The County Agent

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COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

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

President's Corner

Good morning, I encourage you to grab a cup of coffee as we think about the finish of the 105th NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. The AM/PIC was held in "Virtual-land" Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Hello this is J. Craig Williams; I want to thank everyone for being part of NACAA and all the benefits to you and work that it takes to be an active member. The Virginia Association of Ag Extension Agents did a great job handling all the challenges in the past year and then the Florida Ag IT team came in to help us in the final stages. Just like many programs, we often must adapt to an issue that happens. 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 gave to the Association throughout the year to provide professional improvement and recognition programs which benefit all of us as NACAA members.

As we start the next year, I am very excited to follow a long line of agents from Pennsylvania who have served NACAA in a national role. This starts with Rex Carter in 1953, R. H. McDougall in 1957, Joseph S. Thurston in 1965, Les Firth 1981, William "Bill" Kelly in 1993, Duane Duncan - National Secretary 1995-98, and then Paul Craig in 2013. The last 4 agents, I have worked with and it is a great honor to follow them. As a follow up to the AM/PIC closing session, I want to thank the Penn State Extension Leadership for their support in our professional association and our time to support the association. The professional development opportunities provided by NACAA - help benefit all of our clients.

The NACAA president gets to pick their gavel for the year. I wanted to relate this story to the membership and the work that we do with many agricultural generations that work across the country. My 2021 gavel and plaque are made from walnut that was grown on our home farm in northern PA and then handcrafted by a relative in Mercer County Kentucky. This is a prime example of how many of our agricultural products and education reach across the country.

2021 NACAA President
J. Craig Williams and wife Ellen

The Williams family has attended and experienced many NACAA AM/PIC's. We have an entire collection of sons and daughters t-shirts along with a collection of trading pins. These face to face meetings and connections that we made have been very beneficial through the past 30 years of extension work. It is very important to keep these connections going especially in this time of working from your home in the state or county only. At the same time, it is important to work on making new connections online or in the virtual world that we are experiencing. I enjoy face to face meetings as my preferred experience, but I too can also enjoy good online learning. We have all learned from this past year how to make effective online learning experiences. I can say that during the 2020 AM/PIC, I did make a few online connections. These connections

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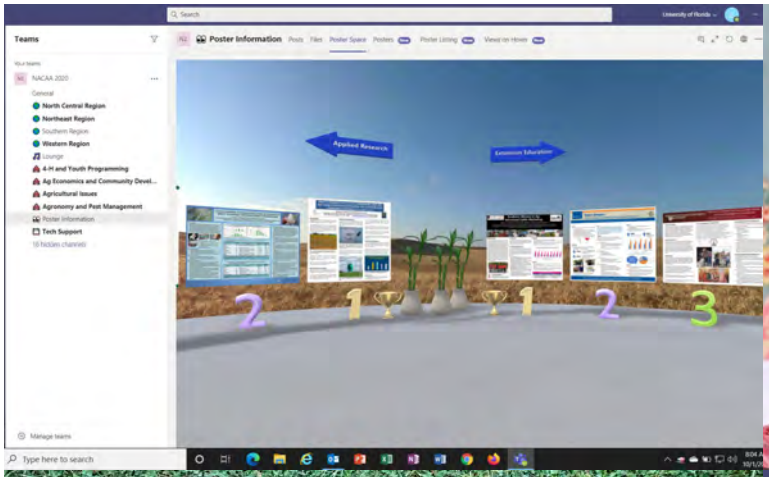
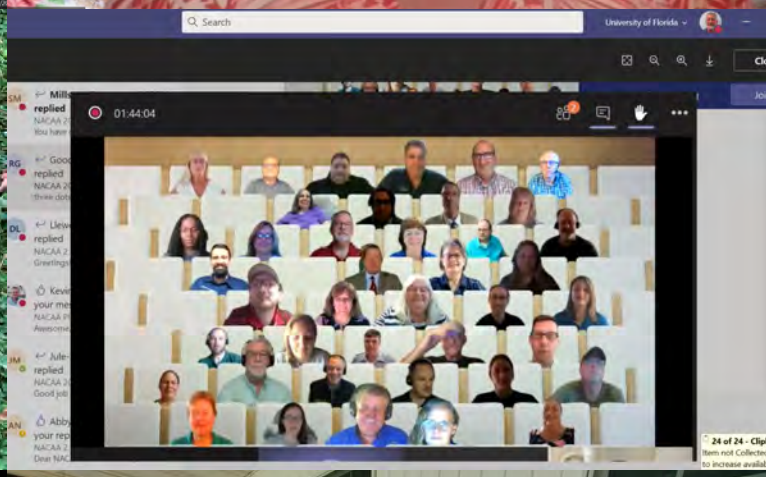
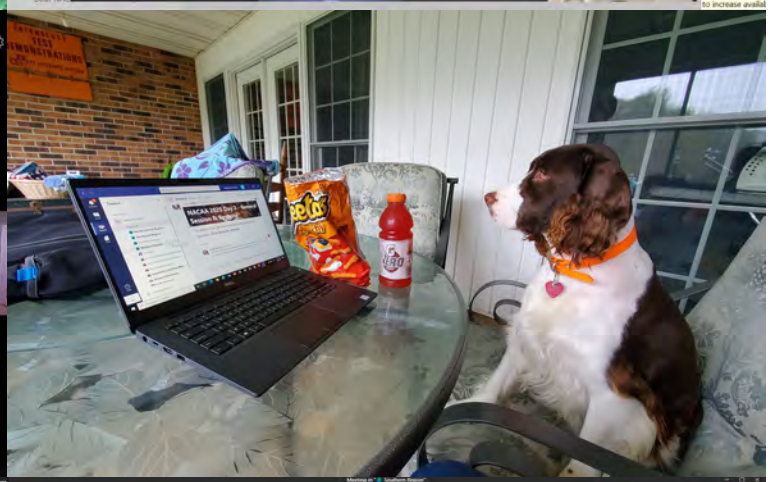
Reflections from the 2020 Virtual AM/PIC







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

came from the morning breakfast lounge, or during sessions where I reached out to a presenter. Now the work will begin to keep these connections going.

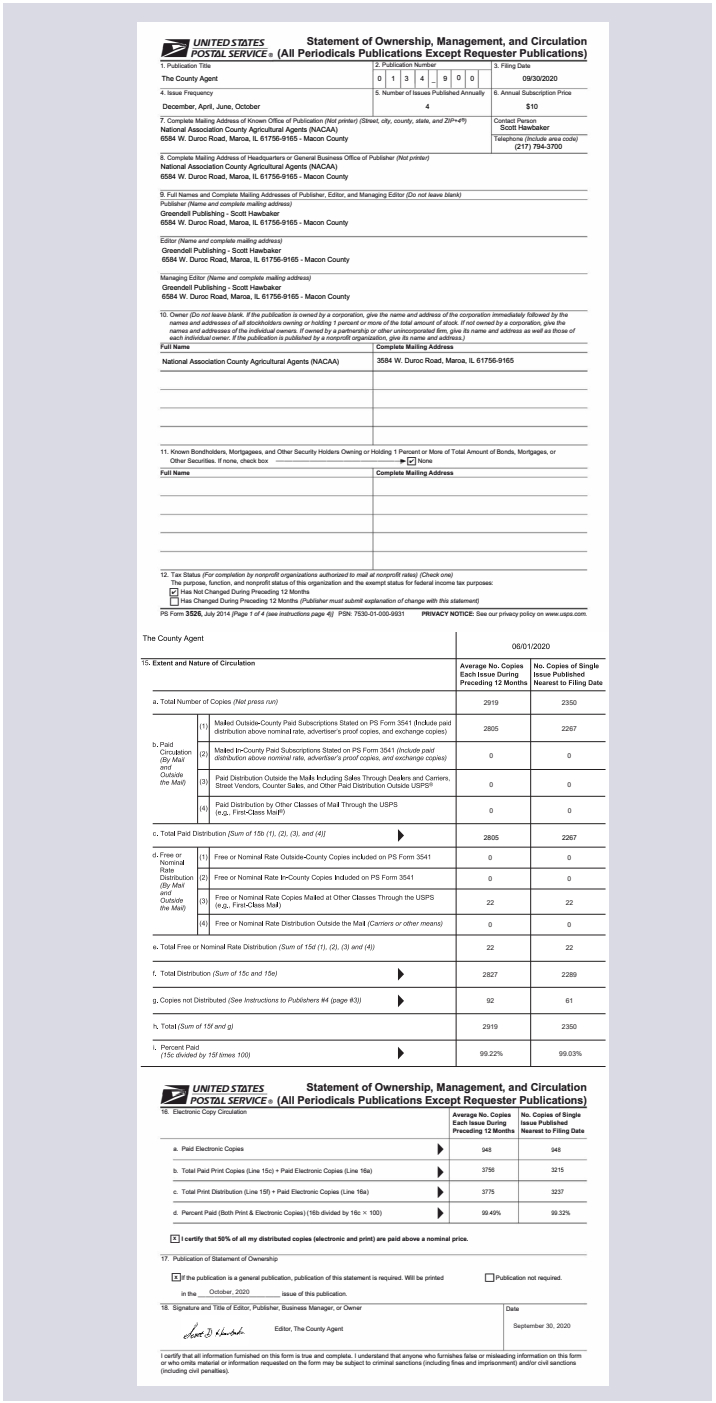
This goes along with the important and timely discussion of what will our meetings look like in the future? We all are already doing plenty of virtual meetings. How do we make an AM/PIC still be a unique special meeting and professional improvement conference, if we have to add it to this long list of virtual meetings? NACAA is in a great spot to connect agents and educators and specialists across the country together across likeminded topics of specialties. We could even host these sessions year-round.

Our experience with the keynote speaker, Michele Payn, "Food Bullying" from the 2020 AM/PIC shows how this can happen. We had Michelle Payn scheduled and then changed to a virtual format. We worked with making sure everyone had the best internet connection possible, not like many of our rural county situations. Her presentation was recorded and even if we got distracted during the general session, we can go back and see the presentation again. What a great time to be in education! Not to mention that now we can watch the presentation on our phone's internet if we wanted. A straight benefit of learning Microsoft Teams from the 2020 AM/PIC.

My goal as president is to work for the benefit of all members in NACAA. We have a great structure to exchange ideas and collaborate on projects. We provide our membership with a national audience and presentation opportunities which benefit them in their own institutions. How will we balance these very important and traditional face to face experiences with the current or new virtual interaction online world? Time will tell, but in the end the NACAA board and committee members are working for the benefit of all members and the testament to history. I thank NACAA Executive Director Scott Hawbaker for his tireless work on our behalf and for helping the board understand how the board and the webpage and the membership can interact better.

I know the NACAA board is very interested on these future topics. Again, I thank you for your active work and time to be a NACAA member. Join us and become as active as you can or are able.

Thank You and see you soon!
J. Craig Williams
NACAA 2021 President



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AgSafe: Your Partner in Safety

The mission of AgSafe is to provide practical health and safety education to the agricultural community. Since 1991 we have trained over 85,000 employers, supervisors and farm workers in the most critical issues impacting agriculture including worker safety, human resources, pesticide safety and food safety. We take a "boots on the ground" approach to these topics, teaching both the "why" and "how" to protect workers in the field, as well as packing, processing and food manufacturing facilities.

Our success stems from this practical philosophy ensuring safe, compliant practices become an integral component of a company's safety culture and day-to-day operations. It is also due to our recognition and understanding that changing culture and operations means changing behavior for owners, supervisors and workers alike.

Our team includes children of farm workers as well as experienced practitioners in safety, human resources and food safety. This unique combination means we have walked in the shoes of both owners and workers and as such, are able to create impactful training and resources.

AgSafe has a national presence and has worked with agricultural operations in California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Idaho, Colorado, Wisconsin, Florida, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Additionally, our work has been expanded into the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa.

Offices are located in Louisville, KY and Modesto, CA.

AgSafe has a variety of services and has optimal opportunity to provide support, training and partnership opportunities with the Cooperative Extension Service and Agents throughout the country. Subsequently, AgSafe focuses on the ***people*** aspect of agriculture and not agronomy or horticulture. Below you can see a variety of opportunity that may be a perfect supplement to your office's current offerings:

FREE Webinars

Monthly, AgSafe hosts a free webinar focusing a safety or compliance topic. The webinars are typically the second Tuesday of each month at 12 PM Eastern and 9 AM Pacific for 30 minutes. To register and access more information visit: https://www.agsafe.org/free-webinars/

FREE Grant Funded Programs:

1.) **Food Safety Training Videos-** The Food Safety Modernization Act, commonly known as FSMA, requires thorough training of farm workers handling fresh fruits and vegetables under the Produce Safety Rule.

Farm workers are the first line of defense in preventing contamination. Worker training is by far one of the best ways to ensure the produce you are growing is safe for consumers to eat. AgSafe has produced the videos below in English and Spanish to assist in training your workers on the key concepts of Good Agricultural Practices and Food Safety.

- Good Agricultural Practices Overview
- What Not To Do While Working Around Fresh Produce
- Enclosed Packing Facility Inspections
- Cleaning and Sanitizing

To access these videos please visit: https://www.agsafe.org/food-safety-videos/

2.) **H2A Cost Estimator and Toolkit**

Labor shortages continue to be a challenge for growers across the United States and data from the US Department of Labor shows double-digit increases in the use of the H2A guest worker visa program. Many growers still do not avail themselves of this option and for many, cost is the primary unknown factor. To that end, AgSafe received grant funding from the Western Extension Risk Management Education Center to create the H2A Guest Worker Visa Program Cost Estimator.

The Estimator includes:

- The H2A Cost Estimator interactive tool
- Is H2A Right for You? (educational video)
- Effective Management Strategies for your H2A Workforce (educational video)
- How to Use the H2A Guest Worker Visa Program Cost Estimator (educational video)
- Resources

To access visit: https://www.agsafe.org/h2a-cost-estimator/

Pesticide Safety:
AgSafe has the ability to provide pesticide safety training in both English and Spanish and offer continuing education units in most states as time and opportunity allows. We have extensive experience in delivery this course digitally.

Beginning in April 2019, AgSafe undertook outreach and training efforts to provide growers across the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with hands-on, interactive pesticide safety training and materials. As a result of this project, Grower Compliance Kits were developed and available FREE online in English, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, Thai and Ilokano. To access these materials visit: https://www.agsafe.org/pesticide_safety_training_for_growers/

Train-the-Trainer Courses
These courses have the purpose of providing someone with the right qualification to provide an adequate training to others on the particular topic. Particular trainings provide additional teaching tools and resources. Available topics include:

- Pesticide Safety – Worker Protection Standard
- Sexual Harassment Prevention
- Equipment Safety – ATV, UTV, Tractor and Forklift

Human Resources and Compliance
AgSafe has extensive experience in assisting growers with human resource and compliance issues. We have provided a variety of training in-person and digitally. We are excited to launch an online Agricultural Human Resource Certificate program in December 2020.

Labor is one of the most expensive and complex investments that a farming operation can make. We offer programing to assist growers through this process including completing an I-9, hiring, employee handbooks and training documentations. Additionally, we provide voluntary audits in which we review programs as well as on-site safety walk-throughs.

Contact Natalie Gupton, Director of Business Services, and Industry Relations, to inquire about any programs and any potential partnership opportunities. We are highly interested in collaborating on grant applications and program delivery. natalie@agsafe.org or 606-307-7723

NACAA Education Scholarship $20 for 2020 Campaign

Since we are unable to hold the auction during the 2020 Virtual AM/PIC, the NACAA Board together with the Scholarship Committee and NACAA Educational Foundation are inviting you to participate in the $20 in 2020 campaign in order to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund. Please consider contributing $20 or even better yet multiples of $20 to the NACAA Educational Foundation to support the NACAA Scholarship Fund.

To contribute by credit card … Go to website ... http://nacaa.com

Lower left hand corner of the home page - you'll see - Click on "Donate to the NACAA Educational Foundation - Scholarship."

OR

Make check payable to: "NACAA Educational Foundation"

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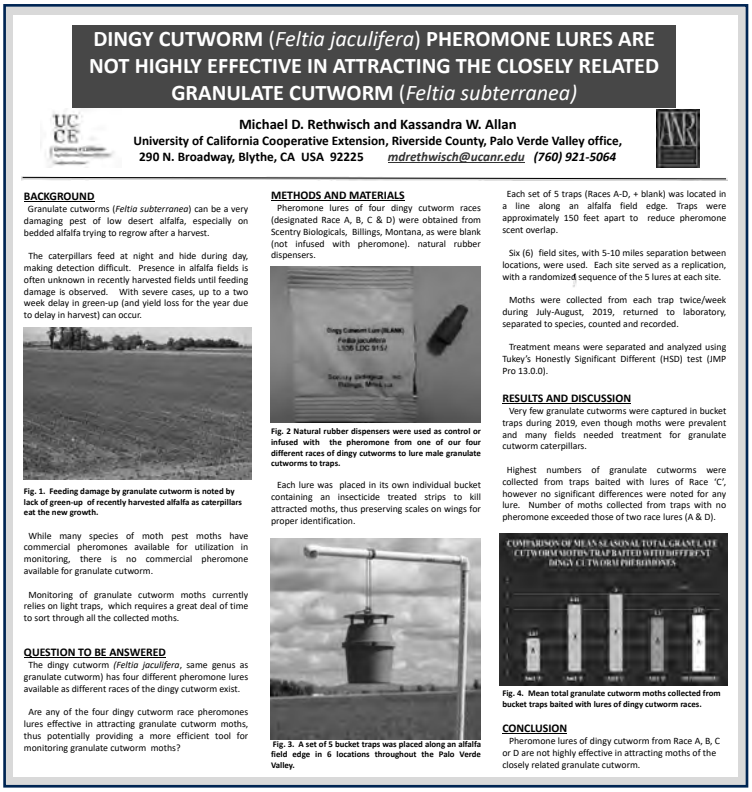


DINGY CUTWORM (*Feltia jaculifera*) PHEROMONE LURES ARE NOT HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN ATTRACTING THE CLOSELY RELATED GRANULATE CUTWORM (*Feltia subterranea*)

Michael D. Rethwisch and Kassandra W. Allan
University of California Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Palo Verde Valley office,
290 N. Broadway, Blythe, CA USA 92225 mdrethwisch@ucanr.edu (760) 921-5064

BACKGROUND

Granulate cutworms (*Feltia subterranea*) can be a very damaging pest of low desert alfalfa, especially on bedded alfalfa trying to regrow after a harvest.

The caterpillars feed at night and hide during day, making detection difficult. Presence in alfalfa fields is often unknown in recently harvested fields until feeding damage is observed. With severe cases, up to a two week delay in green-up (and yield loss for the year due to delay in harvest) can occur.

Fig. 1. Feeding damage by granulate cutworm is noted by lack of green-up of recently harvested alfalfa as caterpillars eat the new growth.

While many species of moth pest moths have commercial pheromones available for utilization in monitoring, there is no commercial pheromone available for granulate cutworm.

Monitoring of granulate cutworm moths currently relies on light traps, which requires a great deal of time to sort through all the collected moths.

QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED

The dingy cutworm (*Feltia jaculifera*, same genus as granulate cutworm) has four different pheromone lures available as different races of the dingy cutworm exist.

Are any of the four dingy cutworm race pheromones lures effective in attracting granulate cutworm moths, thus potentially providing a more efficient tool for monitoring granulate cutworm moths?

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Pheromone lures of four dingy cutworm races (designated Race A, B, C & D) were obtained from Scentry Biologicals, Billings, Montana, as were blank (not infused with pheromone). natural rubber dispensers.

Fig. 2 Natural rubber dispensers were used as control or infused with the pheromone from one of our four different races of dingy cutworms to lure male granulate cutworms to traps.

Each lure was placed in its own individual bucket containing an insecticide treated strips to kill attracted moths, thus preserving scales on wings for proper identification.

Fig. 3. A set of 5 bucket traps was placed along an alfalfa field edge in 6 locations throughout the Palo Verde Valley.

Each set of 5 traps (Races A-D, + blank) was located in a line along an alfalfa field edge. Traps were approximately 150 feet apart to reduce pheromone scent overlap.

Six (6) field sites, with 5-10 miles separation between locations, were used. Each site served as a replication, with a randomized sequence of the 5 lures at each site.

Moths were collected from each trap twice/week during July-August, 2019, returned to laboratory, separated to species, counted and recorded.

Treatment means were separated and analyzed using Tukey's Honestly Significant Different (HSD) test (JMP Pro 13.0.0).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Very few granulate cutworms were captured in bucket traps during 2019, even though moths were prevalent and many fields needed treatment for granulate cutworm caterpillars.

Highest numbers of granulate cutworms were collected from traps baited with lures of Race 'C', however no significant differences were noted for any lure. Number of moths collected from traps with no pheromone exceeded those of two race lures (A & D).

Fig. 4. Mean total granulate cutworm moths collected from bucket traps baited with lures of dingy cutworm races.

CONCLUSION

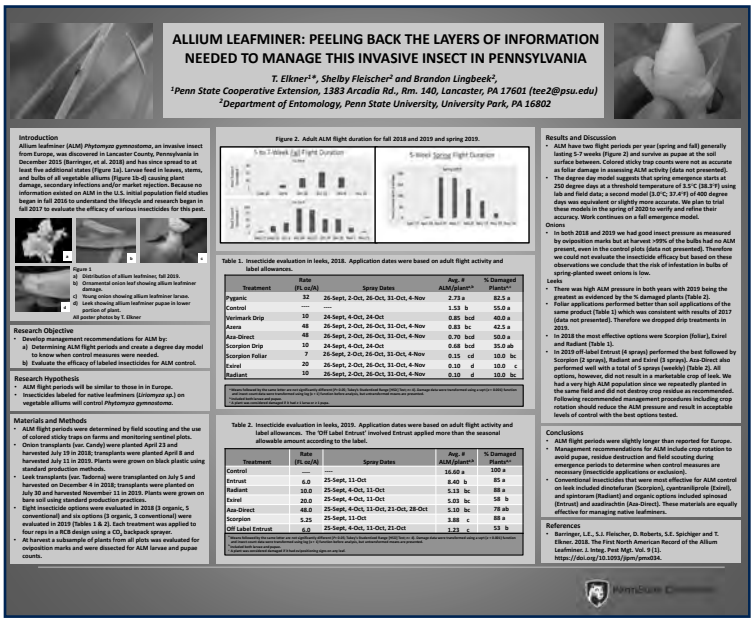
Pheromone lures of dingy cutworm from Race A, B, C or D are not highly effective in attracting moths of the closely related granulate cutworm.

1st Place

DINGY CUTWORM (FELTIA JACULIFERA) PHEROMONE LURES ARE NOT HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN ATTRACTING THE CLOSELY RELATED GRANULATE CUTWORM (FELTIA SUBTERRANNEA)

Rethwisch, M. D.[1]; Allan, K.W.[2]
[1]Farm Advisor - Crop Production and Entomology, University of California Cooperative Extension, Blythe, CA, 92225
[2]Student Laboratory Assistant, University of California Cooperative Extension, Blythe, CA, 92225

Pheromones of four differing races (A, B, C &D) of the dingy cutworm (Feltia jaculifera) were obtained to determine if any are highly effective in attracting adults of the closely related granulate cutworm moth (Feltia subterranea). The latter species can be a very damaging pest of low desert alfalfa, especially on bedded alfalfa trying to regrow after a harvest. The caterpillars feed at night and hide during day, making detection difficult. While many species of moth pest moths have commercial pheromones available for utilization in monitoring, there is no commercial pheromone available for granulate cutworm. Sets of 5 traps (Races A-D, + blank) were placed in a line along the field edge of six (6) alfalfa fields located throughout the Palo Verde Valley of California. Traps were approximately 150 feet apart to reduce pheromone scent overlap. Moths were collected from each trap twice/week during July-August, 2019, counted and recorded. Very few granulate cutworms were captured in bucket traps during 2019, even though moths were prevalent and many fields needed treatment for granulate cutworm caterpillars. No significant differences were noted for any lure. Number of moths collected from traps with no pheromone exceeded two race lures (A & D). Pheromone lures of dingy cutworm from Race A, B, C or D were not highly effective in attracting adult male granulate cutworm moths.



ALLIUM LEAFMINER: PEELING BACK THE LAYERS OF INFORMATION NEEDED TO MANAGE THIS INVASIVE INSECT IN PENNSYLVANIA

T. Elkner[1], Shelby Fleischer[2] and Brandon Lingbeek[2],*
[1]Penn State Cooperative Extension, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Rm. 140, Lancaster, PA 17601 (tee2@psu.edu)
[2]Department of Entomology, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802

Introduction
Allium leafminer (ALM) *Phytomyza gymnostoma*, an invasive insect from Europe, was discovered in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in December 2015 (Barringer, et al. 2018) and has since spread to at least five additional states (Figure 1a). Larvae feed in leaves, stems, and bulbs of all vegetable alliums (Figure 1b-d) causing plant damage, secondary infections and/or market rejection. Because no information existed on ALM in the U.S. initial population field studies began in fall 2016 to understand the lifecycle and research began in fall 2017 to evaluate the efficacy of various insecticides for this pest.

Figure 1
a) Distribution of allium leafminer, fall 2019.
b) Ornamental onion leaf showing allium leafminer damage.
c) Young onion showing allium leafminer larvae.
d) Leek showing allium leafminer pupae in lower portion of plant.
All poster photos by T. Elkner

Research Objective
- Develop management recommendations for ALM by:
  a) Determining ALM flight periods and create a degree day model to know when control measures were needed.
  b) Evaluate the efficacy of labeled insecticides for ALM control.

Research Hypothesis
- ALM flight periods will be similar to those in in Europe.
- Insecticides labeled for native leafminers (*Liriomyza sp.*) on vegetable alliums will control *Phytomyza gymnostoma*.

Materials and Methods
- ALM flight periods were determined by field scouting and the use of colored sticky traps on farms and monitoring sentinel plots.
- Onion transplants (var. Candy) were planted April 23 and harvested July 19 in 2018; transplants were planted April 8 and harvested July 11 in 2019. Plants were grown on black plastic using standard production methods.
- Leek transplants (var. Tadorna) were transplanted on July 5 and harvested on December 4 in 2018; transplants were planted on July 30 and harvested November 11 in 2019. Plants were grown on bare soil using standard production practices.
- Eight insecticide options were evaluated in 2018 (3 organic, 5 conventional) and six options (3 organic, 3 conventional) were evaluated in 2019 (Tables 1 & 2). Each treatment was applied to four reps in a RCB design using a CO_2 backpack sprayer.
- At harvest a subsample of plants from all plots was evaluated for oviposition marks and were dissected for ALM larvae and pupae counts.

Figure 2. Adult ALM flight duration for fall 2018 and 2019 and spring 2019.

Table 1. Insecticide evaluation in leeks, 2018. Application dates were based on adult flight activity and label allowances.

Treatment	Rate (fl. oz/A)	Spray Dates	Avg. # ALM/plant^A^		% Damaged Plants^A^	
Pyganic	32	26-Sept, 2-Oct, 26-Oct, 31-Oct, 4-Nov	2.73	a	82.5	a
Control	----	----	1.53	b	55.0	a
Verimark Drip	10	24-Sept, 4-Oct, 24-Oct	0.85	bcd	40.0	a
Azera	48	26-Sept, 2-Oct, 26-Oct, 31-Oct, 4-Nov	0.83	bc	42.5	a
Aza-Direct	48	26-Sept, 2-Oct, 26-Oct, 31-Oct, 4-Nov	0.70	bcd	50.0	a
Scorpion Drip	10	24-Sept, 4-Oct, 24-Oct	0.68	bcd	35.0	ab
Scorpion Foliar	7	26-Sept, 2-Oct, 26-Oct, 31-Oct, 4-Nov	0.15	cd	10.0	bc
Exirel	20	26-Sept, 2-Oct, 26-Oct, 31-Oct, 4-Nov	0.10	d	10.0	c
Radiant	10	26-Sept, 2-Oct, 26-Oct, 31-Oct, 4-Nov	0.10	d	10.0	bc

^A^Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P= 0.05, Tukey's Studentized Range (HSD) Test n= 4). Damage data were transformed using a sqrt (x + 0.005) function for analysis; non-transformed means are presented.
^B^Included both larvae and pupae.
^C^A plant was considered damaged if it had a 1 larvae or 1 pupa.

Table 2. Insecticide evaluation in leeks, 2019. Application dates were based on adult flight activity and label allowances. The 'Off Label Entrust' involved Entrust applied more than the seasonal allowable amount according to the label.

Treatment	Rate (fl. oz/A)	Spray Dates	Avg. # ALM/plant^A^		% Damaged Plants^A^	
Control	----	----	16.60	a	100	a
Entrust	6.0	25-Sept, 11-Oct	8.40	b	85	a
Radiant	10.0	25-Sept, 4-Oct, 11-Oct	5.13	bc	88	a
Exirel	20.0	25-Sept, 4-Oct, 11-Oct	5.03	bc	58	b
Aza-Direct	48.0	25-Sept, 4-Oct, 11-Oct, 21-Oct, 28-Oct	5.10	bc	78	ab
Scorpion	5.25	25-Sept, 11-Oct	3.88	c	88	a
Off Label Entrust	6.0	25-Sept, 4-Oct, 11-Oct, 21-Oct	1.23	c	53	b

^A^Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P= 0.05, Tukey's Studentized Range (HSD) Test n= 4). Damage data were transformed using a sqrt (x + 0.005) function for analysis; non-transformed means are presented.
^B^Included both larvae and pupae.
^C^A plant was considered damaged if it had a pupa/mining signs on any leaf.

Results and Discussion
- ALM have two flight periods per year (spring and fall) generally lasting 5-7 weeks (Figure 2) and survive as pupae at the soil surface between. Colored sticky trap counts were not as accurate as foliar damage in assessing ALM activity (data not presented).
- The degree day model suggests that spring emergence starts at 250 degree days at a threshold temperature of 3.3°C (38.3°F) using lab and field data; a second model (3.0°C; 37.4°F) of 400 degree days was equivalent or slightly more accurate. We plan to trial these models in the spring of 2020 to verify and refine their accuracy. Work continues on a fall emergence model.

Onions
- In both 2018 and 2019 we had good insect pressure as measured by oviposition marks but at harvest >99% of the bulbs had no ALM present, even in the control plots (data not presented). Therefore we could not evaluate the insecticide efficacy but based on these observations we conclude that the risk of infestation in bulbs of spring-planted sweet onions is low.

Leeks
- There was high ALM pressure in both years with 2019 being the greatest as evidenced by the % damaged plants (Table 2).
- Foliar applications performed better than soil applications of the same product (Table 1) which was consistent with results of 2017 (data not presented). Therefore we dropped drip treatments in 2019.
- In 2018 the most effective options were Scorpion (foliar), Exirel and Radiant (Table 1).
- In 2019 off-label Entrust (4 sprays) performed the best followed by Scorpion (2 sprays), Radiant and Exirel (3 sprays). Aza-Direct also performed well with a total of 5 sprays (weekly) (Table 2). All options, however, did not result in a marketable crop of leek. We had a very high ALM population since we repeatedly planted in the same field and did not destroy crop residue as recommended. Following recommended management procedures including crop rotation should reduce the ALM pressure and result in acceptable levels of control with the best options tested.

Conclusions
- ALM flight periods were slightly longer than reported for Europe.
- Management recommendations for ALM include crop rotation to avoid pupae, residue destruction and field scouting during emergence periods to determine when control measures are necessary (insecticide applications or exclusion).
- Conventional insecticides that were most effective for ALM control on leek included dinotefuran (Scorpion), cyantraniliprole (Exirel), and spinetoram (Radiant) and organic options included spinosad (Entrust) and azadirachtin (Aza-Direct). These materials are equally effective for managing native leafminers.

References
- Barringer, L.E., S.J. Fleischer, D. Roberts, S.E. Spichiger and T. Elkner. 2018. The First North American Record of the Allium Leafminer. J. Integ. Pest Mgt. Vol. 9 (1). https://doi.org/10.1093/jipm/pmx034.

2nd Place

ALLIUM LEAFMINER: PEELING BACK THE LAYERS OF INFORMATION NEEDED TO MANAGE THIS INVASIVE INSECT

Elkner, T.[1]; Fleischer, S.[2]; Lingbeek, B.[3]
[1]Horticulture Extension Educator, Penn State Cooperative Extension, LANCASTER, PA, 17601-3149
[2]Professor, Department of Entomology, Penn State University, University Park, PA, 16802
[3]Research Technician, Department of Entomology, Penn State University, University Park, PA, 16802

Allium leafminer (ALM) Phytomyza gymnostoma, an invasive insect from Europe, was discovered in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in December 2015 and has since spread to at least five additional states. Larvae feed in leaves, stems and bulbs of all vegetable alliums causing plant damage, secondary infections and/or market rejection. The purpose of our research was to develop management recommendations for ALM. We determined the flight periods of ALM and created a degree day model to

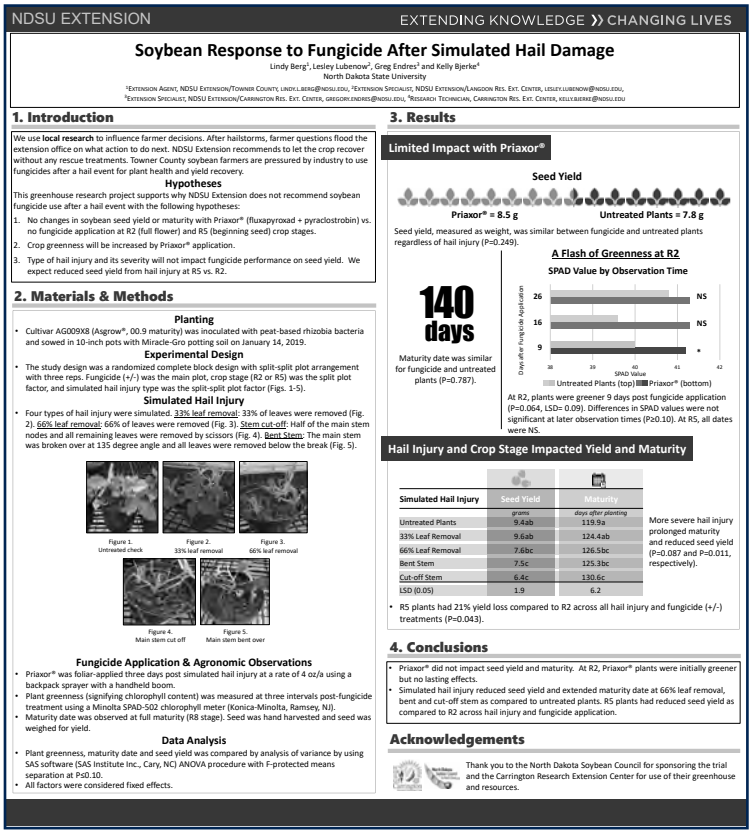
predict emergence to know when control measures were needed. We also evaluated the efficacy of insecticides labeled to control native leafminers in allium on ALM. Research from Austria showed two flights of ALM (spring and fall) lasting from 3 to 4 weeks; our observations from population studies beginning in fall 2016 found similar emergence times but flight periods of 5 to 7 weeks. Research trials began in fall 2017 to evaluate the efficacy of various insecticides for this pest on leeks and continued with trials on sweet onions in spring of 2018 and 2019 as well as additional leek trials in fall of 2018 and 2019. Trial results with spring-planted onions indicate that insecticide applications may not be necessary as minimal damage will occur from ALM on this crop in Pennsylvania. Conventional insecticides that were most effective for ALM control on leek included dinotefuran, cyantraniliprole, and spintoram and organic options included spinosad and azadirachtin. Spring and fall flight periods were monitored during these seasons to advise growers when control measures were necessary. The use of colored sticky traps for monitoring ALM emergence in 2016 and 2017 was not as accurate as visually scouting fields for leaf damage. A spring-emergence degree-day model was developed in 2019 to more accurately determine when scouting should begin and will be validated in 2020. Work continues on developing a fall emergence degree-day model. Fall emergence is has been observed to start with cool temperatures but then stop with subsequent warmer temperatures making model development more challenging. Growers following our recommendations have reported successfully control of ALM in their crops.

3rd Place

SOYBEAN RESPONSE TO FUNGICIDE AFTER SIMULATED HAIL DAMAGE

Berg, L. L.[1]; Lubenow, L.[2]; Endres, G.[3]; Bjerke, K.[4]
[1]Towner County Extension Agent, ANR, North Dakota State University, Cando, ND, 58324
[2]Extension Specialist, North Dakota State University, Langdon, ND, 58249
[3]Extension Specialist, North Dakota State University, Carrington, ND, 58421
[4]Research Technician, North Dakota State University, Carrington, ND, 58421

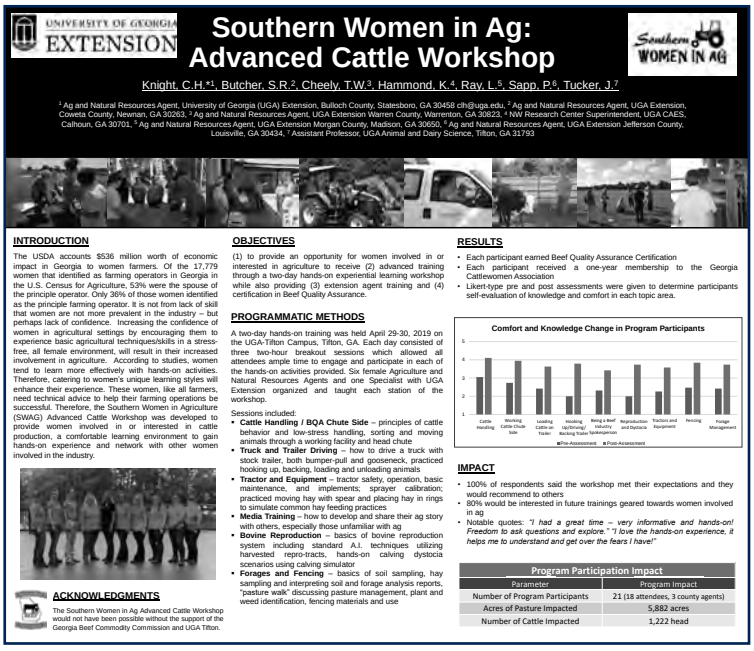
The objective of this greenhouse study is to determine soybean plant response to Priaxor® (fluxapyroxad + pyraclostrobin) application after simulated hail injury (33% defoliation, 66% defoliation, stem bent at 135-degree angle, and stem cut-off) at the R2 and R5 soybean growth stages. Priaxor® was applied at 4 fl oz/a three days post plant injury. Plant greenness was observed and measured using the Minolta SPAD-502 chlorophyll meter. Plant maturity date was noted at the R8 growth stage. Seed was hand-harvested and seed weight was determined. No interactions between fungicide and hail injury level were recorded.



Foliar fungicide application did not increase seed yield nor change plant maturity date when averaged across R2 and R5. Hail injury impacted plant maturity and seed weight across crop stages. The 33% defoliation injury level was similar in plant maturity and seed weight compared to untreated. More severe defoliation methods reduced seed yield by 19 to 32% and plant maturity was delayed 5 to 11 days as compared to the control. At R2, the plants were greener nine days post fungicide application than nontreated plants, however this was temporary. Greenness observations after this timing were not significantly different.

Professional Excellence 2020 Extension Education Poster Session National Winners

1st Place



SOUTHERN WOMEN IN AG; ADVANCED CATTLE WORKSHOP

Knight, C.H.[1]; Butcher, S.R.[2]; Cheely, T.W.[3]; Hammond, K.[4]; Ray, L.[5]; Sapp, P.[6]; Tucker, J.J.[7]

[1]Ag and Natural Resources Agent, University of Georgia, Statesboro, GA, 30458

[2]Ag and Natural Resources Agent, University of Georgia, Newnan, GA, 30263

[3]Ag and Natural Resources Agent, University of Georgia, Warrenton, GA, 30828

[4]NW Research Center Superintendent, University of Georgia, Calhoun, GA, 30701

[5]Ag and Natural Resources Agent, University of Georgia, Madison, GA, 30650

[6]Ag and Natural Resources Agent, University of Georgia, Louisville, GA, 30434

[7]Assistant Professor, UGA Animal and Dairy Science, Tifton, GA, 31793

The U.S. Department of Agriculture accounts $536 million worth of economic impact in Georgia to women farmers. Of the 17,779 women that identified as farming operators in Georgia in the U.S. Census for Agriculture, 53% were the spouse of the principle operator. Only 36% of those women identified as the principle farming operator. It is not from lack of skill that women are not more prevalent in the industry – but perhaps lack of confidence. Increasing the confidence of women in agricultural settings by encouraging them to experience basic agricultural techniques/skills in a stress-free, all female environment, will result in their increased involvement in agriculture. According to studies, women tend to learn more effectively with hands-on activities. Therefore, catering to women's unique learning styles will enhance their experience. These women, like all farmers, need technical advice to help their farming operations be successful. Therefore, the Southern Women in Agriculture (SWAG) Advanced Cattle Workshop was developed to provide women involved in or interested in cattle production, a comfortable learning environment to gain hands-on experience and network with other women involved in the industry. A two-day hands-on training was held April 29-30, 2019 on the UGA-Tifton Campus, Tifton, GA. There was a total of 18 attendees and 3 UGA ANR county agents, not including volunteers and instructors. Each day consisted of three two-hour breakout sessions which allowed all attendees ample time to engage and participate in each of the hands-on activities provided. Sessions included: cattle handling/chute side, truck and trailer driving, tractor and equipment, media training, bovine reproduction, and forages and fencing. Based on the evaluation, comfort level increased by at least 1 score in every station. 100% of respondents said that the workshop met their expectations and they would definitely recommend this workshop to others, and 80% would be interested in future trainings geared towards women involved in agriculture. As a result of this program, 5,882 acres and 1,222 head of cattle will be impacted by the knowledge gained. Additionally, all attendees received Beef Quality Assurance Certification and a one-year membership in the Georgia Cattlewomen's Association.

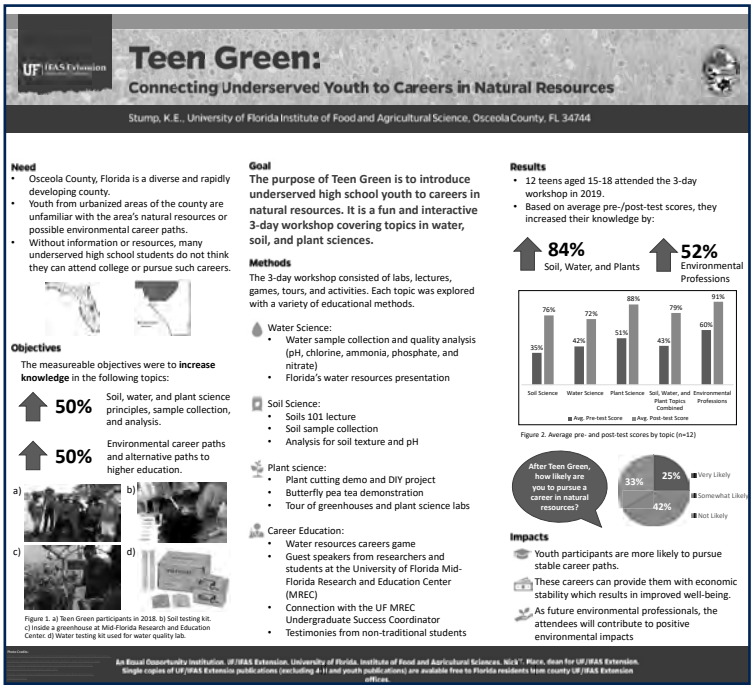
2nd Place

TEEN GREEN: CONNECTING UNDERSERVED YOUTH TO CAREERS IN NATURAL RESOURCES

Stump, K.E.[1]

[1]Natural Resources Agent, University of Florida, Kissimmee, FL, 34744

Osceola County is a diverse and rapidly developing county. Youth from urbanized areas of the county have little exposure to the area's natural resources or possible environmental career paths. The purpose of the Teen Green program is to introduce high school youth from under-represented backgrounds to environmental professions. The measurable objectives were: 1) to increase their knowledge about soil, water, and plant science principles by 70% in a fun and interactive way that will spark their interest in environmental careers; and 2) Increase their knowledge about environmental professions by 50%. The 3-day workshop incorporated a variety of educational methods including labs, lectures, tours, and hands-on games. They collected soil and water samples, conducted water quality analysis, analyzed soil for texture



and pH, and created landscape design blueprints. In addition, the youth toured the University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center where they explored labs, learned how to take plant cuttings, and received resources for alternative higher education paths. This is critical, as many of the youth do not have the resources to attend a traditional 4-year University immediately after graduation. Twelve high school-aged youth attended the 3-day workshop. The program was evaluated with a pre- and post-test to measure average knowledge gain. The students (n=12) increased their knowledge about soil and water sciences by 84% and their knowledge about natural resources career paths by 52%. In addition, 67% (n=12) of attendees reported that they are very likely or somewhat likely to pursue a career in natural resources after attending the workshop. By connecting youth to their environment, they are exposed to new topics and potential career paths that will impact their economic stability and well-being while protecting the environment.

3rd Place

WSU AND UI SHEEP AND GOAT JUDGES SCHOOL AND SHOW MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

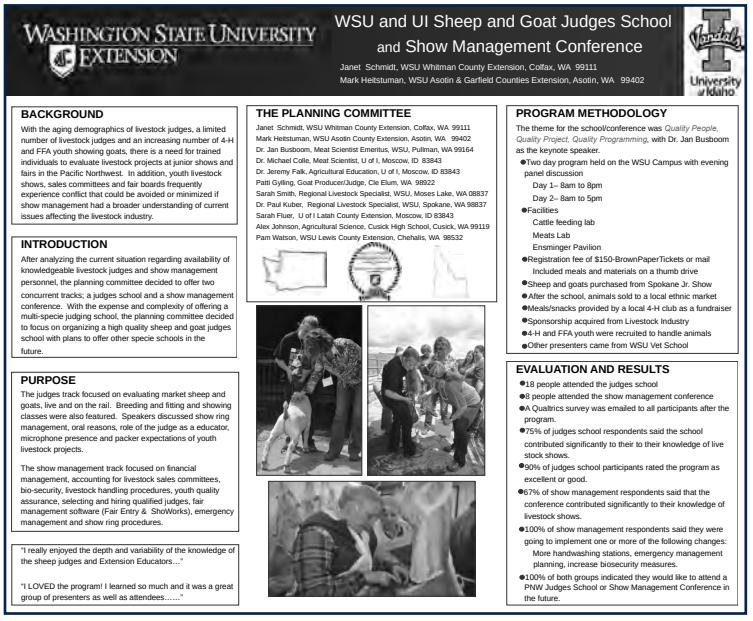
Schmidt, J. L.[1]; Heitstuman, M.D.[2]
[1]County Director and 4-H Youth Educator, Washington State University Extension, COLFAX, WA, 99111
[2]County Director and Extension Educator, Washington State University Extension Asotin & Garfield Counties, Asotin, WA, 99402, no state given,

With an aging demographic of current livestock judges in the Pacific Northwest, and an increasing number of 4-H and FFA youth showing meat goats, there is a need for trained individuals to evaluate livestock projects at our county fairs and junior livestock shows. In addition, youth livestock shows, and sales committee frequently experience conflict that could be avoided or minimized if show management had a broader understanding of current issues affecting the livestock industry. Considering these factors, the planning committee offered two separate tracks at the 2019 PNW Judges School and Show Management Conference.

Since it is expensive and complex to offer a multi-species judging school, the committee focused on organizing a high-quality sheep and goat judges' school; with plans to offer a WSU/UI beef and swine judging school in the future. The Judges track focused on evaluating sheep and goat market projects both live and on the rail. Participants also had the opportunity to judge several classes of breeding sheep and goats; evaluate fitting and showing classes; discuss the management of the show ring; practice giving oral reasons; learn about the role of the judge as an educator; and a packer's expectation of youth livestock projects.

The Show Management track focused on financial management and accounting for market livestock sales committees; biosecurity; livestock handling procedures; youth quality assurance programs; selecting and hiring qualified judges; fair management software; emergency management and show ring procedures.

At the conclusion of the program, participants completed a Qualtrics survey to provide feedback on the judges' school and show management conference. Seventy-five percent of the judge's school survey respondents stated that the school contributed significantly to their knowledge of youth livestock shows in contrast to sixty-seven percent of the show management respondents who said the same. Ninety percent rated the judges' school as good or excellent while one hundred percent of show management respondents rated the quality of the conference as excellent or good. One hundred percent of both groups indicated they would like to attend a future PNW Livestock Judges School or Show Management Conference.



NACAA 2020 Communication Award Winners

AUDIO RECORDING

National Winner

Aaron J.H. Nygren
Extension Educator
University of Nebraska

Nygren, A.J.*[1],
[1] Extension Educator, University of Nebraska, Schuyler, NE, 68661

The purpose of this audio recording was to make listeners aware of the finding of frogeye leaf spot resistant to the QOI fungicides. This audio recording covered one of my monthly spots that I record for KTIC Radio to air during their Extension Corner series. This series exposes listeners to short two or three minute long radio spots covering Nebraska Extension information Monday through Friday every week, with each day having a different subject matter focus. Our team of four extension agronomists in Northeast Nebraska takes turns covering the Thursday radio spot. The objective of my radio spot for the fifth Thursday in the month of January was to provide listeners with information about some of characteristics of frogeye leaf spot, results of UNL testing in 2019 that found resistance to the QOI group fungicides, and management options going forward. I felt that this was an important topic to cover given that many farmers are still unaware of frogeye leaf spot in Nebraska and that recent research showed a problem that was going to impact how farmers should treat for the disease. I also felt like this was a good way to reinforce one of the key messages for resistance management of using multiple modes of action. I prepared this recording by typing my script ahead of time. I then used Audacity computer software and a USB microphone to record and edit the presentation in my office as an MP3 file. This file was then emailed to the radio station. This 2 minute and 22 second recording was aired on KTIC Radio on January 30th, 2020 at 11:17 a.m. on their 840 AM station which reaches listeners across eastern Nebraska, as well as the southeast corner of South Dakota and the western edge of Iowa.

PUBLISHED PHOTO

National Winner

Alicia Halbritter
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent
UF/IFAS Baker County Extension
Baker

This photo was taken on June 3rd, 2019 and utilized in print twice, as part of a fact sheet for the 2019 Corn Field Day, and a research update infographic for industry partners. The objective of this photo was to help depict issues related to insect management in field corn production. The photo was used in a fact sheet given to producers at the Corn Field Day to discuss findings from the associated research project in which stink bug populations and related damage were monitored in a plant population density study. The photo was taken in the research field by the agent during data collection. Attendees (n=64) of the Corn Field Day who received the Stink Bug fact sheet were given a presentation about the biology of stink bugs, the life cycle, and how adult mating leads to high nymph populations which leads to increased crop damage. The agent is solely responsible for the photograph, the development of the fact sheet, and the infographic. 95% of survey respondents from the 2019 Corn Field Day said the handouts (Stink Bug fact sheet) will be useful for future reference and that they intended to apply the information learned to improve their corn production program.

COMPUTER GENERATED PRESENTATION

National Winner

Ashley D. Wright
Livestock Area Agent
The University of Arizona
Southeastern Arizona

Wright, A.*[1],
[1] Livestock Area Agent, The University of Arizona, Willcox, AZ, 85643

This PowerPoint presentation evolved to address issues producers were having following several years of significant drought in Arizona. I created the first version of this presentation and presented it at three of my county-level Cooperative Extension workshops that focused on livestock production during drought. I was also invited to present it at the Cowman's Reproductive Workshop in Alton, UT during the fall of 2018. Following that, I created this updated and more comprehensive version for the 2019 Range Livestock Nutrition Workshops, a yearly series of workshops that take place around the state of Arizona. For 2019, those were held in Willcox, Prescott, and Holbrook (a roundtrip journey of 720 miles over three consecutive days). A total of 157 producers attended across the three locations. Forty-one percent of evaluations were returned, and the average producer rating for this presentation was a 4.3 (1 = not valuable and 5 = valuable). When designing this presentation, I kept slides interesting by using a variety of images (all photos included in this slide set have been taken by me) and minimizing text. I prefer to incorporate short, memorable bullet points and use stories and discussion to further clarify meaning and reinforce important points. The goal of the presentation is for producers to

understand the impacts of drought beyond just a lack of forage or water and that they should create a plan before it's needed to mitigate or respond to drought. By planning ahead (even during wet years) and being pro-active, they can protect their livestock production, preserve rangeland conditions, and reduce financial risk to the operation. The most impactful results are that 100% of producers who attended the 2019 Range Livestock Nutrition workshops indicated the material improved their awareness of the topics covered and provided new knowledge. Ninety-eight percent will adopt one or more practices, 95% thought the material provided new skills, and 85% felt it modified their opinions or attitudes. This slide set will continue to be used at extension events throughout 2020 to encourage producers to prepare for the next inevitable drought.

PROGRAM PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE

National Winner

Aerica Bjurstrom
Agricultlure Agent
University of Wisconsin Madison
Division of Extension
Kewaunee County

Bjurstrom, A.*[1],
[1] Agricultlure Agent, University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension, Kewaunee, WI, 54216

The year 2019 was a challenge for farmers starting with a cold, wet spring, a colder than average summer, followed by record breaking rain fall through December. The challenging year resulted in poor quality harvests and significant soil compaction and soil quality damage. A crops and soils program was developed by Aerica Bjurstrom, Agriculture Agent – Kewaunee County to address what farmers could see in the fields and on the farm based on the 2019 growing season.

The program called Preparing for 2020: Soil & Forage Meeting was planned and carried out by Aerica Bjurstrom. Promotional methods included a flyer (content and photo developed by Aerica Bjurstrom, layout by support staff Erin Dahle), a tv spot including Aerica Bjurstrom (produced by Millaine Wells), and a promotional Ripl video created by Aerica Bjurstrom (photos, content, and design by Aerica Bjurstrom). Other promotional pieces included a press release and radio spot. Sixteen people attended the meeting. All three pieces were posted on social media (Facebook and Twitter). The flyer was emailed to a mailing list consisting of 355 farmers and agriculture professionals. The video was part of the Midwest Farm Weekly television program on WFRV Green Bay, WI, and posted on the WFRV website.

The goal of the program was to increase the knowledge of attendees on soil health and feeding livestock after a difficult harvest year. Impact would be measured by how attendees would implement newly gained knowledge in their jobs and on the farm. Certified Crop Advisors received 2.5 Continuing Education Credits for attending the program.

PERSONAL COLUMN

National Winner

Phillip Durst
Sr. Extension Dairy & Beef Educator
MSU Extension
Ogemaw County

As dairy farms have grown larger, milking more cows and employing more people, the role of the owners and managers is increasingly that of managing the farm through people. That is a challenge for many farmers who need to further develop a range of skills in managing employees. These columns were written to address common issues on dairy farms; hiring anyone just to fill a need, and putting up with many problems caused by employees. The columns were written by this author based on my work with Michigan State University Extension in farm employee management and my experience talking with farmers. They were written exclusively for Hoard's Dairyman magazine and accepted by the editor for publication. Through Hoard's, these columns reach a large audience. The magazine is sent to more than 51,000 homes, farms and businesses nationally and internationally. I challenge farmers on what might be their typical response to these issues, to get them to think differently about problems. It was evident that was accomplished, when I received a note from a large dairy owner in another state with the subject "Love, love, LOVE your message" and a note that said; "We try this at (our farm). I will share it with my two younger partners."

FEATURE STORY

National Winner

Mary Kate Wheeler
Farm Business Management Specialist
Cornell Cooperative Extension
South Central New York Dairy and Field Crops

Wheeler, M.*[1],
[1] Farm Business Management Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Owego, NY, 13827

This entry highlights a feature article that appeared in the Winter 2020 edition of the Small Farms Quarterly. The author, NACAA

member Mary Kate Wheeler, works with the South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team to deliver educational programming and technical assistance related to farm business management. The team serves dairy and crop producers in six New York counties: Broome, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Tioga and Tompkins.

The "Rate Your Recordkeeping System" article tackles financial recordkeeping, a critical function of any business, yet one that many farms fail to master. Despite the importance of this topic, it rarely generates enthusiasm among agricultural producers. This article takes a creative approach to engage farm operators, inspire them to evaluate their own recordkeeping systems, and challenge them to think critically about possible improvements. By using an interactive quiz format to share best (and worst) management practices, the article invites readers to recognize and rank the features of their own system. The concluding section provides recommendations tailored specifically to meet the needs of different farms, depending on how they score their current system.

Mary Kate wrote and submitted "Rate Your Recordkeeping System" to Small Farms Quarterly for publication in January 2020. The timely publication date pushed the information out to farmers between the end of the year and their income tax filing deadline, a period when farm operators are more attentive to recordkeeping and financial analysis. The Small Farms Quarterly circulates approximately 40,000 print copies, and posts articles to their website.

The article previously appeared in the South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team's December 2019 Dairy Digest newsletter, which reaches 700 subscribers by mail and another 200 digital subscribers by email. The team also shared the article electronically on its blog and Facebook page. Producers have responded with positive feedback about the article, including one dairy operator who proudly posted her high recordkeeping score on her own Facebook page.

NEWSLETTER, INDIVIDUAL

National Winner

Megan Taylor
Nebraska Extension

KERNELS OF KNOWLEDGE AND TRIFOLIATE TIMES

Kernels of Knowledge and Trifoliate Times is a combined newsletter geared towards row crop farmers and crop consultants. This newsletter reached 236 stakeholders over three editions in 2019-2020; early season before planting March through May, midseason in July through September, and then January through February. The purpose of this newsletter was to provide timely information and crop scouting updates in response to requests from stakeholders to provide supplemental information related to trainings I was providing. These were distributed primarily in paper form during in person trainings. The first edition was given out at two farmer meetings and forty copies were distributed. Topics covered were starter fertilizer, planting in wet soils, and flooding updates. The second edition was distributed at in-season meetings and industry plot updates. The newsletter was distributed to around seventy-eight stakeholders. Topics covered included disease identification, herbicide damage, and stalk/stem rot identification. The second edition of the newsletter was used in conjunction with short presentations that I conducted at these meetings. The newsletter served as a reference for the participants and provided a guide for the stakeholders to use on their own acres. The final edition of the newsletter, focused on the previous cropping year, and was disturbed at private and commercial applicator training. Around 118 copies were given out in January and February. This edition of the newsletter summarized 2019 issues and provided photographs for reference. This newsletter will be distributed once again this year digitally on my website and on social media, as well as paper handouts during in-person trainings.

NEWSLETTER, TEAM

National Winner

Philip Rozeboom
IPM Coordinator
SDSU Extension

Anthony Bly*[1], , Bachmann, A.*[2], , Connie Strunk*[3], , David Karki*[4], , Emmanuel Byamukama*[5], , Gared Shaffer*[6], , **Jack Davis*[7], ,** Jason Clark*[8], , Jonathan Kleinjan*[9], , **Laura Edwards*[10], ,** Paul Johnson*[11], , Ruth Beck*[12], , **Sara Bauder*[13], , Varenhorst, A.*[14], , Wagner, P.*[15], , Rozeboom, P.*[16],**

[1] Soils Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Sioux Falls, SD, 57106
[2] Pesticide Education & Urban Entomology Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Pierre, SD, 57501
[3] Plant Pathology Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Brookings, SD, 57007
[4] Agronomy Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Watertown, SD, 57201
[5] Associate Professor & Plant Pathologist, SDSU Extension, Brookings, SD, 57007
[6] Weeds Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Aberdeen, SD, 57401
[7] Crops Business Management Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Mitchell, SD, 57301
[8] Assitant Professor & Soil Fertility Specialist, SDSU Extension, Brookings, SD, 57007
[9] Crop Production Associate, SDSU Extension, Brookings, SD, 57007
[10] State Climatologist, SDSU Extension, Aberdeen, SD, 57401
[11] Weed Science Coordinator, SDSU Extension, Brookings, SD, 57007
[12] Agronomy Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Pierre, SD, 57501
[13] Agronomy Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Mitchell, SD, 57301

[14] Assistant Professor & SDSU Extension Field Crop Entomologist, SDSU Extension, Brookings, SD, 57007
[15] Entomology Field Specialist, SDSU Extension, Rapid City, SD, 57703
[16] IPM Coordinator, SDSU Extension, Brookings, SD, 57007

The Pest and Crop Newsletter is a weekly release from May till August and a monthly release from October to April. The newsletter consists of any articles that the SDSU Extension team had published the previous week or month on extension.sdstate.edu. It is availbe and emailed to anyone who subscribes, for free, on the extension website. The goal of the newsletter is to keep our 2,500 readers up-to-date on anything from insects, diseases, weeds and suggested best-managment practices. This is done to allow them to be well informed when making management decisions.

VIDEO PRESENTATION

National Winner

Kerry P. Smith
Outreach Programs Admin
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Statewide

Smith, Kerry P.[1], , Glover, Tony A.[2], , O'Rear, Bethany A.[3], , Pacumbaba, Rudy[4],
[1] Outreach Programs Administrator, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University, AL, 36849
[2] County Extension Coordinator, Cullman County, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Cullman, AL, 35055
[3] Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Birmingham, AL, 35223
[4] Extension Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Normal, AL, 35762

This video is one in a series promoting research in Auburn University's College of Agriculture. This specific episode promotes a project, *Harvest for Health*, led by Alabama Extension's Home Grounds Team. The project was selected for promotion by the College's Director of Communications and Marketing, filmed by Alabama Public TV (APTV) in summer 2019, and first aired on August 8, 2019. APTV programming is received in 1.9 million households, and their average weekly viewership is 14.9%. The general, TV viewing public is the audience. This video highlights a project engaging Master Gardener (MG) volunteers, shows project value to the state and to scientific research, and illustrates our multifaceted partnership between the University of Alabama Birmingham, Auburn University, Alabama Cooperative Extension, and Extension Volunteers. Publicly promoting our project also reinforced our appreciation for the volunteers' contributions and helped recruit new participants through 2021. The NACAA members interviewed, represented and explained Extension's different roles within the project. Other studies have shown that a diet high in fruits and vegetables benefits cancer survivors, but this is the first medical study linking gardening to their health. UAB recruits the study's cancer survivors, AU Horticulture provides teaching tools, and Extension Agents train and support the MG volunteers serving as mentors. This *Harvest for Health* research is funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Women's Breast Health Fund (Birmingham, AL), and donations from Safer Brand, Scott's Miracle Gro, and numerous private donors. NACAA members from Alabama: Kerry Smith, Tony Glover, Bethany O'Rear, Rudy Pacumbaba – all representing Alabama Cooperative Extension's, Home Grounds Team Time segment for judging: start, 00:00, to 11:13 Web link: https://video.aptv.org/video/spotlight-on-agriculture-harvest-for-health-bwsegj/

FACT SHEET

National Winner

Kimberly Kester Post
County Extension Agent
University of Georgia
Lanier/Clinch/Southwest

Post, K.K.*[1], , Anderson, H.[2], , Dawson, J.[3], , Dowdy, M.[4],
[1] County Extension Agent, University of Georgia, Lakeland, GA, 31635
[2] County Extension Agent, University of Georgia, Fitzgerald, GA, 31750
[3] County Extension Agent, Fort Valley State University, Valdosta, GA, 31601
[4] County Extension Agent, University of Georgia, Quitman, GA, 31643

The Sheep & Goat Quick Facts handout was developed for distribution at the Southwest Georgia Small Ruminant Workshop (SGSRW), scheduled for March 14th, 2020. The SGSRW was a collaboration between University of Georgia Extension and Fort Valley State University Extension. The workshop offered hands-on education for beginner sheep and goat owners including parasite control and FAMACHA certification, animal handling, first aid, breeding and kidding, and nutrition management. The handout served as a quick reference sheet with information about vitals for sheep and goats, breed information, stocking rates, deworming dosages, and additional resources for supplies and information.

As of the registration deadline, 58 participants were pre-registered for the workshop. Due to the COVID-19 situation in March 2020, the workshop had to be cancelled. The handout was subsequently shared on Facebook, county ag blogs, and e-mail lists. It reached over 525 people.

PUBLICATION

National Winner

Chase T. Brooke
County Extension Agent- Agriculture & Natural Resources
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Collin

Brooke, C.T.*[1], , Treadwell, M[2],
[1] County Extension Agent- Agriculture & Natural Resources, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Mckinney, TX, 75069
[2] Assistant Professor and Range Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, San Angelo, TX, 76901

This peer-reviewed extension publication was written to aid Texas landowers and managers with identifying and managing invasive native juniper species (Juniperus spp.) on their land, primarily through the use of prescribed burning. In the first part, the publication compares resprouting versus non-resprouting junipers, and provides a short overview of safe burning practices. In the second portion of the publication, we identify the 5 most common juniper species in Texas, provide a short bonanical description of each species, and how they respond to fire.

This publication was written to be used by landowners and fire managers with little to moderate experience with prescribed fire or juniper identification, and for distribution in extension programs. Our paper was used in several workshops and meetings, and at least 53 paper copies have been distributed, and more online.

I was invovled as the primary author and thereby responsible for researching, drafting, revising, and managing the publication process for the paper.

WEB SITE

National Winner

Neil G. Kelly
Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Kelly, N.G.*[1], , **Chambliss, A. T.[2],** , **Conner, K. N.[3],** , **East, W. T.[4],** , **Glover, T. A.[5],** , **Kemble, J. M.[6],** , **Majumdar, A.[7],** , McCormack, L[8], , **Miles, J. D.[9],** , **Pickens, J. M[10],** , **Sikora, E. J.[11],** , **Vinson, E.L.[12],**
[1] Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Headland, AL, 36345
[2] Outreach Coordinator, Alabama Cooperative Extension System
[3] Extension Speciaist/Diagnostician, Alabama Cooperative Extension System
[4] Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Ashland, Al, 36251
[5] County Extension Coordinator, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Cullman, Al, 35055
[6] Extension Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System,
[7] Extension Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System,
[8] Alabama Cooperative Extension System
[9] Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Mobile, Al,
[10] Extension Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Mobile, Al, 36689
[11] Professor/Extension Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System
[12] Extension Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Farming Basics Mobile App, launched in 2019, is a critical learning tool for beginning and experienced farmers. It is also a major educational tool for Regional Extension Agents, Extension Specialists, and Extension Coordinators across Alabama and the Southeast. It is a peer-reviewed publication that went through a rigorous development process with extensive data management system, information linkage (coding), and image library constructed by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) Information Technology Team with input from the app team. The app has an extensive 'road-map' with the first version currently available worldwide across all devices and platforms. The app was tested at the alpha- and beta-testing stages with written reviews at the planning stage, hence this is a truly peer-reviewed product as required by ACES.

The app has informational features such as vast library of 50 horticultural crops, 100+ insect and disease description and images, and fertilizer and irrigation calculators. The functional aspects that add tremendous value and uniqueness to the Farming Basics app include location services linked to REAs statewide so that beginning farmers can easily locate and directly contact Extension for help. Another critical functionality is the link to Commercial Horticulture online event calendar and ability to add events to native scheduling services on Apple or Android devices. The app also links growers to pest alerts, social media, and USDA price listing for horticultural commodities. The app has been marketed through an attractive push-card or post-card that is mailed or inserted into other promotional packets, distributed at grower conferences and large exhibitions, and PDF is embedded in digital media. The Alabama IPM Communicator E-newsletter with 3,080 subscribers was also used to promote the app. Beginning farmers can also email questions regarding the app and get response within 24 hours. We have also connected the app to beginning farmer training videos on YouTube that has resulted in over 300 views. Till date, the app has been installed over 500 times with nearly 55 percent installations on Android phones worldwide and overall rating of 4.8. Impact evaluations for the app will be collected in Fall 2020. https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/ipm-farming/farming-basics-mobile-app/

LEARNING MODULE

National Winner

Lauren Hood - SC 4-H Midlands Region Agents
4-H Agent
Clemson Ext
York Co

Hood, L.B.*[1], , Phillips, A. T.[2], , West, A. W.[3], , Black-Venegas, L.[4], , Hucks, C.S.[5], , Cox, J.M.[6], , Martin-Jones, R.[7], , Stevens, J.[8],
[1] 4-H Agent, Clemson Ext, Rock Hill, SC, 29730
[2] 4-H Youth Development Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Chester, SC, 29706
[3] 4-H Youth Development Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Newberry, SC, 29108
[4] 4-H Youth Development Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Saluda, SC, 29138
[5] 4-H Youth Development Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Lancaster, SC, 29720
[6] 4-H Youth Development Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Aiken, SC, 29801
[7] 4-H Youth Development Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Columbia, SC, 29229
[8] 4-H Youth Development Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Winnsboro, SC, 29180

With the COVID-19: Corona Virus pandemic closing all public schools and universities in South Carolina, 4-H Agents of Clemson Cooperative Extension were left without clients to serve. The Midlands 4-H Region Agents couldn't stand to sit around and wait for a solution to how to serve the children of SC, so they came up with "4-H @ Home," a daily email with an activity that is fun and educational that also introduces 4-H. The program announcement was worded, "Are you scrambling to fill the day while schools are closed? Don't worry, we are here to help! 4-H @ Home is a daily activity delivered via e-mail. Topics include: Animals and Agriculture, Healthy Lifestyles, Civic Engagement and Leadership, Natural Resources, and STEM. This project is open to youth in any county. Sign up below to begin receiving weekday e-mails until schools re-open. Take care and wash your hands!" Little did the Midlands agents know their program would go viral! As of the latest update, the program had 1,708 participants registered from all 46 counties in SC, 24 additional states, plus children in Mexico, Canada, and South Africa! These numbers continue to increase daily! All lessons are developed by SC 4-H Agents (and a few other program area agents) from around the state in multiple program areas to help give children something to do while practicing social distancing. The lessons are geared to being able to utilize materials from around the home, so parents do not have to go out to purchase materials. Photo submissions are entered into a weekly drawing for SC 4-H prize packs.

BOUND BOOK

National Winner

Linda Chalker-Scott
Extension Specialist and Associate Professor
Washington State University
WSU Puyallup

Chalker-Scott, L.*[1],
[1] Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, Washington State University, Puyallup, WA, 98371

Co-authored by Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott (WSU's Urban Horticulture Extension Specialist), the newest edition of this book presents a curated collection of garden-worthy native plants that tolerate cultivated conditions. Below is the publisher's description for the new edition on Amazon. (https://smile.amazon.com/Gardening-Native-Plants-Pacific-Northwest/dp/0295744154/ref=pd_rhf_dp_p_img_1?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=W4DBNZEFZECDRHMS2Q18)

The Pacific Northwest abounds with native plants that bring beauty to the home garden while offering food and shelter to birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. Elegant trilliums thrive in woodland settings. Showy lewisias stand out in the rock garden. Hazel and huckleberry number among the delights of early spring, while serviceberry and creek dogwood provide a riot of fall color. *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* is the essential resource for learning how to best use this stunning array. The third edition to this science-based contains:

- close to 1,000 choices of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and grasses for diverse terrain and conditions, from Canada to California, and east to the Rockies;
- 948 color photographs, with useful habitat icons;
- fully updated nomenclature, with an index of subjects and an index of plant names (common and scientific);
- new chapters on garden ecology and garden science;
- an appendix of Pacific Northwest botanical gardens and native plant societies; and
- a glossary of botanical, horticultural, and gardening terms.

With enthusiasm, easy wit, and expert knowledge, renowned botanist Art Kruckeberg and horticulturist Linda Chalker-Scott show Northwest gardeners, from novice to expert, how to imagine and realize their perfect sustainable landscape.

This book has been favorably reviewed in both the Western United States and British Columbia; a sample review can be found here: https://vancouversun.com/homes/gardening/brian-minter-kruckeberg-and-chalker-scotts-book-remains-one-of-the-best-sources-on-native-plants. To date, it has sold 3000 copies in the US and over 1200 copies in British Columbia. It has been purchased by gardeners, Master Gardeners, native plant nurseries, landscape architects and designers, and restoration ecologists.

Please note that the original author, Dr. Kruckeberg, passed away in 2016. Dr. Chalker-Scott was solely responsible for the update to create the 3rd edition, which included much of Dr. Kruckeberg's earlier material but required significant additional information as noted in the description.

Search for Excellence in Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

National Winner

HARVEST FOR HEALTH: HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING INTERVENTION AMONG OLDER CANCER SURVIVORS

Lucy E. Edwards
Regional Extension Agent - Home Horticulture, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Edwards, Lucy E.*[1], , Kelley, Mallory J.[2], , **O'Rear, Bethany A.[3],** , **Smith, Kerry P.[4],** , Thompson, Renee W.[5],
[1] Regional Extension Agent - Home Horticulture, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Ozark, AL, 36360
[2] Regional Extension Agent - Home Horticulture, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Autaugaville, AL, 36033
[3] Regional Extension Agent - Home Horticulture, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Birmingham, AL, 35223
[4] Team Coordinator - Home Horticulture & State Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn, AL, 36849
[5] Outreach Coordinator - Harvest for Health, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 36849

Harvest for Health (H4H) is an at-home gardening intervention for older Alabama cancer survivors who have completed their primary cancer treatment. H4H aimed to provide participants the means to grow an at-home vegetable garden during a 2-year program. The rationale of the study was that gardening interventions could improve diet and exercise behaviors of cancer survivors who are at greater risk of other disease and poor diets. H4H intended to identify physical and behavioral responses a cancer survivor might have to gardening. Effects measured included diet, physical activity, physical function, quality of life and healthy eating measured by periodic medical assessments. The program consisted of 8, 2-year cohorts, beginning with a spring or fall vegetable garden. Cohort survivors (eligible only if they had no prior gardening experience) were divided into two groups – 1st year participants and controls, who would participate in the 2nd year. Resources for the participants included Extension publications related to growing practices and disease and insect management and a garden kit with raised bed or gardening boxes and soil, vegetable plants and seeds, fertilizer, and gardening accessories. Master Gardener mentors met on-site monthly with their survivors. Initial H4H study participants results: 92% indicated that they would "most definitely" continue gardening in the future; 89% were "most definitely" going to expand their garden size; Effects of the intervention on motivating behavior change on 1 to 10 scale: eat a healthier diet (8.9); eat more vegetables (8.1); be more physically active (6.8). H4H has initiated 8 cohorts across 29 of Alabama counties with 91% (387/426) completion. A year later 85% continued their new habits. Fresh produce consumption increased by 1 serving per day. Average BMI change was negative 5.63. Physical function improved for 70% of the survivors. Statewide impact includes media coverage on the success of H4H, which was featured on Alabama Public Television's "Spotlight on Agriculture". In concludsion, home vegetable gardening intervention among older cancer survivors was feasible, could be easily replicated and demonstrated improvement in health, behaviors, and well-being of older cancer survivors.

Search for Excellence in 4-H Programming

National Winner

MU ANIMAL SCIENCES YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

David P. Hoffman
Livestock Specialist

Hoffman, D. P.*[1], , **Shannon, M. C.[2],**
[1] Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Harrisonville, MO, 64701
[2] State Swine Extension Specialist, University of MIssouri Extension, Columbia, MO, 65211

The University of Missouri Animal Sciences Youth Leadership Academy is an intensive four-day educational experience for high school students designed to enhance leadership skills, increase animal science knowledge, and encourage pursuit of a career in the agricultural sciences. The objective is to develop young leaders within the livestock industry and broaden their horizons to the far-reaching spectrum of careers offered in the animal sciences. Each class consists of twenty high school students, selected based on their educational accomplishments, community involvement and agricultural interest. During the academy, the students focus on leadership development, communication skills and team building. Students tour the University of Missouri research farms and other leading Missouri agribusiness and organizations, networking with industry professionals. Production and management practices of all species (beef, dairy, pork, sheep, goat, equine, and poultry), along with societal concerns facing the livestock industries are

covered. Five-student teams work with a MU faculty mentor, discussing a current livestock industry issue and culminates with a team presentation. The students give their presentations to a panel of judges and their parents, competing for scholarships to the University of Missouri. During the past three years, fifty-nine (59) students from Missouri and one from Texas have participated in the program. One hundred percent of the students indicated they would recommend the experience to other students, increased their knowledge of the animal sciences, and improved their leadership skills through communications, teamwork and networking with professionals in the livestock industry. One hundred percent of the parents indicated their child benefited from their participation in the academy and increased their interest in pursuing a career in animal sciences. Once in college, the students indicated their experience had an impact on their college major, career choice and growth as a student. The University of Missouri Animal Sciences Youth Leadership Academy is a conduit of future leaders for the livestock industry.

Search for Excellence in Crop Production

National Winner

EFFECTIVE SUGARCANE WEED MANAGEMENT

Albert Orgeron
Area IPM Specialist
LSU AgCenter

Orgeron, A.[*1]
[1] Area Pest Management Agent, Louisiana State University, Hammond, LA 70403

Sugarcane is Louisiana's most valuable row crop commodity. In 2019, over 460,000 acres of sugarcane were produced in 24 of Louisiana's 64 parishes. Weeds are problematic and can cause significant reduction in sugarcane biomass if left unmanaged. Unlike most other row cropping systems in Louisiana, sugarcane is harvested for several years from a single planting. Weed management decisions are complicated by the presence of multiple problematic weeds in most fields and by the number of treatments available. The primary purpose of this educational program was to increase stakeholder knowledge of common and new weed pests of sugarcane, weed control options and strategies, and provide stakeholders with tools to manage new weed pests in order to ensure economic sustainability. This has been accomplished through oral presentations at producer meetings and field days, farm visits, Sugar Bulletin columns, newsletters, extension publications, and lectures. Additionally, I have successfully gained a Section 18 Emergency Exemption for the use of Trycera® (triclopyr) to control divine nightshade in sugarcane. Divine nightshade is a non-native perennial broadleaf plant which has recently become problematic in sugarcane fields. Labeled herbicide tools have performed poorly and inconsistently, thus exacerbating the problem. A Quarantine Section 18 was granted for Trycera® herbicide for a 3-year period (February 10, 2017 to May 31, 2020). Approximately 23,968 acres of sugarcane have been treated with Trycera® herbicide to manage divine nightshade from 2017-19, thus preserving an estimated $11.8 million of sugar production.

Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources

National Winner

END OF SEASON GROWER DISCUSSION & IRRIGATION TOUR

Amy Tallent
CEA-Agriculture
UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension
Prairie

Tallent, A.[1], , **Yingling, Jan**[2], , **Griffin, Brent**[3],
[1] CEA-Agriculture, UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension, Devalls Bluff, AR, 72041
[2] CEA-Agriculture, UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension, Searcy, AR, 72143
[3] CEA-Agriculture, UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension, De Valls Bluff, AR, 72041

Prairie County and White County, Arkansas include over 305,000 acres of tillable, crop land producing rice, soybean, cotton, and corn. Eighty percent of these acres are irrigated. Row crop producer's in these counties experience water shortages due to lack of rain fall during the summer months, the large amount of irrigation water needed, and to the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer depletion, over time. The limited availability and extreme depths to groundwater have a significant impact on yield and increase the cost of production in these counties. Producers looked to the University of Arkansas for ways to be more efficient with the irrigation water on their farms.

- To assist producers in assessing their current farming success and begin planning for their next growing season
- To educate and encourage water conservation practices among row crop producers
- To increase irrigation technology adoption rates among

White & Prairie County producers by establishing an irrigation design that will allow the greatest return on their cropping system

The End of Season Grower Discussion and Irrigation tour, multi-county program, was designed and established for row-crop producers to be able to ask questions about the previous season, receive updates for the next growing season, and provide them hands-on learning opportunities with new irrigation technologies available. UAEX irrigation specialists and NRCS irrigation water management specialists were at the tour stops giving hands-on techniques of how to use the technology. An End of Season Grower Discussion wrapped up the day, where UAEX Agronomists gave crop updates to the producers, NRCS specialists presented a cover crop update, and ANRC representatives presented on state tax credits available to producers using irrigation water management technologies. Producers were encouraged to walk through the irrigation demonstration trailer that showcased new technologies.

Evaluation methods used were post-meeting surveys, producer interviews, and one on one consultations.The survey results from these programs represented a total of 38,669 acres with 24,446 acres of soybeans, 6,953 acres of rice, and 7,270 acres of corn. Surveys showed that 27% of producers planned to incorporate information gained through this programming into their daily farming operations.

Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Business Management

National Winner

FARM BILL EDUCATION FOR OHIO'S PRODUCERS AND AGRIBUSINESSES

Mary Griffith
Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources
Ohio State University Extension
Madison

Brown, B.*[1], Griffith, M.*[2], Zoller, C.*[3], Bruynis, C.[4], Chanon, A.[5], Custer, S.[6], Douridas, A.[7], Estadt, M.[8], Gastier, M.[9], Gelley, C.[10], Hartschuh, J.[11], Holden, A.[12], Leeds, R.[13], , Lewandowski, R.[14], Lima, D.[15], Marrison, D.[16], Meyer, G.[17], Morris, J.[18], Noggle, S.[19], Nye, L.[20], Richer, E.[21], Shoemaker, D.[22], Williams, H.[23],

[1] Manager, Farm Management Program, OSU Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, Columbus, OH, 43210
[2] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Madison County, London, OH, 43140
[3] Associate Professor & Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Tuscarawas County, New Philadelphia, OH, 44663
[4] Associate Professor & Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Ross County, Chillicothe, OH, 45601
[5] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Loraine County, Elyria, OH, 44035
[6] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Darke County, Greenville, OH, 45331
[7] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Champaign County, Urbana, OH, 43078
[8] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Pickaway County, Circleville, OH, 43113
[9] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Huron County, Norwalk, OH, 44857
[10] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Noble County, Caldwell, OH, 43724
[11] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Crawford County, Bucyrus, OH, 44820
[12] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Ashtabula County, Jefferson, OH, 44047
[13] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Delaware County, Delaware, OH, 43015
[14] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Wayne County, Wooster, OH, 44691
[15] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Belmont County, Saint Clairsville, OH, 43950
[16] Associate Professor & Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Coshocton County, Coshocton, OH, 43812
[17] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Warren County, Lebanon, OH, 45036
[18] Extension Educator, ANR/CD, OSU Extension, Brown County, Georgetown, OH, 45121
[19] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Paulding County, Paulding, OH, 45879
[20] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Clinton County, Wilmington, OH, 45177
[21] Assistant Professor & Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Fulton County, Wauseon, OH, 43567
[22] Field Specialist, Dairy Production Economics, OSU Extension, Canfield, OH, 44406
[23] Extension Educator, ANR, OSU Extension, Seneca County, Tiffin, OH, 44883

Following the passage of The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (The 2018 Farm Bill), multiple decisions relating to commodity programs and crop insurance faced Ohio's 231,274 registered Farm Service Agency Farms. Dairy producers could enroll in different coverage levels under the Dairy Margin (DMC) program and crop producers could select between the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or two versions of the Agricultural Revenue Coverage (ARC) program. A thorough understanding of the programs was needed for producers to make wise business decisions and effectively mitigate production and financial risks associated with their operations.

Over the course of a nine-month period, curriculum was developed, Extension professionals were trained to teach the curriculum, and over 170 Farm Bill Education programs were delivered by OSU Extension reaching over 6000 participants throughout the state of Ohio. 2141 participants completed a voluntary program evaluation. 98% of respondents reported that the information presented will help develop a plan to utilize Farm Bill Programs to mitigate risk on their farms.

Search for Excellence in Livestock Production

National Winner

IOWA'S BEEF COW SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Denise Schwab
Extension Beef Specialist
Iowa State University
Schwab, Denise[1], , Arora, Kapil[2], , Euken, Russ[3], , Lundy, Erika[4],
[1] Extension Beef Specialist, Iowa State University, Vinton, IA, 52349
[2] Extension Engineer, Iowa State University, Winterset, IA, 50273
[3] Extension Beef Specialist, Iowa State University, Garner, IA, 50438
[4] Extension Beef Specialist, Iowa State University, Greenfield, IA, 50849

The purpose of this project was to assess emerging beef cow management technologies, detail benchmarks, summarize production and environmental data, and develop decision tools. Ultimately, the goal of the project was to assist Iowa cow-calf producers across all production systems and improve sustainability of the cow-calf segment in Iowa. This project included five beef field specialists working with 28 cooperators to document cost of production and management practices to create benchmark production costs, grazing and other best management practices, and then disseminate this data to other beef producers in Iowa. Results of this project were published in "Iowa Cow-calf Production - Exploring Different Management Systems", and disseminated through three bus tours, four regional conference presentations, and four meetings across the state. The team also created short video presentations of each section to provide for additional learning opportunities. In total, almost 300 producers attended at least one or more of the programs. The videos have been viewed more than 500 times. Follow up evaluations showed that 60% of respondents improved their pasture management to extend the grazing season, 43% added cover crops to extend the grazing season, 33% started grazing hay fields to extend the grazing season, 26% plan to implement a new cow system, and 40% plan to expand cow numbers. The average economic impact to participating was $16.46/cow, for a total economic impact for the program based on the number of respondents of $158,674.

Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture

National Winner

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOODS IN WHITE COUNTY

Sherri Sanders
CEA-AGRI
WHITE

Sanders, Sherri*[1],
[1] CEA-AGRI, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Searcy, AR, 72143

Approximately 2.3 million people in the US live in food deserts. The USDA defines a food desert as "urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food." Instead of grocery stores, these communities may have no food access or be dependent on fast food restaurants and convenience stores. The goal of this comprehensive program is to help turn food deserts into locations with access to reliable, affordable and healthy food options like fresh fruits and vegetables.

Experiential learning is the process of learning through experience. Hands-on learning can be a form of experiential learning and has proven to be successful in retention of subject matter. Gleaning information from others, with proven experience, can be invaluable to our clientele. Likewise, our seasoned audience have learned from the younger generation too. That is our goal through this program – to create a reciprocal learning environment for the public.

Intensive programmatic efforts were conducted/coordinated for the last three years in the following areas: Pollinator education, Lectures by Agent, Master Gardener volunteers and Community Garden outreach, and Social media platforms.

Demonstrations are an important key to successful educational programs. They show the university research in real world situations and they help teach people through hands-on learning, not just lectures. Another key factor is that they allow the audience to see the agent getting real work done alongside the clientele, which makes agents more relatable. Demonstrations conducted:

2 Tomato Demonstrations (2018 pruning – 2019 Variety); Blackberry Demonstration – Primocane and Traditional Blackberries (2017 – 2020 multiyear project); 5 Brown Bag Lecture Series (2017 -2019);

4 Fruit Tree Pruning/Thinning Workshops; and 2 Edamame Demonstration Gardens for adults and youth (2019).

Since 2017 the Searcy Pollinator Friendly committee Facebook page, White county Master Gardener Facebook page, UAEX White County Horticulture agent Facebook/Twitter page and the Orchard Project Facebook page have generated 1,324,456 indirect contacts and 543,332 direct contacts in Sustainable Agriculture programming.

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

National Winner

BEGINNING FARM AND RANCH TOUR-DENTON COUNTY

Zachary A Davis
CEA AG/NR
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension
Denton

Davis, Z.A.*[1],
[1] CEA AG/NR, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, Denton, TX, 76201

As bigger more traditional farms are being broke up to be further developing for the growing population smaller farmers and rancher that could be new to agriculture need education. The ag census data reflects a larger number of small acreage farms in Denton county. Small-scale agricultural operators and landowners increase their knowledge of traditional and organic production, as well as management education alternatives to improve quality of life, sustainability, and environmental practices. A 3 day tour was schedule for the summer of 2019 with dates in April, May, and June. Tours focused on a wide variety of agriculture enterprises to allow new producers to find a niche for them in their operation. 4 Sponsorships were solicited to hire a charter bus for participant travel during each day of touring. 45 registered participants signed up for the tour. During the day 1 tour participants had a 46.3% change in the time commitment dedicated to each enterprise. Participants had a 39.9% change in knowledge related to the general management of honey bees and a 36.3% change in marketing and selling of honey. 39% of participants said they "definitely would" start a process for some ag production. Day 2 participants had a 43% change in understanding of grazing acres needed per cow. They had a 55% change in the understanding of Pierces disease in Texas, and had a 47.7 percent change in a designed vineyard business model. 100% said they would recommend this activity to other individuals. Day 3 participants had a 40% change in the understanding of the equine industry. They had a 33.3.% change in understanding of sheep production in North Texas, and a 30% change in understand of equine daily care. 90% of participants said they would attend another extension program.

NACAA 2020 Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award

National Winner

RESPONDING TO AN INVASIVE INSECT PEST: TEACHING THE PUBLIC WHY AGRICULTURE IS AT RISK AND ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO HELP

Emelie Swackhamer
Horticulture Educator
Penn State Extension
Montgomery County

Swackhamer, E.*[1], , **Korman, A.[2],** , Walsh, B.[3], , Leach, H.[4],
[1] Horticulture Educator, Penn State Extension, Colllegeville, PA, 19426
[2] Horticulture Educator, Penn State Extension, Nazareth, PA, 18064
[3] Horticulture Educator, Penn State Extension, Leesport, PA, 19533
[4] Extension Associate, Penn State Department of Entomology, University Park, PA, 16802

An invasive insect, Lycorma delicatula, commonly known as the spotted lanternfly (SLF), was first discovered in southeastern Pennsylvania in September 2014. SLF has a wide host range and is a pest of trees, grapes, and other plants. Pennsylvania ranks first nationally for hardwood production, and fifth for grape production. The nursery and landscape industry in Pennsylvania is valued at $944 million annually. Penn State is working in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to contain and suppress the SLF and to conduct research to develop additional control practices. Extension's objectives include teaching the public about SLF, inspiring people to teach others, encouraging people to protect agriculture and natural resources by suppressing SLF, urging people to report sightings of SLF, securing research sites, and helping people comply with regulations. As of March 1, 2020, 14 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania were under a quarantine order issued by the PDA enacted to protect agriculture by prohibiting movement of any living SLF life stage to other areas. To comply with the quarantine, businesses must get a SLF permit and remove SLF from vehicles and objects before they are moved. The authors contributed to the development of the training for businesses to obtain the SLF permit. Between January 1, 2019 and March 1, 2020, the authors made 120 presentations, provided interviews for 103 news pieces, offered five up-to-date fact sheets online and in print, trained Master Gardener volunteers and youth groups and responded to 898 personal inquiries for more information. A total of 17,055 people attended educational presentations given by the authors and the volunteers, 1,043,863 SLF permits have been issued, and 16 cooperators donated land and crop plots for research projects.

2020 NACAA Achievement Award Winners

SOUTHERN REGION

ALABAMA
Rhonda C. Britton
9 years

GEORGIA
Raymond Fitzpatrick
5 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Shannon Brooks
5 years

TEXAS
James Boone Holladay
7 years

ALABAMA
S. Leanne Dillard
3 years

GEORGIA
Caitlin B. Jackson
7 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Paige Patterson
6 years

TEXAS
Floyd O. Ingram, IV
5 years

ALABAMA
Jessica A. Kelton
4 years

GEORGIA
Kim Toal
8 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Steve Pettis
3 years

TEXAS
Caitlin Jackson
8 years

ARKANSAS
Russell Parker
6 years

KENTUCKY
Keith Center
4 years

OKLAHOMA
Cody Linker
9 years

TEXAS
Candace Moeller
3 years

ARKANSAS
Michael Paskewitz
7 years

KENTUCKY
Matthew Chadwick
6 years

SOUTH CAROLINA
Justin Ballew
5 years

TEXAS
Elizabeth Everett-Rudd
5 years

ARKANSAS
Jan Yingling
9 years

LOUISIANA
Justin Dufour
5 years

SOUTH CAROLINA
Ryan Bean
7 years

VIRGINIA
Lindy Tucker Fimon
7 years

FLORIDA
E. Vanessa Campoverde
9 years

MISSISSIPPI
Brad Jones
8 years

TENNESSEE
Jacob Boone
4 years

VIRGINIA
Rachel G. Henley
8 years

FLORIDA
Christopher Prevatt
6 years

MISSISSIPPI
Melissa Morgan
8 years

TENNESSEE
Celeste Scott
5 years

FLORIDA
Keith Wynn
9 years

MISSISSIPPI
Amanda Stone
3 years

TENNESSEE
Jessica Wilkinson Smith
4 years

GEORGIA
Nathan Eason
6 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Jared Dustin Adcock
7 years

TEXAS
Matt Garrett
4 years

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2020 NACAA Achievement Award Winners

WESTERN REGION

COLORADO
Sherie Caffey
4 years

HAWAII
Andrea M. Kawabata
8 years

IDAHO
Joseph Sagers
3 years

MONTANA
Ben Hauptman
7 years

NEW MEXICO
John Robert Garlisch
9 years

OREGON
Sara Runkel
4 years

UTAH
Sheriden Hansen
3 years

WASHINGTON
Hannah Brause
3 years

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

ILLINOIS
Ken Johnson
6 years

INDIANA
Ophelia Davis
4 years

INDIANA
Sarah Hanson
7 years

IOWA
Brooke Blessington
4 years

KANSAS
Jared R. Petersilie
8 years

MICHIGAN
Emily Pochubay
6 years

MINNESOTA
Abby Schuft
7 years

NORTH EAST REGION

MISSOURI
Kelly McGowan
6 years

NEBRASKA
Kimberly Clark
4 years

NORTH DAKOTA
Katelyn Hain
6 years

OHIO
Elizabeth M. Hawkins
3 years

OHIO
Timothy McDermott
4 years

SOUTH DAKOTA
Patrick Wagner
3 years

MAINE
Leilani B. Carlson
7 years

MARYLAND
Nate Richards
4 years

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Emma Erler
2 years

NEW JERSEY
Hemant Gohil
5 years

PENNSYLVANIA
Andrew Sandeen
5 years

WEST VIRGINIA
Joshua Peplowski
8 years

2020 NACAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

SOUTHERN REGION

ALABAMA
William C. Birdsong
28 years

ALABAMA
Dr. Ayanava Majumdar
12 years

ALABAMA
Gerald L. Thompson
19 years

ARKANSAS
Kevin Norton
18 years

ARKANSAS
Beth Phelps
26 years

ARKANSAS
Phillip M. Sims
26 years

FLORIDA
Dan Fenneman
11 years

FLORIDA
Christine KellyBegazo
15 years

FLORIDA
Dennis M. Mudge
40 years

GEORGIA
Paula J. Burke
26 years

GEORGIA
Shane Curry
13 years

GEORGIA
Timothy Daly
13 years

GEORGIA
Dr. Tim Davis
24 years

KENTUCKY
Shane Bogle
18 years

KENTUCKY
Chad Conway
19 years

LOUISIANA
Albert Orgeron
13 years

MISSISSIPPI
Rebecca B. Bates
12 years

MISSISSIPPI
Dean Jousan
13 years

MISSISSIPPI
Amanda Woods
12 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Aimee Colf
14 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Sara Drake
16 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Eve Honeycutt
17 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Paul Mckenzie
21 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Molly A. Sandfoss
20 years

OKLAHOMA
Brian C. Pugh
15 years

SOUTH CAROLINA
Amy Dabbs
12 years

SOUTH CAROLINA
Anthony J. Savereno
12 years

TENNESSEE
Calvin Bryant
26 years

TENNESSEE
Dave J. Mallard
13 years

TEXAS
David Graf
12 years

TEXAS
Pascual Hernandez
22 years

TEXAS
Michelle Mihalek
24 years

TEXAS
Michael A. Palmer
22 years

TEXAS
Marcel Valdez
23 years

TEXAS
Tommy L. Yeater
20 years

VIRGINIA
Melanie W. Barrow
19 years

VIRGINIA
Matthew I. Miller
20 years

2020 NACAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

WESTERN REGION

COLORADO
Eric McPhail
14 years

IDAHO
Ron Patterson
14 years

MONTANA
Tim Fine
19 years

NEW MEXICO
Teresa T. Dean
18 years

OREGON
Derek Godwin
25 years

UTAH
Linden Kay Greenhalgh
15 years

WASHINGTON
Dale Whaley
17 years

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

ILLINOIS
Teresa Steckler
12 years

INDIANA
Richard Beckort
33 years

INDIANA
Steve Engleking
25 years

IOWA
Kris Kohl
31 years

MICHIGAN
Ron Goldy
25 years

MINNESOTA
Jodi DeJong Hughes
23 years

NORTH EAST REGION

MISSOURI
Patrick L. Byers
11 years

NEBRASKA
John Porter
11 years

NORTH DAKOTA
Ron Wiederholt
25 years

OHIO
Rob Leeds
28 years

OHIO
Ted Wiseman
18 years

WISCONSIN
Adam A. Hady
15 years

MARYLAND
Jackie Takacs
22 years

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Carl Majewski
17 years

NEW JERSEY
Mike Haberland
11 years

NEW YORK
Sharon Bachman
11 years

PENNSYLVANIA
David Messersmith
22 years

WEST VIRGINIA
Jennifer Ours Williams
27 years

NACAA Hall of Fame Award

The NACAA Recognition and Awards Committee is proud to present these three recipients with the NACAA Hall of Fame Award. The Hall of Fame Award recognizes one member or life member from each NACAA region. Each state can nominate one individual. Based on a 500 word summary and three letters of support, the state nominees are evaluated on their Extension programming, state and national association activities and humanitarian efforts beyond the normal call of duty.

Our thanks to Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance for sponsorship of the NACAA Hall of Fame Awards

2020 Southern Region Hall of Fame Award

William A. Hogan, Jr.

Louisiana

In 1974, Allen Hogan's career began with an extension appointment as a 4-H Agent in Lincoln Parish, Louisiana. Nearly 5 decades later, Allen is still providing high quality extension programming and the latest research-based information to his clientele. During his tenure in extension, Allen's knowledge and versatility has allowed him to serve in many different job capacities. However, Allen most comfortably identifies as a County Agent in Southwest Louisiana- a role that he has filled for nearly 40 years.

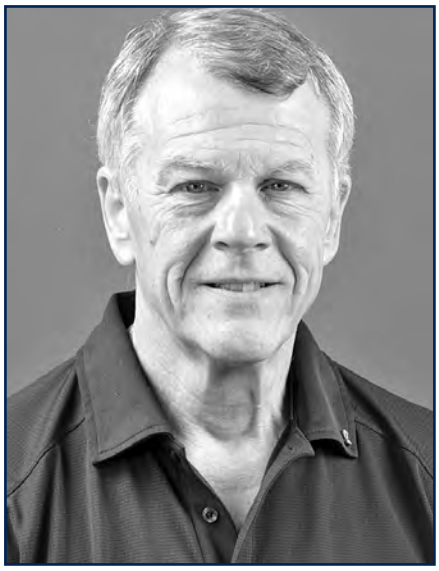
Throughout his career Allen has gained the respect and admiration of his peers and clientele thus allowing him to serve as the Southwest Region Agronomy Specialist from 2001-2012, and interim state soybean specialist 2001-2002. When Allen decided to retire in June of 2012 he was quickly rehired as a State Extension Agent in the Louisiana Master Farmer Program. In this role over the last 8 years he has trained nearly 200 Louisiana Farmer to be better stewards of the environment by incorporating best management sustainability and conservation practices into their growing operations.

Allen has put in over 250 result demonstrations on producer's farms demonstrating variety performance, cultural practices, pest management for crops ranging from soybeans to sweet potatoes. He has conducted over 50 productions schools and field tours. For 6 years he supervised the Louisiana Soybean Research Verification program and he was selected by the American Soybean Association to represent Louisiana in an on-site study of Asian Soybean Rust in Brazil.

Allen's mass media efforts have included a weekly newspaper, radio and semi-annual TV appearances.

His service to his employer has included serving as superintendent of parish, district and state dairy and beef shows and serving of the LSU Faculty Council for 9 years in addition to serving on numerous LSU Campus Committees.

For 35 years, Allen has been a member of the Louisiana Association of County Agricultural Agents and NACAA. During this time period he has attended 26 NACAA AM/PICS and 35 state LCAAA AM/PICS. His service to his state association includes serving as a state committee chairman and state president. On a National level he has served as a NACAA Regional Vice-Chair for Agronomy and Pest Management, and as a Nominating Committee member. Allen has presented nominating speeches for national candidates, presented papers in the Agronomy and Pest Management, and he served on the inaugural committee for establishing the County Agent's e-journal. This led to Allen serving as a referee and paper editor for the County Agent e-journal its first year.



2020
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award
William A. Hogan, Jr.
Louisiana
44 Years - Retired

Allen's humanitarian efforts range from serving as a Red Cross First Aid/CPR instructor to his volunteering efforts at his local Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church. Allen donates annually to his alma maters Louisiana Tech and LSU College of Ag's scholarship funds and teaches a grooming and showmanship class for the LSU Dairy Science Department. He works to improve his local community's health by serving on the Jennings American Legion Hospital Advisory Board and assisting with their educational programing.

Year DSA Awarded: 1995

2020 North Central Region Hall of Fame Award

Steven E. Munk

South Dakota

Steven Munk began working for South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service as a County Agent in Minnehaha County in 1981. Throughout his 31 year Extension career, Steven served as a Generalist (7 years), a Horticulture Educator (18 years), and as a 4-H Coordinator (6 years).

Steven was born and raised on a farm near Dell Rapids, South Dakota where he developed a strong work ethic and an appreciation for the effort required to produce food and fiber. From early on Steven understood the value of professional improvement associations and became active in the opportunities and leadership they provided.

After attending a NACAA workshop, Steven was 1 of 6 County Agents who brought the Master Gardener Program to South Dakota. He was instrumental in establishing the Minnehaha County Master Gardener Program which then led to the creation of a regional Lawn and Garden Show, Local Garden Tours, and Community Garden locations in the city of Sioux Falls. Steven's ability to communicate and educate clientele shined as a panelist for a number of years and then as host (2 years) for the Public Television Program "Garden Line", a live garden call in Show. Steven was recognized and trusted by many who sought horticulture information and answers.

Determining program needs/concepts and developing concepts into reality is an area Steven enjoyed throughout his career. Some of his most notable ideas/programs include establishing the Minnehaha Water Coalition, working with the City of Sioux Falls to establish a Christmas tree recycling program, developing a composting program, and a lawn watering demonstration site at the Great Plains Zoo. Steven has a talent for connecting people and leading diverse teams of people from many different agencies. His ability to develop unique partnerships helped create and establish the Sioux Empire Safety Village, the Sioux Empire Water Festival, and the Washington Pavilion Ag Appreciation Day.

Steven has served NACAA in leadership roles on the national level for more than 19 years; serving as the North Central Vice-Director, North Central Director, Professional Improvement Council Chair, National Vice-President, President Elect, President and Past President. Steven has attended 32 NACAA AM/PICs, 4 Galaxy Conferences, 9 Public Issues Leadership Development Conferences, 10 North Central Officers Leadership Conferences, and 10 Joint Council of Extension Professionals sponsored Regional Leadership Development Workshops. In 2015, Steven served as the Sioux Falls, SD AM/PIC Chair.

Steven has an extensive background with humanitarian/public service work, serving in various leadership positions within the Sioux Empire Fair Association, Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids, Logan Township Treasurer, State Bond Board, Prairie Rose South Dakota Wind Farm Foundation, Dell Rapids School Board, Dell Rapids Hospital Advisory Board, Extension Partner Organization, and 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus Chaperone (for 15 years). Steven became President of the Sioux Empire Fair Association during a challenging time. Within his 2 year term as President, the Fair Association went from $200,000 in debt to $200,000 in the bank. Steven exemplifies the dedication of a public servant and leader not only in his Extension career, but beyond.

2020
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award
Steven E. Munk
South Dakota
31 Years - Retired

Year DSA Awarded: 2005

2020 Northeast Region Hall of Fame Award

George W. Hamilton

New Hampshire

George Hamilton is responsible for developing many of UNH Extension's most impactful agricultural programs, including several pest monitoring and outreach programs, tree fruit production, and pesticide sprayer calibration programs.

Hamilton leverages partnerships with grower associations to achieve out-

2020
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award
George W. Hamilton
New Hampshire
31 Years

comes beyond what he or his team could accomplish alone. He is an active member and leader in almost every state agricultural association including state technical committees.

Hamilton is exceedingly well respected across the entire region; sometimes it is difficult to keep him in the state, as the skills he offers are extremely unique and in such high demand. He has a propensity for offering some of our most popular grower meetings, no matter the topic. One grower stated: "Working with George is like praying with the Pope, it just doesn't get any better". Growers and associations provide direct funding for research and education to support the work Hamilton does; citing the impacts of his pest monitoring efforts, sprayer calibration education, and exceptional presentations. Hamilton's detailed impact reports enable him to consistently secure funding through the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture for his pest monitoring work. Hamilton has received more funding through the national IPM program for his work than any other staff member in UNH Extension's history. The combined work of his sprayer calibration and pest monitoring programs have not only saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in reduced pesticides, but have turned some farms from unprofitable to profitable.

George has continued to recognize the importance of the association throughout his career, as exemplified by his work in early 2014 to rejuvenate the state association after leadership had lapsed. After considerable budget cuts, staff layoffs and retirements in 2008, the New Hampshire chapter was inactive. Without George's leadership and commitment to the New Hampshire Agents, it is unlikely New Hampshire would have the robust group that is present today. George took initiative to call an organizational meeting and coached a new leadership team in to organizing a new chapter. He underlined the importance of engaging in the association at the national level, and provided administrative assistance to the new team. His leadership has directly resulted in a successful rebirth of the Association within our state.

In addition to the many roles Hamilton serves on through his Extension work, he has continued to remain active in his local community. He served for twelve years as a coach for the track and field throwing team, served for 21 years on the Alvirne High School Agriculture Education Program, Farm Committee and Vocational Committees and provided coaching to the Farm Business Management Teams, one of which went on to become a national winner. In 1996-2002 Hamilton assisted on a task force to review the Elementary Science Curriculum, and in 2008-2010 served as Vice-Chair of the School District Building project. Hamilton also spent four years on the board of directors for an environmental nonprofit, the Beaver Brook Association.

Year DSA Awarded: 2009

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NACAA/JCEP Creative Excellence Award 2020 Recipient - Blair Griffin - University of Arkansas

In 1914 the Smith Lever Act created a Cooperative Extension Service associated with each land-grant institution to enable the dissemination of information on agricultural technologies and improved practices to farm families using a variety of communication methods and training programs. Never has the role of a county agent been more crucial to assist educating and raising the productive capacity of our farmers as it is today. It is through education and communication that agricultural agents can bring changes in farmers' knowledge, attitudes and skills thus helping farmers to adopt proven agricultural innovations. Our goal is to prepare our new, mid-career or struggling agents with skills which will allow them to assist our stakeholders and clientele with non-biased, research-based information that will increase farm productivity, farm revenue, reduce poverty and minimize food insecurity.

Encouraged by our administration, we implemented a training to educate our new and mid-career agricultural agents in three different disciplines – livestock/forages, row crop agriculture and horticulture through Peer-to-Peer training. Under the direction of our Area ANR Educators, seasoned agents were utilized to teach the participants about their experiences and what it takes to be successful in Extension in the state of Arkansas. Our agents are inundated with workshops and trainings conducted by specialists; however, we felt this was beneficial for our organization in retention of our new employees. This program has been ongoing for three years and has proven successful.

Program Activities

Arkansas Extension has seen a reduction in staff in the last 20 years. Many counties had more than one Ag agent in their office previously. This proved to be an adequate system for the older agent to mentor the younger agent and to help advise and provide guidance to the new hire. Due to budget restrictions, we only have one agent in those areas to serve clientele. Employee retention is of paramount importance for our organization. Losing employees can mean losing valuable institutional knowledge, lower morale in remaining staff and lost productivity. Oftentimes we are faced with the reality that we lose our new agents because they received

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poor onboarding experiences, a lack of clarity surrounding job duties, they are overwhelmed with job responsibilities or their family situation has changed. Retention of exceptional new Ag agents is critical to our entire organization.

The purpose of this project is three-fold: to assist our new, mid-career or struggling agents in developing comprehensive county programming; to improve our retention rate of new hires by making them feel accepted and adequately prepared to properly handle situations in their specific counties as they occur; to encourage and promote a camaraderie based on mutual respect among new agents and seasoned agents.

Trainings held?

Some of our Cooperating Farmers and Industry Tours include:

Southland Gin
Lake City, AR 72437

Delta Peanut, LLC
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Ritter Farms
Judsonia, AR 72081

Ritter Agribusiness
Marked Tree, AR 72365

Sue Simpson, Cattle Producer
Scott, AR 72142

Steel Fletcher, Row crop/ livestock producer
Enola, AR 72047

Chris Schaefer, Livestock Producer
Conway, AR 72034

Teaching Methods

Experiential learning is the process of learning through experience. Hands-on learning can be a form of experiential learning and has proven to be successful in retention of subject matter. Gleaning information from others, with proven experience, can be invaluable to our inexperienced agents. Likewise, our seasoned agents have learned from the younger generation too. That is our goal through this program – to create a reciprocal learning environment for the agricultural agents in our state.

Under the ANR Educator's guidance, seasoned agents with specialization in row crop, livestock/forages and horticulture were be utilized to conduct trainings (1-2 days each) in each of these programmatic areas to teach the group the "nuts and bolts" of what it takes to be a successful agent with a comprehensive county program. The participants were taught through "hands-on training", field tours, and demonstrations in a low–key relaxed atmosphere. The participants leraned how to do their specific programmatic work, write news releases, social media outreach ideas, deal with difficult clientele, prepare promotion documents, time management skills, identify resources who are willing to assist them, etc. Our goal was to set them up for success as a county agent. If they are proficient at their job and their county programming is excellent it will benefit our entire organization and most importantly, our stakeholders and clientele.

Results

Peer-to-Peer training has several advantages, including: 1) potential of inexperienced agents to feel comfortable with seeking advice without being ashamed or embarrassed (there are no dumb questions); 2) since specialists sometimes teach at a higher level than our new hires can absorb, this will allow our seasoned agents to break down material for easier learning in a laid back atmosphere; 3) the potential to create a close-knit relationship with seasoned and inexperienced agents in different areas of the state; 4) reduction in employee turnover because the new agents will feel better equipped to handle the overwhelming job of being a county agent; 5) research shows that experiential learning has been proven to be the best way people learn; 6) learning is power, therefore our agents have learned they can call on others for help, they've become empowered and many are beginning to provide the same mentorship for others and will continue in the future.

Impact Statement

Often new or under experienced county agents are faced with situations in production agriculture that, quite often, can be trying. Many are trying to meet the needs of clientele that are using more experienced consultants that may or may not always be using the most economical production practices for their producers. There is a great need for hands-on training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), in all crops to assist agents in making the most profitable recommendations for producers. This involves understanding growth stages of crops, identification of weeds, insects and diseases that affect these crops, and the recommended thresholds for controlling these pests as well as proper irrigation techniques. It takes time and a lot of experience to become competent in many of these areas and hands-on peer to peer trainings is one of the best tools that can be utilized to help get agents to the level of confidence they need to make sound recommendations.

Evaluation

Three years of evaluations revealed:

29 agents participated in trainings

85% stated that the trainings gave them considerable new information I could use in my county program
54% stated that the trainings provided them with resources needed to effectively answer crop specific calls
79% stated that they've improved their weed identification and pest control management skillset
73% learned new ideas for maximizing visibility of their county program through social and mass media
94% stated they felt more equipped to handle the calls and now know where/who to use as a resource

2020 Service to American/World Agriculture Award Winner - Deborah Johnson

When one think of exemplary service and making a difference in agriculture across the country, one immediately thinks of Deborah Johnson. Deborah has, time and again, been an inspiration to me as an Extension Agent and has been a mentor to countless others who serve and are served through agriculture.

Deborah cares deeply about agriculture, the farmers she works with, and her community. She makes a personal connection to anyone who gets an opportunity to be welcomed by her warmth and honesty. Deborah serves the pork industry at the local, state, and national levels. She started her service to agriculture in Johnston County, NC on a tobacco farm where she first began to appreciate agriculture. Her family began to grow turkeys for Carroll's Foods in 1980 and her knowledge continued to expand as she served as Public Relations Coordinator with Prestage Farms. She continued her career with the North Carolina State Ports, Premium Standard Farms, and Cape Fear Farm Credit. Deborah was appointed for and served three terms as a board member with the National Pork Board (NPB). She served on the NC Agriculture Biotech Advisory Council, was appointed to the NC Agriculture Trade Mission to China in 2015, and was appointed by Sen. Marc Basnight for the NC Agricultural Finance Authority. She served for 11 years as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Pork Council (NCPC) then returned to Prestage Farms in 2017 as their Communications Director. Today, their fourth-generation family farm is still in production, growing wheat, corn and soybeans.

Deborah has a real gift – she can exchange policy ideas at Capitol Hill in the morning, and exchange handshakes with a farmer that afternoon, all while making the people she works with all day feel privileged to converse with her. Earning a degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in journalism and speech communication, she uses this knowledge to be a voice for agriculture. Her positions with the NPB, the NCPC, the NC Cooperative Extension State Advisory Council, the NC State Agricultural Foundation, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), and many others, have given her the opportunity to articulate the needs, strategies, policies, and relations that have been integral in the current successes of these organizations.

In addition to serving as Executive Director, Deborah is the former president and member of the Board of Directors of the NCPC, former director of both the NC FFA Foundation Advisory Board and the NC 4-H Development Fund. She has chaired numerous committees including the budget, nominating, and producer/public health and workplace safety committees for the National Pork Board. Deborah has served on NPB committees related to market demand, leadership searches, strategic planning, environment and trade. She has worked with the NC Poultry Federation in organizing their annual banquets and the NC Agribusiness Council as a Public Policy Committee member.

When looking at Deborah's record, not only do you see a clear-cut long history of supporting agriculture and her community, but you also see a founder and innovator. She is at the beginning of successes throughout her career. At the NCPC she had many achievements including increasing promotion of barbecue, serving as a founding sponsor of the award-winning PBS series "A Chef's Life", addressing childhood hunger in North Carolina, advocating for agriculture through policy, marketing and public relations on the state and national levels, and partnering to develop economic opportunities in rural areas. Deborah was a Founding Director of NC Farm Families and the NC Animal Agriculture Coalition, which preceded Feed the Dialogue NC, as well as a Founding Director of the Sampson County Friends of Agriculture.

Deborah Johnson
North Carolina

Deborah's work is not limited to statewide or national events. She has served her community as a Sampson County Extension Advisory Board member, Meals on Wheels volunteer, Mintz Baptist Church clerk and Bible study leader, serving as a starter for their successful school, the Mintz Christian Academy. Deborah serves on the Clinton-Sampson County Public Library Board of Trustees and is a former director of the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Sampson County, and the Sampson County Work Force Preparedness Committee. She is Past President of the Sampson County Chapter of American Business Women's Association.

From winning the NCPC's Hall of Fame award in 2020 to earning a NC FFA Honorary State Degree in 2002, Deborah has earned years of recognition for her service. She has been a recipient of the NCPC Lois Britt Service to the Industry Award, the NC Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award, the NC Soybean Producers Association Meritorious Service Award, and she was honored by the NC Association of Agricultural Agents with the Service to Agriculture Award. She was selected as a NCPC delegate to the National Pork Industry Forum.

Although her agricultural service started as a child on a tobacco farm, she did not stop there. Deborah continues to make lasting impressions on all she serves. She is a current member of the Labor Security Task Force at the NPPC, Communications Director at Prestage Farms, Member of the Development Committee and Secretary for the NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation, Budget Committee and Research and Extension Committee for the NC State Agricultural Foundation.

Deborah and her husband of 41 years, Von, who is a purchasing director with Prestage Farms, live in Sampson County, NC and have two children and one grandchild.

Deborah is supportive of everyone in agriculture and Cooperative Extension, she has an impeccable work ethic, and understands land grant institution and Cooperative Extension missions. Deborah is an excellent communicator, moderator and facilitator, and approaches her work with caring, compassion and passion for agriculture and the hands, minds and hearts of those who serve it.

Life Member Corner
Musings on a County Agent Career.....

James Devillier
NACAA Life Member

When tasked with writing this article, I was encouraged to write about experiences from my 40 years of working with farmers, rural residents and their families. It started when I sought a friend's advice about managing a swine farm. He said, "You like working with people. Go check with the Extension Service for any job openings they might need to fill." I met with the Central-Southwest District Agent and after a brief conversation some of which was in Cajun French, he sent me to interview with the Parish Chair in Ville Platte, LA. And as is often said, "The rest is history." In those 40 years, I served in Evangeline, St. Martin and East Feliciana parishes.

As Assistant County Agent, my first assignment was 4-H agricultural programming. The farm and rural youth enrolled in 4-H were hard-working talented young people. They excelled in showing livestock, raising bountiful crops of rice, soybeans and sweet potatoes, agricultural demonstrations, junior leader activities and service projects. Today, they are leaders in their communities working as farmers, beef cattle producers, veterinarians, Extension agents, teachers, doctors, nurses, homemakers, pharmacists, lawyers, legislators, and even a former Extension Director. These former 4-H Club members still exemplify the 4-H ideals. I owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude because it is they that instilled in me the zeal and passion for Extension work. They inspired me to excel at my role of extension educator.

Developing and conducting educational programs for sugarcane producers in St. Martin parish was my next assignment. Sugarcane cultivation in Louisiana is unique and quite different from the rest of the world. Growing in a subtropical environment, it is a niche industry and growers, out of necessity, have developed specialized planting, cultivation and harvesting equipment. A 25-member advisory committee kept programs focused on emerging technology. During one field day, a grower approached me and said, "James I like the way you work." When I asked what he meant, he replied, "You are always pushing us to become better cane famers, to try new things." There is no greater testament to your work ethic than to be recognized by your client in this manner. His comment came from the heart, is one I will never forget!

After 14 years of working with sugarcane farmers and 13 years managing the Acadiana District Livestock Show, I moved to East Feliciana Parish to conduct educational programs in beef and forage production. My mentor, client and close friend was a hard-driving fun-loving beef producer who excelled in producing high performance feeder cattle. He and other members of the advisory committee helped to develop and promote programs that attracted many producers and gained regional attention. Some of these efforts include the Calf-to-Carcass program designed to gain feedlot and carcass data to improve feeder calf quality and a Bull Fertility Clinic to fertility check herd bulls prior to breeding season. On a visit to my friend's farm, I had the task of opening and closing gaps as we moved from pasture to pasture. His fence gaps were the tightest I had ever encountered and as I committed a "faux pas' and climbed back into the truck, he laughed quietly and said he would not mention this event for a year. I had forgotten about the episode but exactly a year to the date, at the coffee shop hangout with other cattlemen, he related the story and everyone got a good laugh at my expense.

During my tenure in East Feliciana, the LSU AgCenter Office of International Programs received a USAID grant to create an Extension System in Ukrainian Agricultural universities. I was fortunate to be part of the LSU AgCenter team that hosted and trained the visiting professors. I traveled to Ukraine on two occasions to train "raion" specialists (equivalent to county agents) in the art of result demonstrations and farm visits and to evaluate their livestock programs and demonstrations. In between visits, extension efforts which started in the Vinnytsia oblast had expanded to Uman and Kamlanets-Podilsky oblasts. On my second trip, I was able to visit a 1000-year old castle complete moat and participate in a World War II reenactment with Ukrainian soldiers. I have fond memories of the Ukrainian people. Our interpreter, Vanda and her son Bogdan remain close friends.

Shortly after becoming 4-H agent, County Agent Newty Jeansonne said that I should join the LCAAA. I did and along the way, I chaired the 4-H and other committees, served on the board of Directors, and were elected President of the organization for a term. I was deeply honored to be elected by my peers to the NACAA Board of Directors. It was an unforgettable and still treasured experience.

As Life-Member Southern Region Vice-Chair, I urge all retirees to become life members and consider attending the NACAA AM/PIC. Your Life-Member committee exerts great effort to offer interesting programs and events for you. I encourage you to take advantage of them.

My County Agent career was a profoundly fulfilling experience. It allowed me to take care of my family, educate my children and work with some of the finest people in this country. God blessed me abundantly and thanks be to Him for the privilege of serving my fellow man.

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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Maroa, IL 61756 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

Philadelphia July 4-8, 2021 — Inspiration and Innovation — NACAA 2021 AMPIC

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

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

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

2024
Dallas, Texas.....July 14-18

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

December, 2020	April, 2021	June, 2021
Committee/Awards Edition	Pre-AM/PIC Edition	Open Topic
Deadline for articles: November 15, 2020	Deadline for articles: February 15, 2021	Deadline for articles: May 15, 2021
Mail Date: December 28, 2020	Mail Date: March 20, 2021	Mail Date: June 10, 2021

Large projects that require design and planning should be discussed with affected utility operators before digging occurs to help mitigate potential utility impacts. Submit the project plan by calling 811 or visiting your state's One Call center website to complete a digital locate ticket. This initiates the process to inform you of public utilities in the dig area.

When engaging in terrain modifications, adding or removing soil near underground utilities can change utility depth of cover. Work with affected utility operators to make sure depth of cover remains the same. When modifying terrain, the end of proposed excavation should maintain a minimum clearance of at least 25' when parallel to a utility.

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Contact whitney@emailir.com
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