



Texas Ag Line

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

2009 Annual Conference

The 2009 Annual Conference in Austin is fast approaching and things are shaping up for a great conference. The conference theme **Waves of Change -- Where Are We Headed ?** is a very appropriate theme after the many changes our industry saw in 2008. Registration for the conference is very good and the number of sponsor is very impressive.

I hope you plan to attend the conference to take part in the many events scheduled. Weather permitting Tuesday morning you can enjoy a golf outing at the Onion Creek Golf Course and that afternoon to visit the capitol. With Tuesday being the first day of the 2009 Session there should be some exciting events taking place. We will finish Tuesday with a Welcome Reception that evening. Wednesday is reserved for company meetings followed by the Chairman's Reception that evening. Thursday morning we have a great group of speakers scheduled followed by the Business Meeting and Luncheon. For more information on the conference, visit the TAIA web site at www.txag.net.

**Chairman's Reception Sponsor
Jackson Walker LLP**

2009 Annual Conference Sponsors!

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A&L Plains Ag Labs | Intepid Potash |
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| EI Dorado Chemical Co. | Wilbur-Ellis |
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Texas Liquid Fertilizer

and

Ouachita Fertilizer Co. Sign Up With ASMARK

Together Texas Liquid Fertilizer and Ouachita Fertilizer signed up nine locations in Texas and Louisiana with Asmark. As government regulations are demanding more and more of your company's time, Asmark helps streamline compliance efforts and allows managers the peace of mind that compliance issues are being addressed. The Asmark Institute is one of experience with the use, sale and distribution of agricultural inputs. Their intense level of involvement in the industry provides extraordinary vision into the future and helps shape their services.

TAIA applauds Texas Liquid Fertilizer and Ouachita Fertilizer Company for their efforts to ensure their compliance requirements are met.

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

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OFFICERS

Jerry Bellar ----- Chairman
Scott Johnson ----- Vice Chairman
Mark Hebert ----- Sec./Treas.
Miichael "Hap" Hazzard - Imm. Past Chair.
Benny Martinez ----- Exec.Comm.
Todd Smith ----- Exec.Comm.
Billy Wood ----- Exec.Comm.

STAFF

Donnie Dippel ----- President & Editor
Governmental Affairs and Marketing
Provided by CHB Consulting, Inc. Staff

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Ag Industries Assn.

Dear TAIA Members,

At the Annual Conference in Austin on the last day, January 15, a very rewarding year as Chairman of Texas Ag Industries Association will come to an end. I have truly enjoyed being the Chairman and working with a great group of dedicated board members. This is a great association that works hard for agriculture and has definite influence on changes that occur in our industry. I challenge all the members to become more active in TAIA, and if you get the chance, serve on the board or become an officer. It is great experience to achieve in your career.

The Annual Conference promises to be a great event with people from every section of agriculture in attendance. This is a time all of us need to depend on each other to make it through the challenges we have seen in the agriculture industry this past year. We have seen prices skyrocket and plunge in all phases of agriculture and in the economy in general. With hard work and faith, we will get through these strange times as we have done many times in the past. Each time, our industry has met these challenges and became a stronger industry.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to TAIA Chairman and am appreciative of the good folks I have met and the experiences I will not forget. Help our next TAIA Chairman reach that goal of 500 members we came so close to in 2008.

Thanks,
Jerry

President's Comments

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year! Like many other years which we remembered for extreme drought, floods or cold, 2008 is etched in our economic memories. We saw so many changes in the way the agriculture industry addressed a see-saw market for commodities and products. At the summer meeting many were discussing what the ceiling would be on fertilizer prices; by the last regional meeting there was discussion on how low prices would be. In a very short time we saw many market prices go from one extreme to another. This did not only occur in agriculture, but in almost every aspect of our lives. One day we were selling our SUVs and buying the smallest vehicle we could since gas had hit four dollars a gallon and was predicted to hit five, but gas dropped to the lowest it had been in a couple of years before 2008 came to a close. This had be the toughest year on predicting what to make as the next move. It was definitely a learning year for all of us.

In 2009, the first day of the Eighty-First Legislative Session is January 13. With the speakers race already decided, things might get off to a smoother start than last the session. With the state in good financial shape compared to the rest of the nation, the legislators are already talking about increasing the rainy day account. It will be interesting to see how they address state agency budgets, school financing and health related issues. It will also be interesting to see what they do about our water and transportation issues. The one issue TAIA has been asked to work on by RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is fertilizer preemption legislation. In the late nineties, Texas passed pesticide preemption legislation that would not allow local governments to pass laws restricting the use or sales of pesticides that are more restrictive than state law. Since that time, several states have also passed preemption legislation for fertilizer use, and TAIA feels that it is important to our industry to have this legislation. As always, we will need your help watching for bills that affect our industry.

Thank you, Donnie Dippel

TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Distributor

Dasco Incorporated – Adam Wood

Allied Industry

Americot - Terry Campbell

Manufacturer

Omni Agri Trade Group
Wesley Kirkham

Individuals

Smith Brothers Applications - Russell Smith

Southwest Agri Services - Roger Sanders

DuPont Ag Products - Richard Metz

ChemNut, Inc. - J. D. Harder

Syngenta/Garst - Phil Kunz - Trey Ramirez

Winfield Solutions, LLC - Alan Fondy - David Lucky

Bayne Horne

Americot, Inc. Joins TAIA

Americot, Inc. Provides NexGen, Americot Brand Cotton Varieties

TAIA's newest member is Americot, Inc., which began in 1987 and is headquartered in Lubbock, Texas. This privately-owned company provides Southwest, Midsouth and Southeast cotton growers with quality planting seed of varieties that offer high yield potential and excellent fiber quality with the technologies that growers want and need.

Americot, Inc. markets two brands: Americot and NexGen. Varieties for both brands are available in single gene Roundup Ready Flex, stacked Bollgard II/Roundup Ready Flex, and single gene Roundup Ready.

Americot's commitment to the U.S. cotton grower is demonstrated by its cotton seed breeding program, led by Dr. David Bush and complemented by Dr. Tom Brooks, whose experience in molecular biology makes a huge impact on its cotton breeding program.

"We're constantly seeking genetic improvements for our growers," says Terry Campbell, Americot general manager. "Of course, high yield potential and excellent fiber quality will always top the list.

"We're also seeking other genetic improvements that will help growers. For example, disease tolerance will be a key. We're looking for verticillium wilt tolerance in West Texas."

Developing cold tolerance offers another opportunity. "We want varieties that offer better stand uniformity and that emerge under harsh conditions," Campbell says. "We see a relationship between cold tolerance and early season vigor."

Breeding drought stress tolerant varieties is another goal. "We hope to identify genetically modified traits to improve water use efficiency," Campbell says. "That will definitely be a boon for Southwest growers.

"We back up our cotton varieties with turnrow service. Our representatives work with growers year round."

For more information on Americot and NexGen cotton products, call 888.678.7333 or go to www.americot.com.

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

Dow AgroSciences Receives Registration on POWERFLEX

Dow AgroSciences has received federal registration for new POWERFLEX™ herbicide for use in winter wheat. Containing pyroxsulam, a new active ingredient, POWERFLEX provides excellent control of tough grass weeds, including downy brome, cheat, Italian ryegrass and wild oats, plus broadleaf weed control.

"POWERFLEX gives performance that winter wheat growers can count on by delivering excellent control of the toughest grass weeds they face today, plus control of many other important grass and broadleaf weeds," says Jim Parker, senior marketing specialist for Dow AgroSciences. "By providing powerful weed control at a price that's right for winter wheat, POWERFLEX brings excellent value to weed control programs."

POWERFLEX controls a broad spectrum of difficult grasses and broadleaf weeds in winter wheat, including downy brome, cheat, Italian ryegrass, wild oats, Russian thistle, pigweed, chickweed and cleavers. POWERFLEX™ herbicide also controls many mustard species, such as field pennycress, flixweed (tansy mustard), shepherdspurse, Jim Hill (tumble) mustard and blue mustard.

Continued on next page

In 2007 trials conducted throughout the Plains and Pacific Northwest, POWERFLEX provided superior control of downy brome compared with commonly used grass weed treatments in winter wheat.

POWERFLEX offers growers improved crop rotation flexibility versus most other winter wheat herbicides. For example, it contains a short nine-month interval for rotating into crops like sorghum, peas, lentils, sugar beets, corn, potatoes, canola and sunflowers in all geographies. It also has a rotation interval of only 5 months for rotating into soybeans.

POWERFLEX can be applied postemergence to actively growing winter wheat in either fall or spring. Gary Finn, product technology specialist for Dow AgroSciences, recommends applying 3.5 oz./A of POWERFLEX to grass weeds between the two-leaf and two-tiller stages of growth, though its flexibility allows application on wheat from the three-leaf to the jointing stage with excellent crop safety.

“Through an innovative new molecule, POWERFLEX brings a new standard of performance for grass and weed control in winter wheat and will be a critical component for growers to achieve effective weed control in winter wheat,” Finn says. “POWERFLEX will help provide growers with cleaner fields, which can lead to higher yields and reduced dockage at harvest.” To learn more about POWERFLEX™ herbicide, visit www.PowerFlexHerbicide.com.

2008 CCAs Of The Year



Jack Lyons
Dumas
CCA of the Year

Kenneth Christenson
El Campo
CCA of the Year



Andy Williams
Lubbock
CCA of the Year



Jerry Johnston
Rio Grande Valley
CCA of the Year

Harry Bauerschlag
Salado
CCA of the Year



TAIA Leadership

2008 Officers

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Jerry Bellar, Wilbur-Ellis Co., Ltd., Earth

Vice Chairman

Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Hebert, Texas Liquid Fertilizer, Hempstead

Immediate Past Chairman

Michael "Hap" Hazzard, Bayer CropScience, Crawford

Executive Committee Member (Manufacturer)

Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Kingsville

Executive Committee Member (Crop Protection)

Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

Executive Committee Member (Plant Food)

Todd Smith, Mosaic Co., College Station



2008 Board of Directors

Dealer / Distributors

Tommy Brandenberger, Migl F & G, Hallettsville

Mark Hebert, Texas Liquid Fertilizer, Hempstead

Dan Jones, Wilbur-Ellis Co., Austin

Don Barry, Agrilience, Edinburg

Linda Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard

Dave Thomas, Helena Chemical Co., Collierville, TN

Jason Veasart, Brownfield Farmers Coop, Brownfield

Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

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Bob Fisherkeller, BASF Corp., Hurst

James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon

Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Kingsville

Ken Mull, Martin Resources, Lubbock

James Nichols, Inter-Chem., Tyler

John Oppelt, United Phosphorus Inc., Georgetown

Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co. Lubbock

Todd Smith, Mosaic Co. College Station

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

Allied Industries

Scot Coleman, A&L Plains Ag Lab, Lubbock

Ron Cox, Lubbock

2008 Committee Leaders

Administration Committee

Ch: Tommy Brandenberger, Migl F & G, Hallettsville

Co: Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

Communications Committee

Ch: Zandy Goode, ConAgra Fertilizer, Lorena

Co: James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon

Conference Committee

Ch: Zandy Goode, ConAgra Fertilizer, Lorena

Co: Jerry Christian, CF Industries, Crockett

Education Committee

Ch: Steve Frazier, United Agri Products, Harlingen

Co: Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

Governmental Affairs Committee

Ch: Toby Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard

Co: Randy Stephens, SureGrow Ag Prod., Comanche

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Co: Mark Hebert, Texas Liquid Fertilizer, Hempstead

Nominating Committee

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Co: Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

Technology Committee

Ch: Tom Koranek, DuPont Ag Products, Grapevine

Co: Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co., Lubbock

Dumas Regional Meeting Committee

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Co: Kenneth Mull, Martin Resources Inc., Lubbock

El Campo Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Larry Hoelscher, Valent USA Corp., El Campo

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

Lubbock Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co., Lubbock

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

Rio Grande Valley Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Kingsville

Co: Hunter Wilhem, Bayer CropScience, Harlingen

Salado Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: John Oppelt, United Phosphorus Inc., Georgetown

Co: Mark Hebert, Texas Liquid Fertilizer, Hempstead

TEXAS AG INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
145 West Travis
La Grange, TX 78945

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TAIA MEMBERS

Have you sent in your
registration for the 2009
Annual Conference
January 13 - 15
in Austin?

Calendar of Events

January 13 - 15, 2009
TAIA Annual Conference
Austin

February 3 & 4, 2009
CCA Exam Training
Lubbock

February 6, 2009
CCA Exam
Lubbock