You are cordially invited to attend Tennessee Agricultural Production Association's Annual Meeting and Agronomic Workshop, to be held at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, Tennessee July 28-30, 2015. If your business is retailer, consultant, university, industry, researcher, or government, you will want to attend this very informative meeting. John Bradley, program chairman, is bringing together an impressive list of speakers with presentations that will be helpful to you in your agricultural business.

Besides the excellent speakers, the business session on the first day will be important to our membership and your attendance is required. Members will vote on a Tennessee Pollinator Conservation Plan, a new president-elect, a new treasurer, and three board of directors. Three college student winners of the TAPA Three Star Scholarship Program, two honorary memberships, the TAPA Outstanding Individual Award, and the Tennessee Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor Award will be revealed to the membership. Also during this session Rick Turnage will give a brief report on his May 13-14 visit with Tennessee legislators in Washington, D.C.

Hotel Information: TAPA has reserved a block of rooms for singles/doubles at the daily rate of $103.00 + tax. The cut-off date for securing this rate is June 28. WiFi is not included in this special rate but can be purchased at $9.95 per day. To make your hotel reservations, call (615) 890-4464 or go to the hotel's link by clicking here: Reserve Your Room

Pre-Registration: You can save $15 by pre-registering for this meeting by July 4, 2015. Go directly to the pre-registration form by clicking on this link: Pre-Register Here Membership: Your TAPA membership dues are included when you register for the Annual Meeting on Tuesday. If you are unable to attend this meeting, we encourage you to become a TAPA member for 2015-2016. Simply check the box next to “TAPA Membership Dues” on this registration form and send it in with your $30 payment.

Activities for the week are as follows:

Monday, July 27 - Board Meetings:
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - CCA Board Meeting
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - TAPA Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 28 - Annual Meeting:
8:00 - 11:00 p.m. - Speakers
11:00 - 12:00 p.m. - TAPA Business Session
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch (on your own)
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Key Updates from Industry Reps
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Reception (Appetizers, Cash Bar)

Wednesday, July 29 - Agronomic Workshop
7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - TAPA Board Breakfast
8:00 - 12:00 p.m. - Speakers
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch (on your own)
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Speakers

Thursday, July 30 - Golf (Indian Hills Golf Course):
For TAPA Members: Morning tee times will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Note: Certified Crop Advisor CEUs and Tennessee recertification points (C1, C4, C10, C12) will be available at this meeting.
Turnage Represents TAPA in Washington, D.C.

One of the most anticipated activities the Southern Crop Production Association sponsors each year is the trip to Washington, D.C. and taking our issues directly to Senate and House members for discussion and consideration as one voice. The Hill Visits were held May 13-14 and I am extremely proud and grateful to have represented TAPA and Bayer CropScience as a delegate along with other Ag industry leaders from Tennessee and eight other states across the South.

Each of the nine states represented was divided into teams that met the evening before the visits to receive instructions about the main issues to be covered and divide the state delegations according to schedules confirmed by the congressional office staffs. Tennessee was well represented by Bob Lusby, FMC (Memphis), Forrest Laws, Farm Press (Cordova), Scott Hendrix, Amvac (Collierville), Kevin Stewart, Gowan (Collierville), Louis Rodrigue, Helena (Collierville) and Rick Turnage, Bayer and TAPA.

On the day of the visits the Tennessee team (above) met for breakfast to cover any last minute items, then proceeded to Capitol Hill.

Our delegation visited the following offices:

- Senator Lamar Alexander; met with Dan Hale, Ag Legislative Aide (Laws, Stewart)
- Senator Bob Corker; met with John Haley, Legislative Aide (Laws, Stewart)
- Representative John J Duncan; met with Allen Johnson, Legislative Aide (Hendrix, Lusby)
- Representative Phil Roe; met with John Witherspoon, Legislative Aide (Rodrigue, Turnage)
- Representative Scott DesJarlais; met with Dayne Cutrell, Legislative Director (Hendrix, Lusby)
- Representative Chuck Fleischmann; met with Conner Ingram, Legislative Correspondent (Rodrigue, Turnage)
- Representative Marsha Blackburn and Brian Maven, Legislative Director (Laws, Stewart)
- Representative Stephen Fincher and his Legislative Assistant Corey Schrodt (Henrix, Rodrigue, Turnage)
- Representative Steve Cohen; met with Michael Eisenstatt, Legislative Assistant (Rodrigue, Lusby, Laws)
- Representative Diane Black; met with Jon Toomey, Ag Legislative Assistant (Stewart, Hendrix, Turnage)

During these visits we discussed the following five major issues:

1. Clean Water Act, Redefining WOTUS (Waters of the United States) by EPA and Corps of Engineers (HR 1732 was passed just prior to our arrival)
2. Pesticide NPDES General Permits
3. The Endangered Species Act Consultations for Pesticides
4. Pollinators and Colony Health
5. GMO Labeling

I’m very pleased to comment that our views and opinions were very well respected and agreed upon among the officials we called on; a very fruitful day on Capitol Hill. I offered TAPA as an ongoing source for any legislative consideration and shared with them our appreciation for their efforts in being champions of sound science and common sense. Once again, I want to sincerely thank our organization for allowing me to represent TAPA.

Sincerely,

Rick Turnage
Addressing the Loss of Pollinators in the U.S.

The White House has released the interagency Pollinator Health Task Force’s National Strategy to Promote Pollinator Health and its accompanying Pollinator Research Action Plan which “…outline needs and priority actions to better understand pollinator losses, improve pollinator health, and to enhance pollinator habitat. The strategy’s broad-reaching goals are to: Restore colony health to sustainable levels by 2025; Increase Eastern monarch butterfly populations to 225 million butterflies by year 2020; Restore or enhance seven million acres of land for pollinators over the next five years…” - USDA and the Department of Interior have also issued a “…set of ‘Pollinator-Friendly Best Management Practices for Federal Lands’, providing practical guidance of planners and managers with land stewardship responsibilities …”

FIEN, May 19, 2015

House Ag Committee Approves Bipartisan Bill to Repeal Country of Origin Labeling Requirements for Beef, Pork, and Chicken

"This bill is a targeted response that will remove uncertainty and restore stability for the United States by bringing us back into compliance," Chairman Conaway said. "We must do all we can to avoid retaliation by Canada and Mexico, and this bill accomplishes that through full repeal of labeling requirements for beef, pork, and chicken. I appreciate all the support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We will continue working to get this to the House floor as quickly as possible to ensure our economy and a vast range of U.S. industries and the men and women who work for them do not suffer any economic implications of retaliation."

"Working in a bipartisan manner is the only way to accomplish real change for our country. That is why I would like to thank my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, for their support of H.R. 2393, a bill to repeal mandatory COOL requirements for beef, pork, and chicken products," said Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee’s Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee.

"With the recent decision by the WTO, we must act rapidly to avoid serious trade barriers being enacted against U.S. agricultural products. This is a good first step towards resolving this issue that has been hanging over the industry for years."

"H.R. 2393 represents a bipartisan effort to address serious trade retaliatory measures as a result of WTO’s ruling on Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). I want to thank Chairman Conaway and Livestock Subcommittee Ranking Member Costa for their leadership on this issue," said Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee’s Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee.

House Agriculture Committee, May 20, 2015

Use of Unregistered Pesticides During Emergency Situations

EPA is seeking additional public comments on the paperwork and regulatory burdens associated with "... (1) Emergency exemption requests, which allow for an unregistered use of a pesticide; and (2) Requests by states to register a pesticide use to meet a special local need (SLN) ... for a limited time if EPA determines that emergency conditions exist ... Requests include unregistered pesticide use exemptions for specific agricultural, public health, and quarantine purposes ...

The title of the May 18, 2015 EPA Federal Register Notice is "Agency Information Collection Activities; Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Pesticide Program Public Sector Collections (Renewal)".

The title of the September 17, 2014 EPA Federal Register Notice is "Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request".

FIEN, May 17, 2015

Florida Orange Crop Now Projected To Be Lowest In Nearly 50 Years

USDA’s updated 2014-2015 Florida orange forecast reveals a big hit for potential final harvest totals. The current projection is now at 96.4 million boxes, down 5.6 million boxes (5%) from last month, and 8% down from last season’s final production number. If the new estimate holds true, this season’s harvest will be the lowest since the 1965-1966 campaign, which tallied 95.9 million boxes (not including Temples).

The 96.4 estimate is broken down by Florida Orange Crop - 2015.

Now Projected To Be Lowest In Nearly 50 Years

To add insult to injury, the overall grapefruit estimate fell for the second consecutive month. This time it was cut by another 100,000 boxes, down to 12.9 million boxes.

"There is no doubt about it we are certainly in challenging times," said Mike Sparks, executive VP/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual. “This decrease is not a surprise from what we’ve been hearing out in the field. I would expect this kind of drop to put upward pressure on grower returns, and that’s a silver lining.”

FFVA, May 19, 2015

These thumbnail summaries are printed exclusively for TAPA members. The views expressed in these articles are not necessarily the views of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association but the articles were felt to be worthy of their attention. Source: On Guard, Southern Crop Production Association, Dawson, GA
CropLife America Responds to Today’s Pollinator Health Task Force Report

CropLife America (CLA) welcomes the release of the White House Pollinator Health Task Force's "National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators." The organization is ready to review the report closely to identify areas of collaboration and partnership in supporting pollinator health. The crop protection industry will also continue to advance stewardship activities in conjunction with additional task force plans. CLA praises the task force for creating a multi-pronged, coordinated approach.

"The crop protection industry looks forward to joining the many stakeholders in reviewing the National Pollinator Health Strategy. We are hopeful both the private and public sectors can strategically address pollinator health together," stated Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CLA. "Pollinators add more than $24 billion to our nation's economy, and honey bees support over 90 commercially grown crops in North America". CLA and our members support stewardship practices in seed treatment, among other key crop protection strategies, and we will continue to work with growers, beekeepers, regulators and other stakeholders to promote responsible pesticide use."

Ongoing research and field studies have consistently found no adverse effects on bee colonies when pesticides are applied according to label directions. These science-based label directions are written under supervision of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); in the process, potential environmental and health hazards are carefully evaluated and necessary mitigation measures are taken.

Stakeholders have eagerly awaited the strategy's release since President Obama established the task force last year. In his June 20, 2014 Memorandum, the President noted, "Honey bee pollination alone adds more than $15 billion in value to agricultural crops each year in the United States" The memorandum also highlighted the other multiple factors that can negatively impact honey bee health, including poor bee nutrition, loss of forage lands, parasites, pathogens and lack of bee genetic diversity.

"Early reports from unnamed sources knowledgeable about the White House report are saying that it will accelerate EPA's timeline for further scientific evaluation of bee impacts by certain insecticides - we are skeptical of how sound science can be 'sped up' for this evaluation and look forward to a reasoned dialogue with EPA on that point," said Vroom.

"We're also keen to see how the new White House report addresses the role of long-sought state management plans outlined by EPA in edicts to state regulators over the past year," Vroom added.

CLA supports the public television series America's Heartland in hosting broadcast programming and online educational resources that highlight the connection between pollinators and agriculture. Additionally, the association is a member of the Honey Bee Health Coalition, a diverse, multi-stakeholder group focused on improving the health of honey bees and other pollinators, and also strongly supports the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. For more information on crop protection technology stewardship practices, download The Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship, jointly produced by the American Seed Trade Association and CLA along with a host of grower organizations. Read more about pollinator health and the crop protection industry on CLA's website.

The TAPA Board of Directors voted to present a Tennessee Pollinator Conservation Plan for the TAPA members’ endorsement at the Annual Meeting in Murfreesboro. All members are encouraged to be present for this important vote.
Retailer News and Views

First Fertilizer Facility Certified by ResponsibleAg is in Tennessee

Unlike a race where the first finisher takes home a medal or blue ribbon, safety and regulatory compliance doesn’t often get rewarded. But becoming the first certified ResponsibleAg retailer deserves recognition.

“This marks an exciting milestone for ResponsibleAg,” said Alicia Duke, Health and Safety Director with J.R. Simplot Company and Chair of the ResponsibleAg Technical Committee. “Safety is a top priority for retailers, and having an organization like Crop Production Services move so quickly to adopt and implement ResponsibleAg demonstrates the company’s commitment to its employees and the community.”

The Hillsboro, Tennessee location of Crop Production Services (CPS) was recently awarded the first ResponsibleAg facility certification.

Facility registration began in December. Since then, more than 1,350 fertilizer facilities have registered. Several assessments have been conducted but the Hillsboro CPS facility was the first to successfully complete the assessment and resolve any required corrective action. A second CPS location in Ethridge, Tennessee was also certified. The Hillsboro location manager, Ryan Walker, and CPS Environmental, Health and Safety Director Mike Whitten collaborated to complete the auditor training, facility registration, assessment and corrective action processes.

Several resources (including videos, sample assessments and how-tos) designed to help retailers register and complete the assessment are available at www.ResponsibleAg.org.

OSHA's New Hazard Communication Pictograms

As of June 1, 2015, the Hazard Communication Standard will require pictograms on labels to alert users of the chemical hazards to which they may be exposed. Each pictogram consists of a symbol on a white background framed within a red border and represents a distinct hazard(s). The pictogram on the label is determined by the chemical hazard classification. Be sure your employees are trained on these new pictograms and other GHS label elements. To help, click here to check out OSHA's Quick Card.

Annual "Roadcheck" Inspection Blitz Announced for June 2-4th

Commercial vehicle inspectors across North America will conduct their annual truck and bus inspection blitz known as International Roadcheck from June 2nd through the 4th. Inspectors will be paying particularly close attention to cargo security this year. Approximately 10,000 CVSA-certified local, state, provincial and federal commercial vehicle inspectors from the U.S., Canada and Mexico will combine to inspect approximately 17 trucks or buses every minute during the 72-hour event. Most inspections will be North American Standard Level I, the most thorough of roadside inspections, examining both vehicle and driver. Drivers will be asked for licenses, endorsements, medical cards and hours-of-service documentation, and will be checked for alcohol and/or drugs and seat belt usage. Vehicles will undergo checks for braking system, coupling devices, exhaust system, frame, fuel system, lights, safe loading, steering mechanism, drive line, suspension, tires, van and open-top trailer bodies, wheels and rims, windshield wipers and emergency exits on buses.

EPA Considering Glyphosate Residue Testing

EPA recently told the press that U.S. regulators may start testing food products for traces of glyphosate due to a rise in public interest. The herbicide only continues to generate public interest following its recent listing as a probable carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), despite its approval by many foreign regulatory agencies, including the European Union.

Regulators have deemed glyphosate safe, but a number of third parties continue to test thousands of foods, as well as urine and breast milk to determine the levels of residue. U.S. regulators tested for glyphosate most recently in 2011. The U.S. Department of Agriculture tested 300 soybean samples and found residue on 271 of the samples. All of them fell below the EPA-set tolerance level of 20 parts per million.

DHS Issues Top-Screen Notification

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently issued a notice to industry that "it will be sending out emails to a number of companies that have initiated a Top Screen, but NOT completed/submitted it for over 60 days." According to DHS, "any facility that manufactures, uses, stores or distributes certain chemicals above a specified quantity...has 60 days to complete and submit a CSAT (Chemical Security Assessment Tool) Top-Screen." Apparently there are more than 900 open Top-Screens that have been inactive for more than 60 days. DHS was to have sent emails in three waves over a period of approximately three weeks, starting around May 1st.

The information on this page is exclusively for TAPA members. The views expressed in these articles are not necessarily the views of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association but the articles were felt to be worthy of their attention. Source: ResponsibleAg; The Asmark Institute, Owensboro, KY
Golfers: Be sure to sign up for TAPA’s golf event when pre-registering for the Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop. Tee times will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30. The golf committee has chosen Indian Hills Golf Course, a 5-minute drive from the Embassy Suites.

TAPA Sponsor List 2015
Learn more about our sponsors by clicking on their links below:

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TAPA Presidents at a Glance
(One-Year Terms)

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<td>Terry Kelley</td>
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<td>Frank Yin</td>
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A good time was had by TAPA members at the Old Fort Golf Course in Murfreesboro during the 2014 Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop. Those participating were: Front Row (L-R): Orey Blackwood, Paul Denton, Fred Allen, Harry Craft, Jake Haun; Back Row (L-R): Jimmy Farless, Merlin Blackwood, Rich Strickland, Dan Underwood, Rob White, Ryan Dickerson.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The **University of Tennessee Weed Tour** will be held Wednesday, June 24 at the West Tennessee Research & Education Center in Jackson, TN (605 Airways Blvd).

Registration will start at 8:30 A.M. and breakfast biscuits will be served prior to the tour. The tour will begin at 9:00 A.M. and will culminate at 12:00. Due to construction in the main building, no lunch will follow the tour.

The tour will cover 60 weed management research tests in corn, soybean, and cotton. Most of the research shown will be on management of glyphosate resistant horseweed and Palmer amaranth. Management of these weeds in Liberty and glyphosate based systems as well as some of the new herbicide technology traits on the horizon in corn, cotton and soybeans will be highlighted. Moreover, many of the newer premixes in soybean will be demonstrated. As usual, a plot plan book will be available. UT personnel will lead the tour and be available for consultation as well as discussion of issues and product performance.

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Larry Steckel

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**PROGENY AG PRODUCTS FIELD DAY**

**THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2015**

Research Farm on Hwy 64 in Wynne, AR

Registration begins at 8:00 A.M.

Tours begin at 9:00 A.M.

Lunch provided by Cajun Express

For more information, contact:

Hillary Spain

(870) 208-6032

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**17th ANNUAL MONSANTO AG ACADEMY FIELD DAY**

**Thursday, August 6, 2015**

Registration: 8:00 - 9:00 A.M.

Tours begin: 9:00 A.M.

Monsanto Research Facility

Union City, TN

For more information, contact:

Larry Ganann

(901) 326-7140

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**PIONEER WHITE CORN FIELD DAY**

**~ THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015 ~**

Murray State University Campus

Murray, KY

Registration: 8:30 A.M.

Program Begins: 9:00 A.M.

For more information, contact:

John Raines

(731) 694-3283
THE TAPA QUARTERLY PAGE 8

TAPA OFFICERS (2014-2015)

President
Frank Yin
WTREC
(731) 425-4750
xyin2@utk.edu

President Elect
John F. Bradley
Spring Valley Farms
(901) 834-1034
johnbradley@springvalley.farm

Secretary
Forbes Walker
UT Extension
(865) 974-6402
frwalker@utk.edu

Treasurer
John Duke
Tennessee Farmers Co-op
(615) 793-8355
jduke@ourcoop.com

Editor
Darrell Hensley
UT Extension
(865) 974-7958
dhensley@utk.edu

Immediate Past President
Terry Kelley
Tennessee Farmers Co-op
(615) 793-8515
tkelly@ourcoop.com

Executive Secretary
Ron Akin
Obion Grain Company
(731) 431-7216
ronakin64@gmail.com

TAPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2014-2015)

Dir. / Academia
Don Tyler
WTREC
(731) 425-4747
dtyler@utk.edu

Dir. / Consultant
Dianne Jenkins
Jenkins Precision Ag Service
(731) 446-5813
joeti@ycinet.net

Dir. / Crop Protection
Mike Saxton
Syngenta
(270) 792-5885
mike.saxton@syngenta.com

Dir. / Fertilizer
Jake Bachman
Agrium U.S.
(336) 414-0021
Jake.Bachman@agrium.com

Dir. / Government
Ricky Foster
Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture
(615) 837-5148
ricky.foster@tn.gov

Dir. / Other
Jake Haun
(423) 422-7565
haunjake@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2014-2015)

Program Committee
John Bradley
Spring Valley Farms
johnbradley@springvalley.farm

Local Arrangements
Ricky Foster
Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture
ricky.foster@tn.gov

Recognition and Awards
Rick Turnage
Bayer
rick.turnage@bayer.com

Constitution and Operating Procedures
Kenneth Hassell
Crop Production Services
kenneth.hassell@cpsagu.com

Membership
Scott Stewart
WTREC
sdstewart@utk.edu

The TAPA Quarterly is published in March, June, September, and December. Please submit articles or other information of interest to be published to Ron Akin at tapanews@ymail.com. Use this e-mail address if you wish to unsubscribe.