The County Agent

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Cultivate, Innovate and Celebrate - Tennessee Style

For NACAA members, the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) is the capstone event each year for professional development opportunities, recognition of excellence in programming, and the exchange of ideas, methods and techniques. Congratulations to our friends from Tennessee on a successful 2018 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference held in Chattanooga, TN. The 2018 AM/PIC was a well-organized, professionally done meeting, that did not disappoint. I know I have many fond memories of the week. Thank you to all the Tennessee agents and volunteers for your dedication and extra efforts and contributions that provided this experience to the more than 1200 people that attended the AM/PIC.

We left Chattanooga with lots of good memories, new stories, and new skills and knowledge gained from the over 400 hours of professional development and professional improvement opportunities that were available to us at the AM/PIC. From the Search for Excellence presentations, member presentations, trade talk sessions, super seminars, committee workshops, trade show exhibits, and general sessions there was a tremendous amount of information and knowledge to be gained by those attending this year's AM/PIC. In addition, the poster session displayed the wide array of subjects that our members are considered the leading source of information on. It is truly amazing to belong to an association with members that have expertise in areas ranging from aquaculture to range management, youth programs to public relations, row crops to livestock, and they represent every region of the United States. I don't believe any other organization can lay claim to this. When you stop to think about all the things that NACAA members do, the impact is truly staggering. Add to that the excellent professional development sessions conducted by our NACAA committees and I would challenge anyone to find a better, more effective professional organization to belong to.

Many thanks also go to the NACAA Council Chairs, Committee Chairs and vice chairs and the entire NACAA Board for planning the professional development and recognition opportunities at this year's AM/PIC. These individuals are devoted to NACAA as evidenced by the many hours they give to the association throughout the year to provide the professional improvement and recognition programs which benefit all of us as NACAA members.

One big change that the 2018 AM/PIC had that was different from years past is the General Session on Wednesday morning was shortened. There was not a Capstone speaker as in years past and an additional 24 professional improvement sessions were added to this time. As is the case in many years, this year's NACAA Service to American/World Agriculture Award recipient offered some of the best remarks of the AM/PIC. Dr. Clark D. Garland of the University of Tennessee offered comments on how to be successful in Extension. Dr. Garland referenced comments he had made over the years in agent presentations and from The Extension Workers Code. This is a publication published by Kansas State University almost 100 years ago. Some of

2018 NACAA President Richard Fechter with wife Julia

Dr. Garland's comments that resounded with me and I hope each of you give some thought to were that common sense is timeless. Also, pay attention to your family and work life balance; listen and learn; treating people the way you want to be treated; and it is nice to be important, but more important to be nice.

In reviewing some articles that were written by previous Presidents, I found that several years ago some NACAA Presidents began sort of a tradition of using a key word to guide NACAA during their year of Presidency. Over the years, those words have been Sustainability, Share our NACAA experience with administrators, new agents, and other non-members that this organization is very beneficial to the Extension system and for career advancement of agents, Relevance and Reflective. My word is Professionalism.

Continued on page 3

Reflections of Chattanooga 2018

2018 AM/PIC Photos can be found at:
https://www.nacaa.com/ampic/2018/2018Photos.php

Cultivate, Innovate and Celebrate - Tennessee Style

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NACAA is a professional association that's primary objective is professional development. Professionalism should be our #1 priority. We are all professionals! To maintain the activities of NACAA at high standards, we as members must be professional and do the right thing. A quote from General Norman Schwarzkoff illustrates this. "The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do, the hard part is doing it."

An organization that is not constantly looking at the future and how it might adapt to it are falling behind. For NACAA to continue to be the BEST Extension Professional Association we must continue to look at ways to meet the needs of our everchanging, diverse membership. At the same time, we still need to be able to continue some of our time-honored traditions that have made our organization so great. It can be a delicate balance, but it is something that the board this year will look at and continue to take suggestions from our committees and members and evaluate each of them to determine if they are feasible to incorporate into the AM/PIC or not. Several suggestions and recommendations were made by the committees to the NACAA Board for the Post Board meeting following the AM/PIC. The board has and will continue to address these items at future monthly conference calls and face to face meetings. We continue to strive to improve our year-round value to our members and that will take all of us to make that a reality. NACAA will also try to cleanup some areas of policy and procedures to make items clearer to everyone so that you will have a better experience as you participate in our various recognition and presentation opportunities.

Another exciting opportunity that will be continually evolving over the next year and future years is the Leadership Scholarship program. This past year a committee was developed that started working and laying the framework for a Leadership Scholarship program that would help develop leadership skills and tools for members to become more confident and effective in leadership in their communities, state associations, other professional organizations and NACAA. This idea was developed by some life members and past presidents. I had the pleasure of chairing this committee this past year. Work was done, and one output was a Leadership Panel discussion that was held Sunday afternoon of the AM/PIC. Following the AM/PIC, the leadership scholarship idea was transitioned to the Leadership and Administrative Skills committee. The committee will take the groundwork and ideas that have been developed and expand on them. Look for more information coming out this fall and winter about how this will be incorporated into future AM/PIC's and development of future leaders in NACAA.

Recruiting new members is always a topic that is talked about, however, we also must retain the members that we currently have. When talking to your co-workers and colleagues in your home county, area, district, parish and/or state about joining NACAA, I refer you back to Dr. Garland's words about joining your professional association. Tell potential members that joining the association is voluntary, but all the better agents belong to NACAA.

I am honored and humbled to serve as your President during this upcoming year. It is a challenge that I look forward to. As always if you have suggestions for NACAA, please let us know. You can send these comments through your regional director or drop me a note. We cannot stay relevant to our membership if we don't know what the membership wants.

2018-2019 NACAA Board of Directors - Front Row (L-R): J. Craig Williams, Vice-President; Alan Galloway, Past President; Richard Fechter, President; Gene McAvoy, President-Elect; Ginny Rosenkranz, Secretary; Back Row (L-R): Lenny Rogers, Treasurer; Stan Moore, Policy Chair; Connie Strunk, NC Region Director; Andy Overbay, S Region Director; Michael Reeves, S. Region Director; Dwane Miller, NE Region Director; Scott Jensen, W. Region Director

The County Agent

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Recap of National Award Winners from the 2018 AM/PIC

Professional Excellence Applied Research Posters

Tim Hambrick

1st Place

RESULTS OF PLANT PARASITIC NEMATODE SURVEY OF 7 NC PIEDMONT COUNTIES

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Plant-parasitic nematodes (PPN) are considered the most damaging disease to North Carolina (NC) soybeans, resulting in estimated yield losses of 7-8% annually. Traditionally, PPN have been considered a major problem only in the NC Coastal Plain due to the presence of coarser textured soils. Poor stands, slow growth, and increased incidence of root diseases throughout the NC Piedmont during the 2017 growing season created the need to evaluate PPN populations and determine the potential impacts PPN may have in this region. Soil samples from 97 row crop fields across seven Piedmont counties were collected for nematode analysis. Identification and determination of population densities were conducted by the NCDA&CS Agromonic Division, Nematode Assay Section. Eleven different PPNs were identified in this survey including spiral, stunt, lesion, dagger, stubby-root, root-knot, lance, ring, soybean cyst, sheathoid, and reniform. Spiral, stunt, and lesion nematodes were present in over 50% of all sampled fields. Based on nematode type and population density, 5.2% of fields were classified as high risk, while 48.5% were classified as moderate risk. Results of this study demonstrate higher potential impact from PPN on Piedmont soybeans than previously understood. With this new information, Extension programs can be designed to educate producers on the potential impacts of PPN, better identify problems in the field, and provide information on nematode best management practices.

Julie Kikkert

2nd Place

ORGANIC MANAGEMENT OF FOLIAR DISEASES IN TABLE BEETS TO SUPPORT THE EXPANDING INDUSTRY IN NEW YORK STATE

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The 2016 opening of the Love Beets factory in Rochester, NY exponentially increased demand for organic table beets. Production in New York is deleteriously affected by a foliar disease complex. In 2017, cool, wet conditions were conducive for bacterial leaf spot caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aptata*. Four small-plot, replicated trials were conducted in commercial fields of 'Merlin' beets on two farms in western NY. All operations until trial establishment, including nutrient application and cultivation, were conducted by the growers. Disease epidemics were initiated by naturally occurring inoculum. A treatment consisting of 4.7 liters/ha Cueva + 2.3 liters/ha Double Nickel LC was replicated five times within a completely randomized block design and applied three times. Each main plot was equally split into hand weeded or not. Plots were assessed for crop stand, disease severity, leaf length, and weed density at regular intervals. Data were analyzed by general linear modeling and means were separated with Fisher's protected LSD test. The main factors, Cueva + Double Nickel or weeding alone reduced disease severity and increased leaf length in most trials. Additionally, there was a significant positive interaction of fungicide treatment and weeding. The effect of Cueva + Double Nickel LC (alone or in tank mixture) was further tested for efficacy to control Cercospora leaf spot (CLS) in a small plot, replicated trial in Geneva, NY. 'Ruby Queen' (planted 9 June) was inoculated on 20 July with a mycelial suspension of *Cercospora beticola*. Treatments consisted of either

Cueva (4.7 liters/ha), Double Nickel LC (2.3 liters/ha) or both applied as a tank-mixture. Treatments were applied on 28 July, and 3 and 10 August. All treatments significantly reduced the average number of CLS lesions. The average number of lesions per leaf was reduced by 70.1% in plots receiving Cueva + Double Nickel on 3 August and by 63.9% on 14 August. The reproducibility of disease control in on-farm trials and significant effect on CLS suggests Cueva + Double Nickel LC may provide broad spectrum disease control. Weed management is another important factor. This research was funded by the Towards Sustainability Foundation.

Lizabeth Stahl

3rd Place

USE OF A MULTI-STATE SURVEY TO IDENTIFY GAPS IN UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Extension educators and university researchers rely on research-based information in their programming efforts. In agriculture, statistically-sound research often uses small plots, and treatments are randomized and replicated in a statistical design, such as a randomized complete block. Farmers and agricultural professionals, however, are exposed to many different sources of information, some of which lack any statistical base. Producers have shown high interest in comparisons that have been conducted on-farm where treatments may run across the field and randomization and/or replication is lacking. To help gauge perceptions of farmers and agricultural professionals regarding the value of statistics in research and their understanding of key statistical concepts, 1,175 farmers and agricultural professionals were surveyed across 4 states (Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota) in 2017. The surveys were distributed as part of a North Central Agriculture and Natural Resources Academy project at crops meetings and pesticide safety education courses. Of 1,066 question respondents, only 44% felt confident in their understanding of the LSD (Least Significant Difference). Of these people, only 68% correctly answered a follow-up question that tested interpretation of the LSD. When asked about the value they placed on various types of agronomic information, 36% placed a moderately high to high value on small-plot replicated trials (n=1123) compared to 70% for large-plot, replicated trials (n=1116). Also, 54% placed a moderately high to high value on field-scale, demonstration/non-replicated plots (n=1111). Based on this information, a series of tools were developed for educators to help farmers and agricultural professionals better understand the importance and significance of quality research, as well as interpret and critically evaluate research results and marketing information.

Professional Excellence Extension Education Posters

1st Place

NARROW-LEAF HAWKSBEARD (CREPIS TECTORUM L.) ?EUR" MANAGING A NEW INVASIVE WEED IN MONTANA

Mills, S. L.[1]

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Narrow-leaf hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum* L.), is a winter annual that is highly adaptive and increasingly difficult to control in northeastern Montana. Widespread use of no-till and various conservation tillage techniques, in addition to, continuous cropping, increased precipitation, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres are believed to have advanced the spread of this weed. Narrow-leaf hawksbeard reduces crop yields and decreases forage quality if not properly managed. Over the last two years agronomists have reported an 82% increase in hawksbeard treatment requests from producers. Little research was available about hawksbeard management until recently. Based on the research findings, best management practices have been established and were presented at 23 Extension meetings, attended by 648 producers over a two year period. Program evaluation indicated 92% of the participants incorporated management strategies discussed during the workshops. Narrow-leaf hawksbeard has impacted 58% of cropland with 16% high risk infestation based on grower survey responses. Producers stated an increased level of confidence in their ability to identify the plant and select herbicides for hawksbeard management. Without the management techniques taught by Extension, growers estimated an average loss of $63 per acre which represents a total of $6,127,000 in potential lost revenue to hawksbeard.

2nd Place

POND SCHOOL EDUCATES LANDOWNERS ON POND MANAGEMENT

Kulhanek, A.[1]
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Medina County is the pond capital of Ohio with over 8,000 ponds over ¼ acre in size. As a result, pond management is considered a high need in the county. In addition, harmful algae blooms have become an increasing problem for waterways nationally, as well as in Medina County, home of Chippewa Lake, arguably the largest natural lake in Ohio. To address these needs, a 3-hour Pond School was designed with 3 concurrent tracks of 1-hour presentations for a total of 9 sessions attendees could choose from depending on their personal pond needs. The objective of this workshop was to increase pond owner knowledge on management of a wide variety of pond issues including algae reduction, fish stocking, and aeration as well as wildlife, water quality, and repairs. A retrospective pre-then-post survey was given to attendees at the 2016 and 2017 Pond School events to gauge attendee perceptions of knowledge gained from before to after the sessions, as well as program satisfaction. Pond School was attended by 100 people total for the 2 years of the program thus far. Surveys were returned from 34 individuals (N=34, 34% response rate). From the surveys, 79.4% of respondents reported that they would implement at least one pond management practice they learned at the workshop on their own property and increases in knowledge were reported on managing pond weeds, understanding aeration, applying pesticides safely, and stocking fish properly.

Jessica Groskopf

3rd Place

GRAIN MARKETING PLAN SMARTPHONE APP

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[3]Extension Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, 68583

Today's farmers manage their operations in a rapidly changing price environment. Although marketing plans are pivotal to an operation's success and profitability, farmers rarely have written marketing plans. With the continued decline in commodity prices, marketing plans are an even more critical part of farm management and ultimately farm survival.

To assist producers in developing and implementing grain marketing plans, Nebraska Extension has paired "Developing a Grain Marketing Plan" workshops with the Grain Marketing Plan smartphone application.

The Grain Marketing Plan smartphone application is a customizable electronic grain marketing plan with a built in reminder system. Once a farmer has developed a marketing plan, they can input their decision statements into their smartphone. When a price or date target is hit, the farmer will receive a notice encouraging them to take action. The application features a pre-harvest and post-harvest marketing plans and is available for corn, soybeans, and winter wheat.

This poster will discuss the adoption of the Grain Marketing Plan smartphone application by farmers who have attended "Developing a Grain Marketing Plan" workshops and the impact of this application on their decision making.

Want to see Award Winning Abstracts for 2018 and previous years....all you have to do is check out the winners list - found at:

https://www.nacaa.com/awards/apps/all_award_winners.php

Proceedings for the 2018 AM/PIC can be found at:

https://www.nacaa.com/ampic/2018/2018%20Proceedings%20lr.pdf

Communication Awards National Winners

Emily Wilmes with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Audio Recording

National Winner

Emily Wilmes
Extension Educator
UMN Extension-Stearns County
Stearns
Wilmes, E.*[1]
[1] Extension Educator, UMN Extension-Stearns County, St Cloud, MN, 56301

The attached audio clip is from a regular series I record for two local radio stations in my area: KASM of Albany, MN and KLTF of Little Falls, MN. These stations cover local news and events and both have strong agricultural broadcasting, especially KASM. Both stations estimate their daily listenership to be around 8,000. My clips are played on Saturday and Monday-Friday every three weeks. I contribute my six audio clips on a three-week rotation with two Extension colleagues, and each clip is played twice on its designated day. I record the clips myself in my office using Audacity software, then send them to the radio stations via email.

My target audience for both stations is local farmers and agribusiness professionals. My main objectives are to provide timely, relevant information that is applicable to the area as well as bring awareness to Extension and University resources and events. I also strive to provide information in a clear, concise manner that is easy to listen to. Nearly every time I am out in the counties at least one producer approaches me to tell me they heard me on the radio. It's also common for me to get phone calls from farmers wanting follow up information. I feel the radio clips are an important part of my teaching and presence in the counties.

The attached clip was broadcast on March 25, 2017. Spring is an important time for producers who have pasture on livestock, as final preparations need to be made to ensure productive pastures for their livestock. I felt a series of reminders would be appropriate for radio, and relevant as spring had just started and the window for frost seeding was fast approaching.

Katie Wagner with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Bound Book

National Winner

Katie Wagner
Horticultural Agent
Utah State University
Salt Lake County
Wagner, Katie*[1], Olsen, Shawn*[2]
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Counties with high population densities are often faced with the challenge of balancing high consumer demand for gardening information with limited staffing. Over-the-phone diagnostics can be a challenging and time consumptive activity. One question can easily lead to another when a client is trying to navigate the basics of gardening. We encountered many gardeners who had moved to Utah from out of state who were not familiar with the local climate and best gardening practices. In an effort to provide answers to common gardening questions, three USU Extension faculty members co-authored 'The Ultimate Gardening Guide' in 2017. This 121-page guide walks readers through the basics of fruit and vegetable production in Utah. The purpose of the guide is to provide the public with a convenient and user friendly gardening resource that features research-based gardening information that is relevant to intermountain west gardeners. In order to have the guide more widely distributed, we worked with the USU Office of Commercialization to find a book publisher and distributor. The guide was printed by Hobble Creek Press, a commercial book publisher, in cooperation with USU Extension. The book is distributed by Hobble Creek Press to Barnes and Noble bookstores, Seagull Book stores, and Amazon as a printed book and a Kindle e-book. The printed book is also available from the USU Extension online bookstore (usuextensionstore.com). In 2017, over 270 printed copies of the book were distributed. Three Amazon customer reviews (all verified purchasers) averaged 4.6 out of 5 stars. One Amazon review stated: "Good basic info for beginning gardeners, especially Utah. Has highlighted links to go to on the Utah State Extension site, which has exceptionally good info and videos by their horticulturists".

Elizabeth McMahon with BioAdvanced Representative

Computer Generated Graphics Presentation

National Winner

Elizabeth Mcmahon
CEA-HORT
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Gillespie
McMahon, E.*[1]
[1] CEA-Hort, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Fredericksburg, TX, 78631

"Winter Squash" was a short presentation given to compliment a winter squash cooking & tasting demonstration, as part of my Gardening by the Month program series. It was given on November 17th, 2017. Though November is a poor time of year to grow winter squash, this month was chosen because of the greater availability of winter squash in supermarkets and because of the increased use of winter squash in holiday dishes. This presentation's objective was to provide attendees with the information that they would need to grow their own winter squash next year. On average, attendees rated their before program knowledge of basic growing information of winter squash as a 2, and gave a post rating of 4(out of 4, 4 being the highest). Shea Nebgen, the Gillespie County FCH agent, gave the cooking demonstration that accompanied this program. It is not a part of this slide presentation. This program series was targeted towards beginner and moderate level gardeners. It was held at lunch to allow those who worked full-time the chance to attend. All slides should be judged. It was created using Microsoft PowerPoint.

Michelle Infante-Casella with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Fact Sheet

National Winner

Michelle Infante-Casella
Agricultural Agent/Associate Professor
Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension
GLOUCESTER
Infante-Casella, M.*[1], William Bamka*[2]
[1] Agricultural Agent/Associate Professor, RRutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension , Clayton, NJ, 08312
[2] Agricultural Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County, Westampton, NJ, 08060

Michelle Infante-Casella, Gloucester County and William Bamka, Burlington County, are both County Agricultural Agents with Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), Cooperative Extension. They co-wrote an extension fact sheet titled, "Common Insect Pests in Hop Yards". Bamka has conducted research and educational programs with hops since 2002. Client inquiries about this crop resurged in 2014 and Bamka invited Infante-Casella to work with him to meet stakeholder needs. Both Agricultural Agents became the key contacts in the state for hops production and marketing questions for Rutgers Cooperative Extension. With the increase in new craft breweries in the State of New Jersey, 8 farmers began establishing new hop yards in 2017 to try and supply a local product demand. Many farmers are first-time producers and need education on pests invading this new crop. Therefore, Infante-Casella and Bamka published this educational fact sheet for insect pests on hops that can be found at https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1272/ . Since publication on April 7, 2017, the fact sheet has received 411 page views and has been downloaded 397 times from the NJAES website. Infante-Casella and Bamka have distributed 395 hard copies of this publication at grower educational events, during one-on-one site and office consultations, and by mail. Growers using this fact sheet have said, during face-to-face discussions, they find it a valuable resource and have found good strategies on managing insect pests with alternative methods like sanitation.

Joshua Sherman with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Feature Story

National Winner

Joshua Sherman

Extension Agent
The University of Arizona
Cochise, Graham, Santa Cruz, Pima
Sherman, J.*[1]
[1] Extension Agent, The University of Arizona, Willcox, AZ, 85643

The objective of this article is to educate pecan producers on the physiological processes occurring during the shuck-split phase of pecan development, the final stage of fruit ripening. With this knowledge, they are to better understand the importance of the process, and the timing, so they may avoid disruption of the natural biochemical processes. It is quite a dynamic event involving a "dance" amongst biochemicals and the environment. The featured story was showcased in an industry-leading magazine, Pecan South, which reaches 3,342 subscribers in the United States and 87 international subscribers (Mexico and South America). Pecan South is both a trade magazine and scientific resource for pecan growers, shellers and other industry members around the world. The magazine strives to connect all parts of the industry by providing the scientific information, industry updates, interest pieces and other pecan-related news and information that the readers want and need. This agent's assigned area is in Commercial Horticulture and Cochise County supports the largest pecan acreage in the state of Arizona. This agent was 100% responsible for the idea, research, and writing of this featured story. The published article reached approximately 80 Arizona pecan producers who are members of the Arizona Pecan Grower's Association and was showcased on the front cover of the Pecan South magazine in October 2017, timely in that the pecan shuck splits around late October and the agent wrote/submitted the month prior.

Iris Mayes with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Learning Module

National Winner

Iris Mayes
Extension Educator Horticulture & Small Farms

Agenbroad, A.*[1], DePhelps, C.*[2], Golden, L.*[3], Hamilton, M.*[4], Jensen, J.*[5], Mayes, I.*[6], Newman, S.*[7], Painter, K.*[8], Ruiz, R.*[9], Snyder, A.*[10], Stachowski, E.*[11], Werlin, J.*[12], Williams, C.*[13], Young, M.*[14]
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[8] Extension Educator — Agriculture, Assistant Professor, University of Idaho, Bonners Ferry, ID, 83805
[9] Extension Educator-Livestock/4-H, University of Idaho, Emmett, ID, 83617
[10] Cultivating Success Program Coordinator, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, 83843
[11] Small Farms Program Coordinator, University of Idaho, Boise, ID, 83714
[12] Extension Educator, Community Food Systems, University of Idaho, Driggs, ID, 83422
[13] Extension Educator - retired, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, 83843
[14] Extension Educator, Ag/Natural Resources, University of Idaho, Weiser, ID, 83672

This learning module was created for the Starting Your Sustainable Small Farm course in Winter of 2018. The course helps new and aspiring farmers take the first steps toward setting goals, assessing resources available (physical, financial, and personal), and exploring enterprises that are the best fit for the student and their land. Students leave the course with a better understanding of how to make their farm a success. The learning module includes exposure to a variety of farming and ranching systems, network with other participants, get exposure to local resources, hear from experienced farmers, and visit local farms (please see the complete schedule below). This learning module was used at multiple locations throughout Idaho and was created through a collaborative process of 20 team members. The course is part of the Cultivating Success™ Idaho program which was created in partnership between UI Extension Small Farms Program and Rural Roots, a non-profit organization that serves small acreage producers.

The vision of the Cultivating Success™ program is to increase producer and consumer understanding, value, and support of sustainable local farming systems in Idaho through educational and experiential opportunities. Partners in this program strive to create strong communities with infrastructures that provide the resources and skills needed to produce local and sustainable food and agricultural products for the residents of the Inland Northwest. A $506,122 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA-BFR 004835), expands the 18-year effort that has enrolled

nearly 600 students across Idaho in the Cultivating Success training program.

The learning module includes a Facilitator's Guide, a notebook of materials including copies of the PowerPoint presentations and other handouts, and an online interactive website for students only. The URL is: http://www.cultivatingsuccess.org/syssfstudentpage. The password is: SYSSF2018. Each segment of the learning module was released for each segment of the course. This included resource materials and quizzes. Each team member contributed to the creation of a portion of the material and reviewed material related to their expertise. Farmer partners who also created content include: Marci Miller, Greg Freistadt, Diane Green, Melissa Lines, Jessica McAleese, Janie Burns, Keri Wilson.

T. Ashley Burns with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Newsletter, Individual

National Winner

T. Ashley Burns
4-H Assistant Director
Clemson University
Statewide

We CU Volunteer is an online newsletter primarily targeted toward South Carolina 4-H Volunteers, but was also developed with a general parent and friend of 4-H audience in mind. Dr. Ashley Burns is the editor and primary author for this newsletter. South Carolina 4-H Youth Development initiated this statewide newsletter in September 2015 with less than 200 newsletter subscribers; it has grown to over 1200 valid-email subscribers in March 2018. Full issues of the periodical are released quarterly with additional supplements released in remaining months. Each full issue contains state and national program announcements, upcoming dates/deadlines, program flyers, previews of 4-H articles published in Clemson University's The Newsstand, feature stories of local events and participation in state and national 4-H events, and a Monthly 4-H Club Activity Idea. The supplement newsletters consist of a cover page with major announcements and a Monthly 4-H Club Activity Idea. The Monthly 4-H Club Activity Ideas cover all 4-H program areas in topic and scope, from agriculture and leadership/citizenship activities to healthy living and STEM activities. All activities are designed to be inexpensive to implement within a 45- to 60-minute club setting for a variety of age groups. Each activity is matched to the Targeting Life Skills model (Hendricks, P., 1998. "Developing Youth Curriculum Using the Targeting Life Skills Model") and includes an objective statement, hands-on activity instructions with introductory information, materials, step-by-step methods, and reflective questions. *We CU Volunteer* is emailed to a list serve of more than 1200 addresses, posted online (https://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/4h_volunteer/index.html), and shared on the South Carolina 4-H Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/southcarolina4hyouthdevelopment/) with over 700 followers. In January 2018, the newsletter was reformatted to reduce file size, increase aesthetic appeal, make more printer-friendly, automatically populate the email list serve, and track analytics from an e-newsletter platform. An evaluation of the newsletter with solicitation of topics for the Monthly 4-H Club Activity Ideas has been conducted at the conclusion of each 4-H Club Year. Respondents that received *We CU Volunteer* stated that it made them feel more connected to 4-H and more passionate about volunteering with 4-H.

Susan Kerr with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Newsletter, Team

National Winner

Susan Kerr
WSU NW Regional Livestock and Dairy Extension Specialist
Washington State University
Northwestern Research and Extension Center
Stephenson, Garry*[1], Lucas, Chrissy*[2], Fery, Melissa*[3], Gwin, Lauren*[4], Andrews, Nick*[5], Garrett, Amy*[6], Runkel, Sarah*[7], Powell, Maud*[8], Stoven, Heather*[9], Sullivan, Clare*[10], Noordijk, Heidi*[11], Fernandez-Salvador, Javier*[12], Suits, Rachel*[13], Kerr, Susan*[14]
[1] Extension Small Farms Specialist, Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis, OR, 97331
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[3] Benton, Linn, & Lane County Extension Educator, Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis, OR, 97333
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[6] Benton, Linn, & Polk County Extension Educator, Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis, OR, 97333
[7] Douglas County Extension Educator,

Oregon State University Extension Service, Roseburg, OR, 97470
[8] Jackson & Josephine County Extension Educator, Oregon State University Extension Service, Central Point, OR, 97502
[9] Yamhill County Extension Educator, Oregon State University Extension Service, McMinnville, OR, 97128
[10] Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook County Extension Educator, Oregon State University Extension Service, Redmond, OR, 97755
[11] Clackamas & Washington County Program Assistant, Oregon State University Extension Service, Aurora, OR, 97002
[12] Marion & Polk County Extension Educator, Oregon State University Extension Service, Salem, OR, 97301
[13] Hood River & Wasco County Program Assistant, Oregon State University Extension Service, Hood River, OR, 97031
[14] WSU NW Regional Livestock and Dairy Extension Specialist, Washington State University, Mount Vernon, WA, 98273

The Oregon State Small Farms program has started its 13th year of publishing its award-winning newsletter, Oregon Small Farm News (OSFN). This free, full-color digital publication was created to address the educational needs of the burgeoning small farm audience in Oregon. OSFN provides research-based information about livestock and horticultural production, marketing, noxious weed control, irrigation, small farm management, regulations, educational resources, upcoming events, and other issues pertinent to small farmers and rural landowners. A profile of a successful small farm in Oregon or southern Washington is included in most issues. Extension horticulture, livestock, forestry, and agronomy educators contribute to this effort. Additional articles are written by resource personnel such as weed control coordinators, NRCS and conservation district employees, and other Extension educators. There have been 45 quarterly issues of the OSFN since it was first published in 2006. Each issue is 20 to 30 pages long and contains numerous attractive photographs and graphics. Each cover features a unique and colorful example of Oregon agriculture. The newsletter is curated and "wrangled" by the first author and graphically assembled by the second author, who also maintains its electronic mailing list. The last author submitted this application, writes articles related to livestock for most issues, and occasionally submits photographs and farm profiles. The newsletter is available for free downloading from http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/node/6. The success of the newsletter is demonstrated in part by its page views, which have steadily grown from 4,000 for the first issue in 2007 to an average of 25,000 for 2017 issues.

Dennis Patton with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Personal Column

National Winner

Dennis L Patton
County Extension Agent, Hort
K-State Research & Extension
Johnson County

Each spring and fall The Kansas City Star newspaper publishes special sections called Grow. The Grow sections focus on lawn and garden stories for the season. There were seven issues published in 2017. The audience is local gardeners. The purpose of the personal column is to disseminate gardening information to the public. Column stories are based on the timing of the gardening season and conditions occurring that reflect seasonal changes. The feedback from the readers is extremely high and very positive. Comments are made about the quality of educational information and the personal nature and humor injected in the columns. Due to the changing demands in the industry the special section has ended. The Kansas City Star is a privately held company. They do not release circulation numbers. The personal columns are a vital method of promoting not only the educational message but also Johnson County Kansas State Research and Extension in the metropolitan area.

Kenneth Johnson with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Program Promotional Piece

National Winner

Kenneth Johnson
Horticulture Educator
University of Illinois Extension, Unit 15 Central
Johnson, K.*[1]
[1] Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Unit 15, Jacksonville, IL, 62650

The public has become increasingly aware and interested plight of pollinators,

particularly honey bees. Because of this increased interest in beekeeping in the area, the Calhoun-Cass-Greene-Morgan-Scott Unit offered a Beginning Beekeeping course. This 5-part course covered the basics of keeping honey bees, including a hands-on Hive Day. The promotional material was designed as a two-sided flyer. The pages were designed so that they could be used as a standalone flyer as well. The promotional material was distributed via email to Unit Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists as well as individuals who had expressed interest in attending educational programming related to honey bees (approximately 75 individuals). Full-color flyers were distributed to unit offices, local businesses, the local beekeeping club as well as during educational programs (approximately 200). Additionally, it was placed on the unit website. Twenty-five individuals registered for the class (maximum), with an additional waiting list. Based on evaluations, 94% of respondents stated they intended to keep bees in the next two to three years.

Jodi DeJong-Hughes with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Publication

National Winner

Jodi DeJong-Hughes
Extension Educator, Crops
University of Minnesota Extension
Willmar Regional Center
DeJong-Hughes, J.*[1]

[1] Extension Educator, Crops, University of Minnesota Extension, Willmar, MN, 56201

The Upper Midwest Tillage Guide is a regional resource for producers and agronomic personnel who are interested in reducing tillage, but who may not feel comfortable choosing the best options for their specific operation. The guide lays out the benefits of various equipment types and tillage options and is conveniently broken into four chapters that may be read consecutively or individually. Chapter 1 begins with a brief history of soil tillage to set the tone and continues into a detailed list of tillage implements used in the upper Midwest, their purpose, and conditions that optimize their use in Chapter 2. Readers are then presented with the various benefits and challenges that can be expected while reducing tillage on their soils in Chapter 3. The guide then concludes with a detailed look into the economics of these tillage options and are presented with numerous regional examples and research results in Chapter 4. The guide was published in print by Off the Wall Advertising (Fargo, ND) and created online in November 2017. (http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/soils/tillage/#tillage-guide). Since then, approximately 320 printed sets have been distributed and the online version has received 1370 views, with chapter 2 (Tillage Implements, Purpose, and Ideal Use) receiving 50 percent of the views. Jodi DeJong-Hughes' role was to summarize the data, author (primary) for chapters 2-4, coordinate peer-review and design, and manage the grant funding. Co-author Aaron Daigh was primary author for chapter 1 and edited the three remaining chapters.

Joshua Sherman with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Published Photo & Caption

National Winner

Joshua Sherman
Extension Agent
The University of Arizona
Cochise, Graham, Santa Cruz, Pima

The objective of this photo and article is to educate pecan producers on the physiological processes occurring during the shuck-split phase of pecan development, the final stage of fruit ripening. With this knowledge, they are to better understand the importance of the process, and the timing, so they may avoid disruption of the natural biochemical processes. It is quite a dynamic event involving a "dance" amongst bio-chemicals and the environment. The featured story was showcased in an industry-leading magazine, Pecan South, which reaches 3,342 subscribers in the United States and 87 international subscribers (Mexico and South America). Pecan South is both a trade magazine and scientific resource for pecan growers, shellers and other industry members around the world. The magazine strives to connect all parts of the industry by providing the scientific information, industry updates, interest pieces and other pecan-related news and information that the readers want and need. This agent's assigned area is in Commercial

Horticulture and Cochise County supports the largest pecan acreage in the state of Arizona. This agent was 100% responsible for the idea, research, and writing of this featured story. The published article reached approximately 80 Arizona pecan producers who are members of the Arizona Pecan Grower's Association and was showcased on the front cover of the Pecan South magazine in October 2017, timely in that the pecan shuck splits around late October and the

Tyler Williams with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

agent wrote/submitted the month prior.

Video Presentation

National Winner

Tyler Williams
Extension Educator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lancaster County
Williams, T.*[1]
[1] Extension Educator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, 68528

County and state Extension personnel need hail-related information they can deliver to agricultural producers through multiple platform. These resources need to appeal to all types of learners, and they must be developed with the targeted audience's limited time in mind. The Nebraska Extension Hail Know team identified six stages in the hail recovery process to guide resource development. The Hail Know team, consisting of Tyler Williams (co-Lead), Ashley Mueller (co-Lead), Nathan Mueller, and Roger Elmore all with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), worked with UNL's IANR Media and Jacht Ad Lab, a UNL student organization, to create a six-video series for each critical stage in the hail recovery process. These videos provide a quick overview of the most critical information sought out by producers, advisors, or educators and guide them to more information developed by the Hail Know project. These videos are strategically designed to be approximately three minutes long, in order to maintain the attention of the user, as opposed to having a longer, combined video. The videos are placed on YouTube as a part of UNL CropWatch (link below). These videos (more than 230 views in first 75 days after being released in Dec. 2017) have been promoted through UNL CropWatch newsletters (3000+ users), social media, Crop Management Clinic, and other in-person presentations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8FjdD_jnXc&list=PLdssrgg38jJ0tHOZLvhq2f4RN-dP0M1wo

John Porter with BioAdvanced Representative Lance Walheim

Website

National Winner

John Porter
Extension Educator/Assistant Professor
Nebraska Extension
Douglas
Porter, J.*[1], Cue, Kathleen*[2], Evans, Scott*[3], Fech, John*[4], Larson, Jonathan*[5]
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[4] Extension Educator - Horticulture, Nebraska Extension, Omaha, NE, 68124
[5] Extension Educator - Entomology, Nebraska Extension, Omaha, NE, 68124
Address: grobigred.com

The GROBigRed website/blog was developed in 2017 by the Community Environment team of the Douglas-Sarpy County Extension Office to serve as an outlet to share timely, evidence-based information to clients for emerging and perennial issues. The team consists of three horticulturalists, an entomologist, and an urban agriculture/farming educator (myself). This format adds a nimble and dynamic tool for responding to needs and issues to the existing extension static website and also allows for topics and information that goes beyond the scope of a traditional extension site. The information is further disseminated through social media (Facebook and Twitter) post for each submission.

The team meets regularly to discuss content themes, potential emerging issues, and timely topics for inclusion in the publication schedule. Each team member contributes their own content to the blog in their respective area of expertise, with posts occurring from two to five times during the week depending on the season.

My roles in the site include writing content related to fruit and vegetable production for home gardeners and producers, co-leading the content development meetings, the initial setup of the Wordpress site, setting up accounts for each team member to post their own content, and continued maintenance and updates of the site and social media.

From inception in May 2017 to March 2018, the page has had 25,478 views from 19,581 unique visitors from 83 different countries. The articles have been shared and linked in extension newsletters and online updates, national extension social media such as the Extension Master Gardener Facebook page, and the local media which are invited to use the blog as a source for articles. In addition, the Facebook page has garnered 32,266 views and 1561 interactions.

To further expand the means of delivering content, the team has started a podcast to feature timely garden information to reach the ever growing podcast-listening client base.

2018 Service to American/World Agriculture

Clark D. Garland

More than 47 years ago, Dr. Clark D. Garland joined the University of Tennessee as an agricultural economist in Extension. Since that time, he has provided exemplary leadership and conducted farm and financial management educational programs in Tennessee. His signature career achievement is the design, development and leadership of the highly successful MANAGE program. In 1986, Tennessee legislative, agriculture and Extension leaders established MANAGE and provided additional financial support to employ staff to work intensively with farm families. Thirty-two years later, the state continues to provide funding for nine area farm management specialists located across Tennessee. These specialists work directly with Extension agents to help farm families evaluate their individual situation and assist them in improving their quality of life. More than 19,000 farm families have greatly benefited from MANAGE. The program is recognized as among the strongest and most effective in the nation. Clark was the original coordinator of MANAGE.

Prior to the MANAGE program, he collaborated with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to conduct the Resource Management and Rapid Adjustment Farm Demonstration programs. Dr. Garland provided leadership and guidance to 20 area agents working with thousands of Tennessee farm families across the TVA watershed in Tennessee. TVA invested in both agent salaries and farmer incentive payments as they implemented new farming practices and conducted farm test demonstrations. He also provided overall leadership in Tennessee for developing the Agri-21 Farming Systems project, which was conducted cooperatively with the Tennessee Valley Authority. Agri-21 Farming Systems was implemented in 1993 to teach development of sustainable farms and transfer that information in an effective manner to professional agricultural workers, farm families, and general public in the seven state Tennessee Valley Region. In Tennessee, 25 families representing 14 farms contributed to the achievement of project objectives.

Dr. Garland served as Tennessee's Sustainable Agriculture Co-Coordinator and Co-Leader for Green Industry Programs. He also chaired the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative Farmer Education Team. Clark provided leadership for educational programs for farmers on contracting and producing switchgrass for biomass. Sixty-one farmers grew 5,100 acres of switchgrass for biofuels production and research development.

Clark Garland has served with distinction on national USDA grant review panels. He also served on several national advisory teams. He's made extensive and valuable contributions in the area of University service. Clark served on numerous important Extension, Institute, and University committees. Notably, Clark served as chair of The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) Advisory Council and as one of two UTIA representatives appointed to the University's Faculty Handbook Committee.

Clark has a sustained record of external funding. He served as principal investigator on 45 grants and contracts, for $4.6 million, to develop, deliver and improve Extension programs. He also collaborated on 17 additional projects, with $2.2 million awarded. Throughout his career, Dr. Garland has anticipated emerging issues, excelled at Extension programming, made a positive impact and provided visionary leadership. He does an excellent job of skillfully influencing major decisions in appropriate directions. He has served as a mentor, champion and coach to numerous Extension specialists and agents both in

Clark D. Garland

Tennessee and surrounding states. Clark is recognized on the national level as a leader in farm financial management educational programs. For example, in a note of endorsement, Robert Craven, Director of the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota stated "Clark provided the leadership and intellectual know-how to help us adapt farm financial planning software, FINPACK, to meet the needs of producers in the South. Dr. Garland has made numerous national presentations about the MANAGE program and other educational activities. This willingness to share and cooperate with others has been a hallmark of working with Clark."

Dr. Garland has been a member of NACAA and the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists through-out his career. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Other awards include the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Southern Region National Award for Excellence in Extension and the Superior Service Award from Tennessee Valley Region Association of Demonstration Farm Families. He also received the University of Tennessee B. Ray Thompson Sr. Outstanding Faculty Performance and the Webster Pendergrass Award for Outstanding Service.

Dr. Garland has not let retirement halt his service to agriculture. Post-retirement contributions include serving as a board member with River Valley AgCredit Association. He also served as one of three judges for the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest. This prestigious award is presented to a farmer at the annual Sunbelt Expo. Clark also served as a member and director of the National Land-Grant University Tax Education Foundation.

Clark continues to coordinate Tennessee's Federal Income Tax Seminars in cooperation with Tennessee Farm Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service. Income tax seminars are conducted at various locations throughout Tennessee. The tax seminar educational program is in its 58th year and is designed for tax professionals who prepare and file tax returns for farm and non-farm businesses and individuals. In 2017, participants in these seminars completed 211,002 federal tax returns including 29,474 farm returns.

Clark is a tremendous supporter for The Pearl House in Ghana, where his youngest daughter Courtney, has begun a new life serving as a founder and CEO beginning back in 2013. The Pearl House protects, educates and provides spiritual guidance to at-risk young ladies in underserved communities in Ghana. The house currently takes care of 22 teenaged girls. In April of 2018 they opened the Pearl House Career Center, teaching young women vocational skills. In September of 2018, they will also be opening an academic school, Pearl House Academy. In all endeavors, The Pearl House seeks to inspire young women to have a positive impact on their family, their community and their nation.

Clark is widely known as a highly dedicated and productive professional. Agents, farm families and other agricultural professionals across Tennessee and the nation have the highest respect for Clark as an expert in farm financial management and as an effective educator.

Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award

National Winner

Katie L Wantoch
Agriculture Agent Specializing in Economic Development
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Dunn County
Wantoch, K.L.*[1]
[1] Agriculture Agent Specializing in Economic Development, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Menomonie, WI, 54751

The non-farm population of the Chippewa Valley area in Wisconsin (Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties) continues to increase, though farmers only represent less than five percent of the total population. Moreover needs assessments, one-on-one conversations and a focus group discussion on agriculture economic development indicated communication to consumers regarding agriculture be further developed and placed an emphasis on developing networks and collaborations to promote agriculture economic development.

Since 2010 I have taken an active role in educating local community members on modern agricultural practices as part of the annual Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day (CVFCD). CVFCD is an educational event which invites the public to a working farm. I have chaired the CVFCD planning committee for the past five years and coordinate this event with UW-Extension educators and agriculture professionals. CVFCD is a not-for-profit event that is supported by local donations and in-kind sponsorships.

I led the efforts in 2014 to expand CVFCD from a one-day event that was open to the public to include two days of on-farm agriculture educations for community members and local school children. Invitations are sent to elementary school students from Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire County schools to participate in a day-long event on a local farm. In 2017 the planning committee looked to expand the CVFCD event to ensure more schools could participate and pursued additional funding opportunities to provide for school bus funding. Almost 1,000 school children, teachers and chaperones participated in the Friday event and increased their knowledge of modern

agricultural practices. On Saturday, 1,000 children and adults who visited the farm were provided agricultural education in a variety of venues.

Post-event evaluation of the teachers indicated CVFCD was able to change quite a bit of their students' perception of modern agriculture practices. One teacher commented, "*It was an eye opening experience for our kids. They talked about the experience for days. Thank you for including us in this event!*" A collaborative evaluation of the effectiveness of the CVFCD Saturday event found over 70 percent of respondents increased their understanding of milk production, machinery/equipment, animal care and land conservation.

Excellence in 4-H Programming
National Winner

Wendy Becker
Agent
Montana State University
Fort Peck Reservation

ADVANCING YOUR MARKET LIVESTOCK PROJECT

Becker. W.*[1], Evenson, J.[2], Hennessy, J.[3]
[1]Extension Agent-Fort Peck Reservation, Montana State University, Poplar, MT, 59255
[2]Extension Agent-Richland County, Montana State University, Sidney, MT 59270
[3]Ag Agent, Mountrail County Ag Agency, Stanley, ND 58784

In Montana, market livestock projects are one of the most popular and rewarding projects. Youth are educated about several aspects of raising livestock, however, though meat science is a topic often neglected. When meat science is discussed, we educate about loin size, tenderness, and intermuscular fat, not the lesser valued cuts. This goal of this program is to improve comprehension of food value particularly in marginal cuts, and to demonstrate and educate on meat processing techniques. Based on Kolb's Experimental Learning Model, a hands-on approach was used for 4-H market livestock project enrollees, and non-traditional 4-H programs in the classroom. The program demonstrates parts of the carcass, examines food safety, teaches the meat processing sequence, and creates ground meat products that increase the value of animal protein products. In 2017, over 434 students, leaders, and adults participated in 19 programs. They learned various cuts of meat, muscle structure, recipe framework, food safety, equipment safety and packaging. Invaluable program outcomes have been student-learned decision making, math and communications skills, and pride in their projects. Before the program, only 1% had made fresh stuffed sausage, 22% had made jerky products, and 0% had made summer sausage and snack sticks. Students were also able to transfer the education into wild game ground meat production. From evaluations, 96% of attendees wanted to learn more about meat science and forms of sausage making, and 100% remembered the correct internal temperature for ground meat products important for food safety. People that have benefited include: Tribal Programs, 4-H programs, and teachers that are mandated to include *Indian Education for All* in their classrooms. The program has gained considerable recognition and local support has grown from the initial 4-H Innovative start-up Grant to be able to provide this program for free, creating a net savings of $200 per person.

Search for Excellence in Crop Production
National Winner

Shelley Mills
Agricultural Extension Agent
MSU

NARROW-LEAF HAWKS-BEARD *(CREPIS TECTORUM)* **- MANAGING A NEW INVASIVE WEED IN MONTANA**

Mills,* S.L.[1]
[1]Agricultural Extension Agent – Valley County, Montana State University, Glasgow, MT 59230

Narrow-leaf hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum* L.), is a winter annual that is highly adaptive and increasingly difficult to control in northeastern Montana. Widespread use of no-till and various conservation tillage techniques, in addition to, continuous cropping, increased precipitation, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres are believed to have advanced the spread of this weed. Narrow-leaf hawksbeard reduces crop yields and decreases forage quality if not properly managed. Over the last two years agronomists have reported an 82% increase in hawksbeard treatment requests from producers. Little research was available about hawksbeard management until recently. Based on the research findings, best management practices have been established and were presented at 23 Extension meetings, attended by 648 producers over a two year period. Program evaluation indi-

cated 92% of the participants incorporated management strategies discussed during the workshops. Narrow-leaf hawksbeard has impacted 58% of cropland with 16% high risk infestation based on grower survey responses. Producers stated an increased level of confidence in their ability to identify the plant and select herbicides for hawksbeard management. Without the management techniques taught by Extension, growers estimated an average loss of $63 per acre which represents a total of $6,127,000 in potential lost revenue to hawksbeard.

Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Financial Management

National Winner

Madeline Margaret Schultz
Women in Ag Program Manager
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Ames
Schultz, M.M.*[1], Brown, C.*[2], Drollette, R.*[3], Eggers, T.*[4], Ellis, S.*[5], Johnson, S.*[6], Leibold, K.*[7], ORourke, M.*[8], Scarbrough, L. F.*[9], Wright, G.*[10]
[1] Program Manager I, Women in Agriculture, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Ames, IA, 50011
[2] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Oskaloosa, IA, 52577
[3] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa City, IA, 52246
[4] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Clarinda, IA, 51632
[5] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Carroll, IA, 51401
[6] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Altoona, IA, 50009
[7] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Falls, IA, 50126
[8] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Decorah, IA, 52101
[9] Communications Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Ames, IA, 50011
[10] Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Sioux City, IA, 51106

The educational objective of Managing for Today and Tomorrow curriculum is to encourage women to combine business, estate, retirement and succession planning to form an overall transition plan to move farm businesses from one generation to the next. The Iowa farm management team recently delivered five 15-hour courses through a series of weekly 3-hour classes. Transformational education practices include multi-session, small-group, locally-led courses. Woman to woman learning, hands-on activities, confidence-building, and access to resources helped participants solidify concepts. Pre- and post-course surveys assessed knowledge gains and actions taken. Iowa women validated the training methods; 89% 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' the courses encouraged learning from other participants as well as speakers. Survey respondents listed estate planning concepts and tools, goal setting, and financial statement basics as the top three most valuable topics. Pre- and post-course results indicated statistically significant knowledge gains for each planning task: business, estate, retirement and succession. Responses indicated women had taken actions in all four planning areas during the course; especially succession planning. As evidence of learning: 9% of pre-course survey respondents knew 'quite a bit' or were 'completely familiar' with "fair" and "equal" distribution of assets and management, while 78% of post-course survey respondents knew this. As evidence of actions taken: 39% of pre-course survey respondents 'completed' or were 'in progress' of preparing a business plan, while 89% of post-course survey respondents had/were doing this. Participants strengthened their understanding of the responsibilities by all generations to manage effective transitions through business, estate, retirement and succession planning. The courses helped farm women, and by association their families/partners, to accept transition planning as normal, necessary, and doable. With training and support from the Iowa farm management team, women took important actions to guide families/partners towards successful generational transitions. These actions can improve agriculture sustainability and food security by enhancing rural lifestyle satisfaction, maintaining family farmers on the land, and diverting the sale and disassembly of farm businesses. By collaborating with extension educators in other states and sharing local and online curriculum nationally, the Iowa team expanded the reach of this work exponentially.

Search for Excellence in Farm Health and Safety

National Winner

Will Stallard
Agent for Agriculture & Natural

Resources
University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service
Lincoln County
Stallard, W.*[1], Reed, D.*[2], Legault, E.*[3], Swoape, A.S.*[4]
[1] Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Stanford, KY, 40484
[2] Professor, University of Kentucky College of Nursing, Lexington, KY, 40536
[3] Tennessee AgrAbility/Area Specialist II, University of Tennessee Extension, Knoxville, TN, 37919
[4] Extension Agent III, University of Tennessee Extension, Sparta, TN, 38583

According to the CDC, senior farmers accounted for over half of all farming deaths between 1992 and 2004, with a fatality rate four times that of younger farmers. Extension partnered with the University of Kentucky College of Nursing to test the efficacy of a novel intervention, didactic readers theatre, focused on health and safety of farmers ages 45 and over. This program, funded by NIOSH and developed by agricultural nurse Dr. Deborah Reed, debuted in Kentucky and Tennessee, and has reached over 600 participants in eight sites. Extension agents (FCS and AG) worked to make the theatre a special event for the farm community, complete with choreography and table decorations. A meal using locally sourced food was provided. Local farmers and their spouses were the actors. Scripts, written by the agricultural health nurse, reflected the farmers' lives but also included the leading health and injury challenges faced by aging farmers. We invited couples in order to create dialogue that would initiate change. Between acts the nurse lead a discussion with the audience on what happened in the act and how the audience has handled similar situations. Data was collected via phone interviews two weeks and again two months post theatre to learn about response. The event itself was rated as highly realistic and applicable to farm life. At two weeks, 52.6 % had made changes, at two months 59.1% related they had made changes since the two week period. Examples of changes included: purchasing a cabbed tractor, instituting a communication plan, installing fall protection on silos, stress reduction techniques (vacation, exercise, a night out), using hearing protection, skin examination, focusing on single task, taking rest breaks, and improving work areas. Participants told us, "It was your story but it wasn't. It helps you to talk about difficult issues that you couldn't talk about before. … "When you hear your friends and neighbors doing it (making changes) it gives you permission to do it too." The theatre is now being used in other programs and toolkits will be available soon.

Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources

National Winner

Michelle Atkinson
Environmental Horticulture Agent
University of Florida/IFAS Manatee County Extension
Manatee
Atkinson, M.*[1]
[1] Environmental Horticulture Agent, University of Florida/IFAS Manatee County Extension, Palmetto, Fl, 34221

Educational Objectives: The Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) goals are to provide attendees with an understanding of the value of water, how to conserve water in the landscape, and to provide attendees' with knowledge for incorporating outdoor irrigation water saving techniques in their landscape so that they can change their outdoor irrigation behaviors.

Program Activities: The on-site evaluation encourages outdoor water conservation and best management practices in the landscape. The evaluation report addresses landscape plants' cultural needs and recommendations for an efficient irrigation system.

Teaching Methods: The mobile irrigation lab team works one on one with client and provides them information on water conservation techniques and an irrigation system maintenance checklist. Educational workshops are hands-on and lecture.

Results: The potable water MIL evaluations (374) from 2014 to 2017 decreased their water consumption by 78 million gallons. All MIL evaluations (1134) making all recommended changes from 2014-2017 could have saved over 200 million gallons of water.

Of the 102 follow up survey participants, 68% (65) participants reported at least one behavior change reducing irrigation water usage 3,536,510 gallons or more. Behavior changes reported by workshop participants in an eight month follow survey.

Impact Statement: Converting gallons saved to dollars using the producer price index, $2.60 per thousand gallons, this translates into savings of $54,600 in annual water-treatment and delivery costs for local water utilities. The total water savings among potable water participants is 21 million gallons per year, according to Borisova et al's document "Estimating Benefits of Residential Outdoor Water Conservation: A Step-by-Step Guide", this would translate into $72,485 in annual savings to all MIL clients.

Evaluation: The MIL goals are to provide attendees with an understanding of the value of water and to increase knowledge leading to outdoor irrigation water saving in the landscape. The objectives of the program are to promote water saving behavior changes. Overall, results indicate that the goals and objectives of this program are being achieved.

Search for Excellence in Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

National Winner

Hemant Gohil
Agriculture and Resource Management Agent
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Gloucester County
Gohil, H.*[1]
[1] Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Clayton, NJ, 08312

Three main challenges that affect the economic sustainability of the New Jersey's wine industry are: 1) viral diseases, spread by non-certified wine grape nurseries; 2) cold damage during harsh winters, and 3) high humidity and excess precipitation causing high disease pressure. The Vineyard Best Management Practice (BMP) program was developed to educate New Jersey's wine grape growers to manage these stressors. Educational programs were delivered through a variety of platforms such as twilight meetings, symposiums, demonstration workshops, fact sheets, and blog as well as newsletter articles. Following the programs, learning evaluations were conducted to assess gain in knowledge and attitude. Also, annual surveys were conducted to gauge the medium-term impacts of the BMP program. A *Google form* based surveys also allowed for real-time analysis of survey results. An IRB approval was received from Rutgers Office of Research and Regulatory Affairs before sending out the surveys. Growers' responses indicated the rapid adoption of planting advanced certified grapevines. A substantial number of growers showed increased preparedness to mitigate cold damage by integrating strategies, such as hilling-up and retaining multiple canes. After the program, 60% growers corrected vineyard nutritional deficiencies. More than 90% of growers agreed that twilight meetings helped them develop better disease management programs. Overall, Vineyard BMP program resulted in healthier vineyards which assures enhanced economic sustainability.

Search for Excellence in Livestock Production

National Winner

Amber Yutzy
Extension Educator
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
Yutzy, A.*[1], Strait, G*[2]
[1] Extension Educator, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, Huntingdon, PA, 16652
[2] Extension Educator, Penn State University, McConnellsburg, PA, 17233

Producing a high quality product on a dairy farm can be very challenging. Quality control is a major factor in the productivity and profitability of a farm. Use of consistent milking practices that emphasize teat cleanliness, udder massage and rapid milking is one of the most important jobs on your dairy farm. Consistency of milking affects cow well-being, mastitis risk and milking speed. It is often hard to keep milkers engaged in the milking process and usually requires refresher training of why each step is important. Consistent use of standardized milking practices such as predipping, forestripping, drying teats with a single-use towel, unit alignment, and rapid unit attaching and detaching at the right time are essential to quality milk production. This program was delivered through various methods such as dairy profit teams, individual on farm evaluation, various milk quality workshops, and the use of online learning modules in both English and Spanish. Through these programs, I helped the producer narrow down the bottleneck on their farm and set up an action program that will increase the dairies milk quality. 88% of the participants that have been involved in this program have seen an increase in the milk quality efficiency on their farm. Examples of types of changes that have been made include; implementation of proper forestripping, implementation of culturing chronically infected cows, improvement of milk quality record keeping, improved use of pre/post teat dips and/or alterations to milking protocols.

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

National Winner

Lee Stivers
Extension Educator
Penn State Extension
Washington County
Stivers, L.*[1], Baugher, T.*[2], Skinner, M.*[3], Chawner, M.*[4], Pollock, R.*[5], Kime, L.*[6], Esslinger, J.*[7], Neiner, P.*[8]
[1] Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Washington, PA, 15301
[2] Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Gettysburg, PA, 17325
[3] Project Coordinator, Penn State Extension, Allentown, PA, 18104
[4] Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Allentown, PA, 18104
[5] Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Indiana, PA, 15701
[6] Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Gettysburg, PA, 17325
[7] Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Scranton, PA, 18503
[8] Extension Associate, Penn State University, State College, PA, 16802

Leading Pennsylvania's economy with $7.4 billion in sales each year, Pennsylvania's future depends on agriculture. Yet, the farming population is aging, and 16,000 Pennsylvania farmers are projected to retire in the next ten years. This project was designed to increase the number and success of beginning farmers in Pennsylvania, particularly those in years 2 to 10, and ran from January, 2015 through October, 2017.

The project focused on four main components. Seven on-farm demonstrations provided living classrooms where new farmers experienced and learned cutting-edge best management practices in the context of working farms. Six study circle learning networks provided opportunities for new farmers and educators to learn from each other and from on-farm demonstrations. New Commercial Fruit Grower courses provided new producers with in-depth knowledge on starting a fruit business. Additional study circle networks provided support specific to the needs and learning preferences of women and Hispanic/Latino farmers. Information gathered and demonstrated through model plots and study circles was used to create new farmer-specific educational materials and reach a national community of new farmers.

Based on survey responses, as a result of participating in this program, 52 people started farming; 248 received assistance in starting to farm; and 454 improved their farming success. Seventy-one study circles were held for 702 establishing farmers; 70% of study circle participants who completed post-program surveys (n=454) said they planned to adopt a new practice, and 88% increased their knowledge in areas that would increase profitability. 254 female farmers and 107 Hispanic/Latino growers participated in study circles established for these underserved audiences. Seventy-three farmers participating in at least one component of the program indicated that they had adopted best management practices for sustainable horticultural production.

Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture

National Winner

Wendy Becker
Agent
Montana State University
Fort Peck Reservation
Becker, W.*[1], Buck, C*[2], Fine, T*[3], Mills, S*[4], Roos, B*[5]
[1] Agent, Montana State University, Poplar, MT, 59255
[2] Extension Agent, Montana State University, Plentywood, MT, 59254
[3] Extension Agent, Montana State University, Sidney, MT, 59270
[4] Extension Agent, Montana State University, Glasgow, MT, 59230
[5] Extension Agen, Montana State University, Scobey, MT, 59263

In Northeast Montana, pulse crops acreage has been increasing due to the favorable growing conditions for cool season crops, incorporation of crop rotation, no-till practices, and economic returns. Producers began experimenting with pulse crops near the turn of the century, but had little knowledge specific to Montana. The need for producer education regarding disease and pest identification, rotations, marketing, and weed management grew rapidly. Local programs were developed that alternate between Montana and North

Dakota in order to bring as many producers as possible together with nationally recognized experts in the field. Three years ago, the program expanded its coverage and grew to a full day of presentations, a commercial trade show, networking opportunities, and specialized topics. It grew from 40 participants to 170 the first year and 125 the second, and from six commercial trade show booths and sponsors to 33. Forty-nine percent of the attendees were very experienced in growing pulse crops with 5% raising them for the first time. The top pulse crops grown regionally are chickpeas, lentils, and yellow peas, 59% of producers had not used the nitrogen credit supplied by legume crops, and a new invasive weed was found in 46% of the acres. New management practices learned at the seminars were incorporated by 88% of producers, and 100% would like to see it continue. All attendees found it very to extremely useful to continue to bring in well researched speaker and allow for producers to interact with other producers and businesses. Pulse crops and cropping practices in Northeastern Montana has become more sustainable by enabling producers to manage rotations, develop markets, select herbicides, and use continuous cropping strategies.

Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE) Seminar USDA SARE/NACAA Fellows Program

National Winners

Claire Strader
Small-Scale and Organic Produce Educator
UW-Extension
Dane County

Nicole Santangelo
Extension Educator
Penn State Extension
Potter County

Jessica A. Kelton
Regional Agent- Farm and Agribusiness Management
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Kathleen Painter
Extension Educator Small Farms
University of Idaho Extension
Boundary County

2018 Achievement Award Winners

North Central Region

Indiana - Valerie Clingerman
Indiana - Jenna Nees
Iowa - Charles Brown
Michigan - Erin Lizotte
Minnesota - Emily Wilmes
Missouri - Valerie Tate
Nebraska - Tyler Williams
North Dakota - Alicia Harstad
Ohio - Samuel Custer
Ohio - Jacqueline Kowalski
South Dakota - Sara Bauder
Wisconsin - Katie L Wantoch

Northeast Region

Maine - Lakesh K Sharma
Maryland - Jonathan R. Moyle
New Jersey - Steven Yergeau
New York - Donald Gasiewicz
Pennsylvania - Tanner Delvalle
West Virginia - James J. Barrett

Southern Region

Alabama - R. Hunter McBrayer
Alabama - Kimberly C. Mullenix
Alabama - Eric T. Schavey
Arkansas - Jennifer Caraway
Arkansas - Jenny Ross
Arkansas - Brian See
Florida - Michelle Atkinson
Florida - Frank Dowdle
Florida - Mark D Mauldin
Georgia - Renee Allen
Georgia - Stephanie Hollifield
Georgia - Clark MacAllister
Georgia - Andrew Sawyer
Kentucky - Corinne Belton
Kentucky - Whitney Carman
Kentucky - Michelle Simon
Louisiana - William Afton
Mississippi - Amanda Blakeney
Mississippi - Alex Deason
Mississippi - Stephen L. Meyers
North Carolina - Taylor H. Chavis
North Carolina - Melissa Evans Huffman
North Carolina - Jamie D. Warner
Oklahoma - Earl H. Ward
South Carolina - Terasa M Lott
Tennessee - Ronnie Cowan
Tennessee - Justin Hargrove
Tennessee - Blake Ramsey
Texas - Erin Davis
Texas - Shaniqua Davis
Texas - John Grange
Texas - Michael V. Haynes
Texas - Sheryl Raley Long
Texas - Allison Watkins
Virginia - Amy Fannon
Virginia - Todd Scott

Western Region

Arizona - Ashley Wright
Montana - Patricia Mcglynn
New Mexico - Aspen Achen
Oregon - Sergio Arispe
Utah - Michael Caron
Wyoming - Caitlin Youngquist

2018 Distinguished Service Award Winners

North Central Region

North Central Region
Indiana - Mark Kepler
Indiana - Eugene A. Matzat
Iowa - David Stender
Kansas - Andrea Burns
Michigan - M. Charles Gould
Minnesota - Phyllis Bongard
Missouri - Brent D. Carpenter
Nebraska - Aaron J.H. Nygren
North Dakota - LoAyne Voigt
Ohio - Michael Estadt
Ohio - Peggy Kirk Hall
South Dakota - Kimberly McGraw
Wisconsin - Joy Kirkpatrick

Northeast Region

Maine - Tori Lee Jackson
Maryland - Ben Beale
New York - David L Thorp
Pennsylvania - Dave Hartman
West Virginia - Brian Sparks

Southern Region

Alabama - Eve Brantley
Alabama - Lloyd D. Chapman
Alabama - Brenda S. Glover
Arkansas - Chris Grimes
Arkansas - Stewart Runsick
Arkansas - Robert Scott
Florida - Jim DeValerio
Florida - Gary K England
Florida - Libbie Johnson
Georgia - Greg W. Bowman
Georgia - Keith Mickler
Georgia - Paul J. Pugliese
Georgia - Peyton Sapp
Kentucky - Jerry Brown
Kentucky - Nick Carter
Kentucky - Linda Hieneman
Louisiana - Blair J. Hebert
Mississippi - Anthony Bland
Mississippi - Erick Larson
Mississippi - Jeffrey Wilson
North Carolina - Thomas Glasgow
North Carolina - Martha L. Mobley
North Carolina - Joanna Radford
North Carolina - Matthew Stevens
Oklahoma - Ron Wright
South Carolina - S. Cory Tanner
Tennessee - John Goddard
Tennessee - Steven Michael Huff
Tennessee - Megan Bruch Leffew
Texas - Bryan Young Davis
Texas - Tom Guthrie
Texas - Clinton Perkins
Texas - Langdon Reagan
Texas - Robert E. Richter
Texas - Marty Vahlenkamp
Virginia - Bobby Clark
Virginia - Scott Greiner

Western Region

Colorado - Michael J. Fisher
Montana - Bobbie Roos
New Mexico - R. Edmund Gomez
Oregon - William (Willie) Riggs
Utah - Justen Smith
Washington - Paul G Carter
Wyoming - Scott E Cotton

NACAA President Alan Gallow presents a Special Citation of Merit to Charles Moody - Alabama

Moody Attends 50 Consecutive AM/PIC's

During the 2018 AM/PIC in Chattanooga, Charles Moody (Life Member from Alabama) was presented a Special Citation of Merit for attending 50 consecutive NACAA AM/PIC's.

Charles was a 2011 recipient of the NACAA Hall of Fame Award and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 1979. He worked for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for 31 years.

Congratulations Charles Moody!

Looking for a different Extension Position? DID YOU KNOW ... NACAA has a job postings board on our website found at: https://www.nacaa.com/positions/ Check it out!

NACAA Hall of Fame Award

Pictured (L-R) Chris Thome, Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance; Mike Sweat - FACAA Member accepting on behalf of Thomas Braddock, HOF 2018 Winner; Alan Galloway, NACAA President

2018
Southern Region Hall of Fame Award

Thomas Braddock

Florida - 38 Years - Retired

Pictured (L-R) Chris Thome, Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance; Gary Wilson, HOF 2018 Winner; Alan Galloway, NACAA President

2018
North Central Region Hall of Fame Award

Gary W. Wilson

Ohio - 31 Years

Pictured (L-R) Chris Thome, Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance; Milton Green, HOF 2018 Winner; Alan Galloway, NACAA President

Pictured (L-R) Chris Thome, Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance; Joe Kluchinski (Dan's newphew); Walter "Brad" Bradhering (Dan's husband); Alan Galloway, NACAA President

2018
Western Region Hall of Fame Award

Milt Green

Wyoming - 32 Years - Retired

2018
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award

Daniel Kluchinski

New Jersey

28 Years - Awarded Posthumously

An Update from FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine

Public health is an important consideration of livestock production, and an important part of protecting public health is ensuring safe animal food. Safe feed helps ensure safe human food. A presentation that FDA made at this year's AM/PIC described important aspects of feed safety, including proper use of antimicrobials in feed under the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), and something that is sometimes overlooked in animal feed – commonsense. It needs to take over where the rules end.

Veterinary Feed Directive

On January 1, 2017, most antimicrobial drugs used in feed changed from over-the-counter to VFD status. The change involved only medically important antimicrobials, which are drugs also used in human medicine.

The change in status to VFD drugs means that a veterinarian must order the use of a medically important antimicrobial before it can be used in feed. Veterinarians have the training and experience to know how to use antimicrobials judiciously, which helps to prevent the development of antimicrobial resistance. Drug sponsors have also agreed to change the status of their VFD drugs, so the label on them no longer says that they can be used for growth promotion and feed efficiency.

The VFD rule has provisions that apply to veterinarians, feed manufacturers and distributors, and livestock producers. So, it's possible – although not likely, at least for a while – that an FDA inspector might visit the farm of one of your clients to check to make sure the regulation has been properly followed by all parties. If a veterinarian orders the use of a VFD drug for a producer's livestock, that producer will need to know about the dates that determine when the VFD feed can be used. That's a key part of the regulation, because excessive use of antibiotics (use that goes beyond the limits of the order) can lead to resistance. Livestock producers also must keep the written order issued by the veterinarian for 2 years.

For more information about VFDs, go to our Web page – www.fdaFDA.gov/SafeFeed. Near the top of that page is a tab about VFDs. There's even a 7-minute long video on that page for livestock producers.

Food Safety Modernization Act

An important topic for FDA, all animal producers, and the feed industry is FSMA. The idea behind FSMA is to prevent food and feed problems, rather than respond to them after the fact.

Under FSMA, there is a basic requirement for feed manufacturers known as the Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) regulations. Adopting CGMP rules will help feed manufacturers to prevent many feed safety problems. The CGMP regulations are flexible, so they can apply to feed manufacturers that range in size from small to huge and that use a variety of production processes. CGMPs will work for all feed manufacturing operations.

The regulations will address most ordinary feed safety issues, such as these:

- proper training for employees
- keeping the plant and grounds in proper condition
- cleaning and sanitation
- plant operations
- holding and distributing feed

But when feed manufacturers are handling ingredients that could have hazards that won't be addressed by CGMPs, the manufacturers will need to use risk-based Preventive Controls for Animal Food (PCAF). To use PCAF, feed manufacturers will conduct a hazard analysis and write food safety plans for their operations that will identify the ingredients that pose a feed safety risk. Then they will have to determine how to either mitigate or eliminate any risk that CGMPs do not address, and apply the risk-reduction program to their operations.

FSMA is relatively new (it was passed in 2011). The regulations to implement the law are even newer (adopted in 2016). And FSMA fundamentally changed the way we approach the issue of feed safety. Because the rules are relatively new and they represent a significant change, we believe education and training will be the best way to gain compliance. And compliance will lead to safer feed.

Training for the industry has been developed by the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance, a public-private partnership that works with FDA to ensure the accuracy of the training. Another important organization involved in training is the Association of American Feed Control Officials. It represents state feed

control officials from across the country who know about feed manufacturing and about the regulations.

At FDA, we listened carefully to the feed industry as we developed rules applying to feed manufacturers. We went through two rounds of notice-and-comments on the proposed rules before reaching our final version. We therefore believe that the FSMA feed requirements are achievable and not likely to disrupt the feed or the feeding business. A feed company employee with some production experience and some training should be able to implement the CGMPs and even the PCAF with little difficulty.

Even though you as a County Agent are not likely to be too involved with feed manufacturers, we think knowing about FSMA will help you, because you might get questions. For more information about FSMA, come to our Website – www.fdaFDA.gov/safefeed.

Food by-products – a free ingredient?

Supplies of food by-products for use as feed ingredients, such as plate waste, are plentiful in the marketplace. Livestock producers may seek or be offered cheap or even free food by-products for use as a feed ingredient. Although by-products can work well as an ingredient, they must be used properly, which may not be easy or inexpensive. Food by-products might not be as good of a deal as livestock producers think. Free feed is seldom free, and cheap feed is seldom cheap, once all additional costs are figured in. FDA has issued a document that speaks to handling human food by-products for use in animal food. (Guidance for Industry #239. It can be found here: https://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/GuidanceforIndustry/UCM499201.pdf.)

Before your clients accept food by-products as a feed ingredient (plate waste or grocery store waste, for instance), ask him or her to consider the quality of the product. Plate waste does not have a standard feed value; quality and nutritional values are quite likely to be variable. Plate waste can range from restaurant waste to recycled material from grocery stores.

Alert your livestock feeders to also consider what it will take to handle the feed material. Chances are, they can't use typical feeding equipment. They might have to get special equipment – special tanks or pumps, for example. And remind your feeders to take a careful look at the feed to make sure it's not contaminated with material they don't want. Food by-product ingredients may include packaging material that would need to be separated from the food itself. Handling food by-products often have special equipment and labor requirements that bring extra cost.

At FDA, our regulations focus on safety and labeling, but don't go any further. So you might want to tell your producer clients, "Where FDA's regulations end, commonsense should begin."

A year ago, we introduced you to a document, "Ensuring Safety of Animal Feed Maintained and Fed On-Farm." It describes the concept of an acceptable versus an unacceptable feed safety risk. That publication included the following principles and practices that could help your clients prevent unacceptable feed risks, including these risks when using food waste:

- Know what feed contaminants may be present in animals' feed and the measures known to prevent such contaminants from becoming unacceptable feed risks;
- Obtain feed from safe and reliable sources;
- Recognize unexpected changes in the feed (e.g., changes in color, smell, texture, or appearance);
- Know where in an animal production system(s) unacceptable feed risks may occur; and
- Monitor animal feed products for contaminants during receiving, holding, and handling.

The Guidance Document also identifies sources that livestock producers can use to find additional information about feed safety. They can go to these sources:

- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) education and outreach programs on Animal and Animal Products, and Animal Nutrition and Growth (http://nifa.usda.gov/);
- FDA's animal food safety articles (http://www.fda.gov/SafeFeed);
- Land-Grant University Web sites and private publications might also help.

To get a copy of the "Ensuring Safety of Animal Feed Maintained and Fed On-Farm" go to this Web site https://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/GuidanceforIndustry/UCM438641.pdf.

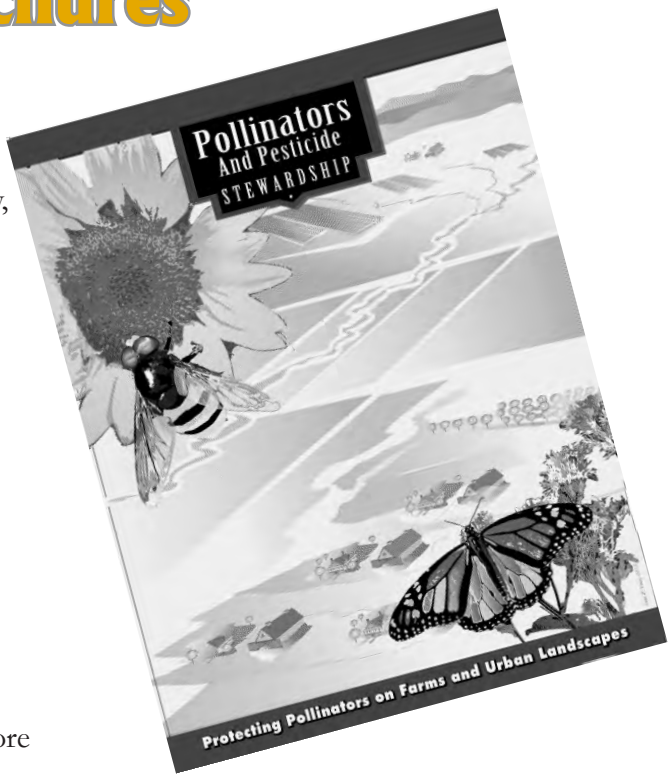
And tell your clients about the document. It's free to download and distribute. You'll also find a great deal of additional information about safe feed on the www.FDA/SafeFeed site.

Conclusion

Public health, and food and feed safety are all part of FDA's responsibility. VFDs will speak to public health by addressing the issue of antimicrobial resistance. FSMA, with its rules on feed safety, will go a long way to ensure the safety of animal feed and the safety of the food we derive from animals.

VFDs and FSMA rules go only so far, though. After that, commonsense will help. Cheap or free feed ingredients might be good ingredients, but are probably not cheap or free, after the additional costs of using them are identified. We encourage producers to consider all aspects of using food by-products before accepting them. And we encourage producers to use the Guidance Document (#203) on ensuring safety of feed before deciding to accept food by-products.

Pesticide Stewardship Brochures



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

____1) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - English edition
____2) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Spanish edition
____3) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Aerial Applicator edition
____4) 50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Pest Management Professional edition - (*for commercial, licensed or certified applicators and technicians under their supervision, for treating in and around structures*)
____5) The Value of Buffers for Pesticide Stewardship and Much More
____6) Insect Pollinators and Pesticide Product Stewardship
____7) Dress for Success! Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide
____8) For Pesticide Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators - Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide (English, 2 pages, 8th gr. reading level)
____9) For Pesticide Mixers, Loaders, and Applicators - Some Things to Know About Personal Protective Equipment BEFORE You Handle a Pesticide (Spanish, 2-pages, 8th gr. reading level)
____10) An Ounce of Prevention! Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Schools and Child Care Facilities – *(discussing all aspects of IPM, including safe pesticide use)*

Available Formats:

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

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

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

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

Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors

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The County Agent

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The County Agent - NACAA, 6584 W. Duroc Rd.,
Maroa, IL 61756 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

2019
Fort Wayne, Indiana .....September 8-12

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

2021
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania....July 4-8

2022
West Palm Beach, Florida.....July 17-22

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

December, 2018	April, 2019	June, 2019
Committee/Awards Directory	AM/PIC Registration Edition	Pre-AM/PIC Edition
Deadline for Articles: December 5, 2018	Deadline for Articles: March 15, 2019	Deadline for Articles: April 20, 2019
Mail Date: December 30, 2018	Mail Date: April 15, 2019	Mail Date: May 20, 2019