



# Texas Ag Line

Official Publication of the Texas Ag Industries Association ★ 726 Camp Lone Star Rd La Grange, Tx 78945 9792474300

## TAIA 2007 Summer Meeting

Pack your bags and head to the Sheraton Arlington Hotel (formerly the Wyndham) for three days of fun and work at the TAIA summer meeting Tuesday, August 7-Thursday, August 9. Have a great time with the family while working to plan the TAIA upcoming year.

There is something for everyone at this year's meeting. We will be within walking distance (or you can take the shuttle) to the Texas Ranger Ball Park. We are planning a group attendance after our reception by the pool on Tuesday night. The hotel is also on the shuttle route of Six Flags Over Texas for which we have discount coupons. A shuttle also makes a run to the airport every half hour. The McKinney Avenue Trolley ride to Uptown Dallas looks like it will be an adventure for those interested in some rigorous shopping, museum visits, and eating adventures. The list goes on with tentative visits to numerous specialty shops such as the world famous Sam Moon Trading Company. We have to thank Scott Johnson and his assistant, Lynan Formby, for their work in making arrangements for some of our treks.

Bring the family for a few days of fun as we all work together to plan the year for the Texas Ag Industries Association. Join everyone for food, fun, friendship and, of course, work! If you have never been to a summer meeting, please consider attending this year and learn what is involved in making TAIA the successful organization it is.

See you in Arlington at the Sheraton on August 7-9. A registration form for the TAIA 2007 Summer Meeting is enclosed with all the information for booking your hotel registration. Also check out the back of the registration form to see the companies who have already committed to sponsorship. There is no registration fee to attend the 2007 Summer Meeting.

## TAIA 2007 Regional Meetings

The TAIA 2007 Regional Meetings will begin in September. Check out the dates listed on the back of the newsletter and pencil them in on your calendar. The regional planning committees have done an excellent job planning very informative meetings for each area of the state.

## Regulatory Compliance Seminar & Bulk Blend Workshop

If you talked to anyone who attended one or both of the meetings held in Lubbock last month, I think they will tell you they were great meetings-maybe not a lot of fun and maybe not what you wanted to hear, but very informative. Those who attended the Regulatory Compliance Seminar were able to ask questions directly to lead individuals from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Texas Department of Agriculture representing the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation, and Texas Department of Public Safety. The speakers from each of these agencies discussed what they look for if they do an inspection or things that trigger an inspection of a facility. I feel the most important part of this seminar was that each speaker gave out his or her phone number and a couple of them even gave cell phone numbers so questions can be answered. It is not every day that you can make contacts like this to help with future concerns. One thing that we all need to remember is not knowing the laws does not exempt us from them. We were also very fortunate to have Randy Lawerance from ASMARK at the seminar to help explain further some of the laws that were perhaps confusing or very complicated. ASMARK is also a very good source to help get questions answered on the requirements that you must follow at your facilities.

The Bulk Blend Workshop addressed every aspect of operating a dry fertilizer facility. The speakers addressed topics on material selection, plant operations, formulations, quality assurance, environmental compliance, and fertilizer issues in Texas. TAIA would like to thank The Fertilizer Institute and the Texas Office of the State Chemist for their help in presenting this workshop.

Many positive comments were received from those attending these meetings. TAIA has received several requests to repeat these meetings in other parts of the state. Education to keep members and the industry up-to-date on laws and the latest technology in our industry is one of TAIA's top goals.

Check page 2 for the list of 2007 Regional Meeting Sponsors who have already committed.

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of the

### Texas Ag Industries Association

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Jerry Bellar ----- Vice Chairman

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Billy Wood ----- Imm. Past Chair.

Tommy Brandenberger ----- Exec.Comm.

Mark Hebert ----- Exec.Comm.

Tom Koranek ----- Exec.Comm.

#### STAFF

Donnie Dippel ----- President & Editor

Governmental Affairs and Marketing

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## Chairman's Comments

When it rains it pours. The entire state has been drenched with rain at least once or continually over the past three weeks or more. What a difference a year makes. Going from one extreme to the other has proven to be quite a challenge for every aspect of agriculture. Wheat and oats have still not been harvested in some areas and will not be harvest at all in some areas. Some areas of the state have really struggled to finish planting their crops. If growers have land that drains well, then there are bumper corn, grain sorghum, and cotton crops at hand. The grain commodities have been very promising for this year's crop and now even cotton prices have risen on the futures market. With all these challenges at hand, the agricultural community has taken all of it in stride and maintained a steadfast attitude. This is just a testament to the industry in which we operate.

Our summer meeting will be coming up shortly and I look forward to seeing many of you in attendance. We will work hard to put together programs for the fall regional meetings and also the annual meeting. May all of you keep your feet dry and heads up.

Hap

## President's Comments

This year's weather will be another one to put in the record books. Last fall the weather man out of Austin was telling our area that we were in for a record drought in 2007. Last week the same weather man told us that this

spring is the wettest spring in history for this area. So much for making plans for the next week, much less the next year. If you were unable to attend the Regulatory Compliance Seminar and Bulk Blend Workshop that TAIA hosted in Lubbock you missed two great meetings. Those attending met impressive contacts for future assistance.

The 2007 Summer Meeting is just a month away, and I hope you will be able to attend to plan our next year and enjoy a little time getting to know other TAIA members. This is a very important meeting for our association to discover the needs of our members and plan how TAIA can help to address those needs. Bring the family for a end-of-summer get away. There are activities in the area for everyone to enjoy.

Check the calendar of events on the back of the newsletter and take note of the five regional meetings starting in September. All the locations will remain the same as last year, but some of the dates of the meeting during the month have been moved. Below are the Regional Meeting Sponsors who committed early. Sponsorships are still available.

The next few months are the busiest time for TAIA, and I hope you plan to take advantage of the upcoming events.

Donnie Dippel

## 2007 REGIONAL MEETING SPONSORS

A & L Plains Ag Labs

Agriliance

Adams Fertilizer Equipment

Ag Workers Mutual Auto Insurance

Aquatrols

ASMARK Institute

AMVAC Chemical Company

Bayer CropScience

CF Industries

Chemical Solutions

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Equipment Supply Company Inc.

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Intrepid Potash

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Mosaic Company

Murray Equipment Company

Servi-Tech Laboratories

Syngenta

Traylor Chemical Company

United Agri Products

United Phosphorus Inc.

Valent USA Corp.

Wilbur-Ellis Company

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# TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

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## Individual Members

Dan Bouck - Dow AgroSciences

Lary Eubanks - Jim Hicks & Company

Kenny Carlton - NuFarm Americas Inc.

Albert Chapa - Jon Riley - Steve Twente - Monsanto Ag Products Company

## Dealers

Brent Parrish - Brent Parrish Fertilizer Application

## 2007 Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship Recipients



Paige Parker

Is the daughter of Yates and Coszette Parker. Paige is currently working towards a B.S. degree in Nutritional Sciences at A&M and will be applying for medical school this summer

Michael "Hap" Hazzard Rebecca Hebert

Rebecca is the daughter of Mark and Sherry Hebert and will be attending A&M in the fall with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies



Tommy Brandenburger Brandi Pustka Susan Dolezal

Bradi is the daughter of Robert and Magdalene Pustka. She will be attending A&M in the fall and majoring in Agriculture Leadership and Development.



Macie Zimmerhanel

Daughter of Kenneth and Mindie Zimmerhanel. She will be attending Texas Tech in the fall as a Red Raider Dance Major.

## TAIA thanks all of those who purchased raffle tickets to support this great project and the 2007 Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship Sponsors

Bayer CropScience  
Dupont Ag Products  
Helena Chemical Company

Mosaic Company  
PotashCorp  
Syngenta

Texas Liquid Fertilizer  
United Agri Products  
Wilbur-Ellis Company

## TAIA Member John Mayo Recovering From Tornado Injuries

John Mayo, currently with North Plains Fertilizer & Chemical at Cactus, TX, and formerly with Goodpasture, Inc., was injured in the aftermath of a destructive tornado which struck Cactus on April 21. As John went to check on the North Plains facility, his pickup struck some downed utility poles and he suffered, among lesser injuries, severe head trauma. He was placed in an induced coma for several days and had surgery for a blood clot in his brain. After being touch and go for the first few days, John has made remarkable and steady improvements to the point of being discharged from the hospital on June 29, after 70 days. John is now able to stand and walk unassisted and he will continue outpatient therapy at Dumas. John still has memory gaps and difficulty associating names, but he is gaining ground in all areas. Doctors have placed no limits on his anticipated recovery level, but the time it may take is unknown. John and Jane Mayo's address is: 5350 Hwy 354, Channing, TX. 79018

Thank you for the prayers and concern expressed by John's many friends in our industry.

James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc.

## 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature Passes Ammonium Nitrate Bill, OTSC Prepares Rules

The ammonium nitrate bill (H.B. No. 2546) passed during the 80<sup>th</sup> 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

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# TAIA Leadership

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Michael "Hap" Hazzard, Bayer CropScience, Crawford

### Vice Chairman

Jerry Bellar, Ag Supply, Ltd., Earth

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Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

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### Executive Committee Member (Crop Protection)

Tom Koranek, DuPont Ag Products, Grapevine

### Executive Committee Member (Plant Food)

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Woodrow "Woody" Sigmin, Agriliance, Memphis, TN

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Co: Jimmy Schulz, Farmers Coop of El Campo, Wharton

### Lubbock Region Meeting Committee

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Co: Scot Coleman, A & L Plains Ag Lab, Lubbock

### Rio Grande Valley Region Meeting Committee

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Co: Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Kingsville

### Salado Region Meeting Committee

Ch: Clay Petrus, UAP Southwest, Caldwell

Co: Michael "Hap" Hazzard, Bayer CropScience, Crawford