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

2022 NACAA President
Bill Burdine

Hello, congratulations, job well done, what a year it's been, and come join us at our Family Reunion. That's an odd way to say greetings but that's where my report is heading.

Greetings to all. I hope you are doing well, and things are looking up because 2020 and 2021 brought us so many challenges. Depending on where you reside, we have dealt with hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, flooding, drought, replanting of crops, virtual 4-H contests, and cancelled or postponed meetings. And we're dealing with possibly the four most hated things in the world right now: C virus, masks, politics, and Zoom meetings! But things are ok. We will be ok. Life will go on, work will go on, and NACAA will go on. In fact, a friend told me years ago that one of the keys to being happy is perspective. Happiness is not decided by what happens but by our attitude. Perceive the sky is falling and no matter how much fortune comes your way you will be miserable. Perceive life is good and no matter what challenges confront you, you find the silver lining. My advice is taking a break from all the biased news media (both sides are guilty), reflect on things that bring you joy, get out, live life, and be happy.

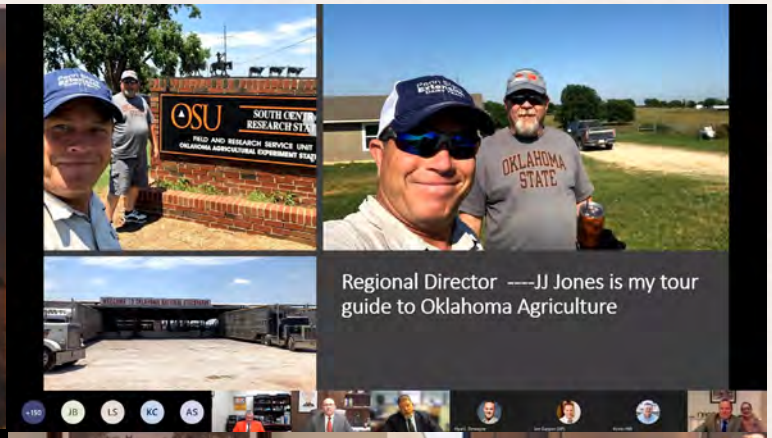
Congratulations to all the winners from the 2021 AM-PIC meeting back in July. Well done. I looked at many abstracts and was impressed with the programming we provide to our clientele. Everyone should look at who won and read through the abstracts. Reviewing the abstracts will give ideas for your programming and may make you realize the things you do are just as good and are potential winners. I encourage you to take an hour and write up a submission or two for next year. If you don't submit, you can't win the money!

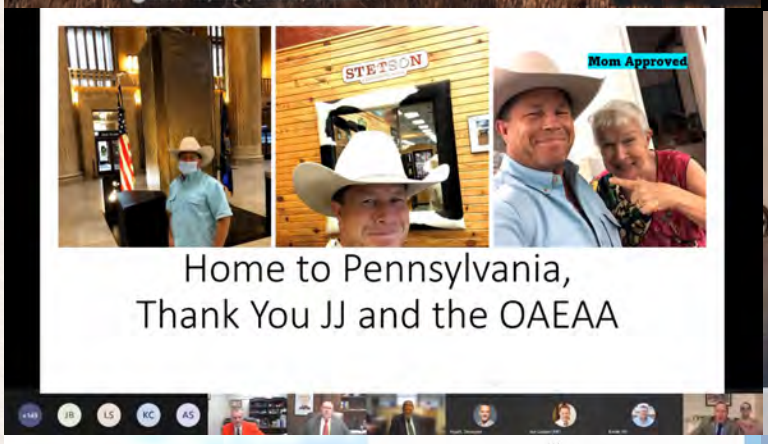
I hate that the winners could only be recognized virtually but it is what it is. We deal with it and move forward. Even though we went virtual, we still held our AM-PIC. The Council Chairs, Committees and the Board completed their tasks as best they could over Microsoft Teams. The Northeast Region abandoned big plans and came back with smaller virtual events. Thank you all. And we all owe Past President J. Craig Williams and the Florida IT group our gratitude for pulling everything together. Our winners were recognized; members presented and received professional training; we saw the faces of our friends; we are still Extension Family. Like the Marine Corp, we adapted, improvised and completed our mission.

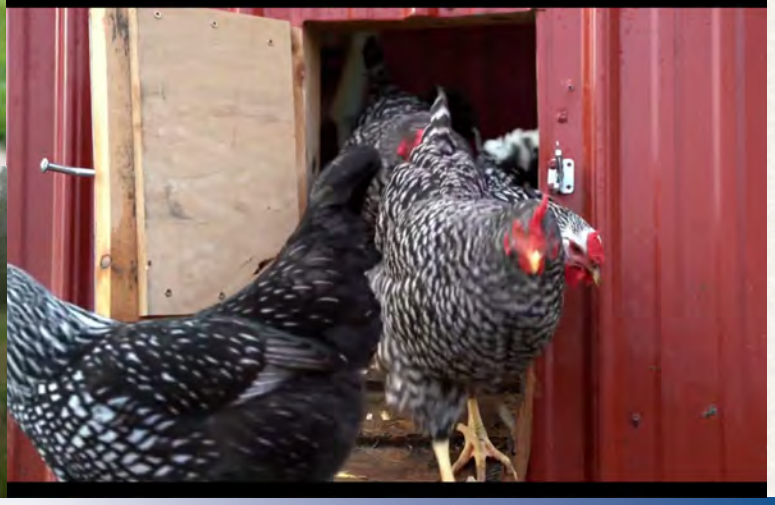
Speaking of family, the Florida Association and I invite you to join us in West Palm Beach, FL in July for our 2022 AM-PIC. It seems so long ago that we last met face-to-face for the 2019 Indiana meeting that I consider the 2022 AM-PIC as coming home for a "Family Reunion". Let me share a little about this family reunion. The Convention Center and headquarter hotel is conjoined and easy to navigate. The secondary hotel is only a five-minute walk. Meeting rooms are easy to find, and the trade show area will be a fun place to hang out and catch up. This meeting will see a few changes from what we're used to and I'm happy about this. As you know, I presented a list of changes that were approved at the Voting Delegates Session this year. These changes take affect for the 2025 meeting in Montana, but Florida and I agreed to assimilate a few changes this year. A major change is we will not have a formal 4-H Talent Revue. Before you impeach me, understand that this event costs over $30,000/year. Instead of a formal revue, we will be utilizing youth talent in multiple

continued on page 3

Reflections from the 2021 Virtual AM/PIC







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

spots throughout the week. Instead of the formal revue, we are having a "Beach Party" that evening. We will get you to the beach, provide dinner, youth entertainment, and some unusual games. If you don't wish to partake in the games, it'll still be fun watching those that do. Who doesn't enjoy seeing cowboy hats and farmer tans on the beach? Or watching an Idahoan belly crawling in sand, a Pennsylvanian throwing a bottle for distance, or a New Yorker challenged by an Alabamian in another Redneck Olympic sport? Bring sunscreen, swimwear, a playful attitude and enjoy an evening on the beach with family. And the professional tour day will be outstanding. That area of Florida has so many interesting things to see and learn within short bus rides. If you don't see a great tour to go on, it's because you didn't look.

More great activities are the Sons & Daughter events and Spouse events. Again, the area has so much to choose from it's hard to make decisions on the final program. Go to NACAA.com and click on the Florida 2022 logo for updates. Bring the kids, bring the spouse, bring grandma and grandpa if you like. We will have a great professional meeting and you can throw in a mini vacation while you're there.

In closing, serving as your President is the pinnacle of my career. I hope I live up to the task before me. As I've mentioned, we are a family and I'm thankful. Of all my travels and souvenirs, this one costs the least and means the most. A couple of South Dakota colleagues I've been friends with for years made me a "gag" gavel out of corn cobs. I LOVE this! The detail they put into a corn cob is remarkable and it's displayed on my desk. This is what being a family is about. I don't care about fancy awards or other accolades. I appreciate the friendships, the laughs and even the challenges that NACAA has provided me. Come join your family next year in West Palm Beach for a big ole family reunion. Who's in charge of ordering the reunion tee-shirts?

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The County Agent

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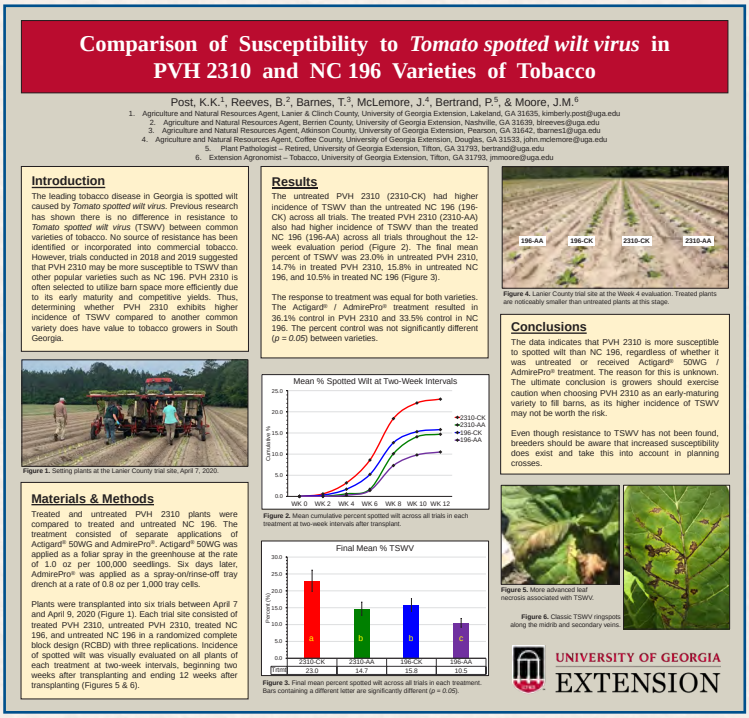
Professional Excellence 2021 Applied Research Poster Session National Winners

1st Place



COMPARISON OF SUSCEPTIBILITY TO TOMATO SPOTTED WILT VIRUS IN PVH 2310 AND NC 196 VARIETIES OF TOBACCO

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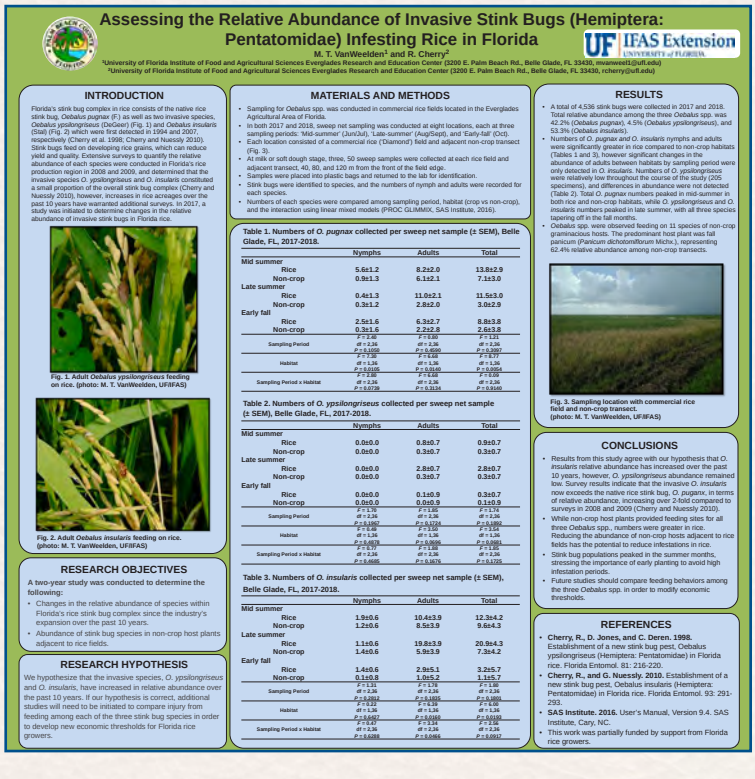
The leading tobacco disease in Georgia is spotted wilt caused by Tomato spotted wilt virus. Previous research has shown there is no difference in resistance to Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) between common varieties of tobacco. No source of resistance has been identified or incorporated into commercial tobacco. However, trials conducted in 2018 and 2019 suggested that PVH 2310 may be more susceptible to TSWV than other popular varieties such as NC 196. PVH 2310 is often selected to utilize barn space more efficiently due to its early maturity and competitive yields. Thus, determining whether PVH 2310 exhibits higher incidence of TSWV compared to another common variety does have value to tobacco growers in South Georgia. Treated and untreated PVH 2310 plants were compared to treated and untreated NC 196 plants. Treatment consisted of Actigard® 50WG and AdmirePro® on separate occasions. Six trials sites were transplanted and visually evaluated for spotted wilt at two-intervals. The untreated PVH 2310 had the highest mean percent of spotted wilt across all trials (23.0%), followed by untreated NC 196 (15.8%), treated PVH 2310 (14.7%), and treated NC 196 (10.5%). The final mean percent of spotted wilt in untreated PVH 2310 was significantly different from the other treatments. The data indicates that PVH 2310 is more susceptible to TSWV than NC 196, regardless of whether it was treated or untreated. Growers should be aware of this when choosing PVH 2310 as an early-maturing variety to fill barns, and decide whether it is worth the risk. Breeders should also be aware that increased susceptibility to TSWV does exist and take this into account in planning crosses.

2nd Place



ASSESSING THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF INVASIVE STINK BUGS (HEMIPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE) INFESTING RICE IN FLORIDA

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Florida's rice stink bug complex is comprised of three species; the native rice stink bug, Oebalus pugnax, and two invasive stink bugs, O. ypsilongriseus and O. insularis. Surveys in Florida rice in 2008 and 2009 indicated that the two invasive species remain in low abundance relative to the native rice stink bug; however Florida's rice industry has increased substantially over the past decade, warranting additional surveys to detect whether or not changes in stink bug relative abundance have occurred. Surveys were conducted in 2017 and 2018 to determine if increases in the relative abundance of invasive Oebalus spp. have occurred, and to determine population levels in non-crop hosts adjacent to rice fields. In both 2017 and 2018, sweep net sampling for Oebalus spp. occurred at eight locations over three time periods each, with a location consisting of a commercial rice field and adjacent transect of non-crop hosts. Three, 50 sweep samples were collected from rice and non-crop hosts at each location, bagged, and returned to the lab for identification. Across both years, O. insularis relative abundance was the highest at 53.3%, followed by O. pugnax (42.2%) and O. ypsilongriseus (4.5%). Numbers of O. pugnax and O. insularis nymphs and adults were significantly greater in rice compared to non-crop host plants. Populations of O. pugnax peaked in mid-summer, while O. ypsilongriseus and O. insularis peaked later in the summer. Oebalus spp. were observed feeding on 11 species of graminacious non-crop hosts, with fall panicum (Panicum dichotomiflorum) exhibiting the greatest abundance in non-crop transects. Results from this study indicate that the invasive O. insularis has exceeded the native O. pugnax in relative abundance for the first time Florida's history. Additional studies are needed to determine differences in feeding behaviors between the native and invasive species, to provide Florida rice growers with accurate economic thresholds.

3rd Place

EFFECT OF STARTER PHOSPHORUS AND MICROBIAL INOCULANTS ON CORN GROWTH AND YIELD AFTER A FALLOW PERIOD

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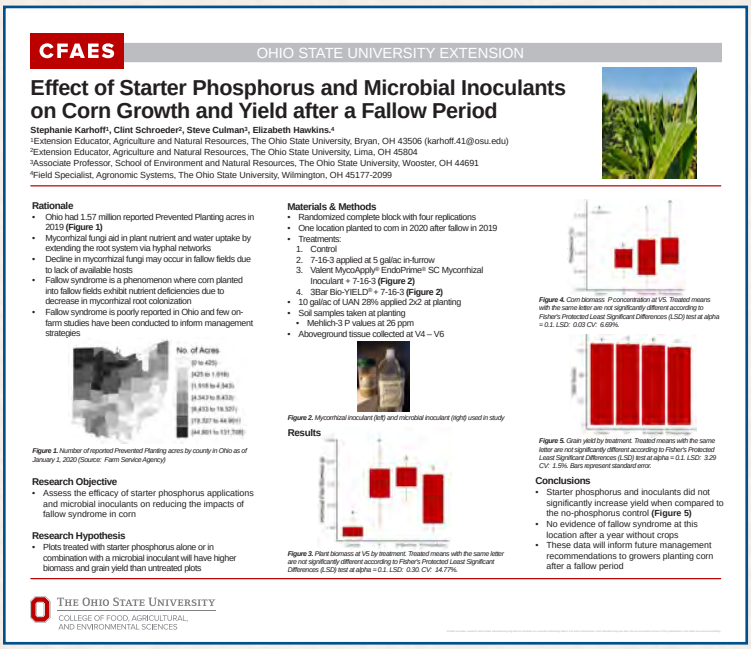
Wet weather conditions in the spring of 2019 prevented Ohio farmers from planting over 1.5 million acres. A decline in beneficial mycorrhizal fungi that aid in plant water and nutrient uptake may occur in absence of host root tissue in fields left unplanted. It is hypothesized that corn (Zea mays) planted into these fallow fields may exhibit nutrient deficiencies due to a reduction in mycorrhizal root colonization. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as fallow syndrome. Fallow syndrome is poorly reported in Ohio, and few on-farm studies have been conducted to justify potential remediation options. The objective of this study was to assess the efficacy of starter phosphorus applications and microbial inoculants on reducing the impacts of fallow syndrome in corn. Starter phosphorus fertilizer (7-16-3 at 5 gal/ac); 3Bar Bio-YIELD® microbial inoculant (Pseudomonas brassicacearum); Valent MycoApply® EndoPrime® SC mycorrhizal inoculant (Glomus spp.) was applied at planting in May 2020 to evaluate their impact on corn growth and yield after a year-long fallow period. Soil samples taken at planting revealed phosphorus levels of 26 ppm Mehlich-3. Aboveground tissue was collected from each plot between V4 and V6 growth stages to estimate biomass and nutrient uptake, and the trial was machine harvested in November 2020. Plots treated with starter phosphorus alone or in combination with either inoculant had significantly higher individual plant biomass and lower phosphorus tissue content than the control treatment where no phosphorus was applied. However, starter phosphorus and inoculants did not significantly increase yield when compared to the no-phosphorus control. There was no evidence of fallow syndrome at this site, despite soil test phosphorus levels being within the recommended range. Overall, these data will inform future management recommendations to growers planting corn after a fallow period.


CFAES OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Effect of Starter Phosphorus and Microbial Inoculants on Corn Growth and Yield after a Fallow Period

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Rationale
- Ohio had 1.57 million reported Prevented Planting acres in 2019 (Figure 1)
- Mycorrhizal fungi aid in plant nutrient and water uptake by extending the root system via hyphal networks
- Decline in mycorrhizal fungi may occur in fallow fields due to lack of available hosts
- Fallow syndrome is a phenomenon where corn planted into fallow fields exhibit nutrient deficiencies due to decrease in mycorrhizal root colonization
- Fallow syndrome is poorly reported in Ohio and few on-farm studies have been conducted to inform management strategies

Figure 1. Number of reported Prevented Planting acres by county in Ohio as of January 1, 2020 (Source: Farm Service Agency)

Research Objective
- Assess the efficacy of starter phosphorus applications and microbial inoculants on reducing the impacts of fallow syndrome in corn

Research Hypothesis
- Plots treated with starter phosphorus alone or in combination with a microbial inoculant will have higher biomass and grain yield than untreated plots

Materials & Methods
- Randomized complete block with four replications
- One location planted to corn in 2020 after fallow in 2019
- Treatments:
  1. Control
  2. 7-16-3 applied at 5 gal/ac in-furrow
  3. Valent MycoApply® EndoPrime® SC Mycorrhizal Inoculant + 7-16-3 (Figure 2)
  4. 3Bar Bio-YIELD® + 7-16-3 (Figure 2)
- 10 gal/ac of UAN 28% applied 2x2 at planting
- Soil samples taken at planting
  - Mehlich-3 P values at 26 ppm
- Aboveground tissue collected at V4 – V6

Figure 2. Mycorrhizal inoculant (left) and microbial inoculant (right) used in study

Results

Figure 3. Plant biomass at V5 by treatment. Treated means with the same letter are not significantly different according to Fisher's Protected Least Significant Differences (LSD) test at alpha = 0.1. LSD: 0.30. CV: 14.77%.

Figure 4. Corn biomass P concentration at V5. Treated means with the same letter are not significantly different according to Fisher's Protected Least Significant Differences (LSD) test at alpha = 0.1. LSD: 0.03 CV: 6.69%.

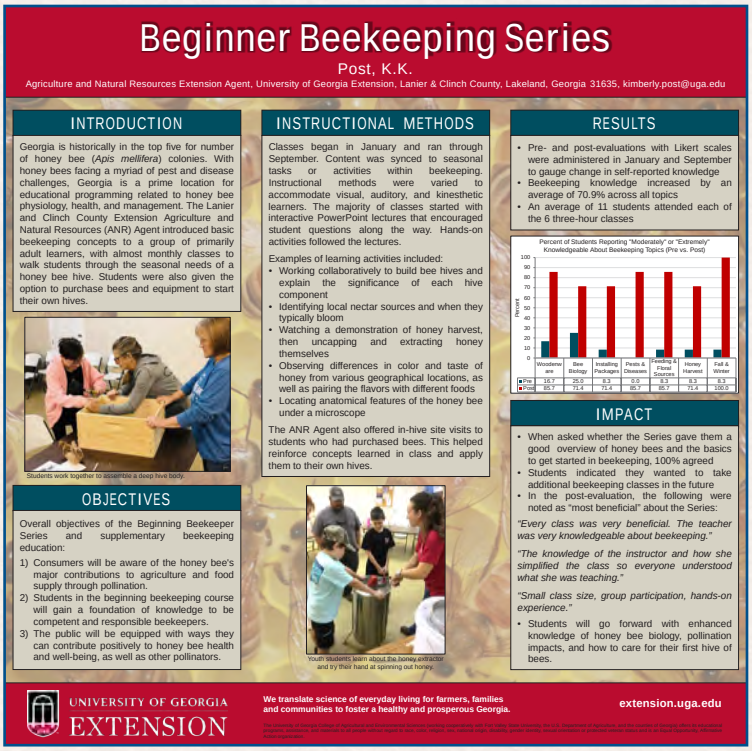
Figure 5. Grain yield by treatment. Treated means with the same letter are not significantly different according to Fisher's Protected Least Significant Differences (LSD) test at alpha = 0.1. LSD: 3.29 CV: 1.5%. Bars represent standard error.

Conclusions
- Starter phosphorus and inoculants did not significantly increase yield when compared to the no-phosphorus control (Figure 5)
- No evidence of fallow syndrome at this location after a year without crops
- These data will inform future management recommendations to growers planting corn after a fallow period

The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Professional Excellence 2021 Extension Education Poster Session National Winners

1st Place



BEGINNER BEEKEEPING SERIES

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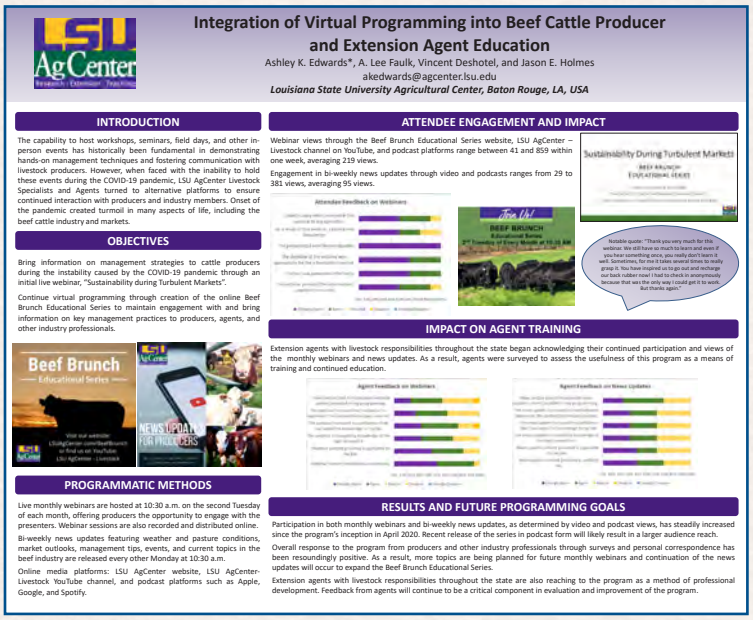
Georgia is historically in the top five for number of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies. With honey bees facing a myriad of pest and disease challenges, Georgia is a prime location for educational programming related to honey bee physiology, health, and management. The Lanier and Clinch County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent introduced basic beekeeping concepts to a group of primarily adult learners, with almost monthly classes to walk students through the seasonal needs of a honey bee hive. Classes included a hands-on hive building workshop, honey bee biology and anatomy, pollination, overview of pest and diseases, regional nectar sources, and a honey extraction demonstration with honey varietal tasting. Students were also given the option to purchase bees and equipment to start their own hives. Primary objectives of the Beginning Beekeeper Series were to increase awareness of the honey bee's contributions to agriculture and the food supply through pollination, lay a foundation of knowledge to be competent and responsible beekeepers, and be equipped with ways to contribute positively to honey bee health and well-being. An average of 11 students attended each of the six classes throughout the year, with sessions lasting approximately three hours. Pre- and post-evaluations with Likert scales were administered in January and September to gauge change in self-reported knowledge on beekeeping topics including woodenware, bee biology, installing packages, pests and diseases, floral sources and feeding, honey harvest, and fall and winter activities. Overall self-reported beekeeping knowledge increased by an average of 70.9% across all topics. Additionally, 100% of respondents agreed that the Series gave them a good overview of honey bees and the basics to get started in beekeeping. The Beginner Beekeeping Series enhanced participants' knowledge of honey bees as a complex biological system and how to care for them during their first season. The ANR Agent intends to continue to offer the Series in the future, as well as incorporate guest speakers for more advanced topics.

2nd Place



INTEGRATION OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING INTO BEEF CATTLE PRODUCER AND EXTENSION AGENT EDUCATION

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In-person events such as field days and workshops are historically fundamental to demonstrating hands-on management techniques and fostering communication with livestock producers. However, when faced with the inability to hold events during

the COVID-19 pandemic, extension agents turned to alternative platforms for continued communication with producers. LSU AgCenter agents hosted a live webinar entitled "Sustainability during Turbulent Markets" to bring cattle producers information on management strategies during a time of great instability. This initial webinar included 41 active participants during the live event and an additional 40 views within one week of posting online. Importantly, responses from this event prompted creation of the Beef Brunch Educational Series. This online series includes live monthly webinars and bi-weekly news updates. It is designed to maintain engagement and bring pertinent information, further allowing agents to present research-based information, timely management recommendations, and industry news to clientele throughout the state. Webinars are hosted live at 10:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, offering producers the opportunity to engage with presenters. Webinars are also recorded for online distribution through the LSU AgCenter website, LSU AgCenter-Livestock YouTube channel, and podcast platforms such as Apple, Google, and Spotify. Bi-weekly news updates are released every other Monday at 10:30 a.m. on the same platforms. News updates feature weather and pasture conditions, market outlooks, management tips, events, and current topics in the beef industry. Webinar engagement on all media platforms averages 219 viewers. Similarly, engagement in bi-weekly news updates through all platforms averages 95 views. When asked, 50% of viewers strongly agreed and 35% agreed that information learned in the webinars would be applied to their operations. Livestock agents utilize this program for professional development, with 75% strongly agreeing or agreeing that webinars increased confidence to apply presented knowledge in their programs. Likewise, 70% stated they have or plan to incorporate news update content in their programming. Thus, increased views, positive feedback, and requests for more information illustrate an interest in continuing the Beef Brunch Educational Series beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and optimistically developing it into a leading informational source for beef cattle producers in Louisiana.

3rd Place

MONITORING ARIZONA RANGELANDS: AN EVALUATION OF COOPERATIVE MONITORING PROGRAMS

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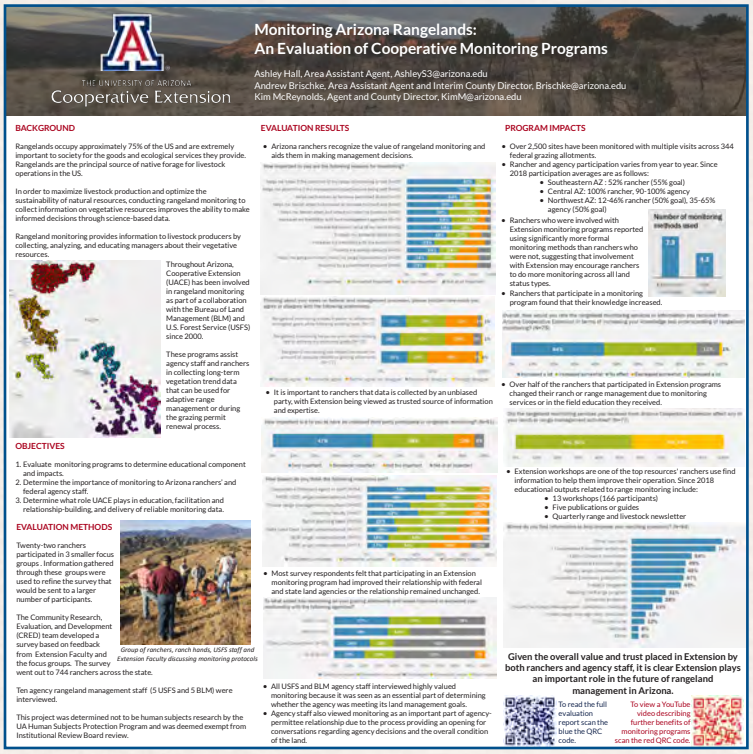
[3]Agent, Natural Resources and County Director, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Wilcox, AZ, 85643

Throughout the state, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension (UACE) has been involved in rangeland monitoring as part of a collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service since 2000. These programs assist agency staff and



used for adaptive range management or during the grazing permit renewal process. A recent evaluation of the cooperative monitoring programs found agency staff and ranchers value the monitoring programs because they provide information that aids them in making science-based management decisions. Multiple ranchers in focus groups expressed they felt the future of their ranches depended on having reliable monitoring data like that provided by Extension. Ranchers who were involved in UACE monitoring programs were more likely to participate in formal monitoring on their ranch that those not involved. Of the ranchers that received services, 88 % felt it had increased their knowledge and understanding of rangeland monitoring "a lot" or "somewhat," and 56% indicated that it had affected their ranch or range management activities. Cooperative Extension workshops were also listed as the second most popular source for information (76%) to improve ranching operations, second only to other ranchers (82%). Given the overall value and trust placed in Extension by both ranchers and agency staff, it is clear Extension plays an important role in the future of rangeland management in Arizona.

NACAA 2021 Communication Award Winners

AUDIO RECORDING

National Winner

Terrell Davis
CEA - Agriculture
UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension
Pike

Davis, T.*[1]
[1] CEA - Agriculture, UofA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension, Murfreesboro, AR, 71958

The Pike Co Extension Minute is a podcast recorded by Pike Co Ag agent Terrell Davis at his office. It is published on Spreaker and distributed on Apple Podcast and Google Podcast, as well as Twitter and Facebook. A local radio station, KMTB, in Nashville, AR also airs the podcasts to an estimated audience of 12,000 listeners in Southwest Arkansas. The objective of the bimonthly podcast is to provide clientele short clips of timely content regarding home gardens and orchards, forage production,or turf management. All podcasts are designed to be under 2:00 minutes.

Episode 5 is entitled "Controlling Bermuda Stem Maggots" and was published on June 12, 2020 at 4:55 PM. KMTB aired the podcast once each day June 15, 2020 and June 16, 2020 for a total estimated audience of 24, 000. The podcast was also downloaded 14 times on Spreaker. The podcast was part of a larger effort to help hay producers limit losses from the Bermuda Stem Maggot in their hayfields.

PUBLISHED PHOTO

National Winner

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

The photo was taken January 5, 2021 at Fenney Springs, Sumter County, Florida. Equipment used was a Nikon D500 with a Nikkor 200-500 mm lens. Photographic info: 1/1000 sec: ISO 640: f/6.3 at 500mm. Compressed to the minimum size of 1024x768. This picture was used in print and presentations multiple times. 1.) The Journal (Pages 4-5). This is a monthly newsletter with a target clientele of homeowners and Master Gardeners. The title was "The Florida Water Turkey". This newsletter along with the photo was delivered to the 7,305 subscribers. Date published 3/2/21. 2.) The UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County Newsletter (Pages 10-11). Target audience are advisory committee members, homeowners, landscape professionals, youth, and volunteers. The title was "Invasives vs. Natives". The newsletter was delivered to 40 residents. Date published 3/1/21 3.) The Villages Enrichment Academy. "Meet Your Local Wildlife". Slide 133. This is a monthly workshop part of a grant. This picture was used for identification and biological information to 68 residents. Dates 1/19, 2/9, and 3/9/2021. 4.) Facebook post as a part of the Wildlife and Invasive Species Education group. Total reach was 615 people with four shares. Date published 1/21/21. https://www.facebook.com/WISEsumter

The premise of this picture was to demonstrate several aspects of the capture to tell the story within the submitted article and presentation. 1.) The behavior of the Anhinga to capture its prey, flip it in midair, catch it, and swallow the fish headfirst. 2.) How native species are doing their part in controlling non-native invasive species, such as the armored catfish as seen in the photo.

COMPUTER GENERATED PRESENTATION WITH SCRIPT

National Winner

Rebecca A. Melanson
Assistant Extension Professor - Plant Pathology
Mississippi State University Extension Service
CMREC

Melanson, R.A.*[1]
[1] Assistant Extension Professor - Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Raymond, MS, 39154

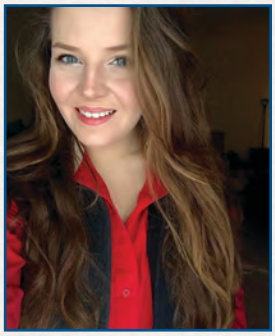
In Mississippi, tomatoes are produced commercially in the field, under protection in greenhouses and high tunnels, and in home gardens. A multitude of diseases affect tomatoes throughout Mississippi's growing season, causing various symptoms that can reduce crop yield and fruit quality. Successful disease management throughout the season involves implementation of a variety of disease management practices, which are based on the knowledge of the pathogen causing the disease and its life cycle. Accurate diagnosis, therefore, is the critical first step in disease management. Other considerations for disease management include producer preferences, cost, product availability, and general production practices. Each year, during periods of warm weather and frequent rains, stakeholders, particularly home gardeners, request assistance with identification and management of buckeye rot. The recorded

presentation "What's Wrong with My Tomatoes? Lesson 1: Buckeye Rot" was created, designed, and produced by the author in 2020 to educate stakeholders, including commercial tomato producers, home gardeners, and those who educate others on disease management in tomato production, on the identification, development, and management of buckeye rot in tomatoes. It is currently available on the Mississippi State University Extension website and YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPSkjhwZ1wI&t=12s; posted on June 4, 2020), the MSU Extension Diseases of Vegetables, Fruits, and Pecans Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MSUextDiseasesVFP; posted on June 4, 2020), and on the Focus on Tomatoes Series of Grow: Plant Health Exchange (doi.org/10.1094/GROW-TOM-09-20-028; posted in September 2020). Collectively, this recorded presentation has had almost 800 views/plays (YouTube and Grow) and an estimated reach of over 1,500 (Facebook) since becoming available.

EVENT PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE

National Winner

Robyn Stewart
County Extension Coordinator
University of Georgia
Lincoln/Northeast



Stewart, R.*[1], Ray, L.[2], Jackson, C.[3], McCann, J[4]

[1] County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Lincolnton, GA, 30817
[2] County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Madison, GA, 30650
[3] County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Forsyth, GA, 31029
[4] Extension Equine Specialist, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602

The equine industry in Georgia has continuously grown in scope over the last decade but horse owners may lack knowledge on best practices regarding equine management. The 2020 UGA Horse Owner's Virtual Seminar Series was coordinated by the author in an effort to provide research-based, non-biased information to horse owners on equine management and health topics. Topics presented by UGA Extension Agents and Equine Specialists included equine conformation, feeds and feeding, body condition scoring, pasture management, and equine insurance. All marketing content was developed by Robyn Stewart. The program was promoted with advertisements made in Canva that were distributed locally and via social media. Fliers distributed at the local courthouse, feed store, hardware store, Farm Bureau, library, and schools were seen by approximately 500 people per week. The same flier and four additional advertisements were posted to the UGA Lincoln County Extension Facebook page and shared with over 20 equine groups resulting in 33,901 views with 2,023 engagements. A video spotlight promoting the series (filmed by and featuring Robyn Stewart) shared on the UGA Lincoln County Extension Facebook was viewed 8,127 times with 528 engagements. A final promotion effort used six email blasts sent via MailChimp to the Lincoln County Extension equine mailing list of 272 people. These promotional efforts resulted in 283 registrants for the program from 30 states and 2 countries including the U.S, with an average of 58 participants per session. Overall satisfaction for the series was rated excellent by 79% of attendees, 82% of which indicated they would definitely use the information provided. Changes in knowledge attributed to the seminars showed on average 55% of the participants reporting they were very or extremely knowledgeable on the presented topics after the program compared to 28% prior to it.

PERSONAL COLUMN

National Winner

Ashley Wright
Livestock Area Agent
The University of Arizona
Southeastern Arizona

This personal column is written for and published in *The Arizona Cattlelog*: The Official Publication of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA). The goal of my column is to provide relevant, timely information to producers with the additional benefit of drawing attention to Arizona Cooperative Extension livestock programs. Although the articles are typically short (~500 words), being "in front" of producers every month ensures that when a bigger issue arises, Arizona Extension and my livestock programs are looked to as valued sources of information. My topic selection is targeted to address key issues during the current season of production and I provide any additional graphs, charts, or images to the editor to highlight key information. This column is a recent addition to my programming. In September of 2020, the ACGA approached me to write for their "Cattlemen's College" section as they revamped their publication to include more educational information. My column articles include Systematic Culling During Drought, Residual Feed Intake as a Selection Tool, Recordkeeping for Resilience, and Nitrate Toxicity (triggered by a large number of cattle deaths in my area). As a result, several producers have reached out to me with additional questions on the topics presented, and other organizations such as the Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District, have requested articles for their members on other livestock issues of interest to them. Finally, the productive relationships built with the staff of the ACGA through this column contribution creates opportunities to expose our extension programming to a wider audience. The *Arizona Cattlelog* is distributed to all members of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association and available online (https://www.azcattlegrowers.org/cattlelog). Their media kit estimates 2,500 monthly distribution and 5,000 monthly web views for a total monthly viewership of 7,500. Of those, they estimated that 80% are the decision-makers on agricultural operations.

FEATURE STORY
National Winner

Brooke Latack
Livestock Advisor
University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Imperial/Riverside/San Bernardino

Latack, B.*[1], Ozeran, R.*[2]

[1] Livestock Advisor, University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Holtville, CA, 92250
[2] Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Fresno, CA, 93710

Food safety has been a hot topic in the news as several E. coli O157:H7 outbreaks in lettuce have been traced back to farms in California and Yuma, Arizona (located very near the Imperial Valley of California). These regions produce a substantial quantity of fresh produce in the winter season while also producing cattle and sheep in large numbers. This led to conversations about concerns surrounding the interaction between livestock and fresh produce. The risk of pathogen contamination has sparked debate and doubt about set back distances of produce fields from feedlots. This publication aimed to inform readers of the science-based food safety information related to livestock currently available, the response of both industries and the public to the outbreaks, and research and extension actions that would aid in increasing food safety practices. The publication was directed toward those in academic, extension, government, and commodity group positions. It was also directed toward those in the general public who want to better understand the issues that affect their food system. Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties are heavy livestock production areas, specifically feedlot and heifer lot operations. This article was very timely and critical to not only the clientele in these counties, but the rest of the state as well. This article was published March 17, 2020 and was shared with California Agriculture's 9,000+ print subscribers as well as shared online. Additionally, the article was sent via email and county website posts to clientele in the two California regions covered by the authors. Both authors were invited to speak on an agriculture-based podcast/radio program to discuss the article in May 2020. Article content development was equally shared with co-author Rebecca Ozeran. California Agriculture formatted the final version.

NEWSLETTER
National Winner

Ashley Best
County Extension Agent
UGA
Newton/Southern

Best, A.*[1], Wassel, B.[2], Jackson, C.[3], Jackson, B.[4]

[1] County Extension Agent, UGA, Madison, GA, 30650
[2] County Extension Agent, UGA, Zebulon, GA, 30295
[3] County Extension Agent, UGA, Forsyth, GA, 31029
[4] County Extension Agent, UGA, Chatsworth, GA, 30705

Many equine owners in Georgia rely solely on veterinarians, industry professionals, or other equestrian enthusiasts for production information and advice as they are unaware of the expansive equine Extension resources available. To promote Extension equine resources and build relationships with local horse owners and professionals, a team of University of Georgia Extension Agents collaborated to develop "The Leading Rein", a quarterly newsletter for Georgia horse owners and professionals across all equestrian disciplines. The purpose of "The Leading Rein" is to provide equine owners timely, research-based, and unbiased information about general equine ownership and has rotating articles on forage management, reproduction, nutrition, and 4-H horse programs for youth. Two permanent segments include the "Tack Corner", which is a discussion of tack and equipment, and the "Mark Your Calendar", a list of upcoming events and trainings through brief explanations and clickable links to register or learn more. Quarterly articles are authored by Ashley Best, Newton County, Brooklyne Wassel, Pike County, Caitlin Jackson, Monroe County, and Brenda Jackson, Murray County in addition to occasional scholarly contributions from UGA Extension Equine Specialists. Articles are submitted to Ashley Best and Brooklyne Wassel, who also design and edit each edition utilizing Canva to add related graphics and photographs. Each newsletter is proofread by contributing Agents and Specialists before being distributed electronically via both social media and an email list of equine owners and professionals. Issues of "The Leading Rein" were published in September 2020, December 2020 and March 2021 and distributed to over 2,000 people per issue.

INTERESTED IN VIEWING ALL AWARD WINNERS (STATE/REGIONAL/NATIONAL) ? GO TO . . . .

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

EDUCATIONAL VIDEO RECORDINGS

National Winner

Jason Thomas
Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Minidoka County

Duellman, Kasia*[1], **Thomas, J.***[2]

[1] Extension Specialist, University of Idaho Extension, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402
[2] Extension Educator, University of Idaho, Rupert, ID, 83350

Potato production in Idaho is a billion-dollar industry and among the top three commodities in the state. Ensuring an adequate supply of healthy seed potatoes is a critical activity to Idaho's large potato production. One critical piece of information that seed potato growers request is data about the movement of aphids that vector diseases like Potato virus Y. Understanding when aphid flights occur can help farmers decide when to implement pest management actions and reduce the spread of pathogens. With over 300,000 potato acres planted annually across areas that vary widely in terms of weather and aphid pressure, combined with a limited number of potato researchers, the challenge is how to effectively monitor aphids across such diverse farm operations and growing conditions. To assist with this challenge, an aphid monitoring network was created where farmers, agronomists and researchers can cooperatively participate with placement and servicing of bucket traps in fields across the region to collect insect samples over the growing season. Many farmers have showed a hesitancy to participate due to their lack of knowledge about monitoring insects. To assist these farmers and increase participation, a video was developed in conjunction with plant pathologist Kasia Duellman. The purpose of the video was to briefly show farmers how to setup a bucket trap, check it regularly and send samples to researchers. Thomas and Duellman created a script together for the video. Thomas directed, filmed, edited, designed graphics and distributed the video. The video was completed on November 4th, 2020, but efforts to share the video were not made until late January 2021 during the annual Idaho Seed Potato Seminar. Following the seminar, a link to the video was sent out to over 3,000 growers and farmers in Idaho, Oregon and Washington via the Pacific Northwest Pest Alert Network and emails to commodity groups. It has also been shown on multiple zooms to teach farmers how to use this tool. As of March 4th, 2021, the video has 51 views on YouTube, but the video has also been shared over zoom and as a direct file.

https://youtu.be/9C-V09gDfY8

FACT SHEET

National Winner

Whitney Ingram
CEA-NR
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
BELL

Ingram, W.*[1]

[1] CEA-NR, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Belton, TX, 76513

Following our 2020 Bell County Youth Fair, a leader of a prominent buyers group called our office to share how disappointed he was with the thank you notes that he received following the Bell County Youth Fair and Junior Livestock Auction. He explained that he even received a card from senior level 4-H member that was written on construction paper with colored pencils. He noted poor handwriting, misspelled words, and lack of effort from many of the cards that he received. As a parent and volunteer too, he wanted every buyer to feel appreciated. He called to suggest that we should find a way to make sure that other buyers do not receive poor quality thank you notes in the future. I suggested the idea of hosting a series of Summer workshops offering a class to Junior, Intermediate, and Senior level 4-H and FFA members. This handout was created for the workshop using Canva on an 8.5" X 11" page, front and back. Due to restriction due to COVID-19, I was unable to host our Summer workshops in 2020. However, when major show buyer lists came in the mail, I mailed a copy of the handout to each of our auction qualifying exhibitors along with their buyer information (about 30 copies). Parents called our office sharing their appreciation for the tip sheet. During the 2021 Youth Fair, the handout was also printed for exhibitors who earned a buckle or qualified for the Junior Livestock Auction (about 300 copies). For further improvement, the Youth Fair provided stationary for exhibitors who earned a buckle and asked each committee to review the notes submitted before awarding prizes or premiums.

PUBLICATION

National Winner

Edwin M. Lentz
Extension Educator and Professor
The Ohio State University Extension
Hancock County

Lentz, E.M.*[1], Culman, S. W.[2], Fulford, A.[3], Camberato, J.J.[4], , Steinke, K.[5], Lindsey, L.E.[6], **LaBarge, G.A.[7],** Watters, H.D.[8], , Haden, R.[9], **Richer, E.[10],** Herman, B.[11], Hoekstra, N.C.[12], , Thomison, P.R.[13], Minyo, R.[14], Dorrance, A.E.[15], Rutan, J.[16], Warncke, D.[17]

[1] Extension Educator and Professor, The Ohio State University Extension, Findlay, OH, 45840
[2] Associate Professor, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691
[3] Postdoctoral Researcher, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691
[4] Professor, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, 47907
[5] Associate Professor, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 48824
[6] Associate Professor, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 43210
[7] Professor, The Ohio State University Extension, London, OH, 43140
[8] Associate Professor, The Ohio State University Extension, Bellefontaine, OH, 43311
[9] Associate Professor, Ohio State ATI, Wooster, OH, 44691
[10] Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University Extension, Wauseon, OH, 43567
[11] Research Assistant, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691
[12] Research Associate, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691
[13] Emeritus Professor, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 43210
[14] Research Associate, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691
[15] Professor, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691
[16] , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 48824
[17] Emeritus Professor, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 48824

The revised Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn, Soybean, Wheat, and Alfalfa is a compilation of the latest research by Extension specialists and educators from The Ohio State, Purdue, and Michigan State Universities. The original publication was completed in 1995 so recommendations would be the same in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan -- since soils were similar, and producers farmed across state lines. Specialists from the three states could speak in each state knowing that the fertilizer recommendations were the same. Since the original publication, crop production practices in this region have changed, including general reductions in tillage and crop rotations, greater plant populations and grain yields, new pests and diseases, and the emergence of precision soil sampling and fertilizer rate and placement technologies. Water and air quality issues in this region also underscore the need to manage nutrients as judiciously and profitably as possible. The goal of the revision was to provide fertilizer recommendations for industry agronomists, crop advisors, Extension agents, environmental regulators, and producers to optimize crop production while protecting water quality. The beginning of the bulletin has a summary of the changes from the original publication which includes the rationale for the change and the location of the revision. The bulletin consists of six main sections: Soil Sampling and Testing; Soil pH and Lime Recommendations; Nitrogen; Phosphorus and Potassium; Calcium, Magnesium, and Sulfur; and Micronutrients. Each section is highlighted with a sidebar tab for quick location. Distributions have been limited because of Extension and industry meeting restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic. However, since its release on December 1, 2020, the bulletin has become one of the top sellers for Extension Publishing. Of the 1,000 copies printed, 909 have already been sold and an additional 893 pdf copies have been downloaded. Demand for the bulletin is expected to increase once the pandemic meeting restrictions are removed. The submitting author contributed to the content of the wheat nitrogen management section, provided research data for recommendation tables, assisted with layout design, and editing of the manuscript.

WEB SITE / ONLINE CONTENT

National Winner

Brad M. Carlson
Extension Professor
University of Minnesota Extension

Carlson, B.M.*[1], Bongard, P.M.[2], Miller, R.P.[3]

[1] Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Mankato, MN, 56001
[2] Content and communications specialist, University of Minnesota Extension, Farmington, MN, 55024
[3] Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, Rochester, MN, 55903

The Nitrogen Smart program teaches farmers about how Nitrogen behaves in the environment for the purpose of building confidence in University recommendations and learning how to adapt management based on conditions. The program is in its sixth year, with an online version being two years old. Over 1100 have attended over this time. Previous attendees have expressed interest in the ability to review materials without having to sit through the entire training. The website: https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/nitrogen-smart-review/home was developed for this purpose. This site is open access, and allows viewers to browse materials in various formats, including video originally produced for the online version of the training, key points for the topic, and links to Extension publications which provided the basis for the section. Overall leadership for the program, as well as the structure of the training, both with respect to the flow, and the informational content were the responsibility of Extension Educator Brad Carlson. Web design was done by Phyllis Bongard, content and communications specialist, and video production and editing were handled by Extension Educator Ryan Miller. Various non-members including state specialists, state agency staff, Experiment Station staff, and retired faculty provided interviews and informational content. The site was promoted for its intended purpose for via email and direct mailing (for those we did not have email addresses for) to previous attendees for the first time on July 29 of 2020, and has had over 1000 page views.

LEARNING MODULE/ NOTEBOOK

National Winner

Melanie Barkley
Extension Educator, Penn State University

Barkley, M.*[1]

[1] Extension Educator, Penn State University, Bedford, PA, 15522

The Sheep Management and Production Online Course was developed with the objective to introduce new sheep producers to concepts and practices related to sheep production. A secondary objective was to assist experienced sheep producers to improve their management skills in the areas of basic production, reproduction, nutrition, health, marketing, and financial management. The course includes reading materials, short videos to emphasize certain concepts, check your learning questions and a final check your learning quiz at the end. Course materials may be accessed by participants for 6 months after they enroll. Participants who complete the course and pass the final quiz with a 70% or greater score receive a completion certificate. Entrant wrote the course content, took most of the photos that appear in course and worked with Penn State creative services to develop and record videos and design the course layout. The course was first released in July 2020 and there have been 93 people register for the course and 35 have successfully completed the course. Instructions for how to access the course have been uploaded with the entry.

BOUND BOOK

National Winner

Bonnie Hopkins Byers
County Extension Agent/Agriculture
New Mexico State University
San Juan County

Hopkins Byers, B.*[1], Havens, Erin[2], Ritz, Megan[3], May, Melissa[4]

[1] County Extension Agent/Agriculture, New Mexico State University, Aztec, NM, 87410
[2] Project Manager, The Harvest Food Hub, San Juan College, Farmington, NM, 87402
[4] San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District

The Northwest New Mexico Local Food Guide was created by the NWNM Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter to educate the community about local food system developments, access opportunities, agricultural operations and community health. The guide was intended to be used as a resource for community members to learn about the legacy of agriculture in the region, as well as to develop a deeper appreciation for the farmers and ranchers. As our community shifts from rural to urban, there is a disconnect in our food system, a gap this guide aimed to reduce through a carefully selected list of publications and personal stories. The guide encourages community members to choose to buy locally grown products, which in turn supports local families, building our local economy and a healthy food system. The guide was a collaborative effort between the San Juan County Extension Agent, San Juan College and the San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District. The Agent assisted in collecting farmer stories and information, contributed articles to the 25 page resource, assisted in editing and distributing the guide. The cover of the book was designed by a local artist to showcase the beauty of the region, and the unique agricultural attributes of the community. Over 6,000 printed publications were distributed at local Farmers Markets, restaurants and agency offices in San Juan County in 2020. The online document has been viewed over 1,000 times.

https://www.buyfreshbuylocalnwnm.org/images/Local-Food-Guide-pdf.pdf

Search for Excellence in Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

National Winner

Liz Felter
Commercial Food Systems & Horticulture Agent
University of Florida
Central District

Felter, E.*[1], Moffis, B.*[2], Pinkerton, M.*[3], Ricketts, G.*[4], Smith, M.*[5], Wooten, H.F.*[6]

[1] Commercial Food Systems & Horticulture Agent, University of Florida, Apopka, FL, 32703
[2] Commercial Horticulture, Lake County, Tavares, FL, 32778
[3] Sustainable Ag & Food Systems, Seminole County, Sanford, FL, 32773
[4] Commercial Horticulture, Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL, 34744
[5] Sustainable Ag & Food Systems, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL, 33513
[6] Commercial Horticulture, Orange County, Orlando, FL, 32812

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this educational program was to increase IPM scout training practices for workers within the greenhouse/nursery industry and to increase environmentally friendly production practices. Central Florida is the second or third largest production area in the state with total sales for Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties at $2.23 billion (Hodges, Khachatryan & Court, 2018). **METHODS:** A 3-day mini-series of classes was provided to accomplish these objectives. A team of 5 commercial horticulture agents and 4 Extension research specialists taught the various topics. Participants were taught how to identify insect pests, beneficial insects, weeds, diseases, nematodes and abiotic symptoms, how to monitor soil pH and fertility and the importance of water quality along with digital photography. In recognition of the participants various learning styles a variety of educational activities were used. These activities included PowerPoint, videos, lab demonstrations, class discussion, field trips and hands-on scouting practice. **RESULTS:** Participants indicated 84 % increased their pest identification skills,93 % stated their job performance would increase, almost 77 % indicated they had implemented one or more IPM practice at their job site, 29% reported the training helped them get a higher paying job or a pay raise at their current position. The amount of money received was a dollar more per hour. Finally, 100% agreed or strongly agreed that what they learned in the class was useful in their job. **CONCLUSION:** This class teaches employable skills to industry workers resulting in pay raises and promotions. The skills also reduce water used and increased monitoring of fertilizer practices. It also increases the accurate identification of plant problems which allows for timely and least toxic means of control.

Search for Excellence in 4-H Programming

National Winner

Madaline Jones, Hannah Lepsch, Bailey McGill, Joanna Radford
Extension Agent
NC Cooperative Extension
Southern

Jones, Madaline*[1], **Lepsch, Hannah[2],** McGill, Bailey[3], **Radford, Joanna[4]**

[1] Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, NC Cooperative Extension - Yadkin County Center, YADKINVILLE, NC, 27055
[2] Extension Agent, NC Cooperative Extension - Yadkin County Center, Yadkinville, NC, 27055
[3] Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, NC Cooperative Extension - Surry County Center, Dobson, NC, 27017
[4] Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, NC Cooperative Extension - Surry County Center, Dobson, NC, 27017

The agents in Yadkin and Surry counties collaborated to hold a virtual "Pollination Station" Summer Fun program for 4-H youth. The program aimed to give youth a glimpse into the world of pollinators, fun guided activities, and interaction with other 4-Hers, community members, and Extension agents. The topics covered included pollination, the importance of pollinators, honeybees and beekeeping, and conservation of pollinator habitat. The information was delivered via educational videos, hands-on activities, and written lessons housed on a website platform. Prior to starting the program, participants went to their local Extension office to pick up a supplies "kit" for completing the lesson activities. Youth were able to communicate online with the instructors, 4-H agents and classmates, which helped give them a sense of normalcy when strict Covid-19 gathering limits were in place. The activities were self-paced to be completed over a period of two months. Twenty-eight youth participated, all reporting that the program measurably increased their learning and interest in pollinators, and was overall a great success.

Search for Excellence in Crop Production

National Winner

E. Keith Wynn
Extension Agent II
University of Florida
Hamilton County Extension

Wynn, K.*[1], Broughton, D.[2], Capasso, J.[3], Dufault, N.[4], Fenneman, D.[5], Hicks, G.[6], Korus, K.[7], Vann, C.[8], Warren, M.[9], Willis, S.[10]

[1] Extension Agent II, University of Florida, Jasper, FL, 32052
[2] UF/IFAS Regional Specialized Agent, University of Florida, Live Oak, FL, 32060
[3] Extension Agent, University of Florida, Lake City, FL, 32055
[4] UF Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611
[5] Extension Agent, University of Florida, Madison, FL, 32340
[6] Extension Agent, University of Florida, Jasper, FL, 32052
[7] Extension Agent, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32609
[8] Extension Agent, University of Florida, Mayo, FL, 32066
[9] Extension Agent, University of Florida, Bronson, FL, 32621
[10] Extension Agent, University of Florida, Live Oak, FL, 32064

Peanut is an important commodity crop in the Suwannee River Valley of North Florida. In 2020, approximately 70,000 acres of peanuts were planted in counties surrounding the North Florida Research and Education Center-Suwannee Valley (NFREC-SV). A peanut disease research program led by University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Plant Pathologist Dr. Nicholas Dufault was established to address management needs of this commodity. **Objectives:** To (1) assess the efficacy of commonly used peanut fungicide programs, (2) to incorporate pesticide spray programs that will reduce disease pressure, and (3) provide local Extension agents with experiential learning opportunities related to disease management. **Methods:** Dr. Nicholas Dufault and UF/IFAS Hamilton County Extension agent, Keith Wynn collaborated with NFREC-SV staff in 2015 to incorporate replicated small plot fungicide trials at the center. This trial evolved into a yearly research program that evaluates the efficacy of various fungicide treatments. Dr. Dufault was responsible for determining the fungicides tested, retrieving chemicals, and analyzing data collected from the trials. Local Extension agents were responsible for applying fungicide applications and recording disease ratings. **Results:** Data collected from disease ratings and yields were used to generate fact sheets, publications, and presentations that were distributed in production meetings throughout the state. Extension agents received hands-on training with fungicide application methods and disease identification which increased their confidence when interacting with producers. **Conclusions**: This research allowed Extension agents the opportunity to provide producers with timely information about the efficacy of fungicide products and monitor diseases throughout the season. Because of these trials, producers have seen the benefit of incorporating fungicides into their management programs and have made changes to their disease management plans.

Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources

National Winner

Andrew Brischke
Area Assistant Agent
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Mohave County

Brischke, A.*[1], Ashley Hall[2], McReynolds, K.[3]

[1] Area Assistant Agent, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Kingman, AZ, 86401
[2] 1Area Assistant Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Globe, AZ,
[3] Area Agent, Natural Resources, The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Willcox, AZ

The Arizona Cooperative Extension Rangeland Monitoring Program (ACEMP) has been helping agencies and ranchers monitor their rangeland resources for over 20 years. The purpose of the Arizona Rangeland Monitoring program is to work side-by-side, on the ground, with federal agencies and ranch managers to help collect, analyze, and educate about rangeland resources and help land managers make the most informed decisions based on science and best management practices. Some of the objectives of the Rangeland Monitoring Program are to 1) assist agencies and ranchers in collecting federally mandated monitoring data, 2) educate about monitoring, rangeland resources, and how to use monitoring data to inform management decisions, and to encourage participation from ranchers and agencies in collecting the data, and 3) help to improve rancher/agency relationships.

The ACEMP is comprised of three similar programs: Southeastern Arizona Monitoring Program (SEAMP), Reading the Range (RtR), and the Arizona Cooperative Rangeland Monitoring Program (ACRMP). Over 2,500 sites have been sampled over the 20-year history of the program. Since 2018, 989 sites on 344 federal grazing allotments have been sampled. Numerous one-on-one education sessions, workshops, demonstrations, field practice, publications, newsletters, guides, etc. have reached hundreds of stakeholders. Rancher participation varies greatly from year to year and program to program but averages: 52% (SEAMP), 100% (RtR), & 12 – 46% (ACRMP). In 2020, a short video was produced to highlight how the Arizona Rangeland Monitoring program delivers on the learning objectives: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVyZKsWjCqY

In 2019, a comprehensive evaluation was completed in partnership with our Extension Community Research, Evaluation, and Development team. Some highlights include 86% of ranchers do some type of formal monitoring (100% informal monitoring). 88% of ranch-

ers said Extension monitoring services increased their knowledge and understanding of monitoring. Ranchers involved with ACEMP used significantly more methods (7.3 vs. 4.3 methods). 86% of ranchers indicated that having an unbiased third-party participate in monitoring was important and Cooperative Extension was rated as the most unbiased of resources available (94% completely or somewhat unbiased).

Search for Excellence in Farm and Ranch Business Management

National Winner

Cade B. Rensink
District Director
K-State Research & Extension
Central Kansas District

Rensink, C.*[1], Baker A.[2], Barthol, K.[3], Beckman, J.[4], Blocker, S.[5], Boor, A.[6], Boyle, R.[7], Buller, T.[8], Burns, A.[9], Clemens, K.[10], Coover, J.[11], Fechter, R.[12], Gleason, M.[13], Haney, B.[14], Hatesohl, K.[15], Holder, M.[16], Hughes, W.[17], Meyer, A.[18], Kissick, E.[19], Lanham, D.[20], Marston, S.[21], McClure, G.[22], Meek, M.[23], Melton, B.[24], Miller, C.[25], Nordyke, K.[26], Otte, C.[27], Petersilie, J.[28], Powell, A.[29], Powell, W.[30], Rees, B.[31], Rippe-May, A.[32], Scronce, A.[33], Shorter, L.[34], Sneath, E.[35], Van Skike, K.[36], Wick, S.[37], Reid, R.[38], Winsor, L.[39]

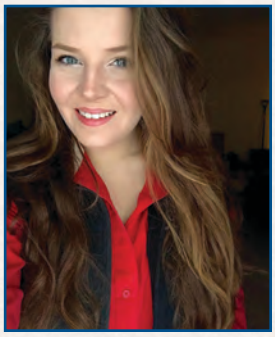
[1] District Director, K-State Research & Extension, Salina, KS, 67401
[2] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Leoti, KS, 67861
[3] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Paola, KS, 66071
[4] County Extension Agent Emeritus, K-State Research & Extension, Scott City, KS, 67871
[5] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Westmoreland, KS, 66549
[6] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Great Bend, KS, 67530
[7] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Stockton, KS, 67669
[8] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Lawrence, KS, 66046
[9] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Dodge City, KS, 67801
[10] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Ashland, KS, 67831
[11] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Girard, KS, 66743
[12] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Howard, KS, 67349
[13] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Kinsley, KS, 67547
[14] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Lakin, KS, 67860
[15] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Washington, KS, 66968
[16] District Director Emeritus, K-State Research & Extension, Strong City, KS, 66845
[17] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Lyons, KS, 67554
[18] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Marysville, KS, 66508
[19] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Ulysses, KS, 67880
[20] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Yates Center, KS, 66783
[21] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, McPherson, KS, 67460
[22] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Manhattan, KS, 66502
[23] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Lawrence, KS, 66046
[24] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Concordia, KS, 66901
[25] County Director, K-State Research & Extension, El Dorado, KS, 67042
[26] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Winfield, KS, 67156
[27] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Junction City, KS, 66441
[28] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, LaCrosse, KS, 67548
[29] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Mound City, KS, 66056
[30] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Altamont, KS, 67330
[31] County Director, K-State Research & Extension, Emporia, KS, 66801
[32] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Oberlin, KS, 67749
[33] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Independence, KS, 67301
[34] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Eureka, KS, 67045
[35] County Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Meade, KS, 67864
[36] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Norton, KS, 67654
[37] District Extension Agent, K-State Research & Extension, Smith Center, KS, 66967
[38] Extension Associate, K-State Research & Extension, Manhattan, KS, 66506
[39] Extension Assistant, K-State Research & Extension, Grantville, KS, 66429

In early 2020, a team of 83 Extension professionals from across Kansas worked together in a cross-disciplinary effort to deliver a farm financial series which addressed the grand challenges of global food systems, health, and community vitality. There were 32 host sites for the program which had a total of 685 participants. The series consisted of four sessions. Topics included Farm Recordkeeping, Balance Sheets, Income Statement, Cash Flow, and Goal Setting. Funded by a North Central Extension Risk Management Education grant, the series was set apart from traditional programs by a mixture of statewide and local presenters and collaboration with a large number of agents across the state. The financial concepts were delivered from the main campus and broadcast to each location using Zoom Conference and Microsoft Teams. Host agents served as facilitators to assist participants in networking and completing hands-on activities that reinforced the financial information presented. In addition, specialists in the area of Family and Consumer Sciences developed presentations on Mental Health and Family Living Expenses which were given by local experts at the individual locations. These presentations used small group interaction as a way to network around common struggles in their everyday life. The material was approved by Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) and, through this series, 70 people satisfied the financial education requirement for FSA loans. Post survey results (n = 520) showed that over 95% of participants ranked the material as "Valuable" or "Very Valuable". All participants showed an increase in their level of knowledge for keeping quality farm records and putting together and assessing balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements. Over 87% of participants stated they planned to develop a balance sheet for their farm business every year, over 75% stated they would develop an income statement and cash flow statement every year, and 63% planned to make a family living budget. The 6-month follow up survey (n = 193) revealed that 75% of the respondents had accomplished one to three items from the Personal Action Plan they developed during the program. Another 19% had implemented four or more action itmes.

Search for Excellence in Livestock Production

National Winner

Robyn Stewart
County Extension Coordinator
University of Georgia
Lincoln/Northeast



Stewart, R.*[1], McCann, Z.[2], Ritz, C.[3], Dunkley, C[4]

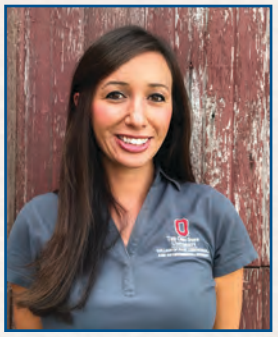
[1] County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia, Lincolnton, GA, 30817
[2] Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, University of Georgia, Homer, GA, 30547
[3] Poultry Specialist, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602
[4] Poultry Specialist, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA, 31793

In the United States from 2012 to 2017, there was a 16% increase in number of hobby flocks and 20% increase in number of backyard laying hens, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Backyard flock owners often lack essential knowledge and experience in poultry husbandry. The objective of this program was to develop and deliver hobby flock education to small flock owners. Two independent programs were held in 2020 to target hobby flock owners with educational opportunities. A four-week seminar series was developed and presented locally in Lincoln County, Georgia, followed by a five-week webinar series presented via Zoom. Lecture topics including but not limited to flock housing, nutrition, and bird health were presented by University of Georgia Extension Agents and Poultry Specialists. Seventeen residents attended the in-person program and the webinar series had 141 registrants from 10 states and 2 countries, with an average attendance of 40 individuals per session. All participants indicated an increase in knowledge across all topics. The virtual series was evaluated as excellent 70% of the time, with respondents indicating they learned something new in 95% of the sessions Ninety eight percent of participants intended to use the materials from the program in their operation. Six months after the program, participants were surveyed to determine resulting behavior changes and economic benefits. All respondents (n=23) indicated changing behaviors as a result of the series. Changes included improving coop design (35%), altering feeding programs (27%) and taking steps to improve bird health through biosecurity and vaccinations (13%). As a result of these behavioral changes, respondents reported increased productivity of meat and eggs (36%), reduced feed, health care, and replacement bird expenses (29%), decreased bird mortality (21%) and increased profit from meat and egg sales (7%).

Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture

National Winner

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



Griffith, M.*[1], Badertscher, M.[2], Barker, F.[3], Brown, C.[4], **Chanon, A.[5], Cochran, R.[6], Corboy, T.[7],** Cul-man, S.[8], **Estadt,M.[9],** Fisher, B.[10], **Fulton, J.[11], Hartschuh, J.[12], Hawkins, E.[13],** Jackson-Smith, D.[14], **Karhoff, S.[15], Labarge, G.[16], Lyon, E.[17], Moneymaker, B.[18], Neal, N.[19], Noggle, S.[20], Nye, L.[21],** Raymond, H.[22], **Scheckelhoff, B.[23],** Shedekar, V.[24], **Zoller, C.[25]**

[1] Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension, London, OH, 43140
[2] Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension, Kenton, OH, 43326
[3] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Mt. Vernon, OH, 43050
[4] Program Manager, Ohio State University Extension, Wooster, OH, 44691
[5] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Elyria, OH, 44035
[6] Extension Associat, Ohio State University Extension, Paulding, OH, 45385
[7] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Xenia, OH, 45385
[8] Associate Professor, Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 4691
[9] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Circleville, OH, 43133
[10] Extension Associate, Ohio State University Extension, Ottawa, OH, 45875
[11] Professor, Ohio State University Extension, Columbus, OH, 43210
[12] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Bucyrus, OH, 44820
[13] Extension Field Specialist and Associate Professor, Ohio State University Extension, Wilmington, OH, 45177
[14] , Ohio State University Extension, Columbus, OH, 43210
[15] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Bryan, OH, 43506
[16] Extension Field Specialist, Ohio State University Extension, London, OH, 43140
[17] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Steubenville, OH, 43952
[18] Extension Associate, Ohio State University Extension, Wapakoneta, OH, 45895
[19] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Owensville, OH, 45130
[20] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Paulding, OH, 45879
[21] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Wilmington, OH, 45177
[22] Water Quality Initiative Director, Ohio State University Extension, Columbus, OH, 43210
[23] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, Ottawa, OH, 45975
[24] Postdoctoral Researcher, Ohio State University Extension, Columbus, OH, 4321-
[25] Extension Educator, ANR, Ohio State University Extension, New Philadelphia, OH, 44663

OSU Extension's Agronomic Crops Team developed a Soil Health Committee in 2020 in response to increasing demand from stakeholders to know more about soil health. The committee's first project was a virtual webinar series titled *The Dirt on Soil Health: Digging Beneath the Surface.* The objectives of the webinar were to provide research-based information to enable producers to implement practices to improve soil health on their farms, and to identify needs for future programming on soil health. The webinar included eight sessions held on a weekly basis with recordings available to registrants who could not attend live sessions. A total 2,858 registered for the webinars, representing 72 Ohio counties, 20 states, and 9 nations. 1,517 attended the live sessions with 1,055 views of the recorded sessions to date. On the program evaluation 95.3% of respondents reported that they learned new information as a result of attending, and 88.7% reported that they plan to use the information they learned to improve soil health on their farm.

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

National Winner

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

Brooke, C.T.*[1], Tolleson, M.[2], Rymel, J[3]

[1] County Extension Agent- Agriculture & Natural Resources, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Mckinney, TX, 75069
[2] County Extension Agent - Agriculture & Natural Resources, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Sherman, TX, 75090
[3] County Extension Agent - Agriculture & Natural Resources, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Linden, TX, 75563

The Northeast Texas Live in the Field video series is an ongoing online program implemented via Facebook to engage with new and non-traditional clientele across the Northeast Texas region on a variety of introductory agriculture and natural resource management topics using weekly short videos. Initially conceived in March of 2020 during a district Agriculture & Natural Resources strategy session, this program has consistently provided weekly videos filmed and provided by County Extension Agents and specialists from across Texas' Extension District 4. Goals and outcomes for this program were as follows:

- Use short, impactful videos to educate the general public on a wide variety of approachable agriculture/natural resources topics
- Expand the reach of AgriLife Extension in Northeast Texas to new clientele
- Provide an opportunity for County Extension Agents across District 4 to present information, and increase their recognition across the area.

From the first video posted on April 3rd through to December 2nd, we posted 31 videos, accrued 857 page likes, 23,540 video views, and 71,956 people reached via Facebook. From demographic analytics data available via Facebook, the majority of followers were women between the ages of 25-54, which accounted for 54% of the all page followers. Overall, women of all ages comprised 60% of all followers, and when segmented by age a majority fell between 25 and 64 with the largest single age segment was 35-44yrs with 26% of the total, followed by 24-34yrs (22%). These views, likes, and engagements represent clientele that are typically underrepresented in our traditional programming in the District and continuing this series serves as a means to improve our outreach and marketing towards those groups.

NACAA 2021 Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award

National Winner

Mountain Ag Fest Team
Horticulture Agent
Colorado State University Extension
Pueblo

Shaffer, S.*[1], Platten, Mark[2], Harders, Kara[3], Nelson, Guinevere[4], Griffin, Laura[5], **Garnett, Barbie[6], De Lair, Beth[7],** Johnston, Jennifer[8], Young, Morgan[9], Dinkel, Julianne[10]

[1] Horticulture Agent, Colorado State University Extension, Pueblo, CO, 81003
[2] Teller County Extension Agent and County Director, Colorado State University Extension, Woodland Park, CO, 80863
[3] Regional Extension Specialist, Colorado State University Extension, Canon City, CO, 81212
[4] Extension County Director, Colorado State University Extension, Westcliffe, CO, 81252
[5] Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Colorado State University Extension, Pueblo, CO, 81003
[6] Extension Agent and Director, Colorado State University Extension, Fairplay, CO, 80440
[7] 4H Youth Development Coordinator, Colorado State University Extension, Pueblo, CO, 81003
[8] Extension Agent 4H Youth Development, Colorado State University Extension, Pueblo, CO, 81003
[9] Interim Extension Assistant Director & Agent, 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Sciences, Colorado State University Extension, Salida, CO, 81201
[10] Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Science, Colorado State University Extension, Canon City, CO, 81212

Mountain Ag Fest is a collaborative effort of Extension Agents, Specialists, and Support Staff from six Colorado counties. The main objective of Mountain Ag Fest is to reach fifth grade students from historically underrepresented demographics with agriculture education. In order to achieve the objective, the team puts on a three day annual event at which fifth grade students rotate through eight stations and experience hands on activities that teach them about different aspects of agriculture and how it effects their daily lives. This has created a great relationship between Extension in these counties, and the school districts they serve. Based on our data, the stations have proven effective in increasing agricultural knowledge in the students, and in improving their general attitudes regarding agriculture in their daily lives. We have also found through anecdotal evidence that the teachers and parent chaperones that attend the event also learn a great deal about agriculture as well.

2021 NACAA Achievement Award Winners

NORTHEAST REGION

MAINE
Rebecca J. Long
2 years

MARYLAND
Neith Grace Little
7 years

NEW JERSEY
Megan Muehlbauer
4 years

NEW YORK
Jarmila Haseler
5 years

PENNSYLVANIA
Ginger D. Fenton
9 years

VERMONT
Mark Cannella
9 years

WEST VIRGINIA
John David Johnson
9 years

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

ILLINOIS
Candice Hart
8 years

INDIANA
Jeff Hermesch
7 years

INDIANA
Crystal Van Pelt
6 years

IOWA
Carter Oliver
3 years

KANSAS
Justin Goodno
2 years

KANSAS
Anastasia Meyer
7 years

MICHIGAN
Ben Phillips
6 years

MINNESOTA
Karen Johnson
7 years

MISSOURI
Reagan Bluel
6 years

MISSOURI
Juan Cabrera-Garcia
1 years

NEBRASKA
Jessica Groskopf
8 years

NORTH DAKOTA
Paige Brummund
9 years

OHIO
Lee Beers
5 years

OHIO
Christine Gelley
5 years

SOUTH DAKOTA
Adam Varenhorst
6 years

WISCONSIN
Lyssa Seefeldt
7 years

WESTERN REGION

ARIZONA
Dr. Duarte Diaz
9 years

CALIFORNIA
Sonia I. Rios
6 years

COLORADO
Kali Benson
5 years

IDAHO
Kate Painter
5 years

MONTANA
Rose Malisani
8 years

NEW MEXICO
Lynda Garvin
7 years

OREGON
Brooke Edmunds
7 years

UTAH
Steven Price
3 years

WASHINGTON
Brook Brouwer
5 years

WYOMING
Abby Perry
6 years

2021 NACAA Achievement Award Winners

SOUTHERN REGION

ALABAMA
Allie Logan
5 Years

GEORGIA
Greg Pittman
6 Years

NORTH CAROLINA
Ben Grandon
7 Years

TEXAS
Jessica Chase
5 Years

ALABAMA
Rishi Prasad
2 Years

GEORGIA
Ty Torrance
6 Years

NORTH CAROLINA
Travis Hoesli
9 Years

TEXAS
Geri Kline
5 Years

ALABAMA
Paul Vining
5 Years

KENTUCKY
Adam Barnes
9 Years

NORTH CAROLINA
Mack Johnson
8 Years

TEXAS
Jo A. Smith
8 Years

ARKANSAS
Jason A. Davis
7 Years

KENTUCKY
Alexis Sheffield
7 Years

OKLAHOMA
Augustus Holland
6 Years

TEXAS
Jacob Spivey
6 Years

ARKANSAS
Robert S Harper
8 Years

LOUISIANA
Jessie Hoover
7 Years

SOUTH CAROLINA
T. Ashley Burns
6 Years

TEXAS
Stacie Villarreal
5 Years

ARKANSAS
Amy Tallent
9 Years

MISSISSIPPI
Preston Aust
9 Years

SOUTH CAROLINA
Lindsey Craig
8 Years

VIRGINIA
John Benner
7 Years

FLORIDA
Lauren Butler
4 Years

MISSISSIPPI
Heather Jennings
5 Years

TENNESSEE
Xiurui Iris Cui
3 Years

VIRGINIA
Brittany Council-Morton
9 Years

FLORIDA
Evelyn Prissy Fletcher
7 Years

MISSISSIPPI
James Shannon
4 Years

TENNESSEE
Seth Whitehouse
3 Years

FLORIDA
Kalan Taylor
7 Years

NORTH CAROLINA
Jessica Anderson
9 Years

TENNESSEE
Kathleen Wilson
3 Years

GEORGIA
Heather N Kolich
6 Years

NORTH CAROLINA
Andrea W. Gibbs
6 Years

TEXAS
Bruce Boyd
6 Years

2021 NACAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

NORTHEAST REGION

MAINE
David Fuller
24 years

MARYLAND
Jennifer Rhodes
14 years

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Heather Bryant
12 years

NEW JERSEY
Joel Flagler
32 years

NEW YORK
Quirine M. Ketterings
20 years

PENNSYLVANIA
Jeffrey Graybill
16 years

WEST VIRGINIA
H.R. Scott
29 years

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

INDIANA
Scott Gabbard
21 years

INDIANA
Kelly Heckaman
25 years

IOWA
Paul A Mariman
19 years

MICHIGAN
Phillip Tocco
15 years

MINNESOTA
Tana Haugen-Brown
32 years

MISSOURI
Darla Campbell
22 years

MISSOURI
Karen Funkenbusch
25 years

NEBRASKA
Jennifer Rees
16 years

NORTH DAKOTA
Bill Hodous
19 years

OHIO
Eric E. Barrett
23 years

OHIO
Amy K. Stone
20 years

WISCONSIN
Ryan Sterry
14 years

WESTERN REGION

COLORADO
Darrin Parmenter
18 years

IDAHO
Danielle Gunn
21 years

MONTANA
Wendy Becker
17 years

NEVADA
Lindsay M. Chichester
11 years

NEW MEXICO
Jeff Anderson
13 years

OREGON
Neil Bell
21 years

UTAH
JayDee Gunnell
15 years

WASHINGTON
Donald A. Llewellyn
10 years

WYOMING
Kellie Chichester
14 years

2021 NACAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

SOUTHERN REGION

ALABAMA
James Jacobi
21 years

GEORGIA
Brenda L. Jackson
13 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Billy Barrow
12 years

TEXAS
Lane Dunn
17 years

ALABAMA
Neil G. Kelly
13 years

GEORGIA
Carole Hicks Knight
14 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Paige Burns
14 years

TEXAS
Stephen W. Gowin
24 years

ALABAMA
Kerry P. Smith
15 years

KENTUCKY
David Fourqurean
16 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Troy E. Coggins
27 years

TEXAS
Brandon Gregson
20 years

ARKANSAS
Michael Hamilton
24 years

KENTUCKY
Kristin Hildabrand
11 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Keith B. Walters
22 years

TEXAS
David W. Groschke
16 years

ARKANSAS
Ples Spradley
37 years

KENTUCKY
Michelle Simon
10 years

OKLAHOMA
Brad Bain
20 years

TEXAS
Michael R. Hiller
15 years

ARKANSAS
Leslie S Walz
23 years

LOUISIANA
Raj Singh
14 years

SOUTH CAROLINA
Jeff Fellers
16 years

TEXAS
Robert Scott
28 years

FLORIDA
James E Davis
14 years

MISSISSIPPI
Bj Mcclenton
12 years

SOUTH CAROLINA
Alana W. West
14 years

VIRGINIA
John Wesley Blankenship Jr.
27 years

FLORIDA
Ralph E Mitchell
20 years

MISSISSIPPI
Larry Oldham
24 years

TENNESSEE
Jason de Koff
11 years

VIRGINIA
K. Jason Fisher
26 years

FLORIDA
Chris Oswalt
22 years

MISSISSIPPI
Phillip Vandevere
16 years

TENNESSEE
Matt Horsman
11 years

GEORGIA
Stephanie Hollifield
12 years

NORTH CAROLINA
Amy-Lynn Albertson
20 years

TENNESSEE
Amanda L Mathenia
12 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

2021
Northeast Region Hall of Fame Award
Mena Hautau
Pennsylvania
36 Years - Retired

Mena Hautau was hired by Iowa State Extension in 1980. She was the third female County Agent hired by Iowa State and worked in Taylor County, Scott County, and eastern Iowa as an Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture. Her first NACAA meeting was in 1981 at Cornell University. She has attended 11 NACAA meetings and worked with PACAA to host the 2013 meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

In 1992, she served as the first female President of the Iowa Agricultural Extension Association (IAEA). The following year, she served on the first NACAA Futuring Committee (1992-1993), whereby recommendations were made to strengthen the professional development opportunities that are common at national meetings, such as the poster and research entries. During her tenure at Iowa State, she served as a reviewer for the Journal of Extension from 1990-1993. From 1994 to 1996, she attended graduate school at Iowa State University on an extension assistantship and received the Virgil K. Webster Award.

Mena moved to Pennsylvania in 1994 and was hired as the Agronomy and Agriculture Extension Educator in Berks County. In her 22-year tenure in PA, she rose to the challenge of providing programming for a range of crops producers including mushroom growers, fruit and vegetable growers, graziers, large scale grain producers and organic farmers. She worked with 10 growers and conducted over 150 corn and 75 soybean yield checks for the PA Corn Club and the PA Soybean Yield Contest. Yields increased from a 159 to over 300 bu/A for corn and from 40 to 90 bu/A for soybeans. She received a $15,000 SARE Partnership grant and conducted research on mob grazing with 5 dairy graziers and led a pasture walk in collaboration with PASA Sustainable Agriculture, which attracted 50 participants. Mena established "study circles" which brought peer learning to organic farmers. This program continues under the leadership of other educators. She assisted faculty in implementing on-farm and university-based research, including cover crops, soil health on no-till farms and manure injection for dairy farms. She led efforts with farmers, local state legislators and the PA Department of Agriculture to add Palmer Amaranth to the noxious weed list through farm visits, presentations, and a public policy on-farm meeting for stakeholders.

With PACAA she served on the Board of Directors from 1999-2003, chaired the Sustainable Agriculture Committee from 2008-2016 and served on the Membership and Program Development Committees. She helped to host two spring meetings.

2021
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award
Mena Hautau
Pennsylvania
36 Years - Retired

Mena received her DSA in 2011. Other honors include 2011 Communication Award - Website, NACAA and 2003 Communications Award, Regional Finalist, NACAA.

She served as a Board Member of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, 1999-2008. During her time with PASA, she assisted the organization with raising an average of $150,000 per year and helped with the transition and retention of Executive Directors.

In retirement, Mena has maintained her Certified Crop Advisor certification and has served on four grant review committees for Northeast SARE from 2017-2020.

Year DSA Awarded: 2011

2021
Western Region Hall of Fame Award
Dr. Ed Martin
Arizona
37 Years

Ed Martin began his nearly 37-year extension career (29 at the University of Arizona) as an Extension Associate at Michigan State in 1984. The commitment to extension and leadership he has demonstrated make him exceptionally deserving of the Hall of Fame award. As a specialist in the Department of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering (1992 - present), Ed's programs serve a diverse audience of commercial and urban horticulture and encompasses everything from irrigation frequency for arid-adapted landscape trees to water and fertilizer applications in large scale cotton, lettuce, and alfalfa (three of Arizona's biggest commercial crops). His research on optimizing water usage for both home and commercial crops has made a significant impact on all of Arizona's agricultural producers. His work bringing this information to the producers is always well suited for the needs of the audience, as evidenced by his work with several of the tribal nations teaching them to install low tech drip irrigation.

Ed has demonstrated excellence in leadership, becoming the Associate Director of Extension for Ag and Natural Resources in 2007, and the County Director for Arizona's most populous county, Maricopa, in 2012. Maricopa County is home to over 4.5 million people, and Maricopa County Cooperative Extension is an extremely complex county serving many diverse audiences including low-income, urban, youth, and rural agriculture. Ed has masterfully managed all of these moving parts and those who work under him speak of his commitment to ensuring everyone has what they need for success, and his perseverance in creating positive change.

Ed has continued to exemplify what it means to be a leader and a mentor through his work with the Arizona Agriculture Extension Association (AAEA) and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). At the state level, he has been a constant presence as an officer and as state chair for many committees throughout the years. Perhaps most importantly, he has been an ever-present mentor for new members, helping them navigate the organization and making sure each officer is primed to fulfill their duties. At the national level, Ed has served as regional committee vice-chair at least four times and is currently the National Chair for the Leadership and Administrative Skills committee.

2021
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award
Dr. Ed Martin
Arizona
37 Years

In the community, Ed has invested himself heavily in serving the people extension serves well beyond his job responsibilities, as well as working extensively with several other state and national organizations. He chooses to spend his personal/volunteer time working with many of the community members served by extension, including youth and Arizona 4-H. He leads 4-H volunteer training sessions, assists youth on livestock weigh-in days at the county fair (definitely outside the realm of a bioengineering specialist!), and serves breakfast at the Arizona National's Livestock Show. When Maricopa County was between 4-H agents, Ed took leadership on several programs and continued to participate (especially the Zoo Crew) even after a new agent was on board. Arizona Extension and NACAA is immensely richer because of the personal and professional time Ed has committed to these organizations.

Year DSA Awarded: 2003

WANT ASSISTANCE TO UNDERWRITE YOUR COSTS FOR ATTENDING THE AM/PIC? HERE'S ONE WAY TO DO THAT....PARTICIPATE IN THE NACAA INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Incentive program to members who bring in new sponsors.
The program is as follows:

Sponsor Level	Incentive
$2,000 - $4,999	AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed
$5,000 - $9,999	AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed and $500 travel voucher to attend the AM/PIC
$10,000 - up	AM/PIC registration fee reimbursed and $1,000 travel voucher to attend the AM/PIC

2021
North Central Region Hall of Fame Award
Donald Drost
Wisconsin
26 Years - Retired

Don Drost served as agricultural agent in Barron County, Wisconsin, for 27 years specializing in farm management, general agriculture education, and in administration. He received various awards within UW Extension, including National and State Associations for County Agriculture Agents (NACAA and WACAA), and is a highly respected colleague and community member.

The impacts of Don's programs were recognized throughout the state and based on the needs of his clientele. Dairy production was the major agricultural industry in Barron county, represented by 1,400 county dairy farms. Don also served a wide range of the programming needs of all county farmers. Don initiated an annual UW-Extension Dairy Road Show event to draw special emphasis to the dairy industry in Northwest Wisconsin. He attracted nationally recognized presenters, industry representatives, and hundreds of dairy farmers attended the event each year.

Through Don's efforts, producers, educators and industry professionals collaborated to establish Barron County Agriculture Promoters. This initiative supported and encouraged agricultural education and activities throughout the county, targeting non-farm community members to inform them of the importance of agriculture to the local economy. To highlight this effort, Don served as executive secretary in hosting the Agriculture Technology Days in 1987, one of the largest agricultural exhibitions and shows in the nation.

Don was recognized for his variety and scope of excellence in agricultural education with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Excellence in Agricultural Programming award. He was promoted to the rank of Professor within the UW-Extension Ag/Ag Business Department. In addition to his program efforts Don served for three years as the academic Department Chair for all Agriculture Agents in Wisconsin.

His dedication to the association is demonstrated through the numerous committees he was involved with. Don served the Wisconsin Association in an assortment of leadership positions. In 1990 he began his leadership with NACAA and held the positions of North Central Vice Director and Regional Director roles before being elected to serve as the NACAA Vice President, President-Elect, President and Past President.

2021
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award
Donald Drost
Wisconsin
26 Years - Retired

During Don's term as NACAA President, the NACAA committee structure was shifted and new guidelines were developed, commencing at the 1998 NACAA Meeting over which he presided. In addition, the groundwork was laid to create an executive director position during his tenure. The decision to have an executive director and NACAA national address has stood the test of time and the position has been in place for over 20 years.

On a humanitarian level, Don is a dedicated contributor to his community. He served over 40 years as a county 4-H leader, including leading the 4-H Ontario youth exchange program for 15 years. Don is active in his faith and serves as his church's parish council chair; men's club president; lector; and usher. He is involved with community organizations and has served leadership roles with the Barron County Rotary, Cameron School District, Rice Lake curling club, and local telecommunications telephone cooperative where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Don also volunteers his time with the Barron County Restorative Justice program and is a past volunteer for the Kinship program, which provides a father figure to troubled youth.

Year DSA Awarded: 1991

2021
Southern Region Hall of Fame Award
Mickey Cummings
Georgia
40 Years - Retired

In 1982, Mickey Cummings' career began with an extension appointment as 4-H Agent in Wilkes County, Georgia. For three decades, Mickey provided first-class extension programming and delivered timely research-based information to the counties he served. Mickey's career as an agent was most strongly associated with livestock production, earning him the Georgia Cattleman's Association County Agent of the Year in 2005. He was also well-respected for his work in vegetable production, water quality and sweet sorghum production.

Upon retirement, his knowledge and versatility served him well as the manager of the Union County Farmers Market/Canning Plant in Blairsville, Georgia. Under his leadership this facility achieved an economic impact of $1,000,000/year attracting approximately 150,000 people/year in a county of 25,000 people. The Market, comprised of 84 vendors (70% agriculturally related), stimulated a ten-fold increase in the number of vegetable producers in Union County, reversing years of steady decline and making a positive impact in Union County Agriculture. The Union County Canning Plant processes over 17,000 jars/year for 200-300 persons. During 2020, while many farmers markets closed due to COVID-19, the Union County facility continued to operate under strict guidelines protecting the public without incident of health concern.

Throughout his career Mickey gained the respect of his peers and clientele through his educational efforts. He made 2 international presentations on beef management, 25 national lectures on a range of topics including beef production, forages, water quality and vegetable production. He presented 49 lectures in 12 states on topics including vegetable production, leadership, livestock, entomology, and soil fertility. He published 28 compilations of agricultural research over his extension career.

Service to his employer included serving on the UGA CAES Strategic Planning Committee, public service promotion committees and search committees. He attained the rank of Senior Public Service Associate with UGA CAES which only 3-4% of agents ever reach.

2021
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award
Mickey Cummings
Georgia
40 Years - Retired

Mickey has been a member of GACAA and NACAA for 38 years attending 20 NACAA AM/PIC's and 34 GACAA AM/PIC's. Service to GACAA includes the offices of Secretary, Vice President and President. On the national level he served as Chairman of Public Relations, NACAA Secretary, Vice President and President. He served as the Vice Chair of the 2002 NACAA AM/PIC in Savannah, Georgia where his responsibilities included raising funds and developing committee structure. Notably, his work on the NACAA Public Relations Committee included the development of the First Timers Orientation for agents attending the AM/PIC for the first time.

Mickey has been active his community currently serving as President of the Blue Ridge Mountain Cattleman's Association and on the Boards of the Union County Farm Bureau, Union County Historical Society and the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D. He has served on the Boards of the Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District and the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC where he served as President for 2 years. He has served as Chairman of the Union County Comprehensive Land Use Planning Committee. Additionally, he served the children and youth of Union County as a youth baseball/basketball coach for 7 years.

Year DSA Awarded: 1994

NACAA/JCEP Creative Excellence Award 2021 Recipient - Eddy Labus - North Carolina State University

In March of last year, Eddy Labus's expertise in livestock management and markets was put to the test and fully utilized by our county's (and surrounding county) producers with the challenges of the pandemic. The coronavirus pandemic exposed and exacerbated capacity vulnerabilities and shortfalls in our state's (and nation's) slaughter and processing system. For many producers in the High Country of western North Carolina, animals must be transported sometimes 70 miles or more, one way, to be slaughtered and processed. In March 2020, bottlenecks at meat processing plants reduced capacity and caused substantial delays for area livestock producers. Many slaughter/processing plants became backlogged well into late 2021 & 2022 to accept animals. In many cases, livestock producers were reserving space for slaughter & processing for animals that weren't even born yet due to limited capacity.

With Eddy's consultation and planning acumen, in just a few brief months, the county's FIRST USDA inspected public processing facility was opened in partnership with one leading commercial beef producer and other participating "member producers" with whom Eddy connected & recruited. The processing facility was upfitted from a former deer processing facility in the county within a matter of three months with financial backing from a local generational farmer whose commercial meat business would have collapsed if new processing capacity wasn't established quickly. Eddy worked with this producer, Shipley Beef, on the preliminary planning of this effort and worked with this producer to create a "membership" service with other local producers in need of processing. While moving this new processing facility from an idea to reality in a very short time came with its share of challenges, Eddy was a reliable, steady source of 'wise counsel' …helping producers not only be successful in their own operations and businesses but also strengthening the network of producers from Watauga County and our surrounding counties who are working together. "Watauga Butchery" opened its doors in July of 2020 with 20 member-producers.

Eddy is currently working with multiple county partners to help gather data and secure funding to hopefully build the first expanded 'harvest and chill' facility to serve our High-Country livestock producers who continue to be affected by the bottlenecks at slaughter facilities. He has assisted with four grant proposals totaling over $2 million to enhance the equipment and capacity at the existing processing facility and partner with the county and Shipley Beef/Watauga Butchery to open a full-service slaughter and processing facility on county property in a private-public partnership. This project will provide a unique foundation for small livestock producers in our region and for our local food economy and locally produced meat industry to continue to grow.

Over the last 8 years, Eddy's engagement with producers has advanced the economic viability of many of our small scale farms. His work with beef cattle fertility and reproductive management, forage improvement programs, as well as Beef Quality Assurance certification has yielded significant impacts with producers who have adopted new practices. Cattle producers here in our part of the mountains are extending their grazing seasons and improving their pastures (and therefore the quality and sell price of their animals) due to Eddy's research, recommendations, and programs on rotational grazing, forage selection, and pasture analysis. Additionally, due to the burgeoning interest in 'local food', Eddy is helping producers market their animals and providing them training on meat-handling, butchering, and processing which is allowing these producers added value market diversity.

He works across county lines with other Extension Agents, specialists, and professionals to assist with area-wide programming and to share his extensive knowledge and practical approach with others. The most important part of Eddy's educational programming is that he ties in the economics of every best practice he promotes which increases adoption of best practices with the clients he works with. He has mentored fellow agents over the years and interns pursuing agroecology degrees from nearby Appalachian State University.

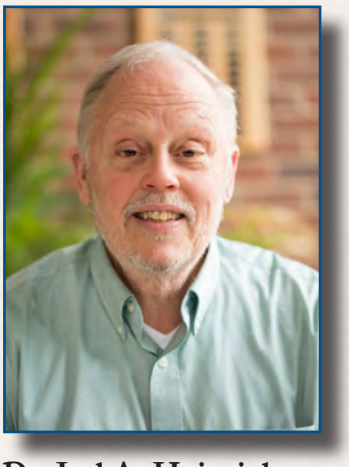
Over the last 5 years, our county (and surrounding counties) boasts the highest concentration of licensed meat handlers in the state. This is a result of Eddy's work encouraging and assisting livestock producers in creating and capitalizing on direct sale and market opportunities in our area's burgeoning local food movement.

2021 Service to American/World Agriculture Award Winner - Dr. A. Jud Heinrichs

Dr. Jud Heinrichs has enjoyed a 39 year career in dairy extension and research at Penn State with a goal of supplying information and tools to help dairy farmers globally improve their ability to manage. Dr. Heinrichs began his career at Penn State with a 100 percent Extension appointment, and he has had three major areas of emphasis: dairy forage nutrition, calf management, and heifer nutrition. His research and extension program has had the overriding goal of discovering methods or systems that simplify or assist with on-farm problems while training and demonstrating how to achieve a more successful outcome. This has been accomplished by inventions from the more basic research, applying these innovations to research that demonstrates solutions, then taking the results out to the dairy farm to be put into action. In all cases, the inventions have been made available on the web or through industry so nutritionists and dairy farmers could use them for solving problems.

After determining the need to better evaluate forages on the farm and in the laboratory, he teamed up with Dennis Buckmaster, formerly at Penn State in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, to fill a gap in measuring forage and diet particle size. The result of their studies was the Penn State Particle Separator (PSPS). This invention has been used in various Penn State research studies and has been marketed through Nasco, Inc., an international agricultural supply company. The PSPS quickly gained recognition as a useful tool with thousands sold around the world. The PSPS is used in many research studies around the world and by the feed industry today. It continues to be marketed widely and is a standard tool for dairy nutritionist around the globe, as it has universal application for dairy diet formulation and analysis.

A second area of his extension and research is in heifer nutrition, and under Dr. Heinrichs's leadership Penn State is one of the very few places in the world where a large amount of research is conducted on basic and applied heifer nutrition. Of the peer reviewed publications over the past 5 to 8 years in dairy and animal publications, his research group is the primary originator of heifer metabolism studies. He attracted graduate students from around the world and has numerous national and international speaking requests each year on topics related to this research. His inventions of the Penn State Heifer Growth Charts (modeled like human growth charts) and Penn State Dairy Weight Tape (the only up-to-date body weight estimation devise of its kind) are utilized widely around the world by progressive dairy farmers and consultants. These two items were a direct result of extension programs in Pennsylvania where surveys and needs assessments were conducted and data were collected from several thousand heifers.



Dr. Jud A. Heinrichs
Pennsylvania

One focus of his research with heifers is defining their nutrient requirements. This area has not been extensively studied in over 50 years, despite great changes in the body size and conformation of the animals, as well as changing goals for age at calving. Along with graduate students, Dr. Heinrichs has developed a novel feeding system for dairy heifers that promotes minimal nutrient waste through increased feed efficiency. The concept is to precisely feed highly digestible diets which increases the efficiency of the heifer's metabolism and digestion of nitrogen and fiber, while having no negative effects on the animal. This work has shown manure production can be reduced up to 40% and has provided new insight into nitrogen metabolism in the growing heifer.
Realizing the importance of heifers on the economics of the dairy enterprise, Dr. Heinrichs sought out numerous collaborations to evaluate heifer systems for both nutritional and financial efficiencies.

The third extension and research area has been calf management. Dr. Heinrichs conducted numerous extension education programs and developed many publications, videos, computer spreadsheets and other tools to allow educators, industry, and farmers to improve their knowledge of calf nutrition and management.

Many of Dr. Heinrichs's extension programs have led to discovery of new tools and education materials that are needed. In turn, these tools are used to provide information to the dairy farmer to help them do a better job and be more profitable. He has published

numerous articles in trade journals, proceedings, and in-house publications. In addition, he has conducted farm workshops and spoken at conferences in many parts of the US and 28 countries around the world.

Dr. Heinrichs takes great pride in training graduate students and often has 3 to 4 in his lab. Three of his former PhD students hold faculty positions in Animal Science Departments at other Universities. Other students hold successful positions in industry and government. He has authored 168 journal articles and 18 book chapters as well as more than 200 extension publications on dairy replacements and forages. He has received numerous awards throughout his career, including the 2018 American Dairy Science Association Fellow Award.

In addition to being the faculty member behind the Penn State Dairy Nutrition web site, Dr. Heinrichs is the current editor of the Dairy Digest, a bi-monthly publication for county educators and industry. He started and continues to oversee the Penn State Dairy Nutrition Workshop. This is a feed industry and consultant-oriented conference that has been held for the past 12 years which has grown to have over 600 participants annually and serves as a leading educational event in the east for the dairy feed industry. It also serves as a location for activities of the Northeast American Registration of Professional Scientists chapter.

In summary, Dr. Heinrichs's extension and research program has a goal of making dairy nutrition better for the animal, the producer, and the environment. His use of inventions to promote better nutrition continues to benefit the dairy industry worldwide. His extension materials, conferences, presentations, and other activities positively impact youngstock and feeding programs here in the United States as well as internationally. His passion for education and innovation has been instilled in his students, ensuring his influence on the dairy industry will continue.

Life Member Corner
Location, Location, Location!

Steven E. Munk
NACAA Life Member

I was watching a program the other day and as I was watching it the thought that went through my mind was "I know what they are talking about related to that site because I have been there and seen that". I am finding that as time goes by that particular thought happens more often than not. I realized that once again the reason I was able to have that thought was it was an experience that was made possible by NACAA.

Let me start with a bit of history the first official annual meeting of NACAA was held in 1916, organized by a group of insightful County Agents with the objective of what can we do to help maintain high standards regarding the qualifications and abilities for individuals employed as County Agents across the Nation. The concept was fairly simple, provide an opportunity for the sharing of ideas, program techniques used, along with subject matter expertise training. To this day that concept has been and continues to be a very successful format in providing professional improvement opportunities to the NACAA membership. Which by the way as an active Educator was the main reason I would attend the AM/PIC and participate in the various study tours that were available, which I found to be extremely valuable professionally for my job in serving my clientele.

The location for the annual meetings from 1916 to 1948 was in Chicago, primarily at the Livestock Recording Building, during the International Livestock Exposition. BUT!! In 1949 (and this is one of those turning point things for an organization) plans were made to hold the 34th annual meeting in Denver. If the Board of directors were similar to ones I served on, there most likely was a lot of discussion before they were comfortable enough to let go of a 30 year tradition of holding the meeting in the same spot and venture out to a different location, and thank goodness they did!

This was an absolute brilliant idea as now in addition to the professional improvement workshops, seminars, and speakers the meeting location itself became an informal enlightening educational tool. Moving the meeting around provided an opportunity to highlight and show case a different part of the country north to south and east to west.

By the way, the Denver meeting was a success setting an attendance record of more than 750 registered, of which 500 were County Agents and the rest were their spouses, children and some interested

Convention Chairman Sherman Hoar (left), Sterling, Colo., welcomes Mr. and Mrs. George Hobson, Charlotte, N.C.; and Warren Tewksbury, Washburn, N.D.

guest. The 1949 annual meeting started the family aspect of the AM/PICs which compared to many of the other Professional Organization is really unique for NACAA.

Rotating the AM/PICs gave me, personally, firsthand knowledge of what is all involved in the production of peanuts, cotton, tobacco, sweet potatoes, blueberries, cranberries, sweet cherries and raising catfish, all production topics that are not prevalent in South Dakota but topics from time to time that do come up and I was able to convey the information.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of being able to attend 31 AM/PICs in 28 different states and 30 different cities and as I mentioned above primarily for the structured subject matter, professional improvement program. But during that time without, per say consciously seeking it there was the whole thing of seeing, learning, understanding and experiencing what is unique and special about the state, the communities/towns, the history, the people, the traditions, culture and the food just because of the location of where the AM/PIC was held. It just happens when your there and the value is priceless. As the years go by it kind of sneaks up on you just how vast and special and useful and appreciated those life experiences are and can be not only for yourself, but your family and for the Life Members even grandkids.

So considering my experiences what I would like to covey is, for active members I encourage you to take full advantage of the professional opportunities that NACAA offers, as often as you can. Even though they may not fit on a Vida, also take full advantage in the value of the personal life skill enhancement opportunities such as leadership development and the life experiences I previously mentioned.

I want to end by expressing a very sincere personal THANK YOU to the NACAA Leadership in 1949 for their foresight and to all the states/regions that have taken full advantage of that foresight when possible to enlighten us all.

Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors

The County Agent

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

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

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

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

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

2025
Montana....TBD

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

December, 2021	April, 2022	June, 2022
Committee/Awards Edition	Pre-AM/PIC Edition	Open Topic
Deadline for articles: November 15, 2021	Deadline for articles: February 15, 2022	Deadline for articles: May 15, 2022
Mail Date: December 28, 2021	Mail Date: March 20, 2022	Mail Date: June 10, 2022

Safety Tip: Installing tile mains near existing utilities

PIPELINE AG SAFETY ALLIANCE

Q: Can a tile main go under or over an existing pipeline?

A: Often tile can be placed in proximity to an existing pipeline, but not without prior consultation with the utility operator. Any proposed tile installation needs to be reviewed by the operator and will include a consideration of the depth of the pipeline, the required depth of the drain tile, the separation distance between the pipeline and drain tile, and any other precautions and requirements that must be followed when excavating near the pipeline. Anyone planning to install drain tile near a pipeline should contact the utility operator well in advance to ensure the necessary review is completed and permission is granted. In some cases, a formal crossing agreement may be required.

Request FREE PASA Farm & Ranch Excavation Safety Guides for more safe digging tips.

Let's Grow Safely Together

PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com

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