

THE TAPA QUARTERLY

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association

December 2017

PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION

By Darrell Hensley



Darrell Hensley

The pesticide recertification period for private applicators ended on October 21, 2017. If you are a private applicator or previously had valid certification and did not attend training in 2017, your certification is no longer valid. To obtain valid certification credentials you must attend the initial certification training again. To renew your certification, you may contact your local county extension office or visit Knowledge and Training Excellence (K@TE), Extension's new online center at <http://kate.tennessee.edu/utia.html> to take the initial private applicator certification.

On June 2, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extended the effective date of the revised private applicator certification standards. The new ruling is expected to go into effect on May 22, 2018 and will require private applicators to pass a written or oral test or attend a training course and/or another system approved by EPA. See the following URL for more information:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revised-certification-standards-pesticide-applicators>

For commercial applicators, the certification cycle ends December 31, 2017. Individuals who currently have valid commercial applicator certification (cards have ending date of 12/31/17) must have obtained enough points/CEUs during the certification cycle to roll their certification over into the new certification cycle. The new commercial applicator certification cycle begins January 1, 2018 and will end on June 30, 2020. You may start accruing CEUs/points beginning January 1, 2018. Remember: you may not obtain all your points in one year and should be attending approved meetings over the certification cycle.

Yes, the certification cycle ending date has changed for both commercial applicators and private applicators and the new date for both is June 30, 2020.

Dr. Hensley is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety Education Program, University of Tennessee, Knoxville



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TAPA ANNOUNCES 2018 THREE STAR REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Rick Turnage, Program Chairman

The Three Star Regional Scholarship Program was a huge success in 2017. The three winners from West, Middle, and East Tennessee were announced during the TAPA business session at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg on August 1, 2017. They were each awarded \$1,000 and a certificate for this honor.

Tennessee Agricultural Production Association is again pleased to announce the awarding of regional scholarships in 2018 to three deserving college students who are seeking degrees in the field of agriculture.

TAPA is proud to reach out to the leaders of our future. We again congratulate this year's exceptional students from across the state who applied for these scholarships. Nomination details of the 2018 program will be in the March issue of *The TAPA Quarterly*.

Add TAPA's next meeting to your 2018 calendar!

WINTER AGRONOMIC WORKSHOP

February 7, 2018
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Jackson, Tennessee

Registration: 7:30 a.m.
Program: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Agenda & registration information will be coming soon!

University of Tennessee Soil, Plant, and Pest Center

By Robert Florence



Robert Florence

Greetings, fellow TAPA members. My name is Robert Florence and as of July I am the new UT Soil, Plant, and Pest Center Laboratory director. I am excited to be back in the South since graduating from Auburn University. My previous roles were as the Kansas State University Soil Lab manager and the University of Wisconsin Soil and Forage Analysis Lab directory. While at Kansas State I also earned a Ph.D. in soil fertility. While at Wisconsin I expanded my manure and forage analysis knowledge. I am excited about being at Tennessee and look forward to working with county agents, crop consultants, UT researchers and Ag producers to continue to make the Soil, Plant, and Pest Center a valuable resource for Tennessee farmers and homeowners.

The laboratory's soil and plant tissue testing services are beneficial to producers making nutrient management decisions, and homeowners with lawns and gardens. The previous director, Debbie Joines, ensured that the laboratory had modern instruments and a new on-line soil test

result reporting software. The modern instruments allow us to have high sample throughput and accuracy. We hope to build upon this on-line system by adding plant and forage analysis reporting, so they too may be viewed on-line. The laboratory's plant pest services are beneficial to helping producers and homeowners identify plant diseases or insects to reduce yield damage or maintain landscaping beauty. We work with the UT Beef and Forage Center to provide forage quality analysis so rations may be properly adjusted. We are currently working with the Beef and Forage Center and UT animal scientists to reevaluate our forage packages and reporting.

My goals as lab director are 1) to continually find ways to make the lab submission and reporting experience user friendly and 2) to try to meet the changing industry needs of nutrient management and forage analyses.

Please feel free to contact me if you have comments or suggestions for how the lab may better serve crop consultants and Tennessee farmers. Rflore2@utk.edu or 615-835-4564.

TAPA Historical Leadership - Presidents:

1997 - 1998.....Jim Elam	2008 - 2009.....Angela McClure
1998 - 1999.....Neil Rhodes	2009 - 2010.....Ron Akin
1999 - 2000.....Paul Binkley	2010 - 2011.....Fred Allen
2000 - 2001.....Melvin Newman	2011 - 2012.....Gerald Simmons
2001 - 2002.....Robin Thomas	2012 - 2013.....Larry Steckel
2002 - 2003.....Paul Denton	2013 - 2014.....Terry Kelley
2003 - 2004.....Clete Youmans	2014 - 2015.....Frank Yin
2004 - 2005.....Hugh Savoy	2015 - 2016.....John Bradley
2005 - 2006.....Rick Turnage	2016 - 2017.....Eric Walker
2006 - 2007.....Jim Wills	2017 - 2018.....Bruce Kirksey
2007 - 2008.....Mark Spiller	

Bee safe this holiday season!



Retailer News and Views



New Twist with the Dicamba Products

Earlier this fall EPA imposed new requirements on Engenia, FeXapan, and XtendiMax for 2018. This week we learned that the changes require each container (package, minibulk and bulk tank) to be relabeled with the 2018 information. EPA considers relabeling of these products to be repackaging, and if performed at one of your facilities, it will need to be included on their 2017 Pesticide Production Report. Relabeling can only be performed legally at a facility that possesses an active EPA Establishment Number.

Each manufacturer has indicated to EPA they will pick the packaged product up and relabel it if requested. We recommend you make this request of your manufacturer as soon as possible. Please note, no additional reporting is necessary if the product is returned to the manufacturer for them to perform the relabeling task.

The materials to relabel the existing inventory in the field will start showing up at facilities in early December. We recommend you fully understand your responsibilities associated with relabeling before agreeing to perform the task. A special web feature has been developed for Asmark Institute clients to help report relabeled product. Click [here](#) for more detail.

Babin Requests Delay to ELD Mandate

U.S. Representative Brian Babin (R-Texas) sent a letter to President Trump November 9th urging him to issue an Executive Order to delay Electronic Logging Device mandate, which is set to go into effect December 18, 2017. "Millions of hard-working American truckers, farmers and small businesses need you to take immediate and decisive action to protect them from

a massive new regulation that is scheduled to go into effect just 39 days from today. I am writing on their behalf with a plan to help you do just that," the letter states. "Accordingly, I respectfully request that you issue an Executive Order as soon as possible, instructing the Secretary of Transportation to provide an immediate waiver for all trucking sectors and operations subject to this mandate, until such time as it can be certified that implementation will not cause economic or other harm to the millions who are subject to it." Click [here](#) to read the entire letter.

EPA, U.S. Army Move to Rescind 2015 "Waters of the U.S."

The EPA, Department of Army, and Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies), are proposing a rule to rescind the Clean Water Rule and re-codify the regulatory text that existed prior to 2015 defining "waters of the United States" or WOTUS. This action would, when finalized, provide certainty in the interim, pending a second rulemaking in which the agencies will engage in a substantive re-evaluation of the definition of "waters of the United States." The proposed rule would be implemented in accordance with Supreme Court decisions, agency guidance and longstanding practice.

"We are taking significant action to return power to the states and provide regulatory certainty to our nation's farmers and businesses," said U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "This is the first step in the two-step process to redefine 'waters of the U.S.' and we are committed to moving through this re-evaluation to quickly provide regulatory certainty, in a way that is thoughtful, transparent and collaborative with other agencies and the public."

This proposed rule follows the February 28, 2017, Presidential

Executive Order on "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule." The February Order states that it is in the national interest to ensure that the Nation's navigable waters are kept free from pollution, while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty and showing due regard for the roles of Congress and the States under the Constitution. To meet these objectives, the agencies intend to follow an expeditious, two-step process that will provide certainty across the country.

The proposed rule would recodify the identical regulatory text that was in place prior to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and that is currently in place as a result of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit's stay of the 2015 rule. Therefore, this action, when final, will not change current practice with respect to how the definition applies.

OSHA Proposes Over \$1.8 Million in Fines After Fatal Grain Dust Explosion

OSHA has proposed \$1,837,861 in fines against a Wisconsin milling company following a May 31, 2017, explosion that killed five workers and injured 12 others, including a 21-year-old employee who suffered a double leg amputation after being crushed by a railcar. OSHA found that the explosion likely resulted from the company's failure to correct the leakage and accumulation of highly combustible grain dust throughout the facility and to properly maintain equipment to control ignition sources. OSHA cited the facility with 14 willful – including eight willful per-instance egregious – and five serious citations, most involving fire and explosion hazards. The company has been placed in OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program.

Industry News

Dicamba: What is Known Now!

You may be aware that the products Engenia, FeXapan, and XtendiMax which contain the active ingredient dicamba will have new label requirements for 2018. Each label requires mandatory training of individuals who will be applying the product. All three products will be considered restricted-use products (RUPs), therefore to purchase the product, you must have valid pesticide certification. The labels also state, to use these products, you must have attended training prior to application.

In Tennessee, you will be required to be certified to apply these products and will have attended training. It is my understanding that Universities and/or regulatory agencies in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri and North Carolina will conduct the mandated training for these products. Currently (11/21/17), there is no official regulatory decision concerning the mandatory training in Tennessee.

Hopefully, we will know something closer to January 1, 2018.

Source: Darrell Hensley/Larry Steckel, University of Tennessee

Progeny Ag Products Welcomes Fincher to West Tennessee

On November 1st Progeny Ag Products welcomed **Hunter Fincher** to the sales team as their new rep for West Tennessee. Hunter is a native of Crockett County, Tennessee and has a background in farming. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a B.S. degree in Agri-Business. Hunter lives in Alamo, TN with his wife and two little girls.

The members at TAPA also welcomes Hunter to Tennessee and wishes him all the best.

TAPA Sponsors for 2017
We are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors! To learn more about them, click on their links below:

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Production Association*
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tapa.tennessee.edu

TAPA has a Facebook page with
excellent Tennessee ag-related
posts! Just [CLICK HERE](#) and
click on the "Like" button.

Would you like to become a
TAPA member? If so, send an
email with your phone number
to: ronakin64@gmail.com.
Ron Akin will contact you with
membership details.

***Would you be interested in
a trip to Washington, D.C.?***

The Southern Crop Production Association (SCPA) annual trip to Washington, D.C. will be in May 2018. If you are a TAPA member and would like to represent our association on this trip, please contact TAPA president Bruce Kirksey (901-355-9124) before the TAPA board meeting on February 6 and indicate that you are interested. You will be one of a group of Tennesseans who will discuss agricultural issues with the top legislators in our state. It's a nice trip and the memories will last a lifetime!

***TAPA Annual Meeting
& Agronomic Workshop***

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Park Vista Hotel  
Gatlinburg, TN  
July 31 - August 2, 2018

***Akin Stepping Down as TAPA Executive Secretary***

I am leaving my position as Executive Secretary, effective February 8, 2018. I notified our TAPA Board of Directors of my decision at our last board meeting on July 31. This was not an easy decision to make on my part.

I want to thank the TAPA Board for giving me this opportunity to serve the past five years. It was an honor that I took seriously and it certainly made my life more interesting! But there's an old saying, "Variety is the very spice of life. That gives it all its flavor." This is why I am made my decision. I feel strongly that fresh ideas and new faces are necessary in continuing TAPA's growth.

The greatest joy as Executive Secretary is connecting with some of the greatest folks in Tennessee agriculture, which I had the privilege to do. Also, it was my pleasure to work closely with my colleagues on the Board of Directors, and I consider them dear friends. I will miss working with them on the goal of making our association the best that it could be.

Sincerely,



Ron Akin

The Tennessee Agricultural Production Association (TAPA) is a non-profit organization established in September 1996 through the merger of the Tennessee Agricultural Chemical Association (TACA) and the Tennessee Plant Food Educational Association (TPFEA). TAPA's purpose is to promote, coordinate and disseminate information related to current recommended agricultural production practices among those engaged in research, education, manufacture, distribution and regulation of Tennessee agriculture.

*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 [ronakin64@gmail.com](mailto:ronakin64@gmail.com). Use this e-mail address if you wish to unsubscribe.

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