



Texas Ag Line

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

Great Summer Meeting!

The summer meeting this year, held in New Braunfels, turned out to be an excellent meeting. All the kids who came had a great time and the teenager came out in a lot of adults on the Schlitterbahn rides.

Barbecue, Brandenburger, Buzzards

Believe us! Tommy's barbecue at the summer meeting was fantastic and even the buzzards were circling to get a taste. We worried for a time that Tommy had stolen some of their road kill and they were in retaliation mode, but anyone who ate with us Thursday evening can testify to Tommy's talent with a pit. Many thanks to Tommy Brandenburger and Andy Carriger for an excellent meal.

The committees and board worked hard to plan for 2009 as a year of challenges and decided how to meet those challenges. Just as everyone else will do, Texas Ag Industries will tighten its belt to remain strong and continue working for its members implementing the numerous suggestions made by those in attendance. The annual meeting will be held again in Austin January 13 - 15 at the Embassy Suites. Become an active member; participate in all TAIA has to offer.

Thank You

2008 Summer Meeting Sponsors!

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
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2009 Annual Conference

The 2009 Annual Conference theme this year is **Waves of Change -- Where Are We Headed ?** The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 5901 N. IH-35, in Austin on Tuesday, January 13 through Thursday, January 15. This facility was very accommodating to us during the ice storm of 2007. For those of you who have not been to this Embassy Suites, it is an excellent site providing suites and meeting rooms for company meetings, classrooms to hold educational sessions, and space to network through TAIA. At the summer meeting it was decided to allow more time for vendors to meet with their customers. TAIA will help set up times for customers to meet with vendors who are sponsors at the conference. There will be a special emphasis placed on this excellent opportunity for dealers to meet with vendors to discuss their needs for 2009.

More information on the Annual Meeting will be coming soon.

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

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of the

Texas Ag Industries Association

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Governmental Affairs and Marketing

Provided by CHB Consulting, Inc. Staff

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Dear TAIA Members,

I would like to thank all of the regional committees for all of their hard work on the programs for the regional meetings. I have heard that the speakers have been exceptional and you should be proud of your efforts.

This has been one of the most volatile years I believe I have witnessed in my thirty-two years in our industry and it is still very unsettled. I believe it is now more important than ever to be a part of an organization that has the ability to reach all parts of our state and industry as TAIA does. We need to stick together during these tough times and I don't know of a better way than to be a part of TAIA.

Remember our goal of 500 members and do all you can to encourage everyone you know that's not a member of TAIA the importance of being on board with us.

Again I want to thank Donnie, Kay, and Dustin and all the regional committees for all your hard work. I have heard many compliments and I know from experience that these meetings do not happen by accident.

Thanks,

Jerry

President's Comments

The summer meeting has come and gone and I felt there were many good ideas presented to make 2009 an exciting year. Four of the five regional meetings are completed and I think the planning committees put together the best set of topics and presenters TAIA has ever had. Planning is underway for the Annual Conference. At the summer meeting we had many great ideas presented for the annual conference. The best idea that the conference planning committee presented was to have more time for company meetings. In the past many manufacturers and distributors set up meeting sites at the conference to meet with customers one on one to discuss programs for the coming year. It was felt these meetings could be expanded to allow more sponsors to meet with customers. TAIA will send out a list of sponsors who want to participate in customer meetings and schedule times for the meetings if the sponsor would like TAIA to do so.

At the 2007 Annual Conference, time was set up on the arrival day to meet with members of the Texas Legislature and the Ag Commissioner Todd Staples. Due to the 2007 ice storm not many TAIA members were able to get to Austin and not many members of the Texas Legislature stayed in Austin. The small group that were able to make their way to Austin did go to the capitol and met with a couple of members and Todd Staples. Those who were able to attend felt that this was definitely something we need to do again. TAIA also invited all the members of the legislature or their staffers to attend the Chairman's Reception on the second night of the conference. We did have a few staffers make to the reception and had a good time talking to TAIA members. Again these invitations will be sent to the members of the Texas Legislature, and we can only hope that this time the weather will cooperate.

If you have never attended or if it has been some time since you attended an annual meeting, this year's meeting will offer a lot of opportunities to make great contacts within our industry, listen to a great group of speakers, meet with members of the Texas Legislature, and have fun with a great group of people. Please put January 13 - 15 on your calendar for the TAIA Annual Conference in Austin.

TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Allied Industry

Warren Cat - Jeff Maiers

Tank Builders Inc. - Bruce Kromer

Holt Cat - Sabine Fritz

Dealers

Dewitt County Producers - Leo Heineman

Lanco Turf & Seeding Inc.-Lance Sragins

Van Sant Landscape - Jon Van Sant

Individuals

Hudson Crop Management - Stan Hudson

Linda Jean Hamilton

Tank Builders Incorporated Joins TAIA

Tank Builders Incorporated is a company that designs, fabricates and erects welded steel storage tanks. From ten thousand gallon shop tanks and vessels to large field erected storage tanks of over six million gallons, TBI can build the steel tank or vessel to suit your needs. We've been in business since 1972 delivering quality work and satisfying customer's needs throughout the country. With our technical expertise and practical experience we would love to have the opportunity to discuss your tank needs with you and how we might be able to help. For more information, please visit our web site www.tankbuildersinc.com or you can contact us directly at 817-510-0160.

Contact me if you have any questions. Wayne French

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

Best Management Practices Inspections

The Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) announced plans in their quarterly newsletter (November 2007) to include routine Best Management Practices (BMP) inspections in the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service (FFCS) annual plan of work.

The FY 2008 and 2009 work plans were designed to conduct inspections at all fertilizer facilities in Texas over a 2 year period. Over 300 inspections were conducted last year and the remainder will occur this year. The checklist was created by an Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) taskforce to serve as a national model. OTSC amended the model for the law, rules, and regulations of Texas, which includes an ammonium nitrate security component. The data will be used to establish a baseline of the industry practices in Texas. It may also provide an educational purpose when used as a self-assessment tool by the industry. However, it should not be confused with a voluntary inspection. It is mandatory when conducted by the FFCS.

The authority/entry power for inspection and sampling and penalties for refusal are clearly stated in the Texas Commercial Feed Control Act.

SUBCHAPTER F. INSPECTION, SAMPLING, AND ANALYSIS, 63.091 Inspection and Sampling; Entry Power and;

SUBCHAPTER H. PENALTIES, 63.145 Refusal of Inspection or Sampling.

These can be found at <http://otscweb.tamu.edu/>

The information will be used to look for trends or deficiencies in the industry that may lead to non-conformance of the product to the label or may point to ammonium nitrate security issues. The BMP inspection form can be downloaded from the website referenced above by clicking on Forms/Fees.

**For Registrants, Agricultural Retailers,
Distributors, Commercial Applicators,
and Custom Pesticide Blenders**

**A primer about the
EPA Pesticide
Container and
Containment Rule**

Purpose of the Rule

The USEPA published a final rule commonly known as the Pesticide Container and Containment (PCC) Rule in August 2006.

The Rule seeks to establish stewardship and national consistency regarding pesticide labeling, container design, repackaging, and storage.

Who Must Comply

The Rule is a federal law. It affects all states, regardless of whether there are existing state regulations. Parts of the PCC Rule affect the following agricultural entities:

- Retailers
- Commercial applicators
- Customer blenders
- Refillers (both retailers and distributors)
- Registrants

Key Areas of the Rule

The points below are key elements but do not cover every aspect and detail of the Rule.

Tank Containment Structures

Highlights include:

- Dikes around every stationary tank
- 110% capacity if outdoors with no shelter
- 100% capacity if outdoors and sheltered
- 100% capacity if indoors
- Good operating procedures
- Monthly documented inspections
- Some states may be stricter
- Compliance by August 17, 2009

Load Pads

This area of the Rule covers operational area containment where pesticide dispensing occurs.

- Containment pad must hold at least 750 gallons or 100% of the volume of the largest container (including the equipment tank) used on the pad, whichever is less
- Construction must be rigid and impermeable
- Compliance by August 16, 2009

Portable Refillable Container (PRC) Design

Many existing portable refillable containers will no longer be usable after the compliance date.

- Must meet DOT design, construction, marking requirements
- One-way valves or tamper evident device on all openings (other than the vent) is required
- Must have a unique method of identification such as a serial number or other ID code
- Compliance by August 16, 2011

Stationary Bulk Tanks

Stationary refillable bulk tank requirements include:

- No external sight gauges
- Vents that limit evaporation
- A lockable inlet/outlet valve
- Elevation or anchoring
- Compliance by August 16, 2011

EPA Pesticide Container and Containment Rule Continued on Next Page

Repackaging Rules

- No limits, except those placed by registrants, on the size of the refillable container
- Must be washed between uses unless the tamper evident device and/or one-way valve are intact and filled with the same product
- Containers must be on an approved list from the registrant
- Must have registrant's cleaning instructions and repackaging authorization on hand
- EPA Est. # and net contents must be on the product label affixed to the tank
- Product integrity is the responsibility of the refiller and the registrant
- Records must be kept for each inspection and fill
- Compliance by August 16, 2011

Single Use Containers

Although it mostly affects registrants, the Rule further regulates single use containers e.g.:

- Standard closures on most containers
- Labels will carry more cleaning information
- Must meet DOT specifications for design, construction and marking
- Compliance by August 17, 2009

The complete Rule and 16 page summary is available

on the USEPA web site at:

www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/containers.htm

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 22, 2008

CONTACT: David L. Doerfert, Ph.D. david.doerfert@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2816

Farmer-Driven Water Demonstration Project Showing Results

Fuel and fertilizer prices continue to rise, aquifer levels continue to drop, commodity prices seem to go in both directions on an almost hourly basis. Add to this the usual onslaught of hailstorms, high winds, and drought and the remaining questions of the new Farm Bill; producers seem to be left with one constant – uncertainty.

Here's a ray of hope for water-strapped farmers looking to maintain their land's profitability while preserving Ogallala Aquifer water for future generations: TAWC is a \$6.2 million undertaking partnering Floyd and Hale county producers with industries, universities and government agencies with the aim of extending the life of the Ogallala Aquifer while maintaining profitability for farmers. The project uses on-farm demonstrations to probe variations of crops and livestock grazing. The results will help determine production practices, technologies and systems that can maintain individual farm profitability while getting the most water efficiency.

"The thing that's really unique of the TAWC project is the cooperation among entities, starting with producers," says Rick Kellison, a farmer and also the director of this project. "This is totally producer-driven. A board of nine men from Floyd and Hale counties made all the site selections. Sites were chosen to represent 26 different systems from monoculture crops to fully integrated crop and livestock systems. They meet on a regular basis to give us direction."

"We're not asking people to do anything different than they've been doing," says Teeter, who is head of the producer board. "We're just telling a producer to do what he wants, and we'll monitor the inputs and returns."

Three years into the project, growers and researchers have experienced a dry year, a wet year, and one that's just about perfect. In addition to the forage sorghum findings, researchers with the TAWC project have found that for growers looking to curtail their irrigation, grazing cattle on forage land could be the most profitable use of acreage.

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Continued on next page

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Among the data collected, researchers have found that producers who foraged livestock or grew forage fields alongside row crops have consistently enjoyed higher net yields for the amount of water and fertilizer they used.

The reason? Growing grasses and raising cattle requires less water and fertilizer than non-dryland crops including cotton, corn and sorghum traditionally grown on the South Plains.

“You can take other crops and make them profitable per acre, but when you look at the yield per unit of water investment, you get a different picture. Out here, water is the scarce resource, so we have to look at things in terms of water cost,” said Vivien Allen, a Texas Tech University Thornton Distinguished Professor of Forages and Paul Whitfield Horn Professor.

In 2005, for example, one TAWC grower devoted all of his acreage to foraging cattle. He used an average 1.23 inches of irrigated water per acre and enjoyed a yield of \$125.89 per acre – or \$93.34 for every inch of water he used. This was nearly twice the profit of any other cropping system in terms of water use.

However, they cautioned that short-term profitability should be balanced against the long-term ability to sustain resources. The Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies most irrigation water for the region, is not replenishing as quickly as it is being used. “Sustainable profits may differ greatly from maximum profits that are achieved with non-sustainable depletion of natural resources,” they noted.

In times of uncertainty, it is good to know that there are leaders working to make farming decisions a little easier.

CONTACT: Rick Kellison, project director, Texas Alliance for Water Conservation, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2774, or rick.kellison@ttu.edu or <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/tawc/>

One Chance Left!

Four regional meetings-Lubbock, Rio Grande Valley, Salado, and El Campo- have all been completed with great success. Each presented up-to-date, informative speakers making both TDA and CCA credits available. These meetings are a valuable service TAIA offers to its members and others in our industry. Take advantage of the one remaining meeting at Dumas on Thursday, November 6, 2008 at the Boar's Nest Steakhouse. Be sure to thank the committee members and the following sponsors for making the regional meetings possible.

2008 Regional Meeting Sponsors

Adams Fertilizer Equipment	Chemtura	Monsanto/Delta & Pine Land Co.
Ag 1 Source, LLC	Crop Production Services	Mosaic Company
A & L Plains Ag Labs	Dow AgroSciences	Murray Equipment Co.
Ag Workers Mutual Auto Ins.	DuPont Ag Products	Poole Chemical Co.
Agrilance	El Dorado Chemical	PotashCorp
Agrium	Equipment Supply/Swish	Servi-Tech Laboratories
American Plant Food	Gowan Company	Syngenta
AMVAC Chemical Company	Helena Chemical Company	Terra Industries Inc.
ASMARK Institute	Henricksen Distributing Co.	UPI
BASF Corp.	Holt Cat	Valent USA Corp.
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CF Industries	Lawns Alive, Inc	Wilbur-Ellis Company
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TAIA Leadership

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Todd Smith, Mosaic Co., College Station



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Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

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Cord Willms, Monsanto/Delta & Pine Land Co., Corpus

Allied Industries

Scot Coleman, A&L Plains Ag Lab, Lubbock
Ron Cox, Lubbock

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Rio Grande Valley Regional Meeting Committee

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Co: Hunter Wilhem, Bayer CropScience, Harlingen

Salado Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: John Oppelt, United Phosphorus Inc., Georgetown
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TAIA MEMBERS

Have you sent in your
directory advertisement?

Put January 13 - 15 on
your calendar for the
TAIA Annual Conference.

Calendar of Events

November 6, 2008
Dumas Regional Meeting
Boar's Nest Restaurant
Dumas

December 2-4, 2008
Agriculture Retailers Association
Convention
Austin

January 13 - 15
TAIA Annual Conference
Austin

December 3-4, 2008
Texas Plant Protection Association
Hilton Inn & Conference Center
College Station