soils, above ground SCN symptoms are seldom observed. The objectives of the program were to provide northern Illinois soybean growers information concerning SCN infestation levels in their fields, provide SCN management recommendations and correct the perception that SCN infestations are primarily only a southern Illinois pest.

Twenty-seven SCN Clinics were held throughout northern Illinois and producers were encouraged to bring soil samples from their fields to the program. Soil samples were screened on site for SCN cyst presence and infestation level. The screening process involved "washing" soil samples through a number 30-mesh sieve and capturing SCN cysts on a number 80-mesh sieve. The screened sample was placed under a dissecting microscope and SCN cysts were counted and expressed as number of cysts per 100 mg of soil. The program included a presentation focusing on SCN biology and management.

One thousand fifty-one soil samples submitted by 449 soybean growers were screened at the SCN Clinics. Ninety-one percent of post program evaluation

respondents strongly agreed or agreed that "as a result of the SCN program I have a better understanding of SCN management". Fifty-five percent of the evaluation respondents indicated as a result of the program they "purchased (or plan to purchase) varieties resistant to soybean cyst nematodes".

3rd Place - Extension Education



William Whittle presented 3rd Place Award by Mark Leitman, PERC

NURTURING EQUINE ENTERPRISES-MANAGING RISK

Whittle*, W.H.¹, Smith, C.E.²

¹ Senior Extension Agent, Farm Business Management, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Page County, Luray, Virginia 22851

² Extension Agent, Animal Science, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Warren County, Front Royal, Virginia 22630

A 2005 American Horse Council study listed Virginia as the 12th largest equine state, with over 239,000 horses. The industry in the northern Shenandoah

Valley is rapidly growing, creating the demand for knowledgeable equine service providers. To determine the current status of the boarding industry, and to address the need for improved knowledge and management practices within this industry, VCE conducted a survey of existing boarding facilities in the northern Shenandoah Valley and used that information to develop a comprehensive conference on boarding business management, "Managing the Risks of Equine Enterprises." Topics covered included liability law, insurance, business planning, barn safety, farm labor, taxation and results of the 2006 Horse Boarding Survey of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Funding for the conference was secured with a grant from RMA, local agribusinesses and registration fees. The program attracted more than 80 participants from Virginia and surrounding states, and more than 30 additional individuals requested program proceedings. A conference evaluation revealed that ninety-four percent of the attendees considered the information useful to very useful. For most topics, there was over a one unit increase (scale = 1 to 5) in knowledge of the subject matter. The majority of participants planned to implement management tools learned; develop business plans (84.0%), protect water quality (62.0%), review liability issues (98.2%), review barn safety protocol (94.0%), review insurance policies (86.3%), develop labor records (57.5%), and review tax issues (89.8%). A six month post conference evaluation will be used to determine practices implemented and to determine future programming.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE - NATIONAL WINNERS

CROP PRODUCTION AWARD SPONSORED BY QUALISOY



Paul Craig presented National Winner Award by Ken Dalenberg, Qualisoy

National Winner BUNKER SILO DENSITIES AND MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTH- CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Craig*, P.H.¹, Roth, G.W.²

¹ Extension Educator, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Dauphin, PA 17018

² Extension Specialist, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802

The science and art of producing high-quality corn silage has changed dramatically in recent years. A great challenge to successful silage production lies in the silo, whether it's an upright, bag, pile, or bunker. Fermentation can be modified through practices such as changing harvest moisture, length of harvest period, limiting oxygen exposure, or incorporating silage inoculants.

However, the most important factor influencing silage quality is the density of the silage pile. In 2004 a study was initiated to determine bunker and silage pile densities in south-central Pennsylvania. The intent of this on-farm investigation was to measure existing silage densities to determine if dairymen were meeting the goal of 14 #DM/ft³ as recommended by researchers from The University of Wisconsin and Cornell University. Since 2004 seventy-four (74) bunkers and piles have been sampled for densities. Fifteen (15) farms have cooperated for three years. Since that time these farms have an average improvement in densities of 7%, with a range from 5% to 53% increase.

Educational programs to provide management assistance for silage producers have included: study result reports; mass media; on-farm and classroom instruction; tabletop displays; the World Wide Web; and personal assistance. Twelve (12) educational events have provided opportunities for more than 1,000 individuals to gain knowledge related to bunker and silage pile management.

FARM AND RANCH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

AWARD SPONSORED BY MONSANTO

National Winner:

THE FARM AND RANCH SURVIVAL KIT PROGRAM

Kerr, * S.R.¹, Tuck, * B.V.², Cosner, C.L.³

¹ Extension Educator, Washington State University Extension – Klickitat County, Goldendale, Washington 98620

² Extension Educator, Oregon State University Extension Service-Wasco County, The Dalles, Oregon 97058

³ Rancher and Farm and Ranch Survival Kit Program Coordinator, Weston, Oregon 97886

The Mid-Columbia River area between Washington and Oregon is home to a rich variety of commercial agricultural enterprises. Small acreage owners are increasing in numbers, too. Extension educators in the region have partnered to deliver financial management educational programs to producers, but attendance was always low. Brainstorming with a local ranch manager, the educators created the Farm and Ranch Survival Kit (FRSK), an educational series delivered to producers at home in a convenient and non-threatening format. The project received funding from the Western Center for Risk Management Education (WCRME). The main goal was to increase producers' knowledge base on key financial topics to promote informed decision making. A direct mailing about the program was sent to agricultural, timber and open space acreage owners in a five-county Mid-Columbia area; 165 people enrolled in the program. Educational installments were created on the topics of business planning, financial planning, interpersonal relations, farm succession

planning, tax and insurance planning and marketing. These publications were sent to program participants and placed on the project Web site at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/RiskManagement.php> for access by wider audiences. Eleven workshops on a variety of related topics were held in conjunction with the FRSK program. FRSK program materials are now being used by other educators throughout the country. Participants reported they had become much more knowledgeable about farm financial management and had taken several financial management action steps. In the words of one participant, "I feel like I went from knowing nothing to be able to make intelligent decisions."

LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURE

AWARD SPONSORED BY TRUGREEN-CHEMLAWN



Dotty Woodson presented National Winner Award by Gary Chamberlain, TRUGREEN Chemlawn

National Winner:

PARK EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Woodson, D. M.

County Extension Agent-Horticulture, Texas Cooperative Extension - Tarrant County, 200 Taylor Street Suite 500, Fort Worth, Texas 76102

City park departments require quality training for new and experienced employees. These trainings are expensive if park employees have to travel to conferences. In order to provide quality education training for park employees in Tarrant County, horticulture County Extension Agent, Dotty Woodson, met with 3 Arlington Park Department supervisors to plan a 2 year education series for park employees. Seven subjects were selected for the series. Arlington Park Department agreed to host the series and agreed to invite other park department employees in other cities in Tarrant County to at-

tend. Tarrant Commercial Horticulture Committee, Extension Program Area Committee, assisted in arranging speakers, writing evaluations, registration, implementation, and evaluation interpretation. Trainings were designed to cover a subject first in the classroom with power point presentations and demonstrations followed by a field trip to cover the same subject matter. Horticulture Extension agents and Extension specialists provided excellent programs on the subjects requested by the park departments. So far, ninety-one park employees attended 4 trainings covering horticulture practices, turf management and tree selection, planting and care. Evaluation surveys showed; 90% of the attendees indicated they would adopt practices mentioned in the training. Retro-post evaluation surveys indicated an average gain in knowledge of 66%.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

AWARD SPONSORED BY IGENITY



National Winner - Larry Howard

National Winner:

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM PROVIDES EDUCATION

Howard*, L.F.

Extension Educator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Cuming County
PO Box 285, West Point NE 68788-0285

Animal agriculture accounts for over 90% of the total farm income for Cuming County and contributes nearly \$525 million to the economy. The importance and significance of livestock is very vital to the area.

The Extension Livestock program has provided education to adult and youth livestock producers in Cuming County, Nebraska and the surrounding area. Programs have explained livestock production, management and

environmental regulations. We have provided tools for producers to increase their environmental stewardship and showed the value of livestock nutrient management. Information is delivered with a variety of teaching methods including workshops, tours, hands-on demonstrations, individual consultations, computers, internet, polycom, satellite conferences, home study courses, radio programs and the news media.

Livestock management issues continue to have a major emphasis in programming efforts. Extension continues to bring current information and the latest research and findings to the producers and related agribusinesses to help them excel in their operations and adapt technologies and ideas that will enhance the environment.

This approach has been successful because it has involved a team approach consisting of UNL Extension staff at the county and state levels, livestock producer groups, agribusinesses, regulatory agencies and most importantly the local livestock producer. Efforts will continue to help build an even stronger livestock program for this area with an increased awareness for environmental stewardship and improved management practices.

REMOTE SENSING AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE

AWARD SPONSORED BY
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

National Winner:

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES ASSOCIATION (NEATA)

Varner,*D.L.

Extension Educator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Dodge County, Fremont, Nebraska 68025

Over the past three years the Nebraska Agricultural Technologies Association (NeATA) has served as a tremendous catalyst and support group for agricultural producers, agribusiness professionals and post-secondary education institutions. This agricultural-based non-profit association was co-founded by University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension and innovative Nebraska farm-

ers and agribusiness representatives that share a common desire to stay abreast of emerging agricultural technologies. NeATA is a grassroots oriented emerging agricultural technology support group that partners with UNL Extension to identify, evaluate and document practical applications of emerging agricultural technologies. The annual NeATA conference and tradeshow provides nearly two million dollars in economic benefit to Nebraska agriculture. The NeATA conference and tradeshow was recognized in the Farm Journal as one of the nation's top twelve agricultural conferences to attend in 2006. NeATA has been instrumental in developing, promoting and conducting timely, focused emerging technology educational opportunities for Nebraska agriculturalist. Facilitating innovative, hands-on educational experiences relative to using aerial imagery in crop production and implementing GPS auto-guidance technologies on the farm are a couple of NeATA's recent endeavors. NeATA maintains one of the most extensive and active agricultural technology information sharing listservs in the Midwest. Retired Congressman Osborne's agricultural staff members routinely sought out the NeATA organization to help address issues, such as irrigation water management, that were important to Nebraska agriculture relative to technology adoption and implementation.

4-H AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

AWARD SPONSORED BY
ROBERT FOWLER, III

National Winner:

AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS FOR YOUTH IN LUBBOCK COUNTY AND THE SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS OF TEXAS

Brown,* C.M.¹, Criswell, M.C.², and Alexander, R.D.³

¹ County Extension Agent – Agriculture, Texas Cooperative Extension, Lubbock County, Lubbock, TX 79408

² County Extension Agent – Agriculture, Texas Cooperative Extension, Lubbock County, Lubbock, TX 79408

³ County Extension Agent – 4-H, Texas Cooperative Extension, Lubbock County, Lubbock, TX 79408

A total of 98% of Texas residents are now 3 to 4 generations removed from the farm, and are not knowledgeable about the importance of Agriculture to our everyday lives and to the Texas and Lubbock / South Plains economies. It is also important to recognize that Youth will have future involvement in the Democratic process that will impact Agricultural policies. In response, Texas Cooperative Extension (Lubbock County) and collaborative partners conducted the following Agricultural Awareness programs during 2005-'06: Children's 4-H Barnyard at the South Plains Fair; Texas Farm Bureau "Planet Agriculture" trailer exhibit with learning modules on cotton, corn, wheat, swine, beef cattle, and dairy products; the Mobile Dairy Classroom; the "Bringing Ag to YOUTH" program that highlighted cotton, entomology, poultry, wool and sheep production, MyPyramid and Texas Agriculture; and the "Ag In the Bag" Youth Agricultural Awareness Fair. These Youth Agricultural Awareness programs reached a total of 9,748 direct contacts and an estimated 369,000 indirect contacts. Participants increased their knowledge and understanding of the importance of Texas Agriculture, as well as their knowledge of agricultural commodities produced in the Lubbock area. This information will allow youth participants to better relate to Agriculture and issues regarding agriculture and natural resources both now and in the future.

YOUNG BEGINNING SMALL FARMERS/ RANCHERS

AWARD SPONSORED BY
THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM
FOUNDATION, INC.



National Winner:

FARM BEGINNINGS: HELPING TO CREATE A NEW GENERATION OF FARM FAMILIES IN SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA

Regional Extension Educator, Rochester Regional Extension Center, 863 30th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904-4915

Farm Beginnings™ was born of a group of Wabasha County, MN, farmers in 1993, asking questions about the future of farming. They realized if a new generation is expected to start farming dedicated help and backing was necessary. From that, Farm Beginnings™ was cooperatively started by the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the Land Stewardship Project (LSP). A farmer-based steering committee provides on-going leadership and guidance to the program with staffing from LSP. The program offers a short-course in the basic concepts of goal setting, financial planning, business plan creation, alternative marketing and low-cost sustainable farming techniques. Many of these classes are taught by farmers with personal experience as well as other experts. The class also offers mentorship opportunities to help new farmers benefit from the experience of others. In the past two years, the program has spun-off to a program entirely operated by the Land Stewardship Project in Minnesota, with input from individual extension educators as steering committee members and occasional instructors. Program success is evidenced in two ways: 1) The program has reached out to initiate Farm Beginnings™ programs in Illinois (Northern and Central), Missouri and Nebraska with support from the Minnesota program. Two of those state programs are under the direction of extension educators. 2) From the first eight years of Minnesota classes, over 300 people have attended, 60% are in some kind of farming operation, and nearly 20% are new farmers who have relocated from urban areas to begin modest farming operations of their own.

SARE

AWARD SPONSORED BY SARE



Stephanie Etter presented Regional Winner Award by Kim Kroll, SARE

LIVING ON THE LAND

Etter*, S.J.¹, Jensen K.S.², Laughlin K.³

¹ Extension Educator, University of Idaho, Canyon County, Caldwell, Idaho, 83606

² Extension Educator, University of Idaho, Owyhee County, Marsing, Idaho, 83639

³ Extension Educator, University of Idaho, Ada County, Boise, Idaho, 83714

The conversion of agricultural land to urban use is a phenomenon so large that it appeared in the July 2001 issue of National Geographic. Idaho has not been immune to this event. Since 2002 University of Idaho extension educators in Southwest Idaho have been using the Living on the Land (LOTL) curriculum to help educate small acreage landowners of the significant impact they have on our natural resources. Topics covered during the 18 week course include soil, water, weed control, pasture management, animal husbandry and marketing. In 2005 we began offering a stand alone LOTL Mini-Series class to the public for the last four weeks of class. Participants in the Mini-Series can choose between classes on livestock production or market gardening each night. In 2006 Idaho LOTL instructors and collaborators received a Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant to expand the program to multiple sites in Southwest Idaho and conduct local research for small acreages. Beginning in January 2007, two LOTL classes are currently being taught in the Treasure Valley. On-farm research and demonstration trials on vegetable varieties, goat and pastured poultry production, and grasses to reduce water use and manage weeds will begin during the summer of 2007. Since the class began in 2002, 166 adults and 8 youth have participated in the course

representing eight Southwest Idaho counties and one Eastern Oregon county. Exit surveys and evaluations have shown that participant's knowledge of land stewardship and resource management increased as well as their preparedness to adopt best management practices by taking the LOTL course.



Debbie Roos presented Regional Winner Award by Kim Kroll, SARE

GROWING SMALL FARMS – AN EXTENSION PROGRAM PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Roos, D.L.*

Agricultural Extension Agent for Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center, P.O. Box 279, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Chatham has a large concentration of farms practicing organic and sustainable agriculture. An Extension program was developed to meet the unique needs of these sustainable producers. The Growing Small Farms program has several objectives: 1) to improve the economic development of small farms in Chatham County; 2) to enhance the environmental quality of small farms by promoting sustainable practices; 3) to help small farmers diversify into new enterprises and new markets, including the integration of livestock; 4) to enhance the quality of life for farmers and strengthen the local food system; and 5) to improve agricultural literacy among the non-farming public. Proactive programming is delivered through a quarterly newsletter, monthly Enhancing Sustainability workshops, a comprehensive website that focuses on sustainable production, and email discussion groups, or listservs. Teaching methods are varied and include lectures, panel discussions, participatory exercises, field days, demonstrations, farm visits, the website, and newsletter. In the past three years, there has been an average of 60 participants at each of the 44 workshops. The audience for the

website has increased 660% since 2002 to over 110,000 visits in 2006. Feedback from evaluations of the workshops, newsletter, website, and individual consultations indicate that these are valuable teaching tools that have made a positive impact on the sustainability of small farms in the area. The Growing Small Farms program has served as a model sustainable agriculture program for other states and other educators use the website, newsletter, and workshops to educate themselves and their clients.



Paula Schafer presented Regional Winner Award by Kim Kroll, SARE

FARM TO CHEF EXPRESS PROGRAM

Schafer, P.J.

Extension Resource Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Saratoga County, Ballston Spa, New York 12020

In 2004, Cornell Cooperative Extension in Saratoga and Washington Counties developed an Agricultural

Economic Development program to assist local farmers in increase market outlets and revenues specifically in the New York City area.

The Farm to Chef Express program helped sustain farms and promote efficient use of non-renewable resources by coordinating delivery to New York City. Through meetings, educational programs, and farm tours, farmers gained a greater understanding how to market their products to New York City chefs. The New York City chefs in turn were able to source New York State products with ease and convenience. Since its first delivery of products to New York City chefs on June 23, 2004, over 30 farmers connected with 25+ chefs selling over \$390,000 at the end of July 2006 of locally grown products.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING EFFORTS SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN NORTHWEST WISCONSIN

¹Wiegand, R.O.

¹ Extension Agent, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn Counties, Spooner, Wisconsin 54801

Management-intensive rotational grazing (MIRG) is a growing alternative for Northwest Wisconsin farmers. MIRG not only fits dairy, beef, small ruminants

and other livestock, it fits an environmental ethic that crosses boundaries between farmers and non-farm neighbors. MIRG doubles the yield of forage over common pasturing. It helps new people to more-easily get into livestock farming. MIRG supports a growing market for grass-fed livestock products. A needs assessment conducted by Otto Wiegand in 2005 showed that grazing/forages was the highest education priority among clients. The Northwest Wisconsin Graziers Network (NW Graziers), formed in 2001 and covering a six-county area, holds pasture walks, winter conferences, grazing schools and other types of meetings to educate prospective graziers at all levels of experience and for all types of livestock operations. Over 500 persons have attended pasture walks, over 200 the winter conferences and over 650 are on the current mailing list. Surveys have been done to find out what graziers need and expect. NW Graziers has received over \$75,000 in grants for education, research and grazing planning. The grazing planner hired in 2006 has done 30 plans covering 2,000 acres and has many more plans in the works. Some type of MIRG is now used by 24% of Wisconsin dairy farmers and 50% of beginning dairy farmers.

2007 American/World Agriculture

Award Recipient

Duane Acker

Duane Acker has served as a professor, dean, university president, administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. He now farms. In 1996, Acker bought a line of used equipment and began operation of his 1,500-acre Iowa farm. Since then, he chaired a group that organized the Southwest Iowa Egg Cooperative and is serving as board chair of the Iowa Agricultural Finance Corporation, which invests, along with producers, in value-added agricultural businesses and also in biotechnology.

During the Ronald Reagan and George Bush presidential administrations, Acker was in charge of food and agriculture programs for the U. S. Agency for International Development, then headed the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and served as Assistant Secretary for Science and Education.

He studied and taught animal science at Iowa State and Oklahoma State Universities, was adviser to hundreds of students and wrote an animal science textbook. He headed agricultural and natural resources programs at South Dakota State University and the University of Nebraska, and was President of Kansas State University prior to his government service.



Duane Acker

2007 NACAA Hall of Fame Inductees

NACAA established the NACAA Hall of Fame Award in 2006. Recipients were evaluated on their Extension programming, state and national association activities and humanitarian efforts beyond the normal call of duty.

The 2007 inductees were Life member Warren N. Sifferath, Minnesota; Life Member, Leslie Firth, Pennsylvania; 51 year Agent George Upton, North Carolina; and Life Member N. John Hansen, Oregon.

This award was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Deere and Company.

Congratulations NACAA Hall of Fame Inductees.



Warren N. Sifferath
Minnesota
36 Years — Retired

2007
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award



George Upton
North Carolina
51 Years

2007
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award



Leslie Firth
Pennsylvania
37 Years — Retired

2007
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award



N. John Hansen
Oregon
31 Years — Retired

2007
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award

2007 Communications Awards Program

AWARD SPONSORED BAYER ADVANCED

RADIO PROGRAM



Liz Felter presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

GARDENING IN A MINUTE RADIO PROGRAM

Eubanks, E.E., Felter, L.A.², Graddy, S.E., Wichman,* T.A.¹

¹ Extension Agent, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Alachua County, Gainesville, Florida 32611

² Extension Agent, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Orange County, Apopka, Florida 32703

Florida's natural resources are increasingly taxed by residents and tourists, and the responsible management of water, wildlife habitat, and energy become more important every year. To help spread sustainable landscape management practices, UF/IFAS recently developed a daily one-minute radio program for NPR and other interested stations. In a short, fun format, Gardening in a Minute shows educate listeners on sustainability issues related to water, plants, pests, wildlife, and quality of life; each show explores a different home gardening or lawn care topic. Gardening in a Minute has several objectives: 1) to introduce gardeners to Florida-friendly gardening practices; 2) to encourage the use of these practices for a more sustainable Florida; 3) to create awareness of University of Florida research and programs; 4) to promote University of Florida Extension resources through the program's Web site; and 5) to create public value for Extension. At the end of each show, listeners are directed to their county Extension offices for more region-specific information

and to the show's Web site, www.gardeninginaminute.com, where they can listen to all past shows. Gardening in a Minute is currently being broadcast in nineteen counties in north central Florida on two NPR affiliates. The show has a listening audience of about 15,000 and its Web site receives about 5,000 visitors per month. Gardening in a Minute launched October 2, 2006 and has been receiving outstanding results. The project team is beginning a syndication process to enter the other Florida markets.



Larry Sagers presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

PUBLISHED PHOTO & CAPTION

National Winner

TAKE TIPS FROM BRITS TO DESIGN A GARDEN

Sagers,* L. A

Extension Horticulture Specialist, Utah State University Cooperative Extension, Thanksgiving Point Office, Lehi, Utah, 84043-3506

These photographs were published as part of a feature story in the *Deseret Morning News*. They were part of a longer series that covered several weeks and included design suggestions based on several English gardens. These pictures and the accompanying article focused on creating a beautiful perennial border. The English are masters at creating spectacular border gardens and Christopher Lloyd was considered one of the greatest of these designers. The author took the pictures of Lloyd's garden at his home at Great Dixter, Kent, England to illustrate

his use of form, color and texture in creating great border garden designs. Photos were submitted in digital form to the newspaper. Copies of the color photos submitted are included as prints and in JPEG form on the enclosed disk. The daily newspaper circulation is 70,000 copies distributed throughout the state of Utah and surrounding states.



Brett Beale and Kristen Wilson presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

SLIDE SET, TRANSPARENCIES, GRAPHIC PRESENTATION

National Winner

INNOVATIVE FENCING AND FACILITY OPTIONS FOR HORSES

Beale,* B.E.¹, Wilson, K. S.²

¹ Extension Educator, Agricultural and Natural Resources, St. Mary's Co., University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 663, Leonardtown, MD 20650

² Regional 4-H Horse Extension Specialist, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, 11975 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

In response to the increasing number of new and expanding horse operations in Maryland, the authors developed a presentation entitled "Innovative Fencing and Facility Options for Horses" with the objective of providing information to horse owners for building good fences and designing facilities that avoid common pitfalls. Many of these

new farms begin with limited acreage in populated suburban areas with heavy traffic patterns. As a result, manure storage, preventing muddy areas, composting capability and maintaining adequate fences are important tools to reduce liability, provide a safe environment and prevent environmental problems. The authors were first invited to give the presentation at the 2nd Annual Maryland Horse Conference to a group of 84 horse enthusiasts. After class survey results indicated 93% of participants rated the program either "Very Good" or "Excellent". The authors gave the presentation again by invitation at the Southern Maryland Horse Conference and were invited to present at an upcoming Mud, Water and Horse Conference for Conservation Professionals. Most pictures were taken by the authors with some from equipment suppliers or colleagues. The presentation was developed entirely by the authors using Microsoft PowerPoint software. The one hour presentation is designed to be given by two presenters. The first presenter covers introductory slides as well as the facility portion of the presentation and the second presenter covers the fencing portion. There are numerous presentation aids such as samples of various types of fencing material, samples of geo-textile material, different sizes stone, and compost samples to pass around the audience. The presentation includes a two page reference guide. A print version of the presentation was also distributed to the audience.



Joshua Payne presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

DIRECT MAIL PIECE

National Winner

POULTRY DISEASE CONFERENCE: PREPARING FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA

Payne,* J.B.

Area Extension Animal Waste Management Specialist, Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Northeast District and Southeast District, 230 W. Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 74401

In response to the threat of a possible U.S. avian influenza outbreak, the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) hosted the 2006 Poultry Disease Conference: Preparing for Avian Influenza at the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa Campus on March 30, 2006. The objective of the conference was to address a potential U.S. poultry outbreak of avian influenza by educating participants on topics such as current avian influenza updates, proper biosecurity measures, diagnosis, mass euthanasia, carcass disposal, and emergency preparation/response to a disease outbreak. Three-hundred brochures were created by OCES staff, professionally printed, and then distributed via direct mail, email, and county extension offices throughout Oklahoma and surrounding states. The Area Extension Animal Waste Management Specialist coordinated all aspects of the conference planning, development, programming and marketing. With approximately 150 individuals attending the event, the audience consisted of state and federal officials concerned with animal health and waste management, University personnel, Cooperative Extension personnel, poultry industry managers, veterinarians, poultry growers and independent producers. Presentations were given by experts from Oklahoma State University; University of Delaware; University of Maryland; University of Arkansas; National Veterinary Services Laboratories - USDA; Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; and Oklahoma State Department of Human Health. This timely conference provided attendees an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge for preparing and responding to a poultry disease outbreak. The conference also allowed participants to network while discussing their potential roles in the event of an avian influenza outbreak.

PERSONAL COLUMN



Jennifer Welshans presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

HOME AND GARDEN PERSONAL COLUMN

Welshans*, Jennifer L.¹

¹Extension Faculty – Horticulture, University of Florida IFAS Extension - Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL 34744

The Home and Garden column is written to educate the residents of Osceola County, Florida on various horticultural topics. These topics include issues that are affecting the horticultural industry and home horticultural practices. Topics have included citrus greening, tree care, landscape design, pesticide services, and storm-scaping. Along with informing readers on certain horticultural topics, this column is also used to create awareness of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Extension and the services it offers, as well as promoting educational workshops. It also is used to direct horticultural related questions to the Master Gardeners' Plant Clinic. The horticulture agent writes the column twice a month. It is emailed to the newspaper's senior editor, where it is edited, titled, and published in the Sunday addition of the Osceola Sentinel, a section of the Orlando Sentinel. The Sunday edition has a circulation of 34,000. It is distributed to homes, businesses, and newsstands throughout the county.

FEATURE STORY



Amanda McNulty presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

McNulty,* A.C.

Extension Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension Service, Sumter County, Sumter, South Carolina.

The Extension Horticulture agent is asked to submit articles for the "Panorama" section of The Item, a county-wide daily newspaper with a circulation of 23,000.

"Panorama" is a Saturday special section with emphasis on gardening, decorating, and home improvements. The Extension writer and the feature editor discuss the topic, trying to find a subject of local, topical interest. In this article, the winter perennial Lenten Rose (*Hellobores orientalis*) was featured because of its prominence in local gardens and its spectacular display at Sumter's Swan Lake Iris Gardens, a local institution visited by thousands of people each month. The writer uses this twice monthly feature article to educate the public on relatively available but often overlooked plant material that will perform well in Sumter County. A local nursery owner reports that clients come to his business with the "Panorama" articles in hand, asking for the specific plant has was highlighted.

NEWSLETTER INDIVIDUAL



Jennifer Schutter-Barnes presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

GARDEN TALK!

Schutter-Barnes, J.L. Horticulture Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Adair County 503 E. Northtown Rd., Kirksville, MO 63501

The Garden Talk newsletter is a monthly publication created to inform gardeners of timely issues such as new variety selection, production practices, insect pests and diseases, horticulture trip opportunities, monthly gardening tips, and upcoming events. The newsletter is a monthly publication that is sent to over 865 people throughout Missouri and southern Iowa, with the majority being in the 16 Northeast Missouri counties, my extension region. People receiving the newsletter include several hundred Master Gardeners, garden club members, garden centers, libraries, county extension centers, agriculture education instructors/FFA advisors, and other interested persons who have requested to receive it. I write the majority of the articles for the newsletter myself, but often ask for contributing articles from Master Gardeners from time to time. The articles are written in Microsoft Word and cut and pasted into Page Maker where they are formatted and graphics or pictures are added. The newsletter is made available on the Adair County Extension website in PDF format at <http://extension.missouri.edu/adair/>. The newsletter is proof read by two office managers, and photocopied in the Adair County Extension Office. After the newsletter has been photocopied, two Master Gardeners tri-fold it and stuff it into self-addressed envelopes which were prepared

by the office manager. The cost of sending it out each month is \$80.00, which is budgeted at the beginning of each year.

Since I started publishing a monthly issue of the newsletter, more people have been informed of upcoming events and programs. The newsletter is great way to advertise upcoming workshops and programs open to the public. Also, gardeners are receiving information on how to identify and control insect pests and diseases, and know what to expect in the way of garden pests and issues each month, thus reducing the large number of calls I received before sending out the newsletter. It has been a good resource for gardeners of all ages.

NEWSLETTER TEAM



Lyndsay Taylor and Dallas Mount presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

BARNYARDS AND BACKYARDS – A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOSTERING A CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP AMONG NEW-TO-THE-LAND CLIENTS

Ehmke, C.C.¹, Heald, T.E.², Peterson, E.Z.³, Mount,* D.E.⁴, Taylor, L.R.⁵

¹ Extension Specialist, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, Laramie, WY

² Extension Educator, University of Wyoming Cooperative Service, Natrona County, Casper, Wyoming 82604

³ Extension Educator, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, Sublette County, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

⁴ Extension Educator, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, Platte County, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201

⁵ Extension Educator, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, Campbell County, Gillette, Wyoming 82716

A multi-agency group of conservation professionals joined together in 2004 forming the Small Acreage Issue team with a goal to foster a culture of stewardship among “new-to-the-land” landowners. One effort of the team has been the development of a quarterly publication *Barnyards and Backyards*. An attractive and professional-looking publication, it is designed to give “new-to-the-land” property managers information needed to better manage land. Distribution is primarily through individual subscription. Subscribers to *Barnyards and Backyards* are from across the US (but mainly within Wyoming and the Western US) and include individuals, businesses and natural resource educational organizations. Typically 5,000 copies of each issue are distributed, though printing runs have been as high as 10,000. Respondents on a 2006 subscriber survey reported that the magazine is effective in answering their questions on land management issues and that they are using the information to change what they are doing on their property. The magazine’s content is developed by members of the Small Acreage Issue Team, undergoes a peer review process, then is edited and designed by the University of Wyoming’s Communications and Technology staff. The magazine is printed and mailed by printing contractor. NACAA members listed as authors on this abstract have all contributed content to the magazine and serve as members of the development team.

VIDEO TAPE/ TELEVISION



Tom Butzler presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

TV SEGMENT OF LADY BEETLES ON WPSX'S PENNSYLVANIA INSIDE OUT

Butzler*, T.M.¹

¹Extension Educator, Horticulture/Integrated Pest Management, Penn State Cooperative Extension – Clinton County Office, Mill Hall, Pennsylvania 17751

I correspond regularly with Maria Hornbien, producer of a weekly segment titled the *Three Minute Gardener* on WPSX's *Pennsylvania Inside Out*, to flesh out new gardening topics. One of my interests is beneficial insects and I explained to the producer how we could create an interesting segment that would be helpful to homeowners. The purpose of the submitted *Three Minute Gardener* segment was to illustrate a common beneficial insect, the lady beetle, and its role in the Pennsylvania landscape. Although I did not edit the taped material, I had several major contributions to the taped segment. A week before the taping, I spent a day walking around Penn State's campus to locate lady beetles preying upon aphid infestations. I spent another day developing the scripts for the segment followed by an additional day taping the segments in which I appear. The submitted segment was aired on August 21, 2006. *Pennsylvania Inside Out* is Penn State Public Broadcasting's public affairs program. The half-hour program focuses on the issues, events and people affecting the communities served by WPSX-TV and Penn State. *Pennsylvania Inside Out*

offers a variety of public affairs, news and informational content during the week.

FACT SHEET



Tina Kohlman presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

BILINGUAL PROTOCOL CARD ASSURES CONSISTENT COLOSTRUM HANDLING

Kohlman*, T.L.

Extension Agent, University of Wisconsin Extension-Sheboygan County, 650 Forest Avenue, Sheboygan Falls, WI, 53085

Raising dairy replacements, the second highest expenditure on the farm behind feed costs, has become more challenging as dairy farms expand or modernize facilities. Adapting to the changing conditions of the operation requires hiring employees who can complete the necessary tasks, specifically skills related to calf management. Those hired may have little or no training and may speak another language (predominately Spanish). In response to this need, this agent developed several protocol fact sheets as part of the Dairy Workers' Training Module III-Calf Management Skills. This specific protocol card was developed for use as a reference and training tool to help producers ensure the task of harvesting and storing colostrum was done properly and consistently, day in and day out, regardless of who performed the task. The fully illustrated, barn-friendly, laminated, English/Spanish protocol card outlines a step-by-step approach for harvesting and storing colostrum.

As part of the Dairy Workers' Training Calf Management Skills bilingual trainings, this protocol card, along with 17 others have been utilized at six pilot trainings for nearly 100 dairy workers.

To date, over 130 protocol cards have been sold or distributed to individuals in the Midwest and seven countries to be use as training tools. In addition to those protocol cards distributed at pilot trainings countless copies have been distributed by agents in other counties for their trainings.

This entry was prepared using Microsoft Publisher, printed with an HP DeskJet 960C printer and laminated with a GBC HeatSeal™ H300 laminator.

PUBLICATION



Adam Downing presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

THE WOODS IN YOUR BACKYARD: LEARNING TO CREATE AND ENHANCE NATURAL AREAS AROUND YOUR HOME

Downing, A.

Extension Agent, Natural Resources, Virginia Cooperative Extension – Northern District, Madison, Virginia, 22727

Landowners with less than 10 acres of forest own 59% of the forest properties in the Eastern United States, yet few forestry and natural resources educational materials or programs have targeted this audience. *The Woods In Your Backyard* is a direct response to this growing underserved audience's desire to steward their property. The publication uses a case-study approach to guide users through a process of creating their own plan while learning basic forest stewardship concepts. It was published

through Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Extension Service (NRAES) in September of 2006 after focus group testing in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia administered by the authors and a formal peer-review through NRAES. To date, nearly 2000 copies have been distributed through the publisher. More than just a publication, this material forms the basis of an educational approach to reach small acreage landowners (1-10 acres) through a train-the-trainer model where approximately 175 individuals have already been trained throughout the Mid-Atlantic to use and further disseminate the material in their professional or volunteer roles. My role in the project as a co-author included: working with the other authors to define the approach, write part of the material, extensive editing, focus group testing, securing & administering grant dollars, distribution of material throughout Virginia and development of supporting training tools for trained-trainers.

Kays, J., J. Drohan, A. Downing, J. Finley. 2006 *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home*. Ithaca, NY: Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service.

WEB PAGE



Doug Mayo presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

JACKSON COUNTY EXTENSION WEB PAGE

Mayo*, D.E., Kent H.S., Jowers, H.E., Brasher, C.L., Elmore, J.P.

County Extension Agents, Jackson County Extension, 2741 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 3, Marianna, FL 32448

Email demayo@ifas.ufl.edu

The Jackson County Extension Web Page located at <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/> was created to provide county residents access to their local Extension staff as well as to University of Florida Extension publications via the Internet. Many of the clientele for Extension are working full time. This web site allows them to access Extension expertise and publications 24 hours a day at their convenience. Since 2001, the first full year the web page was available usage has grown 101%. The Livestock sub-page usage has grown 889% since 2001.

Each major educational program has a link from the home page, so interested clients know which agent to contact by phone, visit or email. Each sub-page also provides a direct link to Extension publications of interest online as well as links to web sites specific for that program area. The web page has a calendar of events to keep local residents current on upcoming programs and activities in the area. The web site also provides directions to the office, a directory of custom service businesses and a links page with a listing of web sites of interests to county residents. There is even a sub-page linking local weather information.

The web page was developed using Microsoft Front Page. The web page server space is provided by the University of Florida. Since the authoring agent works with livestock production, this particular link has been more fully developed. Heather Kent, the county 4-H agent has also developed an extensive program page for 4-H members, volunteers and youth.

LEARNING MODULE/ NOTEBOOK



Tina Kohlman presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

CALF MANAGEMENT SKILLS MODULE BRIDGES THE COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN DAIRY PRODUCERS, EDUCATORS AND EMPLOYEES

Kohlman*, T.L.¹, Miller, Z.A.²

¹Extension Dairy & Livestock Agent, UW-Extension, Sheboygan County, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin 53085

²Extension Dairy & Livestock Agent, UW-Extension, Outagamie County, Appleton, WI 54914

Raising dairy replacements, the second highest expenditure on the farm behind feed costs, has become more challenging for dairy workers. Adapting to the changing conditions of the operation requires hiring employees who can complete the necessary tasks, specifically skills related to calf management. Those hired may have little or no training and may speak another language (predominately Spanish). To address this need, this agent created Dairy Workers' Training Module III-Calf Management Skills in both English and Spanish. This module includes: goals and objectives; training instructions; teaching outline; self-playing PowerPoint with voice-over; speaker notes; 18 industry-approved, calf protocol cards; fact sheets; and evaluations all designed to be easily replicated by educators or producers for on-farm bilingual hands-on trainings.

Pre- and post-tests (n=91) from six bilingual calf skill trainings indicate participants increased their knowledge and understanding an average 1.3 points (on a scale of 1 to 7) on eight calf

management skills. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest) participants ranked the program 8.3. After one pilot calf meeting, one producer said, "The two gentlemen I sent came home quite enthused and quoted verbatim all the things that I have been trying to teach them about calves through the years."

Materials within the module were created using Microsoft Office 2000 software. The binder module was duplicated using in house equipment. The CD version was created and duplicated professionally by the Babcock Institute.

To date, over 70 modules in the form of hardcopy or CD and 63 calf management protocol cards have been sold or distributed to individuals in the Midwest and seven countries.

BOUND BOOK



Jane Martin presented National Winner Award by Bruce Spesard, Bayer Advanced

National Winner

THE BACKPOCKET GARDENER

Martin,* J.C.¹, Chatfield, J.²

¹ Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension, Franklin County, Columbus, Ohio 43210

² Extension Specialist, Ohio State University Extension, Center at Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691

The objective of The BackPocket Gardener project, done in conjunction with the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association, was to produce an easy-to-use

guide for garden center employees that answers common questions received from customers. It was designed for employees to carry with them in a pocket for quick access and use. Extension team members interviewed garden center managers and employees to arrive at the most common questions, and then wrote the answers; the contents were peer-reviewed. Extension team members developed the contents in 2005 and early 2006 and the guide was published late in 2006. The final layout and printing was done by a professional printer working with the Association; first printing was 2500 copies. Martin assembled, reviewed and edited all of the contents, authored four chapters, contributed images, was the lead editor, and proofread the entire work. Chatfield authored three chapters, contributed images and proofread the entire work. BackPocket Gardener was introduced at the 2007 OSU Nursery Short Course; 250 copies have been sold to date.

Publication Deadlines

The County Agent

November, 2007

Deadline for Articles: October 15, 2007

Mail Date: November 1, 2007

January, 2008 Issue

Committee Awards Directory

Deadline for articles: November 7, 2007

Mail Date: December 5, 2007

April, 2008 Issue

AM/PIC Issue

Deadline for articles: March 1, 2008

Mail Date: March 28, 2008

2007 NACAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

North Central Region

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Indiana

Mike Ferree
Daniel D. Kirtley

Kansas

Scott C. Gordon
Gregory W. McClure

Michigan

Amy Irish-Brown
Daniel B. Rajzer

Minnesota

David Pfarr

Missouri

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Randall Saner

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N. Tony Anderson

North Dakota

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South Dakota

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Wisconsin

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Wes Smith
Tim Varnedore
Johnny P. Whiddon

Kentucky

Rankin E. Powell
Jason R. P'Pool

Louisiana

John A. Chaney
John M. "Mike" Rome

Mississippi

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Glenn Hughes

North Carolina

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Allan C. Thornton

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Tennessee

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Maine

David T. Handley

Maryland

David A. Martin

New Jersey

William T. Hlubik

New York

David H. Chinery
Stanley (Lee) Telega

Pennsylvania

Timothy E. Elkner
Robert Pollock

West Virginia

David Seymour

2007 NACAA Achievement Award Winners

North Central Region

Illinois

Aaron N. Dufelmeier

Indiana

Jon R. Neufelder

Kansas

Amy R. Jordan

Michigan

Gerald May
Matt Shane

Missouri

Marcia Shannon

Nebraska

Delroy Hemsath

North Dakota

Bill Hodous

Ohio

Eric Barrett

South Dakota

Rod Geppert

Wisconsin

Jerry Clark

Southern Region

Alabama

William Kenneth Kelley

Arkansas

Cindy Ham
Stewart K. Runsick

Florida

Pamela R. Mattis
Maia McGuire

Georgia

Rusty Harris
David B. Langston, Jr.
Bobby Smith

Kentucky

Carol La Faver
Paul Sizemore

Louisiana

Benjamin L. Legendre
Don Reed

Mississippi

Trey DeLoach
Steven W. Martin

North Carolina

Kevin E. Johnson
Debbie Roos
Diane Turner

Oklahoma

Danny P. Cook

South Carolina

James F. Hodges

Tennessee

Tammy L. McKinley
Alice J. Rhea

Texas

Landry Lynn Lockett
Brandon M. McGinty
Langdon Reagan

Virginia

Adria C. Bordas
Matthew A. Lewis

Western Region

Arizona

Jack J. Kelly

California

C. Scott Stoddard

Colorado

Thaddeus R. Gourd

Idaho

Wayne B. Jones

New Mexico

Tom Dean

Oregon

Cory Parsons

Washington

Norman Suverly

Wyoming

Dallas Mount

Northeast Region

Maryland

Shannon P. Dill

New Hampshire

Carl Majewski

New Jersey

Mary Cummings

New York

Roberta M. Harrison

Pennsylvania

Stanley A. McKee

West Virginia

Georgette F. Plaugher

2007 NACAA Horticulture Pre-Conference Tour

By: Jennifer Schutter, MO; Jo Ann Robbins, ID; Dotty Woodson, TX; Norman Nagata, HI; Larry Sagers, UT; John White, NM; Jim Hruskoci, NE; Jack Kelly, AZ; Brian Jervis, OK

Nine NACAA members from nine different states including Hawaii, toured five horticultural stops on their pre-conference tour on Saturday, July 14, 2007. Tom Dudek, a Michigan agent, was our host for the tour.

The first tour stop was the Holland Municipal Farmers' Market in Holland, Michigan, with about 53 farmers offering everything from blueberries and other locally grown produce to cut flowers, herbs and perennial plants, Dutch bread and pastries and meats. Candy Todd, Holland Market Manager, provided an overview of the market management, selection of vendor process, cost to vendors and quality control.



The second stop on the tour was the Mechanical Transplanter Company located in Holland, Michigan. With a work force of 21, Mechanical Transplanter Company commands an impressive 50% market share of United States made transplanter equipment and their products are sold throughout the world. The company manufactures a line of transplanters, plasticulture equipment, and their newest addition, a series of push and tractor drawn vegetable precision seeders.

Celery is one of the principle crops in Ottawa County Michigan. The third stop was to Schreur Farms in Hudsonville where Bruce Schreur gave us a wonderful and informative tour of his 140 acre celery operation. We toured the harvesting, cleaning, grading, and packaging facilities of the intensively managed celery crop on the muck soils of Hudsonville. The celery is sold as fresh packed and processed to such companies such as Campbell foods.

The fourth stop was to Spring Meadow Nursery, a family operated (fourth generation), nursery with 17 acres under glass and 80 acres in field production. They specialize in vegetatively grown annuals and perennial ornamental plants. Current production is in excess of 350 species, 3 1/2

million plants with gross receipts estimated at \$10 million. All plants are grown and propagated in state-of-the art propagation and growing facilities.

The Glass Corner Greenhouse in Grand Rapids was a superb fifth stop. They are primary propagators of plants from many different companies throughout the country. Their extensive demonstration gardens were a rainbow of colors. Each of the 20 garden beds contained 22 varieties each of almost every new vegetative annual from alternanthera to verbena. They also had 263 urns, 142 decorative pots, 200 hanging baskets and 50 other planters. They use the garden to show potential costumers what they need to feature for outstanding plants for their retail customers.

The final stop on the tour was to the Kent County-Michigan State University Extension Office where the group was treated to a picnic dinner, with a tour and report on the extensive "Grand Idea

Gardens" which began 3 years ago. From an empty site, gardens were designed and installed with most of the work done by volunteers. Funds were donated and raised by the sale of personalized paving bricks, plant sales and other fund raisers. The garden was initially filled with decorative pots and annuals while the beds were developed and planted with unique perennial plants. Rebecca Finnaran, Kent County MSU Extension explained the gardens, the mechanics of her education program and the Kent County Master Gardener, Junior Master Gardener, Master Naturalist programs where 500 Master Gardeners donate volunteer services.

Tour participant Jennifer Schutter commented, "this was an excellent opportunity to observe quality horticultural operations in Michigan - and allowed our group to take home useful horticulture tips to use in our daily teaching and educational postitions".



2007 NACAA Animal Science Pre-Conference Tour

Investigating Michigan Livestock Production Systems & -the Michigan Livestock Industry

By: Roger Elliott, Steven Gaul, Janet Schmidt



Front row, kneeling: Phil Taylor, MI; Joan Petzen, NY; Mark Stewart, MO; Amy Schleicher, MO; Roger Elliott, FL; Robert Mickel, NJ; Barry Foushee, NC; Cory Parsons, OR; Julie Smith, VT; Randy Mills, OR; Cynthia Gregg, VA
Back row, standing: Richard Garrad, ID; Roberta Harrison, NY; Steven Gaul, FL; Lisa Kempisty, NY; Janet Schmidt, WA; Carol & Gene Schurman, PA; Susan Kerr, WA; Chet Parsons, VT; Lou Neuder, MI; and Velmar Green, Green Meadow Farms.

The 2007 NACAA AM / PIC Animal Science Pre-Conference Tour, hosted by Michigan was a tremendous success. Attended by extension agents and specialists from twelve states, the tour was organized by Phil Taylor, Michigan State Extension Dairy Specialist and the NACAA Animal Science committee members, Barry Foushee, Mark Stewart, Randy Mills, and Gene Schurman. The agents were provided an excellent overview of the agricultural practices in Michigan. Tour members learned that Michigan has the second largest diversity of crops in the country behind California. Participating agents were given a glimpse of the livestock management practices used by farmers in Michigan. A recurring theme throughout this tour was waste/nutrient management. The Michigan farmers in cooperation with the university and regulatory agencies have developed innovative ways of handling this challenging issue. The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) certifies farms once they achieve certain standards.

The first stop on the tour was Herbruck Poultry Ranch, a large egg laying operation. They currently employ 300 people and house about 4 million layers on 2 farms and several contract operations. Houses were originally 50 feet wide and now are 200 feet by 450 feet with six layers of hens. One would think that the odor from this facility would be significant. However, the facilities have a system of belts that dry the manure for three days before transporting it to the collection building. At this point the odors are minimal. The manure is then sold wholesale to area farmers for fertilizer. The fertilizer analysis is 4-3-2 with 8% Ca. The organic nitrogen component is about 80 pounds/ton. Pricing varies by season from \$27/ton during the summer to \$35/ton at peak application time in the spring. Herbruck's also sells the manure in pellet form, a more desirable product because of ease of transportation and application.

The farm's largest customer, Meijer grocery, recently requested an organic product. Herbruck's obtained 6,000 organic layers a few years ago and currently has 400,000 contract layers producing brown, organic eggs for their customers. Production costs for organic eggs increases (\$15/bu corn, \$14/bu soybeans) and translates into a higher retail price (\$3.49/doz organic vs. \$1.00/doz traditional). As demand for organic products increases, Herbruck's will have the infrastructure in place to meet this growing market.

The tour continued on to the Michigan State University campus. A brief stop was made at their manure composting facility where waste from the 170 cow dairy herd is processed. The resulting compost is utilized by the landscaping crews across campus. The agents were then given a tour of the state of the art Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health. This facility is the first line of defense in alerting the public to the presence of infectious animal diseases. The center also has a Level 3 Biohazard Lab which is critical in dealing with highly contagious diseases such as rabies. The lab runs 1.2 million tests annually and receives samples from around the country. Several MSU faculty presented information on the MSU animal science department, livestock bin composting, Michigan's mandatory animal ID program and the corn-picker software that analyzes the differences in costs between corn varieties for dairy herds. Next stop on the tour was at the NorthStar Cooperative and AntelBio. NorthStar is a farmer owned cooperative existing since 1944. Beginning primarily as a Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) organization testing for somatic cell count and butterfat %, NorthStar and AntelBio have evolved to include additional services such as semen sales and full diagnostic testing for Leukosis, Bovine Viral Diarrhea, and Johne's disease. Dr. Todd Byrem of AntelBio stated that there are many pieces of information hidden in the standard milk sample, and they are continuously

developing reliable tests to quantitatively detect and measure for these factors at their modern innovative facility.

Green Meadow Farms, a third generation family farm, was the next stop. This Holstein dairy farm has 6,500 acres of land and a herd of 9,500 cows. The herd is producing 250,000 pounds of milk daily or 27,000 pounds of milk per cow per year. Their commitment to people, animals and the environment was noticeable. The waste management system included a sand separator and a recently constructed methane digester. Electricity from this operation will be sold to the local power company. The farm also has a unique arrangement with MSU. The training center for dairy professionals is housed on site and provides students with valuable, hands on training, in the veterinary medicine and animal science programs.

At the conclusion of the first day, the group had the opportunity to shop at Cabela's in Dundee, Michigan followed by dinner at a nearby steakhouse.

Matt Shane, Michigan Extension Livestock Agent met the group the next day at Lamb Farm in Manchester, MI. Lamb Farm is a 260 acre organic sheep farm owned by John and Suzanne Smucker. With advice and consultations from Matt, the Smucker's have evolved from a crop farm to their present flock of mostly Corriedale X Suffolk ewes bred to Dorset Rams. They additionally run about eight steers that they grass finish but are not certified organic. The Smucker operation includes pastured broilers and laying hens, and a small greenhouse. Lamb and beef are sold mostly by direct marketing of whole and half carcasses. The meat is processed through a USDA inspected facility.

A big challenge on any organic sheep farm is the management of internal parasites and it is no different at Lamb Farm. Matt Shane worked with the Smucker's to develop a worm control program. They graze small paddocks at low stocking rates at a rate in which the spring lambs never graze the same paddock twice unless faced with dry conditions such as experienced this year. The steers follow the ewes and lambs on the paddocks consuming many of the parasite larvae that the sheep leave in the paddocks in a process known as inter-species grazing or companion grazing. Ewes are routinely checked for parasites and those that are least resistant are culled. Food grade hydrogen peroxide is added to water. Ewes are wormed with an organic, garlic based dewormer each fall.

Pastures are fertilized only with composted material from local horse farms and fair grounds. The horse manure and shavings/straw are composted on the farm in windrows and turned by a tractor driven turning device to keep the material "cooking" at a temperature above 130 degrees to kill pathogens and weed seeds. The material is then spread on pastures with a standard manure spreader.

After departing the Lamb Farm, we traveled a few miles down the road to the scenic Campbell Thoroughbred Horse Farm. Our host was Patrick White, Stable Manager. The farm is on less than 10 acres yet is very well laid out to accommodate this diversified horse operation. Thirty horses

are on site and include mares with foals, stallions, yearlings and horses in training. The facility hosts three barns, one each for mares, stallions and horses in training and a quarter mile race track. The horses are turned out daily in spacious paddocks with three sided loafing sheds for protection from the weather. Fencing materials for the paddocks were either the traditional black plank fence that one would find in Kentucky or oil sucker rod passed through black painted posts. Our tour guide shared that the operating expenses were \$40,000 per month for the farm. The farm employs 10-15 people year around with another 10-15 employees at the farm's barn on the track. The employees are well compensated thus there is good longevity with minimal turnover. Campbell Horse Farm has a neighborly agreement with Lamb Farm for the manure usage. All the manure produced at the horse operation is trucked to Lamb Farm for composting and application to the fields for the organic lamb enterprise. As a point of reference, one average size horse produces 45 pounds of manure and urine per day. Multiply that by 30 horses and that amounts to approximately 246 tons of manure per year.

And yes, the horse can see through those "things" on their heads! Those things are called fly masks, which protect the horses' eyes from annoying flies and provide shade and dust protection. They are made of a material similar to a screen on a window only softer. Once acclimated to the masks, horses seem to prefer wearing them in the summertime. We thanked our gracious host and boarded the bus for our next stop.





Dave and Joan Lutchka hosted the next tour stop. The Lutcka Angus farm is one of the top producers of registered Angus in the state of Michigan. The 100 acre farm was established in 1967. They currently produce about 10 breeding bulls and 15 heifers per year. As their children have grown and left the farm they have made modifications to the ranch to allow them to work the cattle by themselves. They have practiced AI for the past 28 years to achieve better breeding. Dave discovered that keeping cows cool in the heat of summer substantially increases breeding success. Lutcka cattle are very tame due to frequent handling and are prized by 4-H youth around the state.

Joan also has five acres of irrigated garden that produces over 30 crops. She sells these vegetables and cut flowers right off the farm. She also recently organized a farmer's market that now has 9 other growers. She takes her crop of tomatoes, onions, cucumbers and sunflowers to market once a week during the growing season. The interaction with customers on her farm contributes to the good relations they have with neighbors in an area whose population is rapidly increasing. The Lutcka family shared a tasty meal of hamburgers and several dishes made from vegetables right out of the garden with tour participants.

Upon arrival at Barton Hog Farm, we were warmly greeted by Mike Barton, owner and founder of the operation. Mike talked about how their business was structured as a C Corporation so it could be passed on to future generations. He gave us a brief slide presentation which provided a historical overview, discussed future plans and shared his management philosophy. Successful management strategies that have worked for Bartons' included: 1) work with the community for siting of facilities; 2) work with contractors so all are successful; and 3) respect and take care of employees to promote longevity and good relations.

Barton Hog Operation comprises 4,000 acres total – 2,000 acres at the location we visited and another 2,000 at his son's farm. They have 5,000 sows and sell 100,000 to 130,000 hogs per year. At the Mike Barton site, they have a state of the art feed mill that processes over 15 different rations. They grow approximately 250,000 bushels of corn and contract another 750,000 bushels. They store some product on site and rent an elevator for the storage of the balance of the corn and other grains. The mill processes one million bushels of corn each year. They raise all their own gilts that are primarily Yorkshire-Landrace crosses. One of the employees buys Duroc boars for the sire breed. Selection is heavily based upon good legs, structural correctness and Porcine Reproductive & Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) free. Boars are quarantined for 30 days then re-evaluated for PRRS before exposure to others pigs. Trained employees do the collection from the boars then perform fresh insemination of the sows and gilts. Hogs are marketed at 280 – 290 pounds on average.

Some interesting statistics about the operation include: 45 full-time employees, several part-time employees; 95 percent of the employees have been employed by Barton's for 10 or more years; they negotiate 7 – 10 year contracts with each contractor; 620 pigs are weaned each Wednesday; they realize 11 pigs born per conception; 9.3 pigs are weaned per conception; they have a 75 percent conception rate; and a 21 day weaning at 10 – 12 pounds per pig. The Barton operation put considerable emphasis on being self-sufficient, being a good neighbor and strictly adhering to the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). They were a debt-free, profitable, impressive enterprise. Thank you for being such gracious hosts!

The animal science committee, with the help of local agents, put together an excellent tour this year. Tour participants had the opportunity to see the diversity of the livestock industry in Michigan. The focus on nutrient management, a hot topic anywhere in the country, allowed agents to see how the challenges are being addressed in Michigan. Successful farming operations have made the commitment to managing waste in a sustainable manner and are reaping the benefits.

As tour participant Cory Parsons observed, livestock agents are continually challenged to keep up with the latest and greatest production techniques. This tour provided exposure to new ideas and techniques utilized in Michigan and increased my awareness of the problems experienced by their producers.

The animal science committee would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the 2008 Animal Science Pre-Tour in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Call of the Week



We encourage County Agents to submit some of their humorous, strange or unusual calls you've had over the years. These are the ones that make you shake your head in amazement or just tickle your funny bone. We know you've had some. Take a minute and E-mail them to us at nacaemail@aol.com or send them by snail mail to NACAA, Attn: Call of the Week, 252 N. Park St. Decatur, IL 62523.

Every month I report to my Extension Board the Question of the Month. For March 2007, I had several. The first one started my month off just right and it may take the all-time prize for Question of the Month.

A Dog Named Orchid

A couple excitedly came into the Extension Office and said, "This is the Extension Office. I bet they know the answer." There is nothing like a little pressure. I asked if I could help them. They said, "Can you tell us the name of a Hawaiian flower that starts with an 'H.'" My brother-in-law has one. I had never been to Hawaii and my knowledge of Hawaiian flowers is limited. So, I guessed and said, "Is it a hibiscus?" They responded, "No, it is a Hawaiian flower." I thought for a moment, thinking of Hawaiian flowers that started with an "H." I thought to myself what is a popular Hawaiian flower and ignore, "it starts with an H." I took another shot and said, "Is it an orchid?" "Yeah, Yeah, that's it," they responded. We are going to name our new dog Orchid! We knew you could help us. I said, "I am glad I could help." After they left, I thought to myself, I feel sorry for the dog who is going to spend the rest of its life being called Orchid. What will the other dogs think?

First Alternate Question of the Month:

A man from Missouri, a former MU Extension Community Development Specialist, called me. He knew that Marysville, Kansas was the Black Squirrel City. He is wanting to repair a

stuffed black squirrel (He needs a 2" square section of fur) and wanted to know if anyone kills them. I said in Marysville there is an ordinance protecting the black squirrel and it has a \$75 fine if you kill one. I said sometimes a squirrel dies and the City might remove the dead squirrel. I recommended that he call the City of Marysville and see if someone finds a dead black squirrel to "keep it" and maybe they could send it to him.

Second Alternate Question of the Month:

I had a man come in say he has seen two large white turtles. He said he has mentioned this to people and they think I am crazy. I said it is possible to have white turtles. They are called albino turtles and are rare. I said you should take a picture or capture the turtles. Turtle collectors prize having albino turtles in their collections.

Third Alternate Question of the Month:

I received an E-mail from a man in Cowley County, Kansas, who was having problems with yellow belly sapsuckers (a bird) putting holes in his pine tree. He managed to find an old board report from 2003 via the web where I wrote about this same problem. I talked to him on the phone and told him that there is not a lot to do except apply an insecticide to protect the tree and that he could put burlap or some other covering around the area. He was pleased with the answer and response. I was curious how he found this old report. I tried doing a search using Google and to find that particular report you would have had to look through several pages of search results.

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I first want to take this opportunity to thank NACAA Past-President Chuck Otte and NACAA board for having the faith in my abilities to appoint me as the NACAA Representative on the Journal of Extension (Joe) board. I have some very large shoes to fill in following Gary Gao of Ohio.



Keith Mickler
Georgia

I have attended two JOE board meetings and participated in two conference calls with JOE board members representing other professional extension organizations. In this past year I have certainly learned a lot, tried my best to assist JOE and represent the best interest of NACAA members.

After a year of service on the JOE board I am still trying to figure out how much this position encompasses. There are limitless opportunities for a person who wants to help NACAA and JOE. I have followed in Gary's footsteps as he did Glenn Rogers and got on the Marketing and Public Relations Committee during my first year. I was assigned the duty of chair of the JOE financial records auditing committee. The committee executed its first internal audit at the last JOE board meeting this past June and will do so again this coming January.

As stated last year by Gary Gao: "JOE IS NOT AVERAGE ANYMORE."

JOE is our Journal!

Purpose of Statement for JOE:

The official refereed journal for the United States Cooperative Extension System since 1963.

JOE

Provides a peer validated outlet for extension professional's scholarly work

Offer a vehicle to share ideas and foster innovations across the nation

Expands the knowledge base and improves effectiveness of extension educators

What is in it for authors?

Provide outlet to publish work

Way to share ideas and foster innovations

Demonstrate program impacts

Enhance writing skills

Articles published in JOE carry significant weight in promotion and/or tenure

JOE is found in tow data bases: AGRCOLA and AGRICOLA

Blind peer review process

Readership is of a broad audience

What is in it for readers?

Learn about programs from across the nation

Contains new ideas and helps validate existing programs

Expands knowledge base

Improves effectiveness of educators

Features full-site keyword search and archives back issues

Available online free of charge

In 2007 the submission and editorial review numbers are as follows:

122 submissions received and reviewed

18% (22) rejected by editor as unsuitable for JOE

30% (37) returned by editor to author for revision

52% (63) accepted by editor as suitable for review and/or publication

JOE has received 11 request and granted permission for use of articles published in the journal.

JOE serves as a forum for emerging and contemporary issues affecting Extension education. JOE is written, reviewed, and edited by Extension professionals, sharing with their colleagues successful educational applications, applied research findings, scholarly opinions, educational resources and challenges on issues of critical importance to Extension educators. It is a place to get new ideas and validate existing programs.

JOE currently has 19 articles waiting for full review and 12 for partial review.

There are currently 97 articles waiting for publication with at least a four month wait to be published. Saying that, if you would like to have papers published in JOE, do not wait until 2 months before your promotion and/or tenure packet is due. Start now, write and submit manuscripts on a regular basis.

JOE is still in need of reviewers. If you have published a few refereed journal articles and would like to be considered for a reviewers position with JOE, please let me know. Please email me: mickler@uga.edu if interested.

How Does JOE Cash Flow, by institution subscriptions with JOE and the National Job Bank. The National Job Bank provides access to a broad range of faculty positions across teaching, research, extension and outreach as well as to other professional positions involving education, research and/or outreach missions. Outreach includes non-formal adult and/or youth education, continuing education, credit instruction, extension education, distance education, distance learning, service learning, civic engagement, economic and workforce development, or community-based education as well as extension programming in agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer science, 4-H/youth development and community and economic development.

As we all know, there is less money to go around. The JOE board has done well to keeping the journal published without having to ask for more assistance from our land grant institutions. The cost to run even an electronic journal is more than you would expect, that's what I experience and learned at my

first board meeting. The major savings between a print and electronic journal is print cost. JOE still incurs all other expenses associated with publishing a journal.

Having served as southern region vice-chair and national chair of the communications committee I felt lost at the annual meeting in Cincinnati for the reason that I had no assignment for the first time in over four years. I found myself not involved and wondering now what. That's when I knew I wanted to be involved on a regular basis with NACAA, regardless of how much extra work a new assignment might bring about. Like Gary said last year "Be All You Can Be," if you would like to get involved in a service position with NACAA keep your eyes peeled for request coming from your national or local association board requesting your involvement.

Thanks, Past-President Chuck Otte, President Fred Miller, President-Elect Rick Gibson and all other NACAA board members for allowing me the continued opportunity to serve NACAA.

Sieber Inducted into North Dakota Ag Hall of Fame

Banks Sieber, former county extension agent of Bottineau County, ND was inducted into the North Dakota Agriculture Hall of Fame on March 10, 2007.

Sieber served as County Extension Agent for 35 years in Oliver, Sheridan, and Bottineau Counties starting in 1945 and was a prime example of everything a county agent could do. He helped organize the Oliver-Mercer Electric Cooperative, organized the Oliver County Soil Conservation District, re-organized rural telephone in parts of Sheridan and Bottineau Counties and helped in the organization of the rural water system in Bottineau County and parts of McHenry County.

He enjoyed working with young people in all 4-H activities. Agriculture, with all its many aspects, was his main focus. He used every method at his disposal in getting the word out to farmers in that era when fertilizer usage, farm chemicals, farm records, management and marketing information was really moving ahead. Sieber used telephone calls, farm calls, office calls, letters, meetings, tours, workshops, demonstrations and a weekly newspaper column "The Business of Farming".

His crop production programs were highly organized and offered cutting edge technology. He trained many assistant county agents. Banks held leadership positions in Bottineau County Weed Board, Manitoba-North Dakota Zero Till Association and the Bottineau Chamber of Commerce. He served as State President of the North Dakota County Agent Association, ND Soil Conservation Society and the ND State Horticulture Society.

Sieber considers it a privilege to have worked with and for so many wonderful people. The contributions Banks Sieber made to the quality of life in the areas he served will be his legacy.



Banks & Evelyn Sieber

NACAA Website:

The 2007 NACAA

Proceedings and many of

the presentations made

at the 2007 AM/PIC are

available at

www.nacaa.com

The County Agent

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GREAT AMERICAN AGRICULTURE PARTNERS WITH NACAA

Now more than ever, there is a need for people to reconnect to the agricultural roots of this nation. With the hustle and bustle of modern life, most people take little time to consider the role agriculture plays in their lives. *Great American Agriculture* is the bridge to a better understanding and appreciation for our farmers' contributions to the quality of life in this country.

Great American Agriculture is a consumer magazine which connects the reader to farmers and their products. The magazine covers great food, great people and the important issues affecting our American food supply. Like an enormous farmers' market, fresh fruits and vegetables are on display in the pages of *Great American Agriculture*, as well as grains and meats of all kinds....all the things that make our dinner tables a wonderful place for families to gather.

The publisher and editors of *Great American Agriculture* have partnered with the 50 state commissioners of agriculture and with the NACAA and other organizations to include content from each state. The magazine is published in four regional bi-annual issues, with each state section including two pages of articles representing the leading extension offices and land grant universities.

This is your opportunity to not only contribute content, but to purchase copies of the magazine to distribute in your county extension offices, as well as other key locations around your state. Boxes of 40 magazines from the recent Southeastern edition are now available and you can also pre-order magazines for the upcoming Northeast edition. Several states have enlisted the support of ag supporters and industry companies to sponsor the purchase and distribution of these magazines to locations as diverse as state legislators' offices, Ag in the Classroom, banks and doctors' offices.

For more information on how you can participate in this great opportunity, visit the website at www.GreatAmericanAgriculture.com or call 256-489-6318. Together we can bring the producers and consumers closer to each other.....and increase the public's awareness of the role agriculture plays in their daily lives!



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PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES**

2008

Greensboro, North Carolina...July 13 - 17

<http://www.ncacaa.org/2008ampic>

2010

Tulsa, Oklahoma.....July 11-15

2009

Portland, Oregon.....September 20-24

2011

Overland Park, Kansas..... August 7-11

The County Agent

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The County Agent - NACAA, 252 N. Park Street
Decatur, IL 62523 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker



*****3-DIGIT 385

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