

“Indiana, Agriculture that Works” Inspires All in Fort Wayne

The 104th NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference held in Fort Wayne, Indiana was a tremendous success and I am sure that everyone who attended returned home energized, enthusiastic and proud to be an Extension Agent.

Kudos to the Indiana Association under the leadership of Kelly Heckman and Scott Gabbard, which went all out to treat attendees to a taste of Hoosier hospitality and did a fantastic job of showcasing the great State of Indiana. The Indiana agents pulled together and organized a terrific annual meeting which featured something for everyone.

As always, it was great to connect with old friends and colleagues from across the country, to catch up on the past year, to make new friends, and share ideas. It was heartening to see the large number of first-time attendees in Fort Wayne. I was honored to work with the Indiana agents to help organize the first timer program this year. It was a pleasure to meet and to get acquainted with the many bright and talented new agents and reassuring to know that the future of NACAA is in good hands going forward.

Many thanks to the NACAA Council Chairs, Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs and the 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 professional improvement and recognition programs which benefit all of us as NACAA members.

The 850+ individuals who attended this meeting benefited from more than 400 hours of professional improvement opportunities. From the Search for Excellence presentations, member presentations, trade talk sessions, posters, super



*2019 NACAA President
Gene McAvo and wife Donna*

seminars, committee workshops, trade show exhibits, and general sessions, this year’s AM/PIC offered a tremendous amount of information and knowledge to those in attendance.

Awards and recognitions are always the highlights of the meeting and this year was no exception. The Search for Excellence Awards Programs were outstanding, and the Communication Awards underscored the diversity and variety of programming that agents offer around the country. The Hall of Fame presentations provided insight into the outstanding careers of amazing individuals. Congratulations to all!

Monday’s inspirational speaker, Marine Corporal Josh Bleill, offered a moving

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NACAA 2019



Reflections of Fort Wayne - 2019



2019 AM/PIC Photos can be found at:
<https://www.nacaa.com/ampic/2019/2019Photos.php>

and powerful message and set an example of how one can overcome seemingly insurmountable adversity to embrace life fully and achieve success one step at a time. Keynote speaker Damian Mason, a thought-provoking mix of Ag economist, futurist, talk show host, and comedian that offered insights into some of the trends affecting agriculture.

Often overlooked is the dedicated commitment made by the NACAA board of officers, and regional directors throughout the year to ensure that the annual meeting is a success.

As always, NACAA Executive Director Scott Hawbaker worked tirelessly behind the scenes in the months leading up the meeting as well as during the AMPIC to ensure everything went smoothly. NACAA is very fortunate to have someone like Scott. He does an amazing job of maintaining existing partnerships, identifying opportunities for potential donors and keeping things on track. Thank you, Scott for everything you do for NACAA and for your dedication to this association.

Extension in the US is at a crossroads, we face a time of great social and technological change. This is true of Extension programming in general and is particularly true for agriculture-related programs. While no one can see the future, one thing is certain the days ahead definitely will not consist of business as usual.

If we as Extension Agents can adapt and change successfully, our future will be extremely bright.

Adapting to change demands that we, as agents, actively pursue professional improvement and educate ourselves to be able to meet clients changing needs. Organizations such as NACAA play a key role in providing such opportunities.

Extension provides incredible opportunities and the challenging part is often saying yes and making the commitment in time and energy to enhance one’s chances of success.

Our success as an organization and as professionals remains dependent on our ability to address basic human values. Extension has traditionally excelled in this regard. We must not neglect our ability to forge strong relationships with our clients and partners.

The actions (or inactions) of today will determine Extension’s future. Addressing the changes that face us will be part art, part science, and executed one person at a time. Effective engagement with our clients and partners must not be limited to a day, or an event, but needs to be a way of life.

My goal as president will be to work with the board to continue to adopt to the changes around us and keep NACAA relevant to the needs and desires of our members while preserving our rich traditions.

It is with great honor and humility that I take the reins as president of the National Association of County Agricultural agents. I would like to thank the members of this great association for your confidence in me by selecting me for this important position. I appreciate the trust you have placed in me and I look forward with great enthusiasm and honor to serving as your president. I am truly humbled by the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the many outstanding leaders of NACAA.

I look forward to working with the officers and Board to promote the mission of the NACAA: to further the professional improvement of its members, foster communication and cooperation among all extension educators and enhance the image of extension and promote personal growth opportunities for extension professionals.

Thanks to all you all for demonstrating your commitment to professional improvement by belonging to NACAA. I encourage you to get involved in NACAA by serving on state, regional and national committees. An association is as only as strong as its members. By working together NACAA will continue to be a strong association and beneficial to us all.

My door is always open, and the Board and I welcome any thoughts, suggestions and ideas for improvement and even criticisms of what we might be doing wrong. You can share your thoughts through your regional director or give me a shout. We cannot stay relevant to our membership if we don’t know what the membership wants.

The Virginia Association of County Agricultural Agents are hard at work “Where It All Began” preparing to host the 2020 AM/PIC in Virginia Beach, VA on July 19-24, 2020. We would like to invite you to make plans now to attend and experience all that the great State of Virginia has to offer. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The County Agent

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Recap of National Award Winners from the 2019 AM/PIC

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE APPLIED RESEARCH POSTERS



Matthew VanWeelden

1st Place

ASSESSMENT OF MITICIDES FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE SUGAR- CANE RUST MITE (ACTINEDIDA: ERIOPHYIDAE) IN FLORIDA SUG- ARCANE

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Poster URL: <https://www.nacaa.com//posters/uploads/1859.pdf>

The sugarcane rust mite, *Abacarus sacchari* (Actinedida: Eriophyidae), was first discovered feeding on Florida sugarcane in 2007; however the pest's impact on the crop is relatively unknown. Trials were conducted in 2017 and 2018 to evaluate the efficacy of miticides in reducing *A. sacchari* injury on sugarcane. Three miticides (Agri-Mek, Torac, and Oberon) were assessed using small-plot trials imbedded within commercial sugarcane fields. In both years, results demonstrated significant reductions in *A.*

sacchari injury compared to the untreated check, with all miticides reducing injury by up to 50% 12 to 15 days after treatment (DAT). Numerically, Torac provided the greatest injury reduction in 2017; however, this difference was not significant. In 2018, an additional trial was designed to compare yields between miticide treated and untreated sugarcane; however, no differences in stalk weight were detected presumably as a result of low *A. sacchari* populations present in the field. These miticide trials aim to provide data necessary for the registration of chemical products for managing *A. sacchari* in Florida sugarcane.



Chris Augustin

2nd Place

A COMPARISON OF THREE GAR- DEN SOIL TEST KITS AND A CER- TIFIED SOIL TESTING LAB

Augustin, C.L.¹; Staricka, J.²; Buetow, R.³; Harstad, A.E.⁴; Teboh, J.M.⁵; Burdolski, B.⁶

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Poster URL: <https://www.nacaa.com//posters/uploads/1785.pdf>

This project compared soil test results from a certified commercial soil testing lab with soil test kits purchased from a garden retailer. The soil test kits were the Luster leaf Rapitest soil test kit (Rapitest), Luster leaf 4-way Analyzer (4-way Analyzer), and LaMotte complete soil test kit (LaMotte). Garden test kit results were compared to soil tests completed by the North Dakota State University Soil Testing Laboratory (NDSU STL). Fourteen different soil series were collected based on location, taxonomy, and prevalence in North Dakota. Store bought compost and potting soil were also tested. Soil pH, nitrate, phosphorus, and potassium content were determined. Soil test levels were statistically analyzed by Student's T-test procedure and compared only with the NDSU STL results. The LaMotte soil tests were similar to the NDSU STL ($p < 0.05$), except for the potassium test ($p < 0.001$). The Rapitest soil pH and nitrate ($p < 0.05$) were similar to the NDSU STL results. The NDSU STL and Rapitest phosphorus ($p < 0.001$) and potassium ($p < 0.001$) tests were different. The 4-way Analyzer soil tests were different from all NDSU STL soil tests ($p < 0.001$). When NDSU STL and garden test kit nutrient analyses were different, all garden test kits measured less nutrients than NDSU STL. This discrepancy could greatly impact garden fertilizer application rates.



Bruce Loyd

3rd Place

JAPANESE STILTGRASS MANAGEMENT IN A PASTURE: USING A GDD MODEL TO APPLY PROWL H2O

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Poster URL: <https://www.nacaa.com/posters/uploads/1778.pdf>

Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is an unpalatable invasive annual grass with limited selective management options in a cool-season pasture. Prowl H2O is considered to be an effective herbicide to manage this weed when applied prior to germination. We hypothesized that a predictive model to time pre-emergent application based on a Growing Degree Days (GDD) may provide consistent weed control. An experiment was conducted in 2018 at Bethlehem, West Virginia, to determine the lowest effective rate of Prowl H2O applied at 4, 2, and 1 quarts/acre, based on a GDD Model available through Climate Smart Farming at Cornell University (<http://climatesmartfarming.org/>) prior to weed germination. Herbicide treatments were applied on April 27, when GDD_{50F} recorded 134 at this location. Japanese stiltgrass germinated a week later in untreated plots when GDD_{50F} surpassed

200. Soil moisture levels preceding and following treatments were adequate to ensure herbicide activation. Prowl H2O applied at 4 quarts/acre consistently provided excellent control (>95%) of Japanese stiltgrass up to 16 weeks after treatment, whereas Prowl H2O applied at 2 and 1 quarts/acre failed to provide acceptable levels of control (<70%) during this time. A GDD model, by virtue of its direct relationship with soil temperature (warming), could be used as a viable estimate to time effective preemergence herbicide application to manage Japanese stiltgrass in a cool-season pasture upon validation.

**PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE
EXTENSION EDUCATION
POSTERS**



Adriane Good

1st Place

CALVIN' FEVER

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Reducing death loss during calving is a high priority for Montana beef producers. Approximately 33% of all calf losses and 15% of breeding cattle losses are due to dystocia, according to the Cow-Calf Health and Productivity Audit. The purpose of this educational program was to educate ranch women in a welcoming environment on proper calving protocol, prevention of dystocia, and newborn calf care. Participants learned about calving difficulties, bull selection, newborn calf care, and preparing meals in advance for busy times on the ranch, like calving season. This workshop featured a local veterinarian and local Montana State University Extension agents giving presentations and including hands-on learning experiences for the participants. Calvin' Fever provided education and increased knowledge of identifying calving difficulties and assisting with delivery and care of calves. Workshop participants were multi-generational and were comfortable actively participating in this event. Assuming a 1% reduction in calf death loss as a result of Calvin' Fever, an additional 55 calves would be weaned from the group, creating approximately \$55,000 additional revenue and resulting in an economic impact of approximately \$1,800 per participant yearly. At the end of Calvin' Fever, producers completed a short, written evaluation that was both specific to each presenter and evaluated the day as a whole. Overall, participants rated Calvin' Fever as 4.8 out of 5, indicating high satisfaction among participants. Participants listed several new techniques they had learned that they planned to implement in the 2019 calving season to improve calf and cow health. Attendees of Calvin' Fever also gained confidence with their abilities to assist with calving.

NACAA 2019





Francisco Rivera-Melendez

2nd Place

FROM PASTURE TO PLATE 4-H DAY CAMP

Rivera-Melendez, F. P.¹; Bosques, J.²; Gran, S.³; Grooms, A.⁴; Bennett, L.⁵; Yancy, B.⁶; Polisenio C.⁷; Ghosh S.⁸; Zayas, J.⁹; Hange, M.¹⁰

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Poster URL: <https://www.nacaa.com//posters/uploads/1784.pdf>

The purpose of the workshop was to help youth understand the beef production system and introducing them to Florida's Tailgate Grilling Contest by promoting the use of animal protein in their diet by teaching the art and science of cooking in an outdoor setting. The youth will be able to identify grazing patterns, demonstrate

food, location and fire safety, identify beef cuts, gain knowledge on healthy beef recipes and name byproducts from beef cattle. The workshop used multiple delivery methods like interactive games, powerpoint presentations, team building activities, skilathon and demonstrations to disseminate the information. The day camp was evaluated using pre/posttest to document knowledge gain and an overall day camp evaluation to access its effectiveness. A total of 13 youth and 2 adults attended the day camp of which 8 completed the pre/post test and evaluation. 88% (n=8) reported knowledge gain in grazing behavior of beef cattle, soil testing technique, digestive anatomy of beef, body condition score, beef cuts, and healthy beef recipes. 75% (n=8) reported knowledge gain in food, fire and location safety for grilling outdoors. 100% (n=8) of the respondents reported that demonstration, as a method of program delivery, best suited their learning style. This day camp provided a comprehensive knowledge of the beef production system and aimed at developing life skills such as wise use of resources, healthy lifestyle choice, personal safety, critical thinking, leadership and decision making, to create awareness and appreciation of our food systems and environments.



Donna Aufdenberg

3rd Place

FRUIT TREE EDUCATION FOR HOME GARDENERS AND SMALL GROWERS

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An increasing number of homeowners and small orchards are requesting information on growing, pruning and grafting fruit trees. A series of workshops were offered during the 2018 growing season to give participants an opportunity to learn in the classroom as well as on-site through orchard visits with hands-on experience. Topics presented included fruit tree basics, fruit tree grafting, and fruit tree pruning. Fruit tree basics covered soils, fertility, varieties, planting, pest management, and harvest with a power point. Fruit tree grafting was taught through lecture with demonstration followed by participants grafting of up to three apple varieties onto bare-root root-stock. Fruit tree pruning workshops were taught through lecture, demonstration and participants pruning at home orchards or commercial orchards. Participants learned about pruning tools, techniques, and sanitation measures. Over 70 participants from a 10 county area (from 2 states) attended one or more of the fruit tree workshops. The Participants networked with other growers and extension professionals as well as gained knowledge of valuable resources. In the evaluations, all participants indicated practice changes. These changes ranged from conducting soil tests, irrigating fruit plantings, following a fruit tree spray schedule, planting disease resistant cultivars, proper pruning, and sanitation measures. Participants reported 67% will have a soil test done, 89% will develop a fruit tree spray schedule, 73% will graft trees at home, 89% will prune fruit trees and 36% will plant an orchard.



COMMUNICATION AWARDS NATIONAL WINNERS



**Jason Lamb with NACAA
Communications Chair -
David Marrison**

Audio Recording National Winner

Jason Lamb

Ag Agent
New Mexico State University
Quay County
Lamb, J.*¹

¹ Ag Agent, New Mexico State University, Tucumcari, NM, 88401

The “Garden Minute” radio program was created to better inform the community of urban horticultural practices in Quay County and reaches a population of approximately 8500 residents. Through 2014 to 2019 the agent has conducted the bi-weekly radio program which has aired eight times a week on two radio stations. The program educates the public on topics such as lawn irrigation, back yard composting, xeriscaping, insect infestations, and vegetable gardening. The “Garden Minute” is also used to advertise for the local farmer’s market and upcoming Extension programs.

The “Garden Minute” program has increased office visits, home visits and phone calls by as much as 40%. Several topics presented on the radio program have generated workshops such as the Quay County Grass-

hopper Workshop in 2015 and a Sugar Cane Aphid presentation in 2016 at the Quay County Pesticide Applicators Training. The program has increased knowledge in urban horticultural areas. Informed clientele of Extension programs, and increased awareness of the resources available for county residents through the extension office. Most importantly the program keeps extension in the public eye. Which assists with funding and public relations.



**Kent Standford & William Kelly
with NACAA
Communications Chair -
David Marrison**

Bound Book

National Winner

Kimberly C. Mullenix

Extension Specialist - Animal Science
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Mullenix, K.C.*¹, Rodning, S.*², Kriese-Anderson, L.A.*³, Elmore, M.*⁴, Godrich, B.*⁵, Dillard, L.*⁶, Kelly, W.K.*⁷, Runge, M.*⁸, Tigue, A.*⁹, Prasad, R.*¹⁰, Stanford, M.K.*¹¹

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The Alabama Beef Handbook was a collaborative project among Extension specialists and agents on the Alabama Extension Animal Science and Forage Team to provide an “in-hand” quick reference guide book to beef cattle producers. This resource highlights best management tips related to forages, nutrition, herd health, reproduction, genetics, management and marketing economics, environmental stewardship, and meat yield/quality. This resource builds upon the widely used ‘Alabama Beef Pocket Guide’, which is no longer in print through Alabama Extension. The team sought and garnered support from the USDA Southern Risk Management Education Center, Alabama Cattlemen’s, and the Alabama Farmers Federation to fund the project in 2018. 7,000 copies of this new guide were printed in fall 2018 and are currently being used as the base curriculum for beef educational programs in Alabama. The book is 132 pages in length and is printed in full color with text, figures, and photos for highlighting educational con-

cepts to beef farmers. Copies of the book have been distributed at BEEF U (a program for youth interested in beef production), Women in Ag, the Tuskegee Farmers Conference, the Alabama Farmers Federation Beef Commodity Organizational Meeting, the Alabama Cattlemen's Convention, and at producer discussion group meetings around the state. 97% of beef producers surveyed indicated this guide would be useful for making decisions in their operations (n = 278 survey responses), and ranked forages, herd health/reproduction, and management/marketing economics as key topics of importance.

"Livestock Biosecurity for 4-H Youth" was developed to share the importance of livestock biosecurity to 4-H youth attending livestock day camps at various locations in Minnesota during the summer of 2018. The development of the presentation was one of the deliverables created as part of a grant funded by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center. During the 4-H livestock day camps, biosecurity was one of four sessions to which the youth rotated. During the biosecurity session, youth learned biosecurity basics through the PowerPoint presentation for half of the session and the other half was spent doing a hands-on activity with our Biosecure Entry Education Trailer.

The presentation focused on teaching 4-H youth about biosecurity and why it is important in terms of preventing and reducing disease transfer. To aid our audience in better understanding biosecurity and the importance of it, the presentation defined the terms of biosecurity, foreign animal diseases, zoonotic diseases, virus, and bacteria. The presentation also explained how diseases spread and biosecurity practices the 4-H youth should adopt when working with their 4-H livestock projects.

The principles of biosecurity are the same for all livestock species. Depending on the group of youth and species of livestock they designated, our "Livestock Biosecurity for 4-H Youth" base presentation was altered to be species specific. To date, we have educated 348 4-H youth in the livestock project areas of beef cattle, dairy, horse, meat goat, rabbit, and swine. These youth indicated an average learning gain of 41% on their knowledge of biosecurity in a post-session evaluation. In summer 2019 we plan to use the same base presentation to educate 4-H youth in the remaining livestock project areas.

The presentation was developed using research-based fact sheets from a variety of sources from Land-Grant Institutions in the US and livestock industry groups.



Emelie Swackhamer with NACAA Communications Chair - David Marrison



Abby Neu, Diane DeWitte and Sarah Schieck with NACAA Communications Chair - David Marrison

Fact Sheet **National Winner**

Emelie Swackhamer
Horticulture Educator
Penn State Extension
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Swackhamer, E.*¹

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An invasive insect, *Lycorma delicatula*, commonly known as the spotted lanternfly (SLF), was discovered in southeastern Pennsylvania in September 2014. SLF has a wide host range and is a pest of hardwood trees, grapes, and other plants. Pennsylvania ranks first nationally for hardwood production, and fifth for grape production. Containment and suppression efforts are underway in the affected area. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has issued a quarantine order for 13 counties that prohibits movement of any living life stage of this insect to areas outside of the quarantined area. The author is working with the PDA to provide residents with information about how to comply with the quarantine order. This article was updated in October 2018 to reflect the new permitting requirements and made into a fact sheet approved by the College. It provides links to information about which counties are included in the quarantine order, pictures of SLF in different life stages, information about best management practices to avoid

Computer Generated Graphics Presentation

National Winner

Sarah Schieck

Extension Educator

University of Minnesota Extension

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spreading SLF, and links to regulatory information from the PDA including the new permit requirements. This fact sheet is available on the Penn State and PDA spotted lanternfly websites, as well as websites of many municipalities in the affected area. Since October 2018, 55,956 printed copies have been distributed through Penn State College of Agriculture Publications. Additionally, 2,019 have viewed it or downloaded it from the website [file:///C:/Users/exs33/Downloads/ee0232%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/exs33/Downloads/ee0232%20(2).pdf). It was printed in the January 2019 edition of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs News Magazine which is sent to 7,000 local officials. This fact sheet is part of a wider effort to inform people about the regulation requirements including the SLF permit that is needed for businesses who move within and out of the quarantined area. As of March 6, 2019, a total of 3,779 people completed the permit training and 128,041 permits were issued for use in individual vehicles



Theresa Badurek

Feature Story **National Winner**

Theresa Badurek
Extension Agent III
UF/IFAS
Pinellas
Badurek, T.*¹

¹ Extension Agent III, UF/IFAS, Largo, FL, 33774

In 2017 this agent was approached by the editor of *Florida Gardening* magazine

to write a series of feature stories for 2018. The editor was open to topics that the agent felt were impactful to the Florida gardener based on Extension programming. The result was a four-part series including the “Palms in Paradise: A Look at Florida’s Native Palms” feature story in the March/April 2018 issue, “Gardening Under Your Trees” and “What’s Damaging my Lawn” feature stories in the May/June 2018 issue, and “Extreme Gardening” feature story in the July/August 2018 issue. The article chosen for consideration here is the one entitled “Extreme Gardening”.

The objective of this article was to teach Florida gardeners about gardening in a changing climate and managing these challenges in sustainable and responsible ways. Frequent questions about climate-related issues at our extension help desk, phone calls, emails, and at presentations served as a needs assessment for this topic. The purpose of illustrating this information further was to make gardeners aware and informed, empowering them to improve the health of their landscapes in the face of our future climate changes.

Florida Gardening magazine is available through subscription and in stores throughout the state of Florida. According to the publisher, *Florida Gardening* magazine has a circulation of nearly 12,000 readers. Due to the nature of publication in a trade magazine, follow-up evaluation by survey is not possible. Several readers have shared with the agent how much they have learned from these articles since publication. The exposure in this magazine has also elevated the awareness of UF/IFAS Extension to the magazine’s audience.



**Amber Yutzy with NACAA
Communications Chair -
David Marrison**

Learning Module

National Winner

Amber Yutzy
Extension Educator
Penn State University
Yutzy, A.*¹

¹ Extension Educator, Penn State University, Huntingdon, PA, 16652

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 pre-dipping, 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 online learning module was developed to reach those that feel more comfortable learning in their own environment and at their own pace, while still getting the necessary education they need. This module was also translated and is available in Spanish to

reach the ever-growing Hispanic population on dairy farms. This module is available at: <https://extension.psu.edu/best-milking-practices-online> To access the module you will need the code: MILK-REVIEW

Extension educators, and members of supporting industry statewide. It's also offered on Cornell Cooperative Extension's North-west New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crop Team's website (www.nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu) and shared via the Team's Facebook page.

In a recent survey, DCC readers commented that they use it to "help explain training topics, such as water control in the parlor," and that the articles "are great ways of getting workers to think about things differently and start a discussion on the farm, instead of workers feeling like they're being scolded without understanding what's going on." Managers appreciate that this resource addresses everyday things that they may overlook, but have a big impact on the farm business's bottom line.

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⁵ Columbia County Livestock & Natural Resources Agent, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32603

⁶ Hamilton County Agriculture & Livestock Agent, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32603

North East Florida is a bustling center of agriculture and as a result, a hub for extension agents focusing on agricultural topics. The NE Florida Farm & Ranch newsletter is an effort by extension agents in NE Florida to create broader impacts, reduce the burden on agents to maintain individual newsletters, and to reach a wider range of clientele. The newsletter is set up to address the main topics of interest to extension's agricultural centered clients by providing a specific 'page' dedicated to the topic: Livestock, Crops, Natural Resources, & Pastures. Any agent, whether county, regional, or state faculty, can choose to write an article on research-based information by filling in their topic on a shared spreadsheet that is segmented by page topic area & edition. Articles for every edition are due by mid-December, after which, Alicia Halbritter proof-reads and edits the articles. Then, Alicia designs every edition, implementing color schemes, high quality photos, and emphasis on certain phrases, using Microsoft Sway. This unique approach helps reduce stress on agents through-out the year by providing an outlet for timely information in advance of the demand for that information. Individual newsletters are no longer a necessity for each agent, and they can provide their clients with far-reaching information from experts from across the region. Using Microsoft Sway was an important decision as it provides an interactive viewing experience for the reader and is easily edited throughout the year if an important topic needs to be added to an edition or corrections need to be made, without having to redistribute or redesign the newsletter. Sway also offers internal in-depth tracking which allows the editors to see how many people view the newsletter, how long they spend reading, and how many



**Libby Eiholzer with NACAA
Communications Chair -
David Marrison**

Newsletter, Individual

National Winner

Libby Eiholzer

Bilingual Dairy Specialist

Cornell Cooperative Extension

NWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops

The Dairy Culture Coach is a bilingual newsletter created to better serve dairy farm managers and their Hispanic employees in New York State. Included in the quarterly issues are articles offering tips to help employers and employees with language learning, educational materials to teach employees about the many aspects of working on a dairy farm, information to support managers' understanding of the cultures and countries that their employees come from, and dairy-related vocabulary. In the past few years, there has also been an increased focus on human resource management and labor law compliance, which are topics that readers frequently ask the author about.

Now in its 6th year, the newsletter is distributed via email to 150 dairy producers,



**Alicia Halbritter with NACAA
Communications Chair -
David Marrison**

Newsletter, Team

National Winner

Alicia Halbritter

Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

UF/IFAS Baker County Extension

Halbritter, A.*¹, Barrett, C.*², Barry, S.*³,

Cant, J.*⁴, Tomlinson, A. P.*⁵, Wynn, K.*⁶

¹ Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent, UF/IFAS Baker County Extension, Macclenny, FL, 32063

² Regional Water Resources Agent, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32603

times they revisit. Editions are published bi-monthly using an electronic mailing list, social media, and agent's county contact lists. The 2019 January/February edition has been viewed 296 times and the recent March/April edition has been viewed 47 times. On average, 47% of viewers read through the entire newsletter. 33 clients have subscribed to the electronic mailing list.

January/February- <https://sway.office.com/B5ysS8Uic3rBkQT1?ref=Link>
 March/April- <https://sway.office.com/SjiI69RRb9s2v44v?ref=Link>



**Timothy Malinich with NACAA
 Communications Chair -
 David Marrison**

Personal Column

National Winner

Timothy J Malinich

Assistant Professor, Extension Educator,
 Horticulture, Ohio State University
 Extension, Erie County

Lorain and contiguous counties are a mixture of developed urban and suburban areas next to farmland. The majority of land is in farming while the bulk of the population is in the developed areas. This monthly column serves as a forum to address horticulture issues for this diverse population. The reach of the Chronicle Telegram includes Lorain country as well as portions of Ashland, Medina, Erie, Huron and Cuyahoga counties.

Topics include current issues such drought and invasive weeds, while others are more hobby-oriented such as vegetables, lawns, pantry pests, tool sharpening, cacti, and Holiday plants. Articles are written in a light and chatty style but with no shortage of technical information—readers can read to which ever depth they seek. Each column is meant to provide firm technical data and engage the reader to seek more information by making the topic interesting as well as entertaining.

The author is solely responsible for providing text for the 750 to 1000 word article. Photos are optional but this author always provides one or two images with captions to accompany the article—the editors normally accept one, but two have been used on occasion. The author takes his own photos and edits each image in Adobe Photoshop to meet the size and density requirements of the publisher. The publisher provides color copy for about half of the articles and about one-third to one-half a page of copy.

This space is shared/rotated with four other agencies: Farm Bureau; Soil and Water Conservation District; Farm Services and Parks Department. The column is published monthly. Circulation is around 24,000 physical copies as well as online publication.



**Jane Cant with NACAA
 Communications Chair -
 David Marrison**

Program Promotional Piece

National Winner

Jane Elizabeth Cant

Agriculture and Small Farms
 UF/IFAS
 Duval

Cant, J.E.*1

¹ Agriculture and Small Farms, UF/IFAS,
 Jacksonville, FL, 32254

Hay supplementation is both an integral and expensive component of traditional annual livestock production in North Central Florida. In cattle alone, winter supplementation of hay for production females can exceed \$300.00 per head. The incorporation of cool-season annual forages into the grazing system can decrease annual cattle costs by up to \$170.00 per head by decreasing the amount of supplements needed, such as hay, molasses, or protein tubs, because of an extended grazing season. However, most cattle producers in Suwannee County are small ranches, and owning planting equipment is not economically feasible. The purpose of this promotional piece was to a) Draw attention to the topic by using attractive colors and pictures and b) Contain enough information to entice attendees without becoming cluttered or difficult to read. The extension program was targeted at

small-scale ranchers and farmers, and the promotional flyer was placed in five local feed stores, six agriculture businesses, and advertised on two social media platforms. Seventeen (17) producers representing an estimated 800 head of cattle attended the workshop. Based on evaluations, 78.2% (n=13) indicated an increase in knowledge on cool-season annual forage establishment, management, and utilization and 82.4% (n=14) indicated incorporating cool-season annual forages into their production systems. Attendees also estimated an average annual savings of \$120.13 per head by utilizing cool-season annual forages to extend their grazing season. This equates to \$96,104 savings per year for the combined cattle represented. By decreasing production costs, producers can maintain sustainable cattle production more efficiently in an unstable market.

includes garden and greenhouse pest identification and identifies sources for biological and chemical management practices.

As a result of this week long educational outreach, the agent received several office visits regarding insect identification.



Danielle Sprague with NACAA Communications Chair - David Marrison



Libbie Johnson and Florida team members pictured with NACAA Communications Chair - David Marrison



Jeff Edwards with NACAA Communications Chair - David Marrison

Published Photo & Caption

National Winner

Danielle Sprague

Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent
UF/IFAS Extension, Jefferson County

The purpose of this educational photo was to increase awareness of honey bees and their role in our ecosystem. The agent captured this photo using a Nikon D3400 camera. The photo was uploaded and shared to the UF/IFAS Jefferson County Extension's Facebook page during the University of Florida's 2018 Bug Week. Bug Week is one week of the year that has been set aside to raise awareness of the role insects play in society. This photo was one from a series of photos published to Facebook by the agent during Bug Week. Each day during Bug Week, the agent published a photo of a beneficial insect and a caption explaining the benefits that specific insect provides. Each caption also included a link to a page with more information about the insect. This particular photo and Facebook post of a worker honey bee pollinating carinata reached 102 Facebook subscribers. As

Video Presentation

National Winner

Libbie Johnson

Ext. Agt II, Agriculture, University of Florida

Cantonment

Johnson, L.*¹, Waters, K.*², Williamson, A.*³, Bainum, C.*⁴, Clem, T.*⁵, Griffin, J.C.*⁶, Hochumuth, R.C.*⁷, Korus, Kevin*⁸, Lollar, Matt*⁹, Rice, R.*¹⁰, Sanchez, Tatiana*¹¹, Shuffitt, M.*¹², Stauderman, K.*¹³

¹ Ext. Agt. II, Agriculture, UF, Cantonment, FL, 32533

² Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Bonifay, FL, 32425

³ Video Editor and Script Producer, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 32644

⁴ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Ocala, FL, 34470

⁵ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 32609

⁶ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Live Oak, FL, 32604

⁷ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Live Oak, FL, 32060

⁸ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 32609

Publication

National Winner

Jeff M Edwards

Pesticide Applicator Training Coord/
Small Acre Hort Specialist

University of Wyoming

Edwards, J.M.*¹

¹ Pesticide Applicator Training Coord/
Small Acre Hort Specialist, University of Wyoming, Lingle, WY, 82223

This publication discusses all aspects of integrated pest management. It

⁹ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Milton, FL, 32570

¹⁰ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, West Palm Beach, FL, 33415

¹¹ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 32609

¹² Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Ocala, FL, 34470

¹³ Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Deland, FL, 32724

Like all Extension services, UF/IFAS Extension is one of the state's best kept secrets, but the members of the Florida Association of County Agriculture Agents (FACAA) are always trying to tell our story. The idea for this video grew out of a promotional video developed for the 2022 Florida bid to host the Annual Meeting/ Professional Improvement Conference (AMPIC). After viewing the video, agents asked for the creators of the AMPIC video to modify it and make it available for use. The **Objective** was to create a succinct video utilizing Extension agents to communicate the value of agriculture and natural resources to be shared with the public, school groups, elected officials, and others. The **Purpose** of the "The Florida We Know" video is to showcase the diversity of agriculture, horticultural, livestock, and natural resource industries in Florida and the role that agents play keeping these industries viable and environmentally sensitive. The **preparation** of this video included agents and media professionals. A core team of four agents (led by Libbie Johnson) and a UF intern developed the original concept and script in the spring of 2018. Ten agents from throughout the state were selected as spokespeople to represent their industries. A professional videographer and an editor from the University of Florida (UF) worked with team to select locations and finalize the script. Portions of the video were filmed by the agents on office-owned cameras, while other segments utilized professionals from south Florida. The professionals from UF/IFAS Information and Communications Services provided the bulk of the agent video, along with UF stock videos and photographs. Agents, including Johnson as narrator and project manager, worked with the UF editor over the course of 7 months to create the final

version. Additional footage was filmed to cover Residential Horticulture as the full story of FACAA couldn't be told without including them. The video is available for distribution electronically on the UF/IFAS Extension Solutions for Your Life YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r707uGokl9Y&feature=youtu.be>



Kevin Athern with NACAA Communications Chair - David Marrison

Website

National Winner

Mary Elizabeth Henry

Extension Agent III

University of Florida IFAS Extension

Polk County

Henry, M.E.*¹, Treadwell, D.*², Perez Orozco, J.*³, Athearn, K.*⁴

¹ Extension Agent II, University of Florida IFAS Extension Polk County, Bartow, FL, 33831

² Associate Professor, University of Florida IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 32611

³ Specialty Crops Coordinator, University of Florida IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 32611

⁴ Regional Extension Agent - Rural & Agribusiness Development, UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley, Live Oak, FL, 32060

The objective of the University of Florida's (UF/IFAS) Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises (SFAE) program website (<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/>) is to provide practical and engaging research-

based information to clientele. The SFAE team created a new website edition, adopting simplified site architecture in the T4 platform. The site features 30 content pages stemming from four core subject pages: Production; Planning & Management; Direct Marketing & Value Added and Beginning Farmer. Aesthetics were improved using original and copyright verified photos and fresh graphics, complimenting an updated UF compliant branding scheme. IFAS blogs, Facebook and YouTube accounts were fully integrated to better align with current trends in internet use and 27 new playlists were created to improve access to video. The site addresses ADA accessibility, uses improved Search Engine Optimization and features new state and regional Google calendars connected to county offices to simplify posting procedures. I provided leadership for site architecture and led five subject area teams, reviewing existing educational materials, and creating or sourcing new materials to meet emerging needs. I was trained as a T4 editor and oversaw content assembly by IFAS Communications, partially funded by a state Specialty Crop Block Grant. The SFAE website is the only comprehensive source of farming information designed to meet the unique needs of Florida's small farmers. Google analytics report 1.5 K users in 2019 and we expect the mobile-friendly format and interactive delivery methods will improve site relevancy and accessibility to the next generation of internet users.



2019 Service to American/World Agriculture

Dr. Bob Nielsen

Since 1982, Dr. Nielsen has served in his role as Corn Extension Specialist for Purdue University. The vanity license plate on Bob's truck says it all, "Corn Guy", and to corn growers, crop advisers, extension educators, students and others that is exactly who he is.

Dr. Bob Nielsen's Extension Program assists corn growers, CCA's, and other allied industry partners in a wide variety of corn management issues including but not limited to: transgenic crops; corn growth and development; understanding the effects of stress on corn; and stand establishment problem solving. In addition, Bob's research and education programs also include: corn replant decision-making; yield limiting factors in crop production; crop trouble-shooting; site-specific crop management technologies; managing yield monitors; and nitrogen management for corn.

Bob has also led the effort to educate and coordinate on farm research activities conducted with farmers, ANR Extension Educators, and agriculture industry partners. These on farm research activities occur throughout the state and generate data that influences corn management recommendations. Bob takes great pride in ensuring that trials are conducted properly. He also leads a campaign to educate others on best management practices for on farm research.

Dr. Nielsen is a founding member of the Purdue Crop Diagnostic Training Center (DTC), which specializes in hands-on training of crop advisers on crop production issues. These unique in field, educational opportunities have been held for over 30 years and use field demonstrations that are designed to illustrate specific field crop growing issues. Attendees from throughout the Midwest observe and learn best management practices for crop production, in the field. Over the last 10 years there have annually

been over 25 all day DTC training sessions and Bob participated as an instructor in many of these.

The Purdue Corn Specialist annually makes an additional 60 presentations to farmers and allied industry personnel. Bob is considered a pioneer in the use of new technologies. In the mid -1990s and before the first wide-spread use of internet resources, Bob developed the King Corn website and the Chat'n Chew Café that serve as a library of resources and source of evidence-based recommendations from Land Grant Universities across the country. Farmers and agronomists not only in the United States, but also throughout the world utilize these web-based resources, wherever corn is grown.

Another example of his early adoption of technology is his incorporation of UAVs into his program. Bob was one of the first Purdue Extension Specialists to use UAVs for crop scouting. Bob soon emerged as a leader in our Quad Squad, which was launched in 2018. This group of Extension Specialists and ANR Extension Educators now number over 20 and work throughout the state to not only use UAVs in their program, but to help their clientele with the adoption of UAVs for their farming operations, as well as other kinds of businesses.

Bob grew up on a Nebraska farm and still has interest in the family's farming operation. He did his undergrad work at the University of Nebraska and received his PhD. from the University of Minnesota. In addition to these and other North Central States, Bob has developed professional relationships with growers and crop advisers from all regions of the United States where corn is grown. In fact, requests for speaking at crop conferences far out way the number of available days on his calendar. In addition to speaking requests, Bob receives emails and phone calls from Extension, Industry



Dr. Bob Nielsen

professionals, and farmers with corn questions on a daily basis.

The Extension Specialist is no stranger to international work. Some of the countries in which Bob has been invited to visit and conduct corn management meetings include: Hungary; New Zealand; Italy; Argentina; Honduras; South Africa; and Russia. In addition to visiting these countries, Bob reciprocates by hosting delegations of farmers and corn specialists from many of these countries and introducing them to Midwestern agriculture and farming practices.

Finally, in addition to all of Bob's national and international travels and contacts we firmly believe that Bob's most important clients are those ANR Extension Educators located in counties throughout Indiana and the United States. Bob eats and drinks extension and thoroughly loves educating and helping farmers prosper. He also gets great satisfaction from helping our staff become better agronomists and watching them grow professionally. Bob truly understands Extension's mission and lives it every day.

Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award



Chairperson, Madison County, Florida
Farm Bureau, Madison, FL, 32340
⁷ Young Farmers and Ranchers
Chairperson, Suwannee County, Florida
Farm Bureau, Live Oak, FL, 32060

The Suwannee River Valley (SRV) of North Florida encompasses several counties and is home to over 8,800 farms. Due to increasing regulatory pressure surrounding agricultural activities taking place within the SRV of North Florida, an Agricultural Awareness Extension Program was developed to help educate state and community leaders. A needs-assessment from local growers and input from stakeholders helped guide the team effort in delivering the type of information needed to the target audience to generate agricultural awareness and impact. Educational topics of the programs included Best Management Practices (BMPs) being utilized by producers, and highlighting the importance of agriculture to North Florida's economy. Methods included offering two educational Lunch and Learn Programs for community decision-makers and one State Legislators Tour of Suwannee Valley Agriculture. A total of 102 attended the Agricultural Awareness Extension programs during 2018. Approximately 82% of attendees increased their general awareness of agriculture within the Suwannee River Valley, and 83% improved their knowledge of agricultural conservation practices being done in the region after attending all of the Extension programs in 2018. Also, 73% of the agricultural awareness program attendees agreed to change their behavior by purchasing more locally grown farm products. A positive, unintended outcome was the utilization of an educational video developed by the Extension team by other stakeholders. In total, nearly 1,600 people viewed the video in formal classroom-style

trainings and meetings. The video was shared via social media by various agricultural supporters a total of 46 times with a reach of over 9,600.

The following videos were created to enhance the Agricultural Awareness Extension Programs of 2018: [Farming and Conservation Practices in the Suwannee Valley](#) [Agriculture in the Suwannee Valley](#) [North Florida Research and Education Center-Suwannee Valley](#)

Excellence in 4-H Programming



National Winner

De Broughton

Regional Specialized Agent
UF/IFAS Extension
Suwannee

[Broughton, D.*¹](#), [Fenneman, D.*²](#), [Hochmuth, B.*³](#), [Athearn, K.*⁴](#), [Barrett, C.*⁵](#), [Carpenter, B.*⁶](#), [Glass, B.*⁷](#)

¹ Regional Specialized Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Live Oak, FL, 32064

² UF/IFAS Madison County Extension Agent, University of Florida, Madison, FL, 32340

³ UF/IFAS Regional Specialized Agent, Vegetables, University of Florida, Live Oak, FL, 32060

⁴ UF/IFAS Regional Specialized Agent, Agricultural Economics, University of Florida, Live Oak, FL, 32060

⁵ UF/IFAS Regional Specialized Agent, Water Resources, University of Florida, Live Oak, FL, 32060

⁶ Young Farmers and Ranchers

National Winner

Amber Yutzey

Extension Educator

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

[Yutzey, A.*¹](#), [Sandeem, A.*²](#), [Strait, G.*³](#), [Yost, C.*⁴](#)

¹ Extension Educator, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, Huntingdon, PA, 16652

² Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Indiana, PA, 15701

³ Extension Educator, Penn State University, McConnellsburg, PA, 17233

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE www.nacaa.com

For the latest news & information regarding NACAA meetings, membership database updates, award submissions/recognition, NACAA Supporters and the list goes on....and on...and on!

⁴ Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Chambersburg, PA, 17201

Currently the dairy industry in Pennsylvania is struggling. Milk prices have been at a record low for four years and family farms are going out of business at a record number. It is very important for the future of family dairy farms to stay on the edge of new technologies and efficiencies to keep a farm profitable. It was discovered that youth involved in 4-H were not receiving the type of education they needed to advance their future on the family farm. This was due to more community clubs being formed and more youth living off farm. Penn State Dairy Educators decided to plan a day long hands on workshop that would provide education in areas such as dairy management, health and nutrition. The workshop offered four breakout sessions covering subjects such as reproductive anatomy, heat stress, forage quality, hoof trimming, dehorning etc., as well as, an afternoon “Amazing Dairy Race” challenge with 10 educational obstacles that was completed as a team. Over the course of 12 years this program has reached 1,471 youth from 13 different counties. We have seen the largest growth in our program numbers over the last 3 years. Due to this growth, we expanded our program to two new locations in different parts of the state. 95% (n= 1351) of participants increased knowledge in at least three dairy management topics that were presented. Many of the participants have indicated they implemented skills learned on their home farm as well. Word of mouth has been the most valuable form of advertisement for this program. Each year youth return to our program and bring new friends that have not attended before. In addition, we use email, local newspapers, brochures and state-wide agriculture publications to advertise. The impacts made at the program are important to that individual as well as their family farm. Information is shared by the youth with employers or family members and is implemented to increase overall farm productivity.

Search for Excellence in Crop Production



National Winner

Amy Tallent

CEA-Agriculture

UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension

Prairie

Tallent, A.*¹

¹ CEA-Agriculture, UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension, Devalls Bluff, AR, 72041

Prairie County, Arkansas houses over 275,000 acres of tillable crop land producing rice, soybean, and corn. Eighty five percent of these acres are irrigated. Row-Crop producer's in the county experience water shortages due to lack of rain fall during the summer months and with the alluvial aquifer depletion. Producers looked to the University Of Arkansas Division Of Agriculture for ways to save water, time, and money. Workshops were put in place to educate the producer about cutting-edge software technology to make irrigating corn, soybean, and rice more efficient. Along with hands-on workshops, one-on-one consultation and applied field demonstrations were done in the county. The increase in producers' knowledge and use of these tools increased from 5% in 2016 to nearly 65% over the course of three years. As a result, the overall irrigation cost saving was over \$2.7 million in 2018.

Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Financial Management



National Winner

Nathan J Hulinsky

Extension Educator, Ag Business Management

University of Minnesota Extension Minnesota

Nathan J Hulinsky*¹, David B Bau*², C Robert Holcomb*³, Megan L Roberts*⁴, Pauline A Van Nurden*⁵

¹ Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Saint Cloud, MN, 56301

² Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Worthington, MN, 56187

³ Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Marshall, MN, 56258

⁴ Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Mankato, MN, 56001

⁵ Extension Economist, University of Minnesota Extension, St Paul, MN, 55108

“Taking Charge of Your Finances; How to Survive and Thrive!” is a University of Minnesota Extension educational program for farm business owners and managers who want to better understand and know their financial statements. This course “Survive & Thrive” covers the fundamentals of farm

financial statements. With a case study farm, participants went through a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow. Participants learned why each document is beneficial and what ratios are calculated on each statement. The course concluded with tips for improving farm recordkeeping and financial decision-making.

Workshops were six hours in length. Participants received a workbook for attending the workshop. The workbook contained the presentation and many other helpful resources. Presentations were interactive and face-to-face in nature. Key educational points of the program include; 1) the components and use of the balance sheet, 2) the components and use of the income statement, 3) the components and use of the cash flow statement, 4) the approach for organizing farm financial records and how to utilize those records, and 5) the use of financial tools in order to incorporate better internal management and financing decision making.

508 participants attended one of the 32 workshops presented between November 2016 and February 2019. Participants represented 415 farm businesses from 281 different communities. There were 16 local business sponsors, 1 regional organization, and 13 local Extension educators involved in marketing and implementing the program.

Participants self-reported increases in knowledge around all five of the program educational points exhibiting program outcomes. Participants were also asked to rate the overall workshop quality and usefulness of the subject matter to their work. 100% of respondents rated my overall knowledge and understanding of financial management increased as a result of attending this workshop. 94.5% were satisfied with the overall quality of the workshop.



Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources



National Winner

Travis Harper

Agronomy Specialist
University of Missouri Extension
Henry

Harper, T.*¹, Quinn, J. T.*², Trinklein, D. H.*³, Edwards, A. D.*⁴, Wiggins, C. E.*⁵, Duever, V.*⁶

¹ Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Clinton, MO, 64735

² Horticulture Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Jefferson City, MO, 65101

³ Associate Professor of Plant Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, 65211

⁴ Education Coordinator, School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, 65211

⁵ Beekeeper and Writer, US Forest Service (retired), Rolla, MO, 65401

⁶ Ecommerce Volunteer, University of Missouri Extension, Columbia, MO, 65211

Pollinators are crucial to wildlife food supply and many agricultural crops. Their populations are threatened. This program trains to protect them with six classes of three hours. The Master Pollinator Steward

Program began as a partnership opportunity with Missouri State Beekeepers Association in 2014. Interest by the public was surging, led by concerns for honeybee hive survival rates and monarch butterfly population declines. A steering committee (comprised of Extension specialists, beekeepers, Master Gardeners, a monarch conservation collaborative, and Master Naturalists) developed this program over three years, with financial assistance from NRCS. Important activities for the program included completing operational guidelines, developing an Extension Webpage, presenting at pollinator conferences, and writing articles for two prominent 'bee' journals. Five publications were created to comprehensively address pollinators.

The program was modeled after Master Gardener program in delivery, using publications on a topic, with a matching presentation, in a classroom. Classes are augmented by hands-on activities, take home assignments or experientially influenced discussions. While each publication can 'stand alone', teaching all is preferred to improve comprehension. The culmination is the final publication, which delves into conservation and habitat issues. Materials relevant to this class (publication, PPT presentation, and hands on activity description) are the supporting documents.

Over 80 individuals were trained in 2018 and 60+ are already taking it or registered in 2019. It is hoped that about 200 will take it annually. Evaluations from 2018 demonstrated its potential: over 90% found it was very worthwhile attending, 100% found the publications of good value, over 90% found the PowerPoints well done, 100% felt the hands-on activities added value, and over 90% thought the presenters shared their knowledge well. When asked "Are you likely 'to do' anything with what you've learned?", over 80% said very likely or absolutely. Examples given were: I'm going to rehab property I recently inherited and needed a plan, my wife is making 3 acres pollinator friendly and now I can help her, as a Master Naturalist I'll advocate there and improve my 210ac farm, I'll now read labels pesticide labels and avoid killing bees.

Search for Excellence in Consumer or Commercial Horticulture



National Winner

Mayerling Tatiana Sanchez
Commercial Horticulture Agent
Alachua

Sanchez, M.T.*1

¹ Commercial Horticulture Agent, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32609

A series of beekeeping classes were developed to fulfill the demand for beekeeping education in Alachua and surrounding counties in north-central Florida. **Objective:** Provide the technical knowledge and practical experience for beginner and intermediate beekeepers, to support their success during the first years. **Methods:** In collaboration with local beekeepers and the University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab, four classes were developed: beginner beekeeping, swarm control, honey extraction, and pest and disease management. Each class has specific objectives focused on experiential learning and fundamental concepts for colony survival and wellbeing. Classes last from three to five hours and include educational materials, a short introductory presentation, and interactive, hands-on activities such as discussions, lab exercises, and hive demonstrations. Advertisement is done through listservs, local TV channel and newspaper, county blog,

and Facebook. **Results:** Four hundred and thirteen people have attended the series in the last three years and 98% reported the series met or surpassed their expectations. Average knowledge gain was 32%, intention to adopt recommended practices for colony management was 93%, and average skill gain was 37%. A six-month follow-up survey (n=31) indicated that, based on the skills learned, 35% are monitoring for pest and diseases constantly, sample (27%) and treat (46%) colonies for Varroa mite control on a regular basis, always practice good swarming techniques (50%), follow label instructions when treating their hives with pesticides (68%), feed colonies during low nectar sources (54%), and reduce entrance during these periods to avoid robbing (42%). Implementing these practices contributes to a reduction in the number of colonies lost (46% indicated not having any losses in 2018), while maintaining strong and healthy colonies and protecting other apiaries from pests and diseases. **Conclusion:** This series has facilitated access to high-quality beekeeping education in north central Florida. It has been used as a model program to adopt in other counties and its success has drawn people from more than 12 surrounding counties. More than half of the participants have registered their apiaries through the Department of Agriculture, facilitating monitoring and securing a better future for the beekeeping industry at large.



Search for Excellence in Livestock Production



National Winner

Adriane Good
Agricultural Extension Agent
Pondera

Good, A.*1, Lewis, K.*2, Woodring, K.*3

¹ Agricultural Extension Agent, Montana State University Extension, Conrad, MT, 59425

² Extension Agent, Montana State University Extension, Cut Bank, MT, 59427

³ Agricultural Extension Agent, Montana State University Extension, Shelby, MT, 59474

Reducing death loss during calving is a high priority for Montana beef producers. Approximately 33% of all calf losses and 15% of breeding cattle losses are due to dystocia, according to the Cow-Calf Health and Productivity Audit. The purpose of this educational program was to educate ranch women in a welcoming environment on proper calving protocol, prevention of dystocia, and newborn calf care. Participants learned about calving difficulties, bull selection, newborn calf care, and preparing meals in advance for busy times on the ranch, like calving season. This workshop featured a local veterinarian and local Montana State University Extension agents giving presen-

tations and including hands-on learning experiences for the participants. Calvin' Fever provided education and increased knowledge of identifying calving difficulties and assisting with delivery and care of calves. Workshop participants were multi-generational and were comfortable actively participating in this event. Assuming a 1% reduction in calf death loss as a result of Calvin' Fever, an additional 55 calves would be weaned from the group, creating approximately \$55,000 additional revenue and resulting in an economic impact of approximately \$1,800 per participant yearly. At the end of Calvin' Fever, producers completed a short, written evaluation that was both specific to each presenter and evaluated the day as a whole. Overall, participants rated Calvin' Fever as 4.8 out of 5, indicating high satisfaction among participants. Participants listed several new techniques they had learned that they planned to implement in the 2019 calving season to improve calf and cow health. Attendees of Calvin' Fever also gained confidence with their abilities to assist with calving.

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



National Winner

Adele Harty

COW-CALF FIELD SPECIALIST

SDSU Extension

Grussing, T.*¹, Harty, A.*², Salverson, R.R.*³

¹ Cow/Calf Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Mitchell, SD, 57301

² COW-CALF FIELD SPECIALIST, SDSU Extension, Rapid City, SD, 57703

³ Cow/Calf Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Lemmon, SD, 57638

beefSD is a one-of-a-kind, 2-year program designed to introduce beginning beef producers to the complexity of the beef industry and provide a comprehensive perspective of how their business can adapt and thrive in the modern beef environment. This program focused on the entire system of beef production, including the various factors that influence success in South Dakota and the future of beef production in the country. beefSD Class 3, started September 2016 and concluded August 2018. Beginning beef producers had to complete a written application to apply for the program. There were 51 participants from 31 operations who completed the program. This program was developed by SDSU Extension and made possible through a grant from the USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program. Multiple partners contributed to the success of the program, including South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, First Bank and Trust-Canton, and First Interstate Bank.

Our long-term goal is to equip beginning beef producers with the tools to make wise management decisions leading to economic, ecological and sociological sustainability, and in turn, contributing to ongoing agricultural production, land stewardship, and rural community viability. In order to reach this goal and our educational objectives we incorporated 6 key program activities and teaching methods, which include interactive workshops, case studies of successful beef enterprises, post-weaning calf performance evaluation, mentoring relationships with established ranchers and other advisors, web-based interactions and travel study trips.

Through an extensive evaluation process, it was determined that as a result of participating in beefSD, participants increased their understanding of the beef industry as a whole along with utilizing tools to incorporate in their own operations to be successful into the future. One participant stated the

following, "“To me this was a better version of College! All the meetings were all like crash courses, but it was easier to relate it to our operation as we could ask as many questions as we wanted. Taking this class will be the best asset to my operation. Meeting the people I met and all the things I learned and am implementing on my operation.”"

Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture



National Winner

Steve Morgan

County Extension Coordinator

University of Georgia

Harris/Northwest

Morgan, S.*¹, Speir, A.*², Hicks, R.*³

Knight, C.*⁴, Ray, L.*⁵, Kichler, J.*⁶, Gates, R.*⁷, Meeks, C.*⁸, Hancock, D.*²

¹ County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Hamilton, GA, 31811

² Madison County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Danielsville, GA, 30633

³ Screven County Extension Coordinator -- Retired, University of Georgia, Sylvania, GA, 30467

⁴ Bulloch County Extension Agent, University of Georgia, Statesboro, GA, 30458

⁵ Morgan County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Madison, GA, 30650

⁶ Colquitt County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Moultrie, GA, 31788

⁷ Whitfield County Extension Agent, University of Georgia, Dalton, GA, 30720

⁸ Houston County Extension Agent, University of Georgia, Perry, GA, 31069

⁹ Extension Forage Specialist, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602

There are approximately 4 million acres of pasture, hay and silage in Georgia (10% of the state). The associated forage-based livestock systems have a farm gate value of over \$1.4 billion. Forage quality is the key to a sustainable livestock operation. Good forage benefits livestock producers, and enhances the ecosystem services that healthy grazing lands provide for water infiltration, nutrient recycling, and carbon sequestration. The way in which a pasture or hay field is managed has a major impact on a producer's bottom line, as well as, the environment. With Georgia only having one extension forage specialist, the UGA Forage Extension Team was created to help advance sustainable forage production across the state. Team members, strategically located throughout the state, are a highly trained, specialized group of Extension Agents selected based on their knowledge of forages.

The UGA Forage Extension Team has the following objectives.

Annually, the Forage Team:

- Will offer The GrassMasters Program to 30 forage producers and 90% will report knowledge gain
- With respect to sustainability, the team will positively influence and affect long term behavior change on the operations of GrassMasters graduates by:
 - Reducing overstocking by 30%
 - Improve producer profitability by 10% whereby increasing sustainability

Since 2016, the UGA Forage Extension Team has made 2773 face-to-face contacts via invited presentations. Also in 2016, the team implemented the GrassMasters program. This 7-week series focusing on sustainable forage production has been held at six training locations statewide and has reached 183 producers face-to-face.

Programs are taught collaboratively by UGA Forage Team members and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff. Through the quarterly newsletter, team members are making a regional impact by providing educational information to over 7200 forage producers and agribusiness professionals. The overall effectiveness of the UGA Forage Extension Program including the Forage Team and GrassMasters was assessed through an online survey during February and early March of 2017. Participants self-reported that their participation in UGA Forage Extension programs was directly responsible for increasing their net farm incomes by an average of 16.1% and net agribusiness income by 17.1%.

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

National Winners

Tom Buller

County Agent
K-State Research and Extension
Douglas County

Dan Severson

Extension Agent - Ag and Natural Resources
University of Delaware
New Castle

Mary Love Tagert

Assistant Extension Professor
Mississippi State University Extension Service

Tipton D. Hudson

County Director
Washington State University Extension
Kittitas County

N

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2019 Achievement Award Winners

North Central Region

Illinois - Andrew Holsinger, Jr.
Indiana - Robert Kelly
Indiana - Elysia Rodgers
Iowa - Kraig Tweed
Kansas - Jenni Carr
Kansas - Chris Long
Michigan - Ben Werling
Minnesota - Sarah Schieck
Missouri - Kate Kammler
Nebraska - Nicole Stoner
North Dakota - Lindy L Berg
Ohio - Amanda Bennett
Ohio - Jason M Hartschuh
South Dakota - Amanda Bachmann
Wisconsin - Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM

Northeast Region

Maine - Colt Knight
Maryland - Andrew Kness
New Hampshire - Elaina Enzien
New Jersey - Salvatore Mangiafico
New York - Richard Toebe
Pennsylvania - Elizabeth Bosak
West Virginia - Chuck Talbott

Southern Region

Alabama - Kevin S. Burkett
Alabama - Lucy E. Edwards
Alabama - Kelly R. Palmer
Arkansas - Terrell Davis
Arkansas - Matt Fryer
Arkansas - Brett Gordon
Florida - Laurie Hurner
Florida - Matthew J. Orwat
Florida - Nicole D. Pinson
Georgia - Joel Burnsed
Georgia - Jason Edenfield
Kentucky - Chelsey Anderson
Kentucky - Levi Berg
Kentucky - Lindie Huffman
Louisiana - Mark Carriere
Mississippi - Jason R Barret
Mississippi - Suzanne Marie Rogers
Mississippi - Christian Stephenson
North Carolina - Erin R. Eure
North Carolina - Lauren Langley
North Carolina - Matt Lenhardt
North Carolina - Mac Malloy

North Carolina - Jessica Strickland

Oklahoma - Walter White

South Carolina - Kim Counts Morganello

South Carolina - Zack Snipes

Tennessee - Matthew Deist

Tennessee - Thomas Greenlee

Texas - Robert Ferguson

Texas - Roy Flora

Texas - Bobby McCool

Texas - Gary Roschetzky

Virginia - Theresa Pittman

Virginia - Laura Siegle

Western Region

Alaska - Casey Matney
Arizona - Joshua Sherman
Colorado - JD Sexton
Idaho - Doug Finkelnburg
Montana - Shelley Mills
New Mexico - Bonnie Hopkins
Oregon - Cassie Bouska
Utah - Joshua Dallin
Washington - Stephen G. Bramwell
Wyoming - Jeremiah D. Vardiman

2019 Distinguished Service Award Winners

North Central Region

Indiana - Kenneth J. Eck
Indiana - John E. Woodmansee
Iowa - Terry Janssen
Kansas - Rachael Boyle
Kansas - Kurt Werth
Michigan - Jill O'Donnell
Minnesota - C Robert Holcomb
Missouri - Karisha Devlin
Nebraska - Brandy VanDeWalle
North Dakota - Craig Allen Askim
Ohio - F John Barker III
Ohio - Christopher Zoller
South Dakota - Adele Harty
Wisconsin - Mark A Hagedorn

Northeast Region

Maryland - Charles F Schuster
New York - Elizabeth Claypoole
Pennsylvania - Gregory P. Martin
West Virginia - Jodi Richmond

Southern Region

Alabama - Thomas G. Agee
Alabama - Lawrence C. Fudd Graham
Alabama - Daniel S. Miller
Arkansas - Brad Mcginley
Arkansas - Bill Robertson
Arkansas - Amy Simpson
Florida - Mary Elizabeth Henry
Florida - Brooke L. Moffis
Florida - Shawn T. Steed
Georgia - Gary L. Hawkins
Georgia - Raymond Joyce
Georgia - Monte Stephens
Georgia - Amanda Tedrow
Kentucky - Linda K. McClanahan
Kentucky - Glen Roberts
Louisiana - Andre Brock
Mississippi - James Henderson
Mississippi - Amanda Masholie
Mississippi - Tracy Robertson
North Carolina - Mike Carroll
North Carolina - Tiffanee Conrad
North Carolina - Seth Nagy
North Carolina - Paul W. Westfall

Oklahoma - Brian Freking
South Carolina - Jonathan Croft
South Carolina - Lee Van Blake
Tennessee - Adam M Hopkins
Tennessee - J.C. Rains
Tennessee - Lena Beth Reynolds
Texas - Jody Bradford
Texas - Virginia Easton-Smith
Texas - Steve Estes
Texas - Jamie Sugg
Texas - Dr. Brian L. Triplett
Virginia - Tim Mize

Western Region

Colorado - Adrian Card
Idaho - Sarah D Baker
Montana - Bruce Smith
New Mexico - Steve M. Lucero
Oregon - Clive Kaiser
Utah - Matt Palmer
Washington - Linda Chalker-Scott
Wyoming - Jeff M Edwards

2019 NACAA Hall of Fame Award



Pictured (L-R) NACAA President Richard Fechter with Brad Brummond

2019

North Central Region Hall of Fame Award

Bradley T. Brummond

North Dakota

36 Years



Pictured (L-R) NACAA President Richard Fechter with James Welshans

2019

Northeast Region Hall of Fame Award

James E. Welshans

Pennsylvania

36 Years - Retired



Pictured (L-R) NACAA President Richard Fechter with John Campbell

2019

Southern Region Hall of Fame Award

John C. Campbell

Tennessee

35 Years - Retired



Pictured (L-R) Dave McManus with wife Kathy

2019

Western Region Hall of Fame Award

Dave Mcmanus

Colorado

36 Years - Retired

Reflections from years in Extension: *No experience necessary*

Looking back over a long career has advantages and disadvantages. The advantages, tailored by selective memory and a diminishing ability to recall, are that I can share some well-earned philosophy on Extension work and maybe a few helpful tidbits. The disadvantage is first, that I may sound to you like a doddering old fool, but secondly, that I might appear to think that I have learned it all by now. The reality is that I still have much to learn and look forward to each new day and what it will bring in opportunities to be proved wrong, to be disabused of a preconceived notion or to be enlightened with new perspectives. As for the doddering part, I'll leave you to your own opinion.

On occasion, a farmer will introduce me at a meeting as an Extension dairy specialist. That is a title I accept. I never accept being called an "expert" in anything because to me it implies that you know it all, but a "specialist" implies that I have focused and learned. A dairy specialist, or a dairy and beef Extension Educator is a long way from where I grew up – suburban New Jersey.

By now you may be guessing that my upbringing did not include a farm. When I went to college, it was to Philadelphia where farm education is a rarity. My degree is in chemistry. Following that I moved to rural south-central Pennsylvania where I fell in love with agriculture and wondered what I could do in it. So back to school, this time Penn State, for a degree in agronomy – soil fertility to be more precise. Here is the truth; I was not raised on a farm, I don't have a degree in dairy and in fact, have never taken a dairy course for credit and now I am a dairy specialist. As I like to say, "Isn't America great!"

There is a point to all of this. Don't underestimate yourself. You bring certain skills and knowledge to the job, to the farm, to your clientele whomever they are. You were hired because people believed in you. Prove them right. Many people today in the ag industry didn't come from farms. Credibility is based on multiple factors including knowledge, attitude, honesty, open-mindedness and care. Build your credibility with people.

There is a corollary to the principle above, and it is: Don't overestimate yourself. I have learned that humility is essential if we in Extension are going to be effective. Clients do not need an

expert, they need someone who is determined to find out what they can, use the knowledge they have, and draw some reasonable conclusions.

This brings us to today's lesson for Extension folks, it's what I believe is your first and foremost job: learn! Learn on every farm visit, with every phone call, with every meeting and with all people. When you learn about topics in other areas, see what you can apply to the field you work in. I tend toward business and read two business magazines as well as dairy and beef publications. From those, I strive to find ideas in business that I can apply to the farmers.

It is great that we belong to an association that is committed to professional improvement. Take advantage of the opportunities NACAA and your state association offer.

Learning is essential for you to share. Don't rest upon what you learned in college or growing up on the farm; things change all the time. As you learn, put things together in your mind. Add a new nugget to your lump of knowledge, but make sure the lump continues to evolve. There are many things that I have learned that directly contradict what I previously learned. Keep examining the issue to make sure how what you know fits in different situations, with different producers and with different goals.

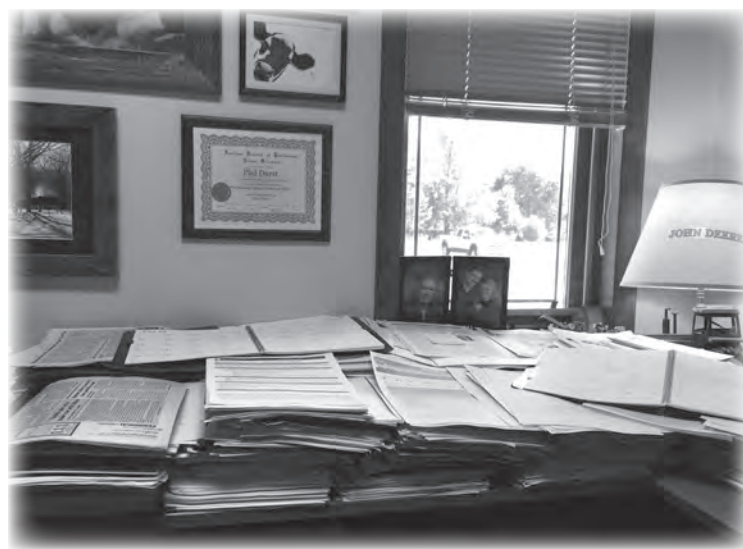
There is one downside to my insatiable desire to learn: my desktop is covered with clipped or copied articles, conference proceedings, reports and a ton of things to read!

See you next issue with another perspective from years in Extension!

Phil Durst

Michigan State University Extension

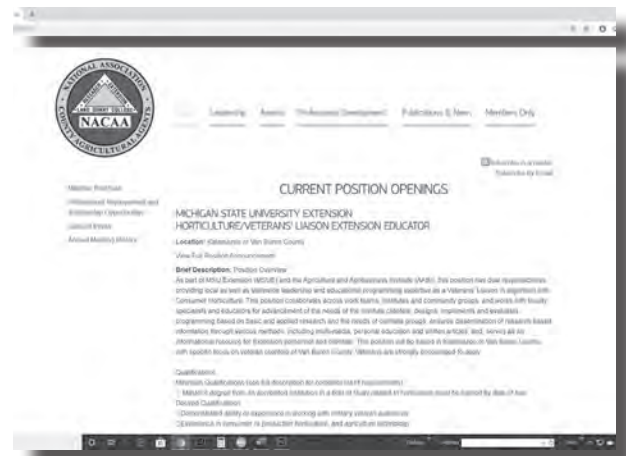
Sr. Educator – Dairy & Beef Cattle Health and Production





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Scott Hawbaker Editor - The County Agent Date: September 30, 2019

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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)*



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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!

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

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

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

2023
Des Moines, Iowa....August 12-17

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

December, 2019

April, 2020

June, 2020

Committee/Awards Directory

AM/PIC Registration Edition

Pre-AM/PIC Edition

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Mail Date: June 10, 2020



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