

THE TAPA QUARTERLY

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association

September—November 2016

Summer Meeting Signals an Exciting Year Ahead

The annual meeting of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association was held at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee August 2-4, 2016. The feedback from the attendees has been very positive and that the future will be bright for the association. We are now looking ahead to our next annual meeting August 1-3, 2017.

The primary goal of the program committee, chaired by Dr. Eric Walker, was to provide timely agricultural information and useful take-home tips for our members. TAPA would like to thank the following speakers for giving us a successful meeting: **Dr. Andy Bailey** (University of Kentucky / University of Tennessee), **Mr. Pat Gibson** (USDA / NRCS), **Mr. Tom Keene** (University of Kentucky), **Dr. David Lockwood** (University of Tennessee / University of Georgia), **Dr. Bob Miller** (University of Kentucky / University of Tennessee), **Dr. Vince Pantalone** (University of Tennessee), **Mr. Bill Qualls** (Responsible Ag), **Dr. Tyson Raper** (University of Tennessee), **Dr. Edwin Ritchey** (University of Kentucky), **Dr. Hugh Savoy** (University of Tennessee), **Dr. Virginia Sykes** (University of Tennessee), **Mr. Gary Vogen** (Yara North America, Inc.), **Dr. Forbes Walker** (University of Tennessee), and **Dr. Annette Wszelaki** (University of Tennessee).



Dr. Eric Walker, Dr. John Bradley

Passing of the Gavel

Our association has new leadership! **Dr. Eric Walker** accepted the presidential gavel from **Dr. John Bradley** during the TAPA business session of the meeting. Our membership is looking forward to Eric's leadership and his ideas in the year ahead. John served as TAPA President in 2015-16 and was recognized for his valuable service and leadership. Also, **Dr. Bruce Kirksey** was voted by the membership as President-Elect and program chairman for the new year.

Outstanding Individual Award

TAPA's highest award was revealed during the business session. The recipient of the TAPA Outstanding Individual Award and the story of his 55 years of agricultural service are on page 3 of this newsletter.

Officer and Board Members Reelected

TAPA secretary **Dr. Forbes Walker** was voted by membership to serve a second 2-year term. TAPA board of directors **Dr. Mike Saxton** (Director, Crop Protection) was reelected to a second 2-year term. **Mr. Guy Spence** (Director, Fertilizer) was elected to his first 2-year term after serving as interim since February to fill the vacancy in this position. **Mr. Ricky Foster** (Director, Government) was reelected to his 9th term. **Dr. Frank Yin**, outgoing board member, was recognized for his devoted service.



Dr. Don Tyler (left), Honorary Member

New Honorary Member

During the business session a TAPA member were recognized as an "Honorary Member". He is **Dr. Don Tyler**, Professor Emeritus - University of Tennessee. This award was presented for his long standing support of the Association and his commitment to Tennessee Agriculture. The TAPA board and its members deeply thank Dr. Tyler for his support of TAPA since it began in 1996. Don is most deserving of this award.

Three Star Scholarships Awards

Three deserving college students from our state were awarded for their achievements during the business session. See these extraordinary students' stories on page 2 of this newsletter.



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Are you a TAPA member?

Were you unable to attend the recently-held Annual Meeting in Gatlinburg and missed becoming a TAPA member for the new fiscal year? Seventy attendees who attended the meeting are now new members. If you missed becoming a member, you can click here: [TAPA Membership](#), complete the form and mail it with your check to Dianne Jenkins. If you prefer, you can fax Dianne your form and include your credit card information. Or you can call her with your credit card information. TAPA's growing and we hope you will want to be a part of it!!

TAPA Announces Three Star Regional Scholarship Winners

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

The winners, from West, Middle, and East Tennessee, were revealed during the TAPA Business Session at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on August 2nd. They were each awarded \$1,000 and a certificate for this honor.

To qualify for this award, each student submitted a resume, statement of career goals, and an explanation of what this scholarship opportunity meant to

TAPA is proud to reach out to the leaders of our future. Congratulations to the winners and to the exceptional students from across the state who applied for these scholarships.

them. Each candidate must also be currently enrolled in a Tennessee college or university and actively pursuing a degree in agriculture or related area.

TAPA is proud to reach out to the leaders of our future. Congratulations to the winners and to the exceptional students from across the state who applied for these scholarships.

The Western Region recipient is **Angelina Bernardini**. Angelina's home town is Memphis, Tennessee. She attends Tennessee State University and is pursuing a bachelor's degree Agriculture Sciences with a concentration in biotechnology. After completing her degree at TSU, she hopes to find a bachelor-to-PhD program focusing on either genetics or plant biotechnology. At TSU she was awarded Undergraduate



John Bradley congratulates Western Region Winner Angelina Bernardini

Student of the Year in Agriculture. She has been offered a summer internship with the University of Kentucky in Lexington, working with a plant pathologist in an extension program to develop a new fungicide.

Samantha Steger, scholarship winner in the Middle Region, is from Cookeville, Tennessee. Samantha goes to Tennessee Tech University, where she currently has a grade point average of



Samantha Steger, Middle Region Winner, was accompanied by her dad, Thom Steger (left)

3.91/4.00. Her major is in Agriculture Agritourism with a minor in Business. Samantha has served in many offices through university student clubs, 4-H, and other community organizations. Samantha has served as both secretary

and treasurer of the Tennessee Tech Agritourism Association. In 2016 she is the Western National 4-H Public Speaking Champion. Also, she is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society.

Autumn McLaughlin, the East Region scholarship recipient, is from Erwin, Tennessee. Autumn attends The University of Tennessee at Martin and is majoring in Plant and Soil Science with a concentration in Crop Science. Her



Autumn McLaughlin, East Region Winner

agriculture research experience stems from working with Dr. Heather Kelly at the West Tennessee Research & Education Center in Jackson, Tennessee. Her short term goals include attending graduate school after receiving her degree at UTM. Long term, she would like to have a successful career in the agriculture field, preferably the field of plant pathology and entomology.

We congratulate Angelina, Samantha, and Autumn for being chosen as the Three Star Regional Scholarship winners! Our association would like to also thank the exceptional students in agriculture from across Tennessee who applied for these scholarships.

Sincerely,

Rick Turnage
Scholarship Chairman

“The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.”

— Wendell Berry, *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture*

Hassell awarded TAPA's Outstanding Individual



TAPA's highest award is presented to Mr. Kenneth Hassell (L) by Dr. John Bradley (Past President)

What a life for Kenneth Hassell! He has served farmers devotedly for 55 years before hanging up his hat just recently. And a perfect icing on his achievement cake is being awarded Tennessee Agricultural Production Association's Outstanding Individual during the business session of its annual meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on August 2, 2016.

His story in agriculture began after he graduated from Yorkville (TN) High School in 1961. He went right to work at Yorkville Gin, where he sold fertilizer and seed. In 1965 he built a bulk fertilizer house to go along with his anhydrous ammonia and custom spraying operations. In 1966 he created Yorkville Farm Supply.

In 1971 the company name became Hassell Supply Company, where he sold farm and dairy equipment, while selling fertilizer, seed, and chemicals on the side. He also ran a cotton gin for two years during this span of time. Kenneth wasn't one to sit around and watch the grass grow!

In 1980 Kenneth went to work for U.S. Steel in Yorkville which was sold a little later to LaRoach (in 1984). Kenneth was the manager of LaRoach, which later became Kaiser Estech. Later Vigoro bought Kaiser Estech. Then in the mid-90's the Vigoro name was changed to IMC. You old timers remember all the changes back then?

In 2000 Kenneth went from Yorkville to Union City (TN), his second and final location. There he became Division Operations Manager for Royster Clark. In 2005 he continued as Division Operations Manager when Royster Clark was purchased by Crop Production Services.

Kenneth has been married to the same girl for 53 years and has two boys. He had a supportive family to help him in what

became one of the greatest challenges of his life - cancer. In 1998 it was discovered that he had colon cancer and won that battle. In 2011 he developed skin cancer and won that battle, too. Last December Kenneth developed bone cancer and underwent radiation treatments. Thankfully, following these treatments he had only a very small amount of cancer detected, and not enough to undergo further treatments.

Kenneth has served on the Tennessee Certified Crop Advisor Board for six years and is currently serving as Chairperson of the TAPA Committee on Constitution and Operation Procedures.

Kenneth has not missed an annual TAPA meeting since it was formed in 1996. That's 19 years, and the attendees were glad to see him in Gatlinburg to accept this award, making it his 20th year without a miss.

On behalf of the TAPA Board of Directors and the TAPA Membership, we congratulate Kenneth for his many years of dedication to Tennessee agriculture.

Ron Akin
Executive Secretary, TAPA

How did TAPA begin? A glimpse back in time...

1996 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

At the February 1996 Annual Tennessee Agricultural Chemical Association (TACA) meeting, members voted in favor of dissolving TACA and forming a new organization, the "Tennessee Agricultural Production Association (TAPA)." Members of the Tennessee Plant Food Education Association (TPFEA) also voted during their annual meeting to dissolve and form the new organization provided TACA voted in favor. The two boards then met and assigned a committee to put the wheel in motion toward dissolving the two organizations such that TAPA could be formed. Further investigation led to the conclusion that, due to the time frame involved in chartering the new organization and the fact that tax exempt status is becoming more difficult to obtain as well as the lengthy process, the most feasible move would be to merge the two existing organizations to form TAPA there by achieving both the federal and state tax exempt status that TACA currently holds. The by-laws and constitution of the two organizations require that this come before the membership by vote. Therefore, at our annual meeting in September TACA/TPFEA Meeting, ballots will again be circulated for voting approval of the membership of both organizations to vote in favor of the merger. The program committee has an excellent program outlined for the upcoming meeting, so mark your calendars now for the TAPA/TPFEA meeting in September.

Annual Meeting and Agronomic Workshop Gatlinburg, Tennessee August 2-4, 2016



Guest Speakers Gary Vogen (Yara North America, Inc.), and Bill Qualls (ResponsibleAg)

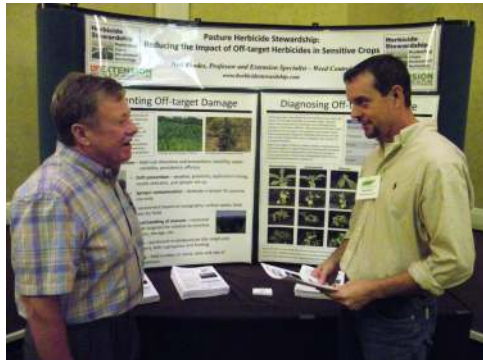
*Thanks Everyone
for your Participation
and your Attendance!*



Neil McLaurin (Sanders)
Kevin Knop (Providence Ag)
Chuck Leonard (Syngenta)



Toby Covin (Monsanto)
Harry Craft (Tennessee Valley Resources)



Neil Rhodes (University of Tennessee)
Andy Ulmer (Tennessee Farmers Co-op)



Guest Speakers Pat Gibson (USDA/NRCS),
and Bob Miller (Univ. of Kentucky /
Univ. of Tennessee)



Joey Caldwell (Tipton Farmers Co-op)
Woody Sigmin (AgXplore International)



From Helena Chemical Company, Memphis:
- Paul Kennedy
- Katie Ward Miesse
- Michael Cox
- Ben Wiggins



Fred Allen (Univ. of Tennessee-retired),
Guest Speaker David Lockwood
(Univ. of Tennessee)



Bee safe out there!



Retailer News and Views



Court Upholds EPA Decision Not to Require Labeling of Pesticide Inert Ingredients

In the latest development in a decades-long dispute, a federal court in San Francisco, California upheld EPA's decision not to pursue rulemaking that would require pesticide labels to disclose many inert ingredients. Plaintiffs first requested this rulemaking in 2006 and have since filed three related lawsuits. Last week, the court recognized that the law does not require inert ingredients to be disclosed on the pesticide label and that EPA properly denied the request for rulemaking. Plaintiffs may appeal the decision to the Ninth Circuit. Our thanks go to [CropLife America](#) on their work on this issue.

Backup Efforts to Restore the Retail Exemption Continue

Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Deb Fischer (R-NE) recently introduced a bill to force OSHA to scrap a July 2015 policy memo that ended the long-standing exemption of small retail stores from process safety management standards on the storage of anhydrous ammonia and require the agency to go through formal rule-making to re-interpret the exemption. Absent the impending opinion from the court, this is one of several actions designed to provide ag retailers relief.

Heads Up! Annual Brake Inspection Blitz Set for September

Inspectors will be keying in on brake safety again this September when the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) Brake Safety Week takes place September 11-17th. Across North America, law enforcement agencies will conduct inspections on commercial vehicles to look for out-of-adjustment brakes, and brake system and anti-lock braking system violations during the week. Specifically, CVSA says inspectors will

be looking for "loose or missing parts, air or hydraulic fluid leaks, worn linings, pads, drums or rotors, and other faulty brake system components." Inspectors will also be checking ABS malfunction indicator lights to make sure they're in working order, CVSA says. Defective or out-of-adjustment brakes will result in the vehicle being placed out-of-service. In 2015, 12.3% of trucks inspected were placed out-of-service during Brake Safety Week.

NHTSA Releases Agricultural Equipment Lighting Requirement

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently issued a final rule that will require certain agricultural equipment to come fitted with lighting and markings for increased daytime and nighttime visibility. Previously, the safety agency did not consider agricultural equipment under its jurisdiction; however, under a 2012 law, the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21), NHTSA was forced to create the new safety standard. Under the rule, "tractors, self-propelled and non-self-propelled" agriculture equipment must be built with lighting and markings that meet the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers (ASABE) standard 279.14. NHTSA is also defining the machinery covered by the regulation using the ASABE standard 390.4. New agricultural equipment must meet the requirement by June 22, 2017; however, no retrofits of existing equipment are being required under the final rule.

DOT Delays Implementation of Unified Registration System

Last week DOT (Department of Transportation) said it is extending implementation of the final piece of the Unified Registration System (URS) to January 14, 2017 with a full compliance date of April 14th. The URS requires

new carriers to provide census and data information prior to gaining operating authority and existing carriers to update the information every two years.

It's Time to Register With ResponsibleAg

More than 2,000 facilities have registered with the ResponsibleAg Certification Program, with 255 facilities already receiving their certification. We encourage you to register your facilities today and support the program. The explosion of the West, Texas retail facility in April 2013 marked a low point in the public and regulatory agencies perception of the fertilizer industry. The industry was criticized for not having an organized effort to assist retail dealers in understanding and complying with existing federal regulations. Help is in place now. For more information and to register, go to: www.responsibleag.org

Chemical Sector Security Summit Held in Alexandria, Virginia

The 10th Anniversary Chemical Sector Security Summit in Alexandria, Virginia was held on July 19-21st. High level officials at DHS spoke, including Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Under Secretary Suzanne Spaulding. Director of the Infrastructure Security and Compliance Division, David Wulf, spoke at length on the past, present and future of the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards program, including a study that commenced in August on chemical precursors used with improvised explosive devices. Director Wulf said the study will also inform on future changes to the Ammonium Nitrate Security Program and would take approximately a year to complete. Billy Pirkle, Senior Director EHS for Crop Production Services and Bill Qualls, Executive Director of ResponsibleAg also presented on behalf of ResponsibleAg's role of safety and security in the ag industry.

Calendar of Events



Dear Colleagues,

The West Tennessee Research and Education Center (WTREC) would like to cordially invite you to the 2016 University of Tennessee Cotton Tour. This event is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 7th at the WTREC (605 Airways Blvd., Jackson, TN 38301). Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the tour departing at 9:00 a.m. The tour will end at noon with lunch.

University of Tennessee Extension and Research personnel from across the state will be presenting on a wide range of topics including fungicides and target spot, weed and resistance management, irrigation, cover crops, defoliation, and an insect control update, just to mention a few.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Tyson B. Raper, PhD
 Assistant Professor
 Cotton and Small Grains Specialist
 Department of Plant Sciences
 University of Tennessee

Event	Date	Location
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
TAPA Winter Agronomic Workshop	February 8	Jackson, TN
2017 TAPA Annual Meeting	August 1-3	Gatlinburg, TN

TAPA Sponsors for 2016

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

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posts! Just [CLICK HERE](#)
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Would you like to become a
TAPA member? If so, send an
email with your phone number
to: tapanews@ymail.com.
Ron Akin will contact you with
membership details.

Akin receives 2016 Tennessee Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor Award



Guy Spence (right), member of the Tennessee CCA Board, congratulated Ron Akin as the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor Award at the 2016 TAPA annual meeting in Gatlinburg. Joe McKinnon (left), Field Services Administrator for the Tennessee Farm Bureau, presented Akin with a \$500 check for being selected for the honor.

Ron Akin received the 2016 Tennessee Outstanding Certified Crop Advisor Award at our recent Tennessee Agricultural Production Association's annual meeting and workshop held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Ron has had a very distinguished agriculture career spanning over 40 years in West Tennessee, working in corn, soybeans, cotton, and other crops. He began his career immediately after graduating from The University of Tennessee at Martin, going to work as an agronomist for the UT Extension Service in Shelby County. Ron has worked across the Ag industry utilizing his management and sales skills at T & R Farm Services (Millington, TN), Agrico Chemical Company and Crop Production Services (Union City, TN). He also served as a Technical Development Representative for Monsanto for eleven years and has been a crop consultant and agronomist for Obion Grain Company and Pinnacle Ag Distribution in more recent years. He retired last year and is currently starting his fourth year as Executive Secretary of TAPA.

Ron has been a Certified Crop Advisor since 1995 and has Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture Commercial Licenses in C01, C10 and C12. He has served as president of TAPA in the past, receiving many awards and honors through the years including TAPA's Outstanding Individual Award (2011), Honorary State Future Farmers of America Degree (2006) and Monsanto's North America 'Growing Knowledge Award' (2005, 2007). He also received several other awards while working at Monsanto, including Monsanto Technology Development Leadership Award for excellence in conducting regulatory field research (2008).

Ron is a United States Navy veteran who served our country during the Viet Nam war.

His expertise lies not only in his knowledge and experiences but also in his ability to communicate with farmers and the agricultural industry in very practical and applied terms. His 'hands-on' experience with seed, fertilizers, crop protectants, and field research has given Ron a great foundation for crop advising and recommendations.

Ron Akin has served his family, church, and community while making a tremendous contribution to West Tennessee agriculture.

*Article written and submitted
by John Bradley*

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 tapanews@ymail.com. Use this e-mail address if you wish to unsubscribe.

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