



Texas Ag Line

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

TAIA 2009 Summer Meeting

The 2009 TAIA Summer Meeting was very well attended by members and their families in Marble Falls. We had numerous first time attendees a very positive thing for our association's future. We also had a very large number of members bring their families which adds fun and excitement to our meeting. Our host hotel was the La Quinta Inn and Suites, a unique hotel with all the rooms facing Lake Marble Falls for a beautiful view. On Wednesday evening we had our reception at the Lakeside Pavilion where again for the second successful year, Tommy Brandenberger and his pit crew barbecued very delicious steaks. Out on the lake many members took advantage a very relaxing boat ride. Several members like James Hopkins, Dave Hermann and many others, including many family members, enjoyed being pulled behind the boat on a wake board while others enjoyed the swimming pool or visiting at the Pavilion. Everyone seemed to have a good time except for the security guard who had her challenges with our bunch and finally came to the conclusion that it was hopeless. Many of the ladies enjoyed Marble Fall's unique specialty shops, great restaurants, wineries and museums.

We did get a lot of work done at the committee meetings on Wednesday. All the committee meetings were well attended, and we had many new ideas come out of the committees. Again it was wonderful to have so many new members present. We concluded our summer meeting on Thursday with the board meeting where all the committee chairs presented their committee reports.

Thank you to all the sponsors!

See the list of Summer Meeting Sponsors and pictures from the meeting on pages 5 and 6 and see more pictures at www.taia.net.

Getting Ready for the 2010 Annual Conference

Many plans for the 2010 Annual Conference to be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Addison on January 19 - 21, 2010 have taken place. The hotel rate for the Conference is \$119, but you must book your room by January 5, 2010 to receive that rate.

For those who want a company meeting room, TAIA has reserved eight meeting rooms all on the second floor. To secure one of these meeting rooms call the TAIA office.

Book your sleeping room at the Crown Plaza Hotel by calling 972/980-8877; book your company meeting room through the TAIA office at 979/968-5602.

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Texas Ag Industries Association

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

It doesn't seem possible but the Holiday's are almost here! This has been a challenging year for everyone involved in agriculture. I could make a list of the top ten challenges for 2009 and you could probably add ten more without even trying. The great news is as we near the end of the year a lot of Texas is receiving rain. If I have learned anything from my years in Texas, rain brings hope or in this case it means we can *maybe* hit the reset button. It doesn't mean all the challenges are gone. It does mean we can hope that the storms have passed and we can start looking for the rainbow.

Let me start sharing some of the reasons to look forward to 2010. Our association is on solid ground. Our membership is on track with last year and attendance at the Regional Meetings has been great. What does that mean to you? It means that our State Government will listen because our membership numbers count. It means that our programs are providing value. It means your Board and its President are listening to you and the rest of our membership in an effort to provide the leadership you deserve.

As this year comes to a close, we have a lot to be proud of in our association. Our members still help "Feed the World". We provide products that are agronomically sound. Many of our members are Certified Crop Advisors. We strive to keep up with best practices through training and education. We encourage economically and environmentally sound strategies to our customers. Our members work with local and state agencies to make sure that our communities, neighbors, friends and families don't have to worry about the safety of our products and services. I have been part of TAIA for almost ten years and am still excited about its future. We have been blessed with outstanding leadership over the years. However, I can't remember a time when I have seen so many new members stepping up and taking on

leadership roles and providing new ideas and energy.

If you haven't been involved in TAIA, "Now is the time to hit the reset button and find your place in our association." Make plans to attend our Annual Meeting this January in Dallas. Come join in the networking opportunities and educational programs and see how you can help make a difference. Let's all start looking for that Rainbow!

Chairman, Scott Johnson

President's Comments

The first thing I want to address is a thank you to Chris Pepper with Jackson Walker LLP for a great article, ***Environmental & Regulatory Update***. Please take the time to read his article, especially the sections on NPDES Permits and Changes to the Clean Water Act. These items could make tremendous changes in how we do business in agriculture.

For those of you who attended the Summer Meeting I don't have to tell you, it was a great meeting. We had a record crowd with many members bringing the family which even makes a better event. We had great ideas come out of the committee meetings giving TAIA challenges to improve our association. Again, Tommy Brandenberger and his pit crew did a great job barbecuing steaks and handling the building security guard. Tommy has a way of making people change their attitude when he is in control of the food. We had a great number of little and big kids try the wake board while others enjoyed a relaxing ride around the lake. I think everyone enjoyed the meeting, and if you were unable to join us this year, we hope you will be able to join us in 2010.

By the time you get this newsletter the 2009 Regional Meetings will more than half over. The Regional Planning Committees did a fantastic job of putting together timely topics for their areas and found well qualified presenters for these topics. We have the largest number of company sponsor for 2009 Regional Meetings since I became president in 2003 and perhaps since the beginning of TAIA. Without the company sponsorships, it would be hard for TAIA to host regional meetings and furnish a lunch and breaks.

We are working on the *2009-2010 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide* and about to finalize the members section. If you have any changes or would like to add your email address or cell number, please let us know. Also if you have not paid your 2009 dues and want to be shown as a member, you will need to contact our office.

I hope you are making plans to attend the 2010 Annual Conference in Addison on January 19 - 21. You will be receiving more information on the conference in the very near future.

Thank you, Donnie Dippel

TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Individual Members

Dwayne Young / Helena Chemical
Leigh Cranmer

Allied Members

Agrotain International LLC / Sam Gray
Attoyac Greensand / David Watson

News From the Industry

Helena Announces Promotion Of Dave Hermann

Helena Chemical Company recently announced that Dave Hermann has accepted the promotion to Fertilizer Logistics Coordinator position at the Southern Business Unit Fertilizer office in East Bernard, Texas. Dave assumed his new responsibilities July 20, 2009 and with his wife Nicole, has relocated to the Katy, TX. Dave will provide support for Southern Business Unit Fertilizer purchasing, logistics, and operations. Dave will primarily focus on the Fertilizer business in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

After receiving a B.S. in Agricultural Mechanization from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1986, Dave began his career in the Industry as a Sales Representative for 3 years with Terra and as a Location Manager for 5 years with El Dorado Chemical. Dave began his career with Helena in March of 2003 as a Depot Manager at the Whitewright, Texas location and while employed by Helena, Dave earned his MBA in 2004 from the University of Phoenix.

Environmental & Regulatory Update By Chris Pepper, Jackson Walker LLP

New Faces at the TCEQ and Early Sunset Review

Effective August 31, 2009, Carlos Rubinstein became the newest Commissioner at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Appointed by Governor Rick Perry, Commissioner Rubinstein was the former Deputy Executive Director. He replaces Commissioner Larry Soward, whose term ended on August 31st. Bryan W. Shaw, who has been a Commissioner since 2007, was appointed the Commission's Chairman, effective September 10, 2009. Also effective August 31, 2009, Zak Cover was appointed as the Deputy Executive Director.

The Sunset Review Process for the TCEQ has been advanced by two years. Originally scheduled for 2013, the TCEQ will now be examined by the Sunset Advisory Commission in 2011. The purpose of the Sunset Advisory Commission is to review and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in the agency. The TCEQ went through this process in 2001 when it was still known as the TNRCC. The Railroad Commission of Texas and the Texas Water Development Board's review cycles have also been moved from 2013 to 2011.

Pesticide Applications and NPDES Permits

A recent EPA rule exempting certain pesticide applications from the Clean Water Act's (CWA) NPDES permitting requirements was vacated by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in *National Cotton Council v. U.S. EPA*. Historically, as long as these applications were compliant with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), they were exempt from water quality permitting requirements. Based on the court's holding, the new regulations will likely require pesticide applicators to hold NPDES permits when pesticide residues have the potential to enter into waters regulated by the CWA. The new regulations will not go into effect until April 2011. In the meantime, the EPA will attempt to create new NPDES general permits for pesticide applications.

Continued on next page

Air Quality Permitting Update and a New EPA Region 6 Administrator

Environmentalists continue to pressure the EPA to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) under the Clean Air Act. On September 21, 2009, a collection of nine environmental groups filed a petition with the EPA claiming that CAFOs contribute to emissions of methane, nitrous oxide, hydrogen sulfide, and ammonia and should therefore have to meet testing, performance, and emission standards under the Clean Air Act. The groups filing the petition included the Human Society of the United States, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, the Waterkeeper Alliance, and others.

On September 8, 2009, the EPA announced that it would challenge portions of Texas' air quality permitting programs. The EPA is proposing to disapprove the Texas Flexible Permits State Program and the Texas Qualified Facilities State Program. The EPA is also challenging specific portions of Texas' State Implementation Plan (SIP), which were submitted on June 10, 2005 and February 1, 2006, for failing to meet federal requirements for New Source Review. The EPA proposals were published in the Federal Register on September 23, 2009 and a public comment period will last until November 23, 2009. The result of these actions will most likely be extended negotiations with the TCEQ.

EPA's Region 6 Office, which oversees Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, has been under the interim leadership of Lawrence ("Larry") Starfield, the current Deputy Regional Administrator. The Obama administration is in the process of selecting a new Regional Administrator. A number of possible candidates have been discussed in the media. One leading candidate, John Hall, is the former head of the TNRCC (now TCEQ). Two other candidates receiving support from Texas environmental groups are Dr. Alfredo Juan "Al" Armendariz and Ron Curry. Dr. Armendariz is an engineering professor at Southern Methodist University and Mr. Curry is the current secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department. Other names mentioned in the electronic media are former Dallas Mayor Laura Miller, Dallas environmental lawyer Diana Dutton, and Austin environmental lawyer Celina Romero.

Potential Clean Water Act Reform and Climate Change Legislation Delayed in Congress

The United States Senate is attempting to amend the Clean Water Act (CWA) with the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2009. Responding to recent cases that have limited the scope of the CWA, this legislation's goal is to replace the term "navigable waters" with the term "waters of the United States." This would make the CWA applicable to a greater variety of water areas. Although the Act has made its way to the Senate Floor, it has yet to be voted on, and there is no comparable bill in the House of Representatives.

Climate change legislation has been at the forefront of environmental policy all year, but there is new uncertainty about the prospects of passing legislation in 2009. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has indicated that it could possibly be postponed till next year, only for the comment to be retracted hours later by one of his spokesmen. Timing of new legislation largely depends on a new proposal by Senators Barbara Boxer and John Kerry that has been delayed while a draft of a cap-and-trade bill is being written. Delayed from early September, legislative hearings are expected to begin during the week of October 5th at the earliest.

If you have any questions about the above recent developments, please contact Ed Small (esmall@jw.com) or Chris Pepper (cpepper@jw.com) at Jackson Walker L.L.P. (512) 236-2000.

Advanta and Bioceres to develop drought-tolerant sorghum, rice, cotton and brassica crops

HEREFORD, Texas – Advanta, one of the world's largest seed research and marketing companies, has reached a research and commercial development agreement with Bioceres S.A., an Argentinean biotech company for the development of drought-tolerant sorghum, rice, cotton and brassicas.

This technology targets abiotic stress in a range of crops. Originally discovered in sunflowers, this gene is triggered or induced under drought or water stress conditions. Expression of this gene is associated with tolerance to both drought and salt stress, a feature Advanta plans to develop further with different gene promoter combinations.

"Drought and water stress are serious challenges to food security and production sustainability in agriculture," says Jerry O'Rear, worldwide sorghum breeder working from Hereford, Texas. He says Advanta is committed to bringing the latest technologies to help farmers manage water resources and maximize production under stressful conditions.

Continued on next page

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“We recognize that water is going to be in great demand in the centuries to come and we are making efforts to address this issue through the use of biotechnology,” says VR Kaundinya, CEO and Managing Director of Advanta. “These technologies will be very relevant for developing countries like India, as well as for the developed markets like the USA. Bioceres has exciting technology in this field and we are very happy to partner with them in this process.”

“these technologies into our large and diverse germplasm base and breeding program.”

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Grown on more than 100 million acres worldwide, sorghum is a very important cereal grain crop. This drought tolerant technology from Bioceres adds another dimension to the Advanta breeding program that builds on their salt-tolerant and nitrogen-use-efficient (NUE) technology, allowing Advanta to expand the global reach and impact of sorghum,” says Kaundinya. “Many sorghum growing areas of the world, which are also growing in population, are challenged by soil salinity and scarce supplies of fresh water for irrigation. Increasing yields for food and feed in these environments is critical, which is why we are excited to be bringing” these technologies into our large and diverse germplasm base and breeding program.”

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In addition, sweet sorghum has potential as a biofuels source. By combining technologies such as drought and salt tolerance with nitrogen use efficiency, Advanta and their biotechnology anticipate development of a sweet sorghum biofuels crop that will be a highly efficient alternative fuel source. This can be done while reducing the environmental impact and requiring less fresh water. The result will be more favorable economics than any other biofuels source.

“The use of technology is helping breeders around the world to maximize the potential for crops like sorghum to become a source of renewable energy, food and feed while minimizing the environmental impact,” says O’Rear. “Continued development of drought and salt-tolerant sorghum hybrids and other technologies will help improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of growers.”

Advanta US offers unique germplasm for high quality forage sorghums, sudangrasses, hybrid grain sorghums, sorghums for biofuels and sunflowers. For more information on Advanta US and its products, go to: www.advantaus.com or contact John Oppelt at john.oppelt@advantaus.com.

John Oppelt

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2009 TAIA Regional Meetings

I hope you have been able to attend one or more of the TAIA Regional Meetings. By the time you receive this newsletter there will be only one remaining regional meeting - the Dumas Regional Meeting, November 5 at the Amarillo College in Dumas. Visit the TAIA web site, www.txag.net, to view several of the power point presentations from previous regional meetings.

We again have received great support from our company sponsors. We have a record number of 42 sponsors for our 2009 Regional Meetings. Please thank these companies for their great support.

2009 Regional Meeting Sponsors

A&L Plains Labs, Inc.	Dow AgroSciences	Servi-Tech Laboratories
Agrilience, Inc.	DuPont Ag Products	Silver Star Helicopters
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Only one 2009
TAIA Regional Meeting
Left

Do you have
January 19 -21
marked on your
calendar?

Calendar of Events

November 5
Dumas Regional Meeting

December 2 & 3, 2009
Plant Protection Conference
College Station

February 2 & 3, 2010
CCA Exam Training
Lubbock

January 19 - 21, 2010
TAIA Annual Conference
Addison

February 5, 2010
CCA Exam
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