



Texas Ag Line

Official Publication of the Texas Ag Industries Association ★ 145 West Travis La Grange, Tx 78945 979-968-5602

Summer Meeting Successful

Batter up! The Texas Ag Industries 2007 Summer Meeting in Arlington gave members and their families a chance to attend a Rangers game on Tuesday, August 7, and over forty took advantage of the opportunity. Everyone in attendance had a great time.

Getting registered for the Summer Meeting was somewhat of a challenge for some due to hotel ownership changes from the Wyndam to the Sheraton, but that transition has been accomplished and the Annual Conference, which will be held at the same location, registration will be much simpler.

Wednesday offered the ladies a chance to get out and visit several of area shopping while committee members met to plan the TAIA year with numerous changes discussed. Some of those suggestions included a formatting changes to the newsletter which will evolve into an easier to read format as the year progresses, allowing the listing of two phone numbers in the *2008 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide* so cell phone numbers can be included, increasing the dollar amount of the scholarships, creating a members only section on the web page to include information like that found in the *Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide*, have a FACT breakfast at the convention, and create ways to offer more information on the TAIA website while improving the site. Evening receptions by the pool preceded most members going on unique adventures in the Arlington area on Wednesday evening.

Thursday the board met with an almost a full slate board members and many other members in attendance. The board adopted committee suggestions and adjourned on a positive note discussing the strength of TAIA as an organization. If you missed this summer meeting, keep TAIA in mind for next summer and watch for the location to be announced in January after the annual meeting.

Scholarship Amount Increases Due To Your Support!

At the 2007 Summer Meeting, the Administrative Committee recommended increasing the Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship Award to \$1500 from the previous \$1000 and continuing to award four scholarships. The board accepted the committee recommendation and voted for the increase. This health increase was accomplished due to the great support this program receives from the members.

At the 2007 Annual Conference it was decided to change the raffle prizes due to the liability placed on the member purchasing the guns. This year to help fund the scholarship, TAIA is selling raffle tickets with a grand prize of a \$1,000 gift certificate to a major sporting goods store or for a cruise. The first prize will be a \$500 gift certificate that can be applied to the the same two choices as the grand prize. Please continue to support the scholarship fund as has been done in the past. You can buy the gun of your choice or go on that ideal cruise! It is a worthy cause, and again TAIA thanks the nine companies who also support the raffle and the members who purchase tickets.

Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship Sponsors

Bayer CropScience
DuPont Ag Products
Helena Chemical Co.
Mosaic Co.
PotashCorp.
Syngenta
Texas Liquid Fertilizer
United Agri Products
Wilbur-Ellis Co.

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Chairman's Comments

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Texas Ag Industries Association

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Wow, what a wild ride this year has been! Corn, wheat, soybeans, and grain sorghum have had a tremendous boost with great prices for all. The only thing that would make it complete would be to have 80 cent per pound cotton. Growers are more optimistic than they have been in a long time. That is great for the entire agricultural industry. The future is looking up for more and more of us.

A great big thank you goes out to those that participated in the Lubbock and RGV regional meetings. There was good attendance at both. It was great to visit both meetings and was also very enjoyable to see old friends and meet new ones. Thanks to all who have helped put these regional meetings together. These meetings would not have been successful without the great support from all who were involved. I will be looking forward to seeing the members and guests at the Salado and El Campo regional meetings. I regret that I will be at our national sales meeting during the Dumas regional meeting.

Everyone should be purchasing the raffle tickets for the scholarship fund at all the regional meetings. The raffle tickets should have a wider appeal to potential purchasers this year. Women will probably enjoy a \$1000 or \$500 gift certificate for a cruise rather than a rifle or shotgun. You guys may have wanted the guns, but it certainly opens up more avenues for sales of raffle tickets. If you haven't purchased one or five you should do it as soon as possible. The scholarships go to a good cause. The amount for each scholarship was increased for this year.

For those of you that I will not see at the regional meetings, I will look forward to seeing you at the state meeting in Arlington in January.

Hap

President's Comments

We are in the last quarter of the 2007 game and the clock is running fast. It is hard to believe that two regional meetings are complete, and the other three will be done in less than a month. In less than four months, the annual conference will be here.

For those who were unable to attend the Summer Meeting, you missed a very productive and fun meeting. The committees came up with very good suggestions on ways to improve our member services and offer more support to the agriculture industry. A very positive service this year was the Regulatory Compliance Seminar and the Bulk Blend Workshop that was held in Lubbock. Both of these programs received many positive comments and reinforced the need that the TAIA Board saw for these types of programs for our industry. Being able to stay up-to-date on current laws and regulations is becoming harder and more complicated each day. Ignorance of the laws is not an excuse when you are chosen for an inspection, or even worse if you have an accident and you are involved in a misuse investigation. Our industry needs to improve how we work with the regulatory agencies and show that we are trying to comply with their laws. Programs like the Regulatory Compliance Seminar, Bulk Blend Workshop, Regional Meetings, and our work with the ASMARK Institute focus on helping our members with current compliance issues. TAIA's work with the ASMARK Institute offers help to our members with your compliance issues involving DOT, OSHA and EPA.. The ASMARK Institute is a great group of dedicated individuals who truly understand compliance issues in an agriculture business. They serve over 1000 retail farm centers nationwide, and offer a free compliance assessment tool to assist members evaluate their current compliance. All you need to do is give me a call and answer some questions about your business to receive an evaluation of your business compliance status. Visit the ASMARK Institute web site for more information at www.asmark.org.

The support TAIA has recieved this year from our membership has been phenomenal. We have received a record number of sponsorships for all our events, great attendance at all our meetings and many great ideas to helping our association grow and improve. I feel companies and individuals are realizing the importance of a strong association supporting our industry. Thank you for your great support and remember this is your association. It is my job to help you, the members.

Donnie Dippel

TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Consultants

Levi Curry / Curry Crop Service
Michael / Franke JLA USA

Individuals

Mike Glenn / Kerry Todd DuPont/Pioneer
Hi-Bred Intl. Inc.
Todd Ballard / Agrilience

Company Memberships

Chemtura / Brian Anniss
Sorghum Partners / Doug Cavin

Regional Meetings in Full Swing

One of the important services TAIA provides is continuing education. The 2007 Regional Meetings have begun with Lubbock having over two hundred in attendance. The Valley meeting in Edinburg also had an increase in attendance. If you have not attended one of these two meetings, you have three more chances by coming to either Salado, El Campo, or Dumas. Each regional meeting offers different subject matter pertinent to that region of the state. These meetings allow you to get CEUs for the TDA license and the Certified Crop Advisers Program, or you can attend to keep in touch with current issues.

Each year TAIA asks companies to support the regional meetings by being a sponsor. Sponsorships allow TAIA to keep the registration cost down and to furnish a meal and breaks at the meetings. This year has seen a record number of sponsors helping TAIA provide quality meetings. Those sponsors include:

2007 REGIONAL MEETING SPONSORS

A & L Plains Ag Labs	Chemical Solutions	Mosaic Company
Agrilience	Delta & Pine Land Company	Murray Equipment Company
Adams Fertilizer Equipment	Dow AgroScience	Poole Chemical Co.
Ag Workers Mutual Auto Insurance	DuPont Ag Products	RSA Micro Tech
American Plant Food Corp.	El Dorado Chemical	Servi-Tech Laboratories
Americot Inc. / NexGen	Equipment Supply Company Inc.	South Plains Valley Irrigation
AMVAC Chemical Company	Gowan Company	Syngenta
Aquatrols	Helena Chemical Company	Traylor Chemical Company
ASMARK Institute	Henricksen Distribution Co.	United Agri Products
BASF Corp.	Intrepid Potash	United Phosphorus Inc.
Bayer CropScience	J.C. Smith Company	Valent USA Corp.
Capital Farm Credit	Martin Resources	Wilbur-Ellis Company
CF Industries	Monsanto Ag Products	Wylie Manufacturing Co.

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECURITY TAX CREDIT ACT (S. 551)

Proposal: U.S. Senators Pat Roberts (R-KS), Ben Nelson (D-NE), and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) introduced the *Agricultural Business Security Tax Credit Act* (S. 551), legislation that would help eligible agricultural businesses partially offset security costs by providing a tax credit equivalent to 30 percent of the aggregate amount paid on implementing security measures at covered sites. Under this bill, a qualified business would be able to take a tax credit of up to \$100,000 per site for security measures designed to increase protection of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers that are manufactured, distributed or stored on site. S. 551 is a fiscally responsible proposal that will enable agricultural businesses to make the necessary security investments to better protect these facilities. During the last Congress the Joint Taxation Committee (JTC) scored this proposal at \$12 million over 10 years.

Background: There continues to be increased attention by the federal government, media and general public on the security of the nation's chemical, food processing and storage facilities. The heightened concern as to the vulnerability of these sites, in part, relates to the Oklahoma City bombing and the nation's war on terrorism that began in earnest following the terrorist attacks against America on September 11, 2001. As a result of the *USA Patriot Act of 2001* (P.L. 107-56), there are Federal hazardous materials (HAZMAT) transportation security regulations that directly impact

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UPI Acquires Leading Pesticides from DuPont

United Phosphorus, Inc. has reached an agreement with DuPont to obtain their fenbutatin-oxide miticide and triphenyltin hydroxide contact fungicide assets. The DuPont Crop Protection assets include Vendex® miticides, Super Tin® fungicides and associated trademarks for use in the crop protection market, including uses in turf, nursery, ornamental, aquatics and other non-crop vegetation management applications. United Phosphorus Limited (UPL, parent company to UPI) announced recently that it has purchased 100% stake through its UK subsidiary of ICONA and ICONA San Luis S.A. (ICONA), a manufacturer and distributor of crop protection products headquartered in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is UPL's third acquisition in this Calendar year following its acquisition of the Cerexagri group of companies and the global rights to two tin compounds from DuPont. For more information, contact the John Oppelt at 254-716-0054, or visit the company's Web site at www.upi-usa.com.

80th Legislature Passes Ammonium Nitrate Bill, OTSC Prepares Rules

(This article is being repeated from the last newsletter due to the number of calls received about this issue)

The ammonium nitrate bill (H.B. No. 2546) passed during the 80th Session of the Texas Legislature contains seven sections that include definitions of ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate material, registration requirements to sell these products, security requirements, procedures for selling ammonium nitrate, maintenance of records, suspension of registration, and criminal penalty associated with this law. In the law, the Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) is required to prepare rules specifically defining conditions that permit a company to refuse to sell ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate material.

The State Chemist and Director of OTSC has discussed the rule-making procedure and requested input from stakeholders at several meetings and from the OTSC Advisory Committee during May and June. He will submit proposed rules to the *Texas Register* in July 2007. In the proposed rules, OTSC defined acceptable forms of identification as a U.S. government-issued identification that includes a picture and expiration date. These may include a valid U.S. passport, a valid U.S. military identification card, a driver's license or non-driver identification card issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety, or other identification issued by a state, Federal, commonwealth, or territorial U.S. government. Firms may refuse to sell ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate material: "to any person attempting to purchase under unusual patterns or circumstances, such as, out of season, outside their normal purchasing area, a person that is unknown to the registered facility or to a person that lacks clear knowledge of the use of ammonium nitrate or ammonium nitrate material for agronomic purposes."

Firms selling ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate material must register with OTSC. The registration form required to sell ammonium nitrate will be posted on the Office website (<http://otscweb.tamu.edu/>) and mailed with fertilizer registrants' quarterly tonnage reports and newsletters in August 2007. The fee associated with the registration will cover the cost of implementing this regulation as defined in the law (Section 63.152(b)(2)).

The Office included a training and documentation section to the proposed rules that states: "Employees of facilities that are registered to offer for sale or sell ammonium nitrate or ammonium nitrate material must be trained in the law, rules, policies, and procedures for the sale of ammonium nitrate and documentation of the training maintained onsite." The intention of this rule is to ensure that employees working for companies that distribute ammonium nitrate understand the requirements for selling/not selling these products. The Office will perform an onsite best management practices (BMPs) inspection of all fertilizer facilities in Texas registered to sell fertilizer. This process will begin by inspecting facilities registered to sell ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate material. During these inspections, the OTSC field investigators will inspect storage security, daily inspection and inventory records, and other related activities to ensure compliance.

Dr. Timothy Herrman, Director, Office of the State Chemist

Continued from page 3 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECURITY TAX

agricultural businesses. There are also U.S. Coast Guard security regulations for facilities located on or near waterways as a result of passage of the *Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002* (P.L. 107-295) as well as new U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) chemical facility anti-terrorism standards (P.L. 109-295) that went into effect in June 2007. All of these federal security mandates and higher energy costs (fuel and fertilizer) have added to a substantial increase in production costs currently faced by American agriculture.

Request of Congress: Please help America's agricultural industry's ongoing security efforts by cosponsoring the Agricultural Business Security Tax Credit Act (S. 551) and supporting its inclusion in any tax relief title attached to the 2007 Farm Bill or other tax relief proposals considered by the Senate this year.

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Allied Industries

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145 West Travis
La Grange, TX 78945

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TAIA MEMBERS

Have you registered for
the Regional Meetings?

Have you called the TAIA
office to do a
compliance
assessment?

New TAIA Office contact
information
145 West Travis
La Grange, TX 78945
979/968-5602
979/968-5624 FAX

Calendar of Events

October 9, 2007
Salado Regional Meeting
Stagecoach Inn
Salado

November 1, 2007
Dumas Regional Meeting
Boars Nest Steak House
Dumas

January 29 & 30, 2008
CCA Exam Training
Lubbock

October 23, 2007
El Campo Regional Meeting
Civic Center
El Campo

January 15 - 17, 2008
TAIA Annual Conference and
Business Meeting
Sheraton Hotel
Arlington

February 1, 2008
CCA Exam
Lubbock