

# THE TAPA QUARTERLY

*The Newsletter of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association*

## Plan for our summer meeting in Gatlinburg ...and bring the family!

You are cordially invited to attend Tennessee Agricultural Production Association's Annual Meeting and Agronomic Workshop, to be held at the Park Vista a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, located at 705 Cherokee Orchard Road in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The TAPA board meeting and CCA Board meeting will be held the afternoon of Monday, August 1, 2016. The annual meeting will begin on the morning of Tuesday, August 2,, and will conclude at noon on Thursday.

If your business is retailer, consultant, university, industry, researcher, or government, you will want to attend this very informative meeting. Eric Walker, program chairman, is putting together an impressive list of speakers with presentations that will be helpful to you in your agricultural business.

**The business session** on the first day will be important for our association and to you as a member and your attendance for this session is needed. Members will vote on a new president-elect and three board of directors. Also, three college student winners of the TAPA Three Star Scholarship Program, the TAPA Outstanding Individual Award, and the Tennessee Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor Award will be announced to the membership. To wrap up the session Rick Turnage will give a brief report on his visit with Tennessee legislators in Washington, D.C. last month.

**Pre-Registration:** You can save \$15 by pre-registering for this meeting by July 4, 2016. 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 2016-2017. Simply check the box next to "TAPA Membership Dues" on this registration form and send it in with your \$30 payment.

**Lodging:** The Park Vista is offering TAPA members a **Single Rate** and a **Double Rate** of **\$119 per night**. The hotel also offers one and two bedroom suites, king suites and family suites that can be reserved by TAPA members. The suite rates range from \$219 per night to \$385 per night and are based upon availability. **Individual Reservations must be made no later than midnight July 18, 2016.** Once the cut-off date has passed, all unreserved guestrooms will be released from the block. Guestrooms and the guestroom rate will be based on availability for any individuals calling to make reservations under the group block after the cut-off date.

Reservations can be made online or by phone. The website address for online reservations is [www.parkvista.com](http://www.parkvista.com) and the Group Code is **TAG**. The Hilton reservation line is 800-421-7275 and you can use the Group Code **TAG** or [TAPA Annual Meeting](#) when making reservations by phone. For TAPA members wanting to arrive early or stay a few days after the meeting they can still get the TAPA room rate. If the reservationist does not give the proper room rate when making the reservation contact Ricky Foster at [Ricky.Foster@tn.gov](mailto:Ricky.Foster@tn.gov) and he will notify The Park Vista to make sure that TAPA members get the proper room rate.

Certified Crop Advisor CEUs and Tennessee recertification points (C1, C4, C10, C12) will be available at this meeting.

June/July/August 2016



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**Golfers:** Be sure to sign up for TAPA's golf event when pre-registering for the Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop in Gatlinburg. Tee times will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 3. The golf committee has chosen Bent Creek Golf Course, an 8-mile drive from the Park Vista Hotel.



## The Benefits of Insecticide Seed Treatments in Crops

By Dr. Scott Stewart  
Professor and Extension Entomologist  
The University of Tennessee

Pollinator health continues to be a hot topic. Insecticides and especially neonicotinoid insecticide seed treatments in crops are squarely in the sights of several environmental groups who claim they are a leading cause of declining pollinator health, including honeybees. For soybean, in particular, some scientists and regulatory authorities are questioning whether neonicotinoid seed treatments have value. This has progressed to the point where cancellation of some insecticide seed treatments is being considered. Because neonicotinoid insecticides and pollinator health are politically charged topics, there has been a spotlight on risks without much consideration of benefits.

Although there are knowledge gaps about the impact of seed treatments on pollinators, one thing we do know is that seed treatments provide significant protection against early season insect pests. My counterparts and I pooled data from 170 soybean tests done across ten years in Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Tennessee. The results were recently published in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*. Neonicotinoid seed treatments increased soybean yields by an average of 2 bushels per acre and provided significant economic benefits for

Mid-Southern soybean producers. Soybean does not benefit as much as some other crops, but the value of seed treatments in the Mid-South is undeniable. Publications of similar meta-analyses for cotton and corn are pending but show yield increases averaging over 100 pounds of lint per acre or 10 bushels of corn compared with untreated seed.

In 2014, I authored a paper from a multi-state study that was published in *Environmental Science and Technology*. The results indicated that the contributions of neonicotinoid seed treatments to declining pollinator health were probably very low. The research evaluated the potential exposure of pollinators to neonicotinoid insecticides used as seed treatments on corn, cotton

*“The results showed that concentrations of the insecticides in the pollen and nectar were below defined levels of concern.”*

and soybeans. The results showed that concentrations of the insecticides in the pollen and nectar were below defined levels of concern. In soybean flowers, neonicotinoids were “non-detectable.”

Follow up research that has just been submitted for publication shows how quickly in-plant

concentrations of neonicotinoids decrease after emergence. By the time cotton or soybean begins to flower, average insecticide con-



centrations in plants are less than 1% of those found in seedling plants. It is pretty clear that seed treatments do not result in insecticide concentrations within the pollen or nectar of row crops that could have meaningful effects on the health of a honeybee hive. However, we are continuing to evaluate both the benefits and risks of agriculture on the health of honeybees. Clearly there are some risks to pollinators when insecticides are used, and we should always strive to reduce any negative impacts of insecticide use on the environment. At the same time, we should focus on the factors that mostly affect pollinator health. Most experts agree that varroa mites and the diseases they spread are the primary threat to honeybees.



## *Turnage Represents TAPA in Washington, D.C.*

The Southern Crop Production Association Hill Visits were held May 13 and 14 and I am extremely proud and grateful to have represented TAPA and Bayer as a delegate along with several other Ag industry leaders from Tennessee and ten other states across the South. This is a great opportunity to voice our position on several issues facing our industry and reinforce our efforts to keep House and Senate members informed on current Ag policy.

We 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 Forrest Laws, Farm Press (Cordova); Mason Bennett, Amvac (Collierville); Kevin Stewart, Gowan (Collierville); and Rick Turnage, Bayer and TAPA.

The day of the visits, we met for breakfast as a team to cover any last minute items then proceeded to Capitol Hill. Our delegation visited the following offices:

- Senator Lamar Alexander; met with Kayla McMurray, Ag Legislative Aide (Laws, Stewart, Bennett, Turnage)
- Senator Bob Corker; met with John Haley, Legislative Aide (Laws, Stewart, Bennett, Turnage)
- Representative Jim Cooper; met with Vic Goetz, Legislative Aide (Laws, Stewart)
- Representative Phil Roe; met with John Witherspoon, Legislative Aide (Bennett, Turnage)
- Representative Scott DesJarlais; met with Richard Wilkins, Legislative Advisor (Bennett, Turnage)
- Representative Chuck Fleischmann; met with Andrew Palmer, Legislative Correspondent (Laws, Stewart)
- Representative Marsha Blackburn; met with Brian Maven, Legislative Director (Laws, Stewart)
- Representative Stephen Fincher; met with Legislative Assistant Corey Schrodt (Bennett, Turnage)



L-R: Rick Turnage, TAPA and Bayer; Ace Burch, Ag Policy Advisor and legislative aide to Rep. Diane Black (R-TN); Mason Bennett, Amvac (Collierville)

- Representative Diane Black; met with Ace Burch, Ag Legislative Assistant (Bennett, Turnage)

During these visits, we discussed the following five major issues:

- Clean Water Act, Redefining WOTUS (Waters of the United States) by EPA and Corps of Engineers; Pesticide NPDES General Permits
- FIFRA use as the gold standard for assessing pesticide registrations
- The Endangered Species Act Consultations for Pesticides
- Pollinators and Colony Health
- GMO Labeling (Vermont's new labeling law begins 7/1/2016)

I'm very pleased to report that the visits were very productive as they shared our views and opinions. In an ongoing effort to keep our communications transparent, I offered TAPA as an ongoing source for any legislative consideration and to send our newsletter as it becomes available. I also expressed 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.

Rick Turnage



## Industry News

### New President of Agricenter International (Memphis) Announced

**John R. Butler** will take the reins of Agricenter International\* effective July 1, 2016. He will replace **John Charles Wilson**, who will be stepping down after 15 years with the organization.

Butler, a fifth generation farmer, has been owner/operator of Jones Creek Farms for the last 20 years. Jones Creek Farms is a diversified row crop and cattle operation in West Tennessee that has grown to several thousand acres, consisting of cotton, soybeans, feed grains, and a commercial cow/calf herd.

Butler graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science. He worked for Cargill, Inc. for a number of years. In his various management roles at Cargill, John had permanent assignments all over the United States dealing with grain origination, processing, transportation, distribution, and customer service.



John is passionate about the importance of U.S. agriculture and its role in providing the world with nutritious and economical products. He has spent countless hours traveling all over the U.S. and the world telling the story of American agriculture. He has served on several commodity associations and has been very active in numerous professional organizations such as the American and Tennessee Farm Bureaus, the United Soybean Board, the Tennessee Beef Industry Council, the Tennessee Soybean Association, and the Center for Food Integrity, to name a few.

Butler stated, "I am humbled to have been chosen to lead Agricenter International. Its future has never been brighter, and I am committed to growing and advancing Agricenter's brand and mission within Shelby County, the region, our great nation, and the world. U.S. agriculture is the backbone of our nation's economy, with an economic impact in excess of \$830 billion. I intend to spend my time and energy growing and advancing this industry and Agricenter International."

*\*Agricenter International, a non-profit dedicated to agricultural research, education and conservation has a \$524 million economic impact on the region and over 1.3 million visitors annually.*

### TAPA Welcomes New Sales Representative to Tennessee

**Scott Benjamin** is the new sales representative for Agrium in Tennessee. He started his new position in February 2016 and has been with Agrium since June 2013. Scott earned a B.S. degree in Agribusiness Management from Eastern Kentucky University in 2013, and is currently working on a Master's in Agriculture degree in Agricultural Sciences from Colorado State University. Scott and his wife Catherine currently reside in Nashville, TN. You can meet and greet Scott at TAPA's upcoming Annual Meeting and Agronomic Workshop in Gatlinburg.

Scott replaces **Jake Bachman**, who recently served on the TAPA Board of Directors (Fertilizer) and has returned to his home state of Colorado. Jake is now serving as National Account Manager for Agrium. He served the board well and we were sad to see him go. Blessings to Jake and his family.

Timac Agro USA has hired new sales representatives to accomplish their goals of assisting farmers across the state of Tennessee. New to their team is **John Wilcox**, Regional Sales Manager – Knoxville, TN; **Jonathan Mixon**, Sales Representative – Rutledge, TN; **Will Thomas**, Sales Representative – Adams, TN; **John Hopson**, Sales Representative – Murray, KY; and **Micah Miller**, Sales Representative – Memphis, TN. Timac Agro USA provides farmers with sustainable specialty fertilizer and plant nutrient products and animal nutrient and welfare products. You can become more acquainted with them at our summer meeting in Gatlinburg.

The members at TAPA welcome these new representatives to Tennessee and are looking forward to working with them in the future!

### Harden Retires After Successful Career in Agriculture

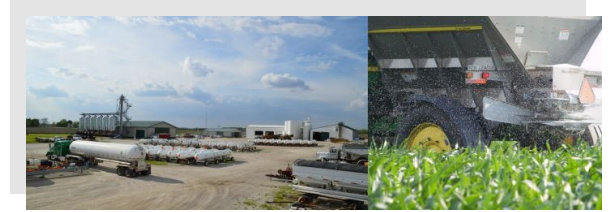
**Dr. John Harden**, BASF Ag Development Representative in Raleigh, NC, recently retired in December after 40 years of service to the company. He was the past president of the Southern Weed Science Society as well as being active in other agricultural organizations. He was a regional manager for BASF in Germantown, Tennessee during the 1980's.



Busy season's here...bee safe!



## Retailer News and Views



### Report: Fertilizer Industry Supports More Than A Half Million U.S. Jobs

Fertilizers are well known for their contribution to the world's food supply, but until now, the economic value and jobs provided by the fertilizer industry have not been known. The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) has announced the release of a first of its kind economic impact study that quantifies the fertilizer industry's contribution to the U.S. economy and at the state and congressional district levels.

The study, conducted for TFI by John Dunham and Associates, found that the fertilizer industry contributed over \$162 billion and 515,900 jobs to the U.S. economy in 2014. The scope of the study includes the direct contribution, supplier contribution and downstream positive impact of the entire industry value chain – from manufacturers to wholesalers, retailers and goods and services suppliers.

The entire fertilizer industry directly employs nearly 85,000 people who produce over \$68 billion in output. The nation's fertilizer retailers alone support in excess of 43,000 jobs with a total annual payroll of \$23 billion. Fertilizer manufacturers and wholesalers combined contribute another 41,000 jobs with a combined annual economic impact of \$46 billion.

"We are proud of the economic contribution the fertilizer industry makes to the U.S. economy and the good jobs that it provides," TFI President Chris Jahn said. "The people we employ contribute to the economies of communities across the nation."

"We are excited to be able to share this first of its kind report as it will serve as a valuable resource not just to those in the industry, but also to lawmakers and

regulators here in Washington D.C., and around the country," concluded Jahn. [Click here to Learn more about the impact the U.S. Fertilizer has on the economy.](#)

### Ammonium Nitrate Facilities Have Changed Since West, Texas

A recent survey conducted by the Dallas Morning News found that more than half of the businesses in Texas that stored large amounts of ammonium nitrate within a half-mile of schools, hospitals or nursing homes, have stopped handling the chemical since the West Fertilizer explosion on April 17, 2013. The survey was conducted using a state database and inspection reports obtained from the State Fire Marshal's office. [Click here](#) to read the article.

### Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Update

Agriculture and other industry interests opposed to EPA's controversial "Waters of the U.S." rulemaking were disappointed recently when the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals refused to reconsider its decision on its jurisdiction over the rulemaking. The agricultural industry wanted the case heard by the federal district courts, leaving the appeals court as second resort in the challenge. The appeals court earlier blocked implementation as various state and industry court actions work their way through the system.

### CVSA's Annual Roadcheck Set for June 7-9th

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) announced its annual International Roadcheck will take place June 7-9, 2016. The emphasis this year is

tire safety (i.e., measuring the tire tread depth, checking the tire pressure, checking to make sure no items are lodged between dual tires and examining the overall condition of the tire to ensure no deep cuts or bulges exist in the sidewalls of the tire). During the Roadcheck, inspectors will mainly conduct the North American Standard Level I Inspection — a 37- step procedure that includes an examination of both the driver and vehicle. Drivers may be asked to provide the following: license, endorsements, medical card, and hours-of-service documentation.

Drivers will also be checked for seat belt usage and the use of alcohol and/or drugs.

### Sleep Apnea Proposed Rule: Comments Due June 8th

The U.S. Department of Transportation continues to take steps toward making a rule regarding sleep apnea. When they released the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking in March, a 90-day comment period was opened. The agencies say they are seeking comment on the costs and benefits of requiring motor carrier and rail transportation workers who exhibit multiple risk factors for sleep apnea to undergo evaluation and treatment by a health care professional with expertise in sleep disorders. The time is now for those concerned about a prospective sleep apnea regulation to speak out. Comments can be submitted at the Regulations.gov website or by mailing Docket Services, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. You are asked to identify whether you are in the transportation industry or medical profession, but you can choose to remain anonymous.

# Add these important events to your 2016 Calendar!



**29<sup>th</sup> Milan No-Till  
Crop Production  
Field Day**  
Thursday, July 28, 2016  
7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**North Tract of the  
AgResearch and Education  
Center at Milan  
Milan, Tennessee**



Weed Tour - Wednesday, June 22

Author: Dr. Larry Steckel, Extension Weed Specialist  
WTREC, Jackson, Tennessee

Dear Colleagues

The University of Tennessee Weed Tour will be held Wednesday, June 22 at the West Tennessee Research & Education Center in Jackson, TN (605 Airways Blvd). Registration will start at 8:30 A.M. and the tour will begin at 9:00 A.M. It will end about 11:30. We will have breakfast biscuits available before the tour starts.

This guided 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, glyphosate, Xtend and Enlist weed control systems along with some of the new herbicide technology traits on the horizon in cotton and soybeans will be highlighted. Also some strategies to manage the increasing problem with glyphosate-resistant grass species as well as glyphosate/PPO resistant Palmer amaranth will be discussed.



Moreover, cultural weed control practices and many of the newer premixes in corn and soybean will be demonstrated. 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,

Larry



## PROGENY AG PRODUCTS FIELD DAY

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016

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

Other Important Events	Dates	Location
Tobacco, Beef and More (UT)	June 23	Springfield, TN
Summer Celebration (UT)	July 14	Jackson, TN
Tobacco & Forage Production Field Day (UT)	July 21	Greenville, TN
Milan No-Till Field Day	July 28	Milan, TN
American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting	July 30 - August 3	Tampa, FL
TAPA Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop	August 2-4	Gatlinburg, TN
Monsanto Field Day	August 4	Union City, TN
Cotton Tour (UT)	September 7	Jackson, TN
Small Plot Research Equipment Field Day	October 6	Agricenter - Memphis, TN
Tennessee Green Industry Expo	October 6-7	McMinnville, TN
Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo (UT)	October 13	Greenville, TN



**PIONEER WHITE CORN  
FIELD DAY**  
~  
**Wednesday, July 27, 2016**  
**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**



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Ron Akin will contact you with  
membership details.

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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.

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