

THE TAPA QUARTERLY

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association

December 1, 2014

Land Conservation and Protection Options for the Family Farm

By Gary Moore



The Land Trust for Tennessee was founded in 1999 as a non-profit and non-governmental organization. It is funded by grants and grant foundations, donors/donations, philanthropic minded individuals/entities, and estate bequeaths. The Trust's mission is to preserve the unique character of Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and farm sites for future generations.

According to the University of Tennessee Extension Service, Tennessee has lost 600,000 acres belonging to 3,000 farms during the period of 2007-2012 to development for commercial, industrial, residential, and transportation purposes. Several of these farm losses represented many acres of prime and/or good production acreage.

The Land Trust for Tennessee is committed to conserve and protect several types of land uses for willing landowners or units of government. These include: Critical Watersheds and River Corridors; Community and Historical/Cultural Resources; Natural Landscapes and Recreation Corridors/Open Spaces; and Working Lands – Farms and Forests.

The conservation easement is the primary tool the trust uses for protecting land that lasts forever by being attached to the deed. It is a legal agreement which includes restrictions that are flexible and tailored to specific property and landowner's needs and desires that can be phased in over a period of time and is totally voluntary.

One primary benefit of a conservation easement includes three forms of tax relief. If you are a donor and your farm is already in a greenbelt status, the easement may or may not further reduce your property taxes. However, there is an Estate tax relief for landowners which would allow heirs to keep the land in the family rather than heirs being forced to sell it. The most popular tax relief for a donor is through the federal income tax deduction where landowners are able to take sizeable deductions in relieving them of some of their annual tax burden. Since 1999, The Land Trust for Tennessee has protected over 92,000 acres on 280 properties in 54 counties. Of this amount, working land totals 81 farms for over 25,000 acres.

Gary Moore is Middle Tennessee Project Manager for The Land Trust for Tennessee. For more information, contact him at GMoore@landtrusttn.org.



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If you weren't a sponsor in 2014 and would like to become one in the new year, call John Duke (615)793-8355 or Ron Akin (731)431-7216 for information.

RETAILER NEWS & VIEWS



A New Initiative

ResponsibleAg is a new industry-supported stewardship initiative that was created to assist fertilizer storage and handling facilities in achieving and maintaining compliance with federal laws and regulations.

What is ResponsibleAg? It is defined as an independent, not-for-profit organization funded by industry participants engaged in the business of storing, handling and distributing fertilizers. The Agricultural Retailers Association, The Fertilizer Institute, and the Asmark Institute have each made a significant initial donation to help launch ResponsibleAg. More than 50 organizations have contributed to the development of this program. While ResponsibleAg is considered to be a groundbreaking initiative in the United States for our industry, similar stewardship programs have been developed and implemented with great success in several other countries around the world.

One-Stop Suite of Resources: ResponsibleAg provides an exciting new suite of resources for agribusinesses that handle and store fertilizers. The ResponsibleAg audit is based on federal regulatory requirements. ResponsibleAg creates a beneficial partnership with participants to identify federal requirements and review and measure the applicable

level of compliance. By participating, the participant can address compliance issues and allow for corrections before the next government agency audits the facility, saving time and potential penalties.

Who can participate? Those who are encouraged to participate are manufacturers, distributors, importers, brokers, retailers, and farmers who store bulk fertilizers.

Registration: Participation in ResponsibleAg begins with the on-line registration of each physical location. This establishes the base information for each location. The annual registration for:

- Manufacturers, producers, importers, wholesalers, distributors, brokers, etc. is \$5000 per company
- Manned locations, retailer and farmers is \$150 per site
- Unmanned retail and farm satellite locations is \$100 per site

ResponsibleAg Audit: Participating locations will receive an audit by a credentialed auditor every three years. The audit is divided by functional area of the facility such as dry fertilizer, liquid fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, shop, office and grounds, etc. Upon completion, the auditor reports their findings to the ResponsibleAg central database;

participating retailers will have timely access to the results. Upon completion of all identified issues, registered participants may use the ResponsibleAg certified logo on signs and promotional materials through a licensing agreement. ResponsibleAg respects the privacy of each participant and does not disclose audit results to anyone other than the contact on file for the location. Certified locations will be listed on the ResponsibleAg web portal.

Audit Checklist: This checklist was compiled by industry experts familiar with agricultural facilities. It consists of more than 320 questions, based on federal regulations that pertains to agricultural facilities. The audit is divided into seventeen functional areas of the facility. To download this checklist, click here: [AuditChecklist](#)

Corrective Action Plan: Once the auditor reports their findings to ResponsibleAg, a Corrective Action Plan is electronically sent to the participant. This plan lists any issues that are identified in the audit and is formatted to help track the corrections.

For more information about this new initiative, call Ron Akin, publisher of *The TAPA Quarterly* (731) 431-7216, or visit www.responsibleag.org.

Compliance Assessment Tool

The fertilizer industry shares the public's concerns about safe operations of fertilizer facilities. The West, Texas agriculture facility explosion has affected the consciousness of Americans, and public support is high for increased facility inspections, transparency, and demonstrated community safety.

ResponsibleAg has made available an on-line [Compliance Assessment Tool](#) for agricultural retail facilities to help control risk and support the continual improvement of a retail dealer's compliance effort.

To complete the Assessment Tool:

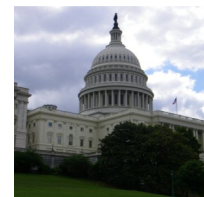
Step 1: Access the tool by visiting: www.responsibleag.org/ComplianceAssessmentTool

Step 2: Enter your facility information.

Step 3: Describe your scope of operations.

Step 4: Download and print your document.

Step 5: Complete the worksheet.



News from “The Hill”

GMO Labeling Fails in Oregon and Colorado

Oregon voters have rejected the state’s ballot initiative seeking the labeling of genetically modified ingredients in food.

With the 50.7 percent to 49.3 percent loss, the food and biotech industries are now 4-0 on state labeling ballot initiatives; California was defeated in 2012, Washington State in 2013; and Colorado on Tuesday night.

“The voters in Colorado and Oregon were right to reject the scare tactics of extremist groups intent on ignoring the science about

GMOs,” Claire Parker, a spokeswoman for the industry- backed Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food, said in a statement. “Passage of these initiatives would have resulted in increased grocery bills for consumers along with incomplete, inaccurate and misleading information.”

The four failed initiatives highlight the need for federal action on GMO labeling, Parker continued. The coalition supports Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo’s Safe and

Accurate Food Labeling Act, which would preempt state rules and codify a voluntary GMO-free labeling system, among other things.

“It’s time to give consumers what they deserve — a consistent, national framework for food labeling that is based on science, not politics,” Parker said. “Consumers have a right to reliable information and a uniform labeling standard that is regulated by experts at the Food and Drug Administration.”

RShuler, November 6, 2014

Study of Neonicotinoids Leaves Door Open to Possible Ban in Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will soon begin a study of neonicotinoids that could result in the pesticide being banned in the state. A study was conducted in 2013. In announcing the outline of its review, the department didn’t specify that its review could result in the state’s banning of neonicotinoids.

Chemical Regulations Reporter, Nov. 3, 2014

Advocates Oppose Delay in Federal Pollinator Plan

Environmental groups are criticizing an EPA-led federal pollinator task force for delaying development of a strategy to comply with President Obama’s memo on protecting honey bees and other pollinators, thereby preventing any changes from occurring before the spring planting season begins.

EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are leading the federal Pollinator Health Task Force in crafting a national strategy to protect pollinators, and the task force had been slated to complete the strategy to better understand, prevent and recover pollinator losses before the end of the year.

But a White House official Oct. 22 told a meeting of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign in Washington, DC,

that the December deadline for completing the strategy has been postponed by several months.

Environmental groups Center for Food Safety (CFS) and Friends of the Earth, in separate statements say the delay precludes any new pollinator protection efforts from taking effect before the upcoming growing season. “We are disappointed that the White House is already missing its deadlines,” CFS says in an Oct. 23 statement. “As beekeepers, scientists and environmentalists continue to stress how urgent our current pollinator crisis is, it’s imperative that our nation’s leadership be doing all it can to respond.”

Friends of the Earth, in an Oct. 22 statement says, “The weight of the science tells us that we must take immediate action to suspend systemic bee-killing pesticides before the

spring planting season begins.”

Obama created the federal pollinator task force with his June 20 memo that seeks to stem massive declines in pollinators by improving habitat, assessing how pesticides and other stressors contribute to pollinator declines and taking action where appropriate, including a call for EPA to assess potential risks of neonicotinoid pesticides to pollinators.

Environmentalists have said the administration’s plans, which largely call on federal agencies to improve bee habitat, do not go far enough because they stop short of calling for specific regulatory restrictions and other measures advocates are seeking to reduce the potential risks of pesticides to bees.

Inside EPA.com, November 11, 2014

Maui Moratorium on GMO Farming

Voters in Maui County, Hawaii narrowly approved an initiative on the November 4, ballot that prohibits the growth testing and cultivation of GMO crops until a study on their health and environmental impact is conducted.

Dow AgroSciences believes the ban is illegal and intends to protect its legal rights. If Dow takes the issues to court, there is precedent in the company’s favor.

Chemical Regulation Reporter, November 10, 2014



News for Certified Crop Advisors

CCA Exam Training Workshop - Registration Deadline Approaching!

In Tennessee, the Certified Crop Advisor International and State exams are given annually on the first Friday in February. In 2015, this date will be February 6. The registration period for the 2015 exam runs from October 6 to **December 5, 2014**.

A workshop primarily for the International CCA exam will be held on December 9-11, 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee. For details, see the CCA website:

<https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams/exam-workshops>

This year's training will also offer one session focusing on the Tennessee performance objective topic area that has been documented from previous state exams to have "the most missed questions." Conrad Lavender, who will be leading this effort, has many years of experience with these training sessions.

Scholarships Available!

In its July 2014 meeting, the Tennessee Certified Crop Advisor Board of Directors voted to offer individual scholarships (one time only) for participation in these training sessions offered by Mr. Lavender. To be eligible for the scholarship you must already be registered to take the February 2015 Tennessee CCA examination. The scholarship will cover 50 percent of the workshop registration cost up to a maximum of \$150.00. The Tennessee CCA board encourages all 2015 state examinees to participate in this valuable training opportunity. Also be sure and visit the Certified Crop Advisor web site (below) for valuable information on guides to use when specifically studying to pass the Tennessee state exam:

<https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams/exam-study-materials>

To apply for this scholarship please email proof of registration for the Tennessee CCA exam along with your mailing address information to:

Harry Craft, CCA Board Chair harrycraft@comcast.net and copy:

Hugh Savoy, Exam Training Committee hsavoy@utk.edu
Angela McClure, CCA Treasurer athomp15@utk.edu and
Conrad Lavender clavender@southernagribusiness.com

You will receive a notice of acceptance and your scholarship funds will be mailed to you after our notification from Conrad of your successful completion of the December workshop.

An Invitation to all Certified Crop Advisors of Tennessee

I would like to invite all **Certified Crop Advisors** to attend the two meetings the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association holds each year. TAPA's Winter Meeting is February 11, 2015 at the Double Tree Hotel in Jackson, Tennessee. TAPA's Summer Meeting will be held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee July 28-29, 2015. If you attend both meetings you should receive more than enough C.E.U.s to maintain your certification.

More importantly you will receive the most current information pertaining to Tennessee agriculture. Our program committee has been doing a fantastic job of securing great speakers with very informative topics. Dr. Frank Yin, University of Tennessee, is TAPA president and Dr. John Bradley, VP of FBSciences, is president-elect and program chairman.

Come join your peers from University Agriculture, Industry

Agriculture, Tennessee Government, and Retailers in Agriculture. The interaction among the group is invaluable. Be a part of making Tennessee Agriculture the best it can be.

Sincerely,
Harry Craft
Chairman
CCA Board of Directors



Set your sights on these upcoming events...

TAPA Winter Agronomic Workshop All Set!

As an agricultural professional, you will want to add the **TAPA Winter Agronomic Workshop** to your calendar! This event will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel (1770 Highway 45 Bypass) in Jackson, Tennessee. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. This one-day event will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Program chairman John Bradley has crafted the meeting agenda and we're very excited about the speakers who have committed to the day's program and their topics. Most assuredly you will receive take-home information that will help you in your place of business.

Certified Crop Advisors and Retailers: CCA CEUs and Tennessee recertification points (C1, C4, C10, C12) will be available.

Need lodging for the meeting? If so, a block of rooms for the evenings of Tuesday (February 10) and Wednesday (February 11) has been reserved. Be sure to call the hotel (731-664-6900) to reserve your room at the \$99.00/daily rate. Rooms must be booked by January 20, 2015.

Registration details and the meeting agenda will be coming your way in December!

TAPA Announces 2015 Three Star Regional Scholarship Program

By Rick Turnage, Program Chairman

Tennessee Agricultural Production Association is pleased to announce the awarding of regional scholarships in 2015 to three deserving college students who are seeking degrees in the field of agriculture.

The Three Star Regional Scholarship Program was a huge success in 2014. The three winners from West, Middle, and East Tennessee were announced during the TAPA business session at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro on July 31. They were each awarded \$1000, and a certificate for this honor.

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 2015 program will be in the March issue of *The TAPA Quarterly*.

2015 TAPA Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop

TAPA Members! The 2015 Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop is something you will not want to miss! Program chair John Bradley has begun working on this year's agenda and you know it will be excellent! Be sure to add our event to your calendar today! Registration and lodging details will be announced in the spring.

What: TAPA Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop

Where: Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, TN

When: July 27.....Reception 6:00 p.m.

July 28-29.....Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop

July 30.....Golf Outing for TAPA members - tee times TBA

TAPA's annual trip to Washington, D.C. will be in May in the new year. If you are a TAPA member and would like to be considered as our representative for this trip, please contact a TAPA officer or board member by February 1st and tell him or her that you are interested. You will one of a small Tennessee group who will discuss agricultural issues with the top legislators in our state.

Event	Dates	Times	Location
Beltwide Cotton Conference	January 5-7, 2015	—	Marriott Rivercenter Hotel San Antonio, TX
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association's Convention and Trade Show	January 15-17, 2015	—	Embassy Suites Murfreesboro, TN
Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	January 26-28, 2015	—	Hyatt Regency Hotel Savannah, GA
West Tennessee Irrigation Conference	January 28, 2015	Registration: 7:30 a.m. Program: 8:30 - 12 Noon	Dyer County Fairgrounds Dyersburg, TN
West Tennessee Grain & Soybean Conference	February 5, 2015	Registration: 7:45 a.m. Program: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Dyer County Fairgrounds Dyersburg, TN
CCA / TAPA Board Meetings	February 10, 2015	CCA Board: 1-3:00 p.m. TAPA Board: 3-5:00 p.m.	DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jackson, TN
TAPA Agronomic Workshop	February 11, 2015	Registration: 7:00 a.m. Program: 8:00 a.m.	DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jackson, TN
Cotton Focus (University of Tennessee)	February 12, 2015	Registration: 8:00 a.m. Program: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jackson, TN
TAPA Annual Meeting & Agronomic Workshop	July 27-29, 2015	July 27: Evening Reception July 28-29: Meetings July 30: Golf Outing	Embassy Suites Murfreesboro, TN

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Ron Akin will contact
you with the details.



Do you know of someone who needs to be recognized?

In 2013-14, the Tennessee Certified Crop Advisor Board of Directors began a program to recognize an active certified crop advisor who is actively involved in Tennessee Agriculture, is widely respected, and is making significant impacts in our state's agriculture. At the 2014 annual Tennessee Agricultural Production Association meeting, we were proud to recognize John Bradley, VP of FBSciences Inc., as the first recipient of this award.

In this second year of this recognition program we are soliciting names from now until May 15, 2015 with the hope that this extended period will result in a large number of candidates.

Employers, co-workers, friends, clients served, etc.: Send us your nomination for the 2014-2015 Tennessee Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor Award. This longer time period for nominations will give you the time needed to get together with your nominee and develop a nomination package that very clearly communicates how your candidate is actively involved and well respected as a Certified Crop Advisor in the agricultural industry, and has made impacts in Tennessee Agriculture.

Criteria for Selection:

- Be actively involved as a Certified Crop Advisor in the agricultural industry
- Be well respected in their agricultural community
- Accomplishments in their field will impact and have impacted man over time.
- Have either a lifetime of achievement in agriculture, be an industry leader, or an upcoming active innovative crop advisor (or a combination).

Selection Process: Scan and submit nomination package by email to CCA Board Awards Selection Committee by May 15, 2015.

Nomination package should contain:

- Signed letter of nomination addressing above criteria with contact information for the individual making the nomination
- One to three signed letters of support from current clientele with contact information for each client

Submit package by email to: TN CCA Board awards selection committee, C/O jseay@ourcoop.com.

Jaymie Seay
Executive Secretary
CCA Board of Directors (TN)
(615) 793-8410

The winner will be announced at TAPA's annual meeting in Murfreesboro.

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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