



Texas Ag Line

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

TAIA Has Very Successful 2009 Annual Conference

The 2009 Annual Conference in Austin was one of the best attended and was complimented by many to be a very productive conference. The Conference focused more on companies meeting with customers and company staff members. The Chairman's Reception was also well attended by members of the Texas Legislature and their staff members. **Waves of Change -- Where Are We Headed?** was a very appropriate theme after the many changes our industry saw in 2008.

At the business meeting held on Thursday, the members elected two new board members: Jimmy Schulz with Farmers Coop in El Campo and Sean Wells with Intrepid Potash. Board members eligible for a second term and re-elected were Mark Hebert with Texas Liquid Fertilizer, James Hopkins with Agrium, and Benny Martinez with Dow AgroSciences. Scott Johnson and Billy Wood were recognized for completing their terms on the TAIA Board.

The following individuals and companies were recognized at the conference:

2009 Member of the Year
Billy Wood, Martin Resources

2009 Company of the Year
Mosaic accepted by Todd Smith

Environmentally Conscious Dealer Award
Premier Ag

Harry P. Whitworth Award for Political Involvement
Ed Small, Jackson Walker LLP

Willis Gass Award
Peter McGuill, Wharton County Extension Agent

Education Achievement Awards
Dr. Kerry Litzenberg, Texas A&M University
Dr. Joe Outlaw, Texas A&M University

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2009 TAIA Summer Meeting

Get out your calendar and mark the dates of August 4 - 6 to attend the TAIA Summer Meeting. Marble Falls on Lake LBJ is the site for Summer Meeting. The new La Quinta Hotel will be the host hotel for the meeting. It is a beautiful hotel overlooking the lake. Bring the whole family and enjoy the boating, swimming, fishing, shopping, golf, and just good relaxation. There are also fine eating establishments in the area and we have convinced our master chef Tommy Brandebeger, to bring his bar-be-que pit again this year to see if he can repeat the great meal he and Andy Carriger made last year at the Summer Meeting.

With all the fun, there will be work planning the TAIA activities for next year and cooking the beans for dinner that evening. This is a very important meeting to help TAIA to continue to improve its services to the members.

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Official Publication
of the

Texas Ag Industries Association

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OFFICERS

Scott Johnson ----- Chairman
Mark Hebert ----- Vice Chairman
Benny Martinez ----- Sec./Treas.
Jerry Bellar ----- Imm. Past Chair.
Linda Hlavinka ----- Exec.Comm.
John Oppelt ----- Exec.Comm.
Mat Taylor ----- Exec.Comm.

STAFF

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

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Ag Industries Assn.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

It's a busy time of the year. Growers are deciding what to plant, and what nutrients and crop protection chemicals to use. Everyone is praying for rain. Cattlemen are deciding what cows to keep. Everyone is praying for rain. The state government is deciding what portion of our money they are going to let us keep. Everyone is praying for rain. The Federal government is deciding who gets the next bailout. And did I mention everyone is praying for rain?

One of the terrific things about Texas is we can always count on rain and politics being on everyone's mind. We can also count on our association to be working for us; TAIA has taken the lead on a fertilizer exemption bill that will protect our industry from individual municipalities writing more restrictive laws. Our spring Board Meeting is set for April 22nd and dates are being set for the regional planning committees. Plans are also being finalized for the Summer Meeting August 4th-6th in Marble Falls. With all of the activities being planned, have you made your plans on how you are going to be involved? We have plenty of opportunities.

It seems like everyone is going "Green" these days. As I drive around the Dallas/Ft. Worth area I see signs everywhere proclaiming "We are a *Green* company." Like the Barbara Mandrell song where she sang "**I was country when country wasn't cool,**" we can say "We were Green when Green wasn't cool." We have been teaching the 4R's, (**R**ight product, **R**ight rate,

Right time and **R**ight place) and conservation for as long as I can remember. We have every reason to be proud of our efforts to protect the environment and feed the world. We have a great opportunity to promote our industry and our association. So I encourage each of you to take time to tell your neighbors, your schools and your churches why our business, industry and association are so "**cool**."

And needless to say pray for rain!
Scott Johnson, TAIA Chairman

President's Comments

TAIA started 2009 with great Annual Conference in Austin. If you did not get to attend you missed a fantastic meeting. January was also the start of the Eighty-First Legislative Session. A group of TAIA members went to the capitol on the Tuesday to watch some of the opening ceremonies and tour the capitol area. The session is underway and even though there are already over seven thousand bills filed, which is one thousand more than last session, things seem to be moving at a snail's pace. Slow movement is good if you are trying to kill bills, but bad if you are trying to get a bill passed. TAIA is working to get a fertilizer preemption bill passed this session. This bill would not allow a county, city, subdivision or any group in the state to establish fertilizer rules that are more restrictive than the state law. The bill also has clean-up language to make the ammonium nitrate laws consistent with the federal law. We have been successful in getting Senator Glenn Hegar and Representative Jimmie Don Aycock to file our bill. The bill numbers are Senate Bill 1309 and House Bill 2527. The bill has been heard in committee hearings in both houses; the next step is getting it on the calendar of both houses to move it to the floor for what we hope is final approval. Please talk to your State Senator and Representative about supporting these bills. If you know of legislation that TAIA needs to watch, please let me know.

I hope that you will try to attend the Summer Meeting this year in Marble Falls. This is the most important TAIA meeting for association business. It is so important that we hear good ideas to help improve our association. Last year we had a very successful meeting that led to some major changes implemented at our annual conference. Your input is very important to help the association see outside the box and accomplish important tasks for our members.

Thank you.

Donnie Dippel

TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Individuals

Bayer CropScience

Rhett Brewster
Noble Laminack
George Le Grande
Bruce Odom
Ryan Riddle
Clint Warren
Keith Waters

Jackson Walker LLP

Leonard Dougal
Pinar Dogru
Chris Pepper
Robert Soza, Jr.
Julia Mann
Elena Villasenor
Joe Will Ross

SureGro Agricultural Products

Dale Chote

The Fertilizer Place

Sharon Cox

Crop Production Services

Mat Taylor

Monsanto/Delta & Pine Land

T.K. Baker
Atila Deak
Greg Steele
Marcus Sullivan

UPI

Casey Daniel

Farmers Coop of El Campo

Joe Kelley

Wilbur Ellis Co.

Gene Maulding

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

FFF Announces Move Of Fluid Journal Online

The Fluid Fertilizer Foundation (FFF) announces that the Fluid Journal has completed the move to being an online publication only. The Fluid Journal is published quarterly and has a long history of disseminating cutting edge fluid fertilizer research findings and other pertinent review articles to the fertilizer industry, crop input suppliers, Universities, government agencies and crop producers. This move to an electronic journal should make access to this information easier and more timely than the previous printed version of the Fluid Journal.

The Fluid Journal highlights research projects sponsored by the Foundation and articles pertinent to the fertilizer industry and crop producers. While the Fluid Journal is provided as a service to members of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, those interested in subscribing to the Fluid Journal can sign up at the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation website (www.fluidfertilizer.com). Cost for the Fluid Journal is only \$25 per year. The Fluid Fertilizer Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to providing research and education for the fluid fertilizer industry. Since its formation, the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation has provided over \$3 million for research at our Land Grant Universities and government agencies. The Foundation is funded and overseen by contributing members of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation. For more information, or to become a member of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, contact the Foundation office at 785-776-0273 or visit the website at www.fluidfertilizer.com.

Get Cleaner Bermudagrass in One Step

INDIANAPOLIS – (January 23, 2009) – Southern forage producers can now achieve cleaner bermudagrass pastures and hay fields season-long with one early-season herbicide application.

New CHAPARRAL™ herbicide from Dow AgroSciences controls both Pensacola bahiagrass and a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds in bermudagrass pastures and hay fields. CHAPARRAL also provides soil residual activity to control many broadleaf weed species that emerge for weeks *after* application.

Continued on next page

Get Cleaner Bermudagrass in One Step continued from page 3

For producers of high-quality bermudagrass, an invasion by Pensacola bahiagrass reduces forage quality. Likewise, most broadleaf weeds reduce the yield of high-quality bermudagrass and diminish quality and palatability of bermudagrass hay to make it less salable.

In addition to Pensacola bahiagrass, CHAPARRAL is effective on annual broomweed, annual ragweeds, bitter sneezeweed, dandelion, thistles, horsenettle, nightshade species, wild carrot and many other problem broadleaves. CHAPARRAL is safe on common and improved varieties of bermudagrass.

A unique dry formulation to be mixed with water, CHAPARRAL is not a federally Restricted Use Pesticide. It does not contain 2,4-D, so CHAPARRAL™ herbicide can be used with normal precautions in 2,4-D restricted areas. No license is required to buy or apply CHAPARRAL.¹

CHAPARRAL has no grazing restrictions for any class of livestock, including lactating dairy cows, horses (including lactating mares) and meat animals prior to slaughter.² However, label precautions do apply to forage treated with CHAPARRAL and to manure from animals that have consumed treated forage within the last three days. Consult the label for full details.

CHAPARRAL also has no restriction on making hay after spraying – zero days compared to 30 or more for most other herbicides. However, producers should allow at least 14 days for CHAPARRAL to have its full effect before cutting hay. The short interval still allows producers to stay on a 28-day cutting schedule.

For more information on new CHAPARRAL herbicide, contact Dow AgroSciences Customer Information at 1-800-263-1196.

ARCADIA BIOSCIENCES AND ADVANTA TO DEVELOP NITROGEN USE EFFICIENT SORGHUM

Arcadia Biosciences, Inc., an agricultural technology company focused on developing technologies and products that benefit the environment and human health, and Advanta, a leading multinational seed company, today announced completion of a research and commercial development agreement for the development of Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) sorghum.

Under terms of the agreement, Advanta receives exclusive global rights to the use of Arcadia's NUE technology in sorghum. Arcadia receives an upfront payment, milestone payments and a share of commercial sales.

Sorghum is an important feed crop that is grown on more than 100 million acres globally. In addition, sweet sorghum is a highly productive potential biofuel source. Like most grain crops, sorghum is extremely dependent upon nitrogen fertilizer to achieve attractive commercial yields. Also like most grain crops, it is an inefficient user of nitrogen-barely more than half of the nitrogen applied to sorghum fields is utilized for plant growth. As a result, the remainder may run off into area waterways or volatilize as nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. Availability of NUE sorghum varieties can significantly reduce the amount of nitrogen farmers apply to fields, which can increase on-farm productivity and profitability while decreasing the potential environmental impacts from nitrogen fertilizer use. Reduced use of nitrogen fertilizer will also reduce the carbon footprint and increase the net energy of biofuels based on sorghum crops.

"While it does not have as much widespread visibility as other grain crops, sorghum is an extremely important global crop, and its importance will continue to grow as a function of the increasing interest in biofuels. Development of NUE sorghum varieties can help farmers who produce sorghum for feed or fuel to farm more efficiently, cost-effectively and in a way that's

better for our global environment," said Eric Rey, president and CEO of Arcadia. "Advanta is a world leader in sorghum seed development, distribution and sales and are the perfect partner for this program."

Continued on next page

ARCADIA BIOSCIENCES AND ADVANTA continued from page 4

"This is an important step forward for us in our effort to bring the latest technologies to the sorghum farmers around the world. By increasing the efficiency of the sorghum plants in their utilization of nitrogen we will be able to enhance the yields, reduce the consumption of nitrogen and eventually reduce the costs for the farmer. We are very excited by this development," said VR Kaundinya, CEO and managing director of Advanta. "Arcadia has a leadership position in the NUE technology and we are very happy to partner with them in this process."

About Arcadia Biosciences, Inc. Based in Davis, Calif., with additional facilities in Seattle, Wash. and Phoenix, Ariz., Arcadia Biosciences is an agricultural technology company focused on the development of agricultural products that improve the environment and enhance human health. For more information visit www.arcadiabio.com.

About Advanta - Advanta is a global seed company located in India with a wide range of proprietary products in important crops that improve the productivity and profitability of the farmers in different parts of the world. Advanta and UPI are members of the United Phosphorous Group of Companies. For more information visit www.advantaus.com.

Dow AgroSciences Introduces Low-odor LORSBAN® Advanced Insecticide

INDIANAPOLIS — January 5, 2009 — Dow AgroSciences recently received federal registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for new LORSBAN® Advanced insecticide. LORSBAN Advanced offers the same benefits of LORSBAN®-4E but uses innovative technology to produce a low-odor, water-based formulation.

"Dow AgroSciences is excited to offer an improvement on a trusted solution that growers have come to rely on," says Brian Timmerman, product manager for LORSBAN Advanced.

"LORSBAN Advanced represents the end of a multi-year research and development process by Dow AgroSciences resulting in an innovative agricultural product," Timmerman says. "It is a continuation of our commitment to providing novel solutions to pest problems both today and in the future."

LORSBAN Advanced contains the active ingredient chlorpyrifos — the same as in LORSBAN-4E, one of the most widely used insecticides in agriculture. The new product will replace LORSBAN-4E in the marketplace in January 2009.

"Growers can use LORSBAN Advanced to control damaging crop pests in the same way they used LORSBAN-4E, with the added benefit of a lower odor," says Sam Ferguson, field scientist for Dow AgroSciences.

LORSBAN Advanced is formulated as an emulsion in water (EW). This water-based formulation differs from LORSBAN-4E, which is an emulsifiable concentrate. It is the only chlorpyrifos-containing insecticide available as an EW in the United States.

LORSBAN Advanced offers growers superb versatility to control insects in soybeans, corn, wheat, pome fruit, tree nuts, grapes, citrus, vegetables and other crops. The insecticide provides superior control of all cut-worm species as well as broad-spectrum control of aphids, scale, spider mites, citrus psylla, lepidopterous insects and other pests.

Tank-mix flexibility is another attribute of LORSBAN Advanced. The new product is compatible with miticides, fungicides, nonpressure fertilizer solutions and other insecticides.

LORSBAN® Advanced offers the same great efficacy, quick knockdown and residual control that users have come to expect. "The use rate and application characteristics remain the same as LORSBAN®-4E, making for an easy transition to the new formulation," Ferguson says.

Dow AgroSciences LLC, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, is a top-tier agricultural company that combines the power of science and technology with the "Human Element" to constantly improve what is essential to human progress. Dow AgroSciences provides innovative technologies for crop protection, pest and vegetation management, seeds, traits, and agricultural biotechnology to serve the world's growing population. Global sales for Dow AgroSciences, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, are \$3.8 billion. Learn more at www.dowagro.com.

TAIA Meeting With TCEQ

A group of TAIA member companies met with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) about the progress TCEQ was making on the permit for portable pipe reactors. It had been over a year since there was discussion with TCEQ on the changes to the permit. The group felt it was time to see what progress was being made, and if there had been any changes made to the permit language since the last meeting.

The first item brought up by the TAIA group was the name of the pipe reactor. They felt that the word reactor gave individuals not having knowledge of the machine the wrong impression. The TAIA group suggested that the name be changed to Polyphosphate Blender. TCEQ was open to the name change and said the permit name would be changed.

The TCEQ Commissioners had not finished their final review so the group was not privileged to copy of the latest draft. They hoped that final version would be published in the Texas Register in the next three months. After it is published in the Register, the public would have thirty days to make comments. If there were no big changes as a result of the comments, the permit could possibly go into effect in December. With the changes on how the Polyphosphate Blender is permitted, there is concern with the transition period when the old rule ends and the new rules start. The TAIA group felt that there should be a six month window for companies to comply with the new permit. TCEQ told the group they would look into that suggestion, but they felt many of the compliance issues could be obtained prior to the rule going into effect. Once the blender was tested and the information submitted to TCEQ, the blender could continue to operate within the parameters on the permit. The permit uses graphs on the amount of ammonia released to decide the distance one must operate the blender from a property line.

Many of the important issues negotiated early in the process are still in place. One big change that had been negotiated earlier was being able to operate the blender 2820 hours in one location instead of the present rule of 72 hours per location. Also sampling can be done anytime within the first twenty four hours

TAIA Annual Conference Continued from page 1

Honorary Lifetime Member
Dr. William Bennett

2009 Special Recognition Award
Kay Dippel, CHB Consulting, Inc.

2008 Chairman's Plaque
Jerry Bellar, Wilbur Ellis Co.

All those attending enjoyed the two receptions and the luncheon at the business meeting. Our sponsor companies help provide the great receptions and meal. TAIA thanks the 2009 Annual Conference Sponsors for their support.

Chairman's Reception Sponsor

Jackson Walker LLP

2009 Annual Conference Sponsors!

A&L Plains Ag Labs
Adams Fertilizer Equipment
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Agrilience
AMVAC Chemical Co.
ASMARK
BASF
Bayer CropScience
Ben-Trei Ltd.
CF Industries
Crop Production Services
Dow AgroSciences
DuPont Ag Products
El Dorado Chemical Co.
Helena Chemical Co.

Intrepid Potash
Koch Nitrogen Co.
Martin Resources
Monsanto/D&P Land
Mosaic
Poole Chemical Co.
PotashCorp
Simplot
Syngenta
Terra Industries, Inc
Tessenderlo Kerley
UPI
Valent USA Corp
Wilbur-Ellis

of operation instead of at the time when the blender is started. The TAIA group felt that it was a very positive meeting, and TCEQ understands the importance of Polyphosphate Blenders to supply the needed fertilizer to agriculture. The industry will be notified when the permit is published in the Texas Register for comments.

TAIA Leadership

2009 Officers

Chairman

Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

Vice Chairman

Mark Hebert, Texas Liquid Fertilizer, Hempstead

Secretary/Treasurer

Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Kingsville

Immediate Past Chairman

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

Executive Committee Member (Manufacturer)

Linda Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard

Executive Committee Member (Crop Protection)

John Oppelt, UPI, Georgetown

Executive Committee Member (Plant Food)

Mat Taylor, Crop Production Services, Flower Mound



2009 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
Tony Savage, Helena Chemical Co., Bardwell
Jason Veesart, Brownfield Farmers Coop, Brownfield
Jimmy Schulz, Farmers Coop of El Campo, El Campo

Manufacturers

Bob Fisherkeller, BASF Corp., Hurst
James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon
Sean Wells, 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, Topcon Precision Ag, Lubbock

2009 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

Ch: Hap Hazzard, Bayer CropScience, Crawford
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

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TAIA MEMBERS

Have you sent in your
2009 Membership Dues?

Calendar of Events

April 22, 2009
TAIA Board Meeting
Dallas

August 4 - 6, 2009
TAIA Summer Meeting
Marble Falls

December 2 & 3, 2009
Plant Protection Conference
College Station

August 4 & 5, 2009
CCA Exam Training
La Grange

January 19 - 21, 2010
TAIA Annual Conference
Dallas/Fort Worth

August 7, 2009
CCA Exam
La Grange