

# THE TAPA QUARTERLY

*The Newsletter of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association*

March/April/May 2018



## Message from the President

By Bruce Kirksey, Agricenter International



The TAPA Winter Agronomic Workshop was held on February 7 in Jackson, Tennessee, where attendees were treated to an excellent program put together by our President Elect and Program Chair, Scott Stewart. This was just a preview of the great things to come under Scott's leadership. He is already working on another excellent program for our Summer Annual Meeting and Agronomic Workshop where he will become our next president. This meeting will be held on July 31-August 2 at the Park Vista DoubleTree Hotel in Gatlinburg.

Our TAPA organization continues to thrive and it is because of our members like you. Because of the hard, steady work of our members and support of our sponsors, great things are happening within TAPA. The diversity of meeting topics, new members joining, scholarship programs, and Washington D.C. representation are just some of the things that happen within our organization. To further strengthen and grow our organization and secure its future, new efforts are underway to increase undergraduate and graduate student membership and participation in TAPA. Details will be released later this year.

We have several issues that can affect the outcome of our producers this year. As TAPA members, it is our duty to present our growers and members with solutions and suggestions. Dicamba use this year is a prime example and we all have to be stewards in order to keep this product available to our growers. It is an integral part of our solution in weed control in Tennessee. Numerous other pests and issues need to always be in our mind. Not only are row crops affected by some of these issues we face, but the nursery industry, pine and hardwood industry, and livestock producers all face challenges. This is one reason that our meeting subjects include a diverse range of topics for all of Tennessee.

I am very proud to be a part of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association. I have also enjoyed being your President this year and look forward to continuing working with TAPA and building our organization. Together we can increase membership, continue to spread the word of agriculture in our great state, and support our producers. Thank you all for your support and involvement. I look forward to seeing you in Gatlinburg this summer.

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Do you know someone deserving of the 2018 Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor award? The winner will receive a \$500 cash prize! See Page 5 for details!

## TAPA THREE STAR SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



Tennessee Agricultural Production Association is pleased to announce the fourth year of **three regional scholarships for deserving college sophomores and juniors** seeking degrees in the field of agriculture. Students will be eligible for the \$1,000 Three Star Scholarships in West, Middle, and East Tennessee by submitting a resume, a statement of career goals, and an explanation of what this scholarship opportunity means to the candidate.

To qualify, the candidate must be currently

enrolled in a Tennessee college or university and actively pursuing a degree in agriculture or related area. Students may apply via email at [psep@utk.edu](mailto:psep@utk.edu) by **May 31, 2018**. Within the subject line include "TAPA Scholarship". Place submission information (resume, other work in area of agriculture) within the body of the text. No attachments please. Previous winners are not eligible.

A TAPA representative will communicate the potential award to Ag program coordinators throughout Tennessee. The

individual will be notified upon receipt of application. All applicants, including the winners, will be contacted by phone or e-mail.

TAPA is proud to reach out to the leaders of our future and we look forward to announcing the winners at our summer meeting in Gatlinburg July 31-Aug 2, 2018.

Sincerely,  
*Rick Turnage*  
Scholarship Chairman

*Add these important events to your 2018 Calendar!*

<i>Field Days</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
Beef Heifer Development School	TN Beef Heifer Development Center (Lewisburg)	Mar 22, 2018	10:00 a.m. (CST)
Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods	Forest Resources AgResearch & Education Center - Highland Rim Forest (Tullahoma)	May 19, 2018	8:00 a.m. (EST)
Fruits of the Backyard	Middle Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center	June 19, 2018	8:30 a.m. (CST)
Weed Field Day	West TN AgResearch & Education Center	June 20, 2018	8:00 a.m. (CST)
Tobacco, Beef and More	Highland Rim AgResearch & Education Center	June 21, 2018	8:00 a.m. (CST)
Summer Celebration	West Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center	July 12, 2018	9:00 a.m. (CST)
Milan No-Till	AgResearch and Education Center at Milan	July 26, 2018	7:00 a.m. (CST)
Steak and Potatoes	Plateau AgResearch & Education Center	August 7, 2018	8:00 a.m. (CST)
Turf and Ornamental	East Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center	August 30, 2018	7:00 a.m. (EST)
Cotton Tour	West Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center	September 5, 2018	8:00 a.m. (CST)
Horse Management Field Day	Brehm Animal Science Arena, UT Ag Campus, Knoxville	September 13, 2018	4:00 p.m. (EST)
Horse Management Field Day	Middle TN AgResearch and Education Center	September 20, 2018	4:00 p.m. (CST)
Horse Management Field Day	AgResearch and Education Center at Ames Plantation	September 27, 2018	4:00 p.m. (CST)
Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo	AgResearch & Education Center in Greeneville	October 11, 2018	7:30 a.m. (EST)
<i>Special Events</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
UT Gardens Green Industry Day	UT Gardens Knoxville	June 26, 2018	8:00 a.m. (EST)
UT Arboretum Butterfly Festival	Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center UT Arboretum Auditorium, Oak Ridge	August 4, 2018	10:00 a.m. (EST)
Fall Gardeners' Festival	Plateau AgResearch & Education Center	August 8, 2018	8:30 a.m. (CST)
Fall Folklore Jamboree	AgResearch & Education Center at Milan	October 21, 2018	9:00 a.m. (CST)

**Plan for our summer meeting in Gatlinburg...and bring the family!**  
 By Bill Qualls  
 Local Arrangements Chair

The 2018 TAPA Annual Meeting and Agronomic Workshop will 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, July 30, 2018. The meeting will begin on the morning of Tuesday, July 31, 2018 and will conclude at Noon on Thursday, August 2, 2018.** The Park Vista Doubletree by Hilton Hotel is offering TAPA members a **Single Rate** and a **Double Rate of \$130 per night. Individual Reservations must be made no later than Midnight June 29, 2018.** 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.

For TAPA Members who are interested, The Park Vista also offers King Suites at a rate of \$230 per night and Family Suites at a rate of \$250 per night that can be reserved by TAPA members. The suites are based upon availability.

Reservations can be made online or by phone. The website for online reservation is [www.parkvista.com](http://www.parkvista.com) and the on-line booking 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 you can still get the TAPA room rate. If the reservationist does not give the proper room rate when making the reservation contact **Bill Qualls at [bill.qualls@responsibleag.org](mailto:bill.qualls@responsibleag.org)** and he will notify The Park Vista to make sure that TAPA members get the proper room rate.

## TAPA Winter Agronomic Workshop

February 7, 2018

Jackson, Tennessee

*Day of Learning and Making Connections*



### Winter Workshop Overview

By Dr. Scott Stewart

Program Chair



The primary goal at the Winter Workshop, as always, is to provide our membership with quality and timely information. It also gave us the opportunity to feature some of the good work by relatively new faculty and graduate students at the University of Tennessee. Thanks to **Drs. Robert Florence** (UT Plant and Pest Center) and **Avat Shekoofa** (UT Plant Sciences) for their first ever presentations at TAPA. **Scott Graham, Shawn Butler, and Drake Copeland** are PhD students that showed us that the future looks bright. I'd also like to commend the excellent presentations made by our other speakers including **Drs. Blake Brown** (Director, UT Research and Education Center at Milan), **Melvin Newman** (Professor Emeritus, UT Entomology and Plant Pathology), **Angela McClure** (UT Plant Sciences), **Forbes Walker** (UT Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science), and **Mr. Keith Harrison** (TDA Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture).

Everyone seemed to enjoy the broad selection of topics at the winter meeting, and we hope to put on a good show at the next annual meeting being held in Gatlinburg from July 31 – August 2. It's a great location to bring some family or friends and enjoy the Blue Ridge Mountains of East Tennessee. I'm looking forward to another good meeting this summer!

### A Job Well Done Thank You, Ron Akin

As many of you know, Ron Akin has been serving TAPA for many years in numerous roles. For the past five years, he has led the organization as the Executive Secretary. He also served as President in 2009/2010, filled roles on various committees, and last year was recognized as an Honorary Member. In the December 2017 newsletter, Ron announced that he was ready to step down as executive secretary and hand the reins to someone else. Only a few people within our organization realize how many things Ron has done to keep things running smoothly behind the scenes. In his tenure as executive secretary, he significantly increased membership and sponsorship. In all aspects of the job, he went above and beyond what was expected. Today, TAPA is a well-run, financially stable association and much of that is due to Ron's hard work and organization skills. He keeps track of timelines and makes sure everyone serving on the board knows what they are supposed to be doing throughout the year. When I first attended a TAPA meeting in 2016, he and Mrs. Dianne Jenkins were the first friendly faces to greet me and make me feel welcome.

As your new Executive Secretary, I want to be the first to extend my gratitude to Mr. Ron Akin. As I learn more about my duties for this role, I am ever reminded of the groundwork Ron laid in years before. Even though he has officially stepped down, he still willingly helps me along so that TAPA doesn't skip a beat during the transition. It is my most sincere wish to continue Ron's good work in keeping TAPA a healthy, thriving association that is dedicated to educating and connecting Tennessee growers, industry personnel and educators with resources and relationships to aid them in their endeavors. Ron has many dear friends at TAPA, and I believe we will continue enjoying his attendance at our meetings for many years to come. If you see Ron out and about, be sure to stop and thank him for a job well done.

I look forward to serving as your new TAPA Executive Secretary. If we haven't met yet, please introduce yourself at the Gatlinburg meeting in July.

Sincerely,  
Jo Gillilan  
TAPA Executive Secretary



## Industry News

### Robertson Cheatham Farmers Co-op celebrates grand opening of the Crop Nutrients Center in Springfield, TN.

Co-op customers in Robertson and Cheatham counties were invited to a grand opening celebration on Jan 31 to tour a new state-of-the-art custom nutrient blending facility located north of Springfield, TN on Hwy 41. Owens Construction out of Missouri was chosen to build the new center, says Randy Southerland, general manager of Robertson Cheatham Co-op. The new facility consolidates all of the nutrient management and blending for all four co-op locations within these two counties, providing faster service with better accuracy and efficiency. Tanner Pritchett is managing the new Crop Nutrients Center.



## SCPA Hill Visits

The Southern Crop Protection Association Board and their members will be visiting representatives and senators and their staffs in Washington, D.C. on May 8-9, 2018. In addition, representatives of several state associations from various Ag disciplines will join SCPA for this important visit. The purpose is to discuss issues that are relevant to the farming industry in the South. The Tennessee Agricultural Production Association has sent a representative for many years and will do so again in 2018.

**Rick Turnage** has made this trip the last two years. **Hillary Spain** will represent TAPA this year. The representatives, senators, and their staff from Tennessee will be visited to discuss issues vital to the Tennessee farming industry. Hillary will present a full report at our annual meeting in Gatlinburg July 31-Aug 2, 2018. Let's all wish her a safe trip!

## TAPA Board Meets

The TAPA officers, board of directors, and committee chairs met at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson on February 7th. Attendees were Bruce Kirksey, Kyle Jackson, Scott Stewart, Hillary Spain, Ron Akin, Dianne Jenkins, Jo Gillilan, Guy Spence, Will Spence, Rick Carlisle, and Forbes Walker.

One of the items of business was the upcoming Annual Meeting and Agronomic Workshop in Gatlinburg July 31-Aug 2. Ground work is now being laid for a terrific three days of education, rekindling friendships, and enjoying the sites in Gatlinburg.

If you're in the business of agriculture, this summer meeting is for you! Pre-registration and meeting agenda details will be coming soon!

The Tennessee Certified Crop Advisor Board of Directors Announces:

### *Tennessee Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor Award*

The Tennessee Farm Bureau along with the Tennessee Certified Crops Adviser Board of Directors sponsor an award to a deserving Tennessee Certified Crops Adviser who has exemplified the merits of service and dedication to their customers.

**The winner will receive a plaque and \$500 cash prize.**

To nominate someone, please write a short bio of this person's accomplishments and submit to Jaymie Seay, Executive Board Administrator for the Tennessee CCA Board of Directors. You do not have to be a CCA to nominate someone.

**Please submit by August 31, 2018 to:**  
**Jaymie Seay ([jseay@ourcoop.com](mailto:jseay@ourcoop.com))**  
**Executive Secretary**  
**CCA Board of Directors**

Would you like to visit the *Tennessee Agricultural Production Association* website? Click here: [tapa.tennessee.edu](http://tapa.tennessee.edu)

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

**TAPA Sponsors for 2018**

*Thanks to our sponsors for their generous support in the new year! Click on their links below to learn more about them:*

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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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[JAGillilan@landolakes.com](mailto:JAGillilan@landolakes.com).

Use this e-mail address if you wish to unsubscribe.

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