

THE TAPA QUARTERLY

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Larry Steckel

Greetings from West Tennessee! We are winding down another full meeting season

and looking ahead to another eventful growing season. Just to name a few changes, we are already seeing in Tennessee row crop agriculture is the large acreage that has been devoted to wheat. One could almost mistake West Tennessee for Kansas if it were not for all the trees! One would assume that most of this will be going to harvest. However, based on a recent survey at the Grain Conference where fifty percent of the growers stated they are utilizing cover crops this winter, a good bit of it may be cover crop. Another change was the almost one million acres of corn planted last year. By all accounts there will be a lot of corn planted this spring as well if the weather cooperates. Moreover, the rapid adoption of irrigation in Tennessee row crops continues to accelerate. Even more pronounced changes in Tennessee agriculture are on the horizon with the likely introduction of new herbicide tolerant traits in soybean as well as some growers taking the first steps in evaluating some of the new drought tolerant traits in corn here in Tennessee. TAPA members are on the forefront working through these changes in agriculture with our growers here in Tennessee. Staying well informed on changes that impact our producers is what TAPA is all about.

TAPA conducted the 2013 Agronomic Workshop in Jackson on February 13 in conjunction with Cotton Focus on February 14th. The program put together by Terry Kelly, our President-elect and Program chairman, was excellent. Several speakers provided some very useful up-to-date information on a lot of the major changes going on in Tennessee agriculture including more adoption of corn in our row crop mix, the value cover crops bring to row crop production, pesticide resistance issues, increased reliance on irrigation and new technologies on the horizon. Special thanks go to our speakers: Brian Leib, Melvin Newman, Angela McClure, Bill Young, Matt Souder, Steve Phillips, Matthew Denton, and Mark Spiller.

It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve as your president. I am pleased to be part of an organization whose membership makes a positive difference in Tennessee agriculture.

New Business: I would like to strongly encourage you to make plans now to attend the 2013 annual meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, July 16 to 18, 2013. We will be meeting at the Edgewater Hotel and for those of you who have attended past summer meetings know; the Edgewater is a great location! To avoid conflicts, be sure to add this event to your calendar. Terry Kelly is putting together another fine program, so don't miss out.



ISSUE 1

March 2013

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We have a new Facebook page!

You can now follow our organization on facebook. This page was recently brought on line, so jump on "Like!" It's simple. Just [click the link here](#).

Would you like to visit TAPA's URL?

Harry Craft: A Lifetime of Achievements...and Friends

Harry Craft was presented the Outstanding Individual Award at the TAPA summer meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee last July. This came as no surprise to those in attendance and to his many agricultural colleagues who knew him best across the Volunteer state.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee with a B.S. degree in agriculture in 1970, he began his 43-year career with the Tennessee Farmers Co-op in positions as a manager trainee, assistant manager, and in outside sales.

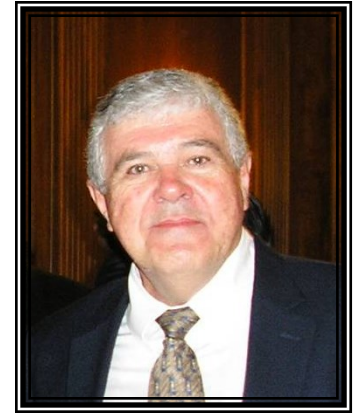
In 1975 Harry became the new district sales manager with DeKalb Seed. He is highly respected by the many retailers and farmers across middle and eastern Tennessee as a result. When Monsanto purchased DeKalb in 1999, Harry continued his employment until 2003.

After 28 years with the DeKalb winged-ear logo, he left with a reputation as one of the most knowledgeable Ag reps in the state.

Harry is currently a lime salesman with Tennessee Valley Resources, a position he has held for 10 years. His travels across the South-eastern U.S. keeps him very busy.

He has served on the Founding Board of Directors of the Tennessee Forage and Grassland Council. Harry is a Certified Crop Advisor and is currently serving on both the CCA and TAPA Board of Directors.

When Harry isn't selling lime you will find him at church, cheering on the Tennessee Big Orange, or entertaining his five grandchildren. He and his wife Sheila have two children and live in Knox County, Tennessee.



Harry Craft, TAPA's Outstanding Individual 2012

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, 2013. 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 the past several years and will do so again in 2013.

Gerald Simmons, who has made this trip many times as a member of the SCPA Board of Directors, will represent TAPA in 2013. The nine representatives and two senators from Tennessee will be visited to discuss issues vital to the Tennessee farming industry, including chemicals, fertilizer, and seed. A full report will be presented at our annual meeting in Gatlinburg July 16-18, 2013.

Do you need CEUs/Certification Points?

By Darrell Hensley

Pesticide Safety and Education Initial Certification Training is held in Knoxville, TN normally on the first Wednesday of each month. The program also provides training in Jackson, TN, however you must contact Ms. Marsha Camp (731-425-4718) concerning classroom availability.

Individuals who are in need of additional CEU's may attend the initial certification meetings once per year to obtain recertification credit. You may obtain 4 points in all certification categories. If

you attend the category 7 or category 3 training, you may obtain an additional 2 points credit in these categories. For categories 8, you may attend the category 7 training, to obtain 1 point credit. For those in category 6, you may obtain 1 point credit from attending the category 3 training.

For more information concerning initial certification or re-certification, please visit our web site at <http://psep.utk.edu> or call 865-974-1286.



TAPA President-Elect Terry Kelley greets speaker Mark Spiller, Regional Manager, Yara North America, Inc. at the February 13 CCA Agronomic Workshop in Jackson, TN. Mr. Spiller's presentation was devoted to the fertilizer market.



News from the Hill

Biotech Companies Make Their Case to White House

Representatives from the world's biotech companies got a hearing at the White House last Thursday in Vilsack's company. One of President Obama's top advisers, Valerie Jarrett, was at the meeting with officials from BASF, Bayer, Syngenta, DuPont-Pioneer, Monsanto, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farmers Union. The goal, according to Vilsack, was to impress on the White House the

importance of genetically engineered crops. Biotechnology is "making a difference," Vilsack said. "It's made a difference during the drought. It could respond to the president's desire to feed the hungry around the world. It is a response to climate change." Vilsack went on, "The hope would be that at some point in time the president would find time in his extraordinarily business schedule to visit a facility or to come and give a speech." No doubt, the executives would

welcome the president at BIO's annual meeting next month in, of all places, Chicago.

Executive Briefing, March 4, 2013



CBO Complicates Farm Bill

The new cost estimates for last year's farm bills mean that the committees will have to make deeper cuts if they're going to reach the targets they had set. That, in turn, could force the committees to heavily rework their bills, raising the odds of another extension. The estimates are a particular blow to corn and soybean growers because the Congressional Budget Office has, as expected, significantly raised the projected cost of the Agri-

culture Risk Coverage program that would compensate growers for revenue losses not covered by their insurance policies.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's Fred Hoefner notes that the new estimates do not appear to account for the \$6 billion in farm bill spending that would be cut by the sequester. The new estimates "will likely come into play when the House and Senate Budget Committees write

their budget resolutions in April, and then again of course when and if the Agriculture Committees return to the task of trying to write a new farm bill later in the year."

Executive Briefing, March 4, 2013

USDA Report Confirms the Safety of Food in the U.S.

Pesticide residues detected on a variety of food products are below the tolerances established by EPA and "do not pose a safety concern," according to data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service. The 2011 Pesticide Data Program (PDP) Annual Summary, published on Feb. 22, 2013, analyzes pesticide residue levels on a number of products, including fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, soybeans and water. The summary serves as an essential resource for federal agencies, especially the Food and Drug Administration, USDA and EPA. Most importantly, the report reminds consumers of the safety of the America food system and the overarching government regulations assuring the safe use of crop protection products.

Of the 11, 894 samples analyzed, PDP found residues exceeding EPA tolerance levels only 0.27%. Pesticide residue tolerances, or limits, are set at levels 100 to 1,000 times lower than what is considered potentially dangerous for human health. PDP relies on advanced laboratory methods to detect pesticide residue levels far below the accepted tolerance established by EPA. Regularly conducted quality assurance controls ensure that the PDP's scientific analysis methods improve each year.

CropLife America, March 4, 2013

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Add to your calendar!



Annual Meeting
and Agronomic
Workshop
Edgewater Hotel
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
July 16-18, 2013

More details soon!



TAPA Secretary Hugh Savoy and Dr. Steve Phillips, Director of the International Plant Nutrition Institute, discuss fertilizer trends at the agronomic workshop for certified crop advisors in Jackson on February 13.

EVENTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
AgXplore International	March 25	7:00 p.m. CT	RFD-TV
Ensuing a Healthy Forest	April 12	8:00 a.m.	Grand Junction
Organic Crops Field Tour	April 24	9:00 a.m.	Knoxville
Beef and Forage	June 13	7:30 a.m.	Blount Unit, Louisville
Fruits of the Backyard	June 18	8:30 a.m.	Spring Hill
UT Weed Tour	June 20	Registration: 8:30, Tours 9:00 a.m.	Jackson
Tobacco, Beef and More	June 27	7:00 a.m.	Springfield
Terral Seed Field Day	July 11	3:00 p.m.	Greenville, MS
Summer Celebration	July 11	10 a.m.	Jackson
MidSouth Ag Technology Field Day	July 18	7:00-12 noon	Agricenter, Memphis, TN
Progeny Ag Products Field Day	July 25	Registration: 8:00, Tours 9:00 a.m.	Wynn, AR
Steak and Potatoes	August 6	8 a.m.	Crossville
UT Cotton Tour	September 4	8:00 a.m.	Jackson
Turfgrass and Ornamental	September 12	8:00 a.m.	Plant Sciences Unit, Knoxville
Pumpkin Field Day	September 26	11:00 a.m.	Jackson
Woods and Wildlife	October 3	8:00 a.m.	Oliver Springs
Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo	October 10	7:30 a.m.	Greeneville
ASA/CSSA/SSSA Annual Meeting	November 3-6		Tampa, FL
SPECIAL EVENTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Blooms Days	May 11-12	9:00 a.m.	UT Gardens, Knoxville
Summer Color	June 25	8:00 a.m.	UT Gardens, Knoxville
Fall Gardens' Festival	August 27	9:00 a.m.	Crossville
Heritage Festival	October 12	9:00 a.m.	Grand Junction
Fall Folklore Jamboree	October 19	9:00 a.m.	Milan

TAPA Executive Secretary Position Filled

Effective February 13, 2013 Ron Akin accepted the appointment as Executive Secretary with the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association.

The Executive Secretary will report to the President and President Elect and will be involved in key TAPA functions to improve associations with its members.

Ron is a Past President of the organization and has a genuine desire to see it grow. He has demonstrated his commitment to TAPA and I ask all of you to welcome him and support him any way you can in this new role.

Gerald Simmons
Past President

TAPA Historical Information

Presidents

Jim Elam.....	1997-1998
Neil Rhodes.....	1998-1999
Paul Binkley.....	1999-2000
Melvin Newman.....	2000-2001
Robin Thomas.....	2001-2002
Paul Denton.....	2002-2003
Clete Youmans.....	2003-2004
Hugh Savoy.....	2004-2005
Rick Turnage.....	2005-2006
Jim Wills.....	2006-2007
Mark Spiller.....	2007-2008
Angela McClure.....	2008-2009
Ron Akin.....	2009-2010
Fred Allen.....	2010-2011
Gerald Simmons.....	2011-2012
Larry Steckel.....	2012-2013

We at TAPA deeply appreciate the support and contributions from our sponsors. Click on their websites below to learn more about how they contribute to agriculture in our state.

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BAYER	bayer.com
CF INDUSTRIES	cfindustries.com/ index.html
CHEMINOVA	cheminova.us.com
CROP PRODUCTION SERVICES	cpsagu.com
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