



Message from the President, Ron Akin

Hello, TAPA members! Do things change for the better? You bet they do! I have been truly blessed and honored to have been allowed to spend my adult life in serving farmers, and I am sure you have the same passion for this industry or you would not be reading this. If you are fortunate to have memories of the past half-century (and some of us are), we have witnessed many valued innovations in the marketplace. Pesticides, improved germplasm, and evolving technologies have played significant roles in improving our way of life and Tennessee's environment. In the early 1960's, I recall when we were introduced to the idea of spraying a new herbicide on the ground, and my dad and I marveled at how this "little dab" of chemical could effectively control weeds on an entire acre! The Akin family had 30 acres of cotton on their farm in Fayette County, and my brother and I came to a rapid consensus that this "yellow chemical" sure beat the heck out of 'cold steel'. The next advancement that I consider a game-changer was in my UT Extension years in the 1970s. It fell in the area of insect control. After years of reliance with several harsh insecticides (toxaphene, methyl parathion come to mind), the synthetic pyrethroid generation was introduced to the cotton farmers in Tennessee. This new chemistry was a huge improvement and provided effective insect control. In the 1980's, new over-top herbicide chemistries were introduced that were significant improvements in both weed control and crop safety. And in the 1990's, new innovations like herbicide-tolerant crops and insect-protection traits in cotton and corn, changed the farming landscape dramatically. Now, there are also impressive technologies in industry pipelines and germplasm banks that will help growers in improving yield and profit potential. On the other hand, growers are continually faced with major challenges, such as making a sustainable profit, herbicide weed resistance, Cap and Trade, and many others. It's great to reminisce about the good ole days, however our future appears to be brighter and full of expanding technologies. It is important to keep in mind, that this industry historically has found solutions to the major challenges, and it no doubt our organization will be a leader in resolving some of our state's woes.

Old Business: TAPA conducted a very successful CCA workshop at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson February 10-12. This is an excellent venue for our retailers and consultants on the western side

of the state, providing up-to-date information relating to our industry. This is also an opportunity for our members to garner CCA CEUs and commercial certification points. Our hats are off to our dedicated speakers for their fine job and their professionalism during this two-day workshop. Dr. Fred Allen, president elect and program chairman, was responsible for the program and is to be commended for a job well done. For the second year, we combined this training with the Cotton Focus meeting, and the attendees found this idea to be a winning one.

New Business: I would like to strongly encourage you to make plans now to attend the 2010 annual meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, July 28-30, 2010. 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. Dr. Allen is putting together another fine program, so don't miss out. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please let him know, and he will consider adding them to the program. Hope to see you in Gatlinburg in July!



TAPA's 2010 Summer Meeting

The Tennessee Agricultural Production Association will be hosting its summer meeting on July 28th – 30th at The Edgewater at the Aquarium Hotel and Conference Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The room rate is \$74 plus tax per night and will include a complimentary breakfast. Reservations can be made at 800-423-9582 or at the hotel website at www.edgewater-hotel.com. The cut-off date to make reservations is Sunday June 27, 2010. Reservation requests received after the cut-off date are subject to the standard room rates and space availability. Hope to see you there.

Land Trust for Tennessee

The Land Trust is an organization which helps protect Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and sites through donations of conservation. They obtain easements that protect important state land resources. In rare cases, the Land Trust does purchase land; and they attempt to acquire properties that are threatened by development when no other options are available for their protection. The Land Trust for Tennessee has conserved approximately 51,454 acres in 45 Tennessee counties. On 2/16/2010, several state agencies and nonprofit groups formed the Tennessee Farmland Legacy Partnership. This is a memorandum of agreement (MOU) which forms this new partnership. This partnership will provide information and encourage both farm level and community planning to help promote and preserve the viability of working farms in Tennessee. For more information please visit Tennessee's Land Trust site at <http://www.landtrusttn.org/>.

Cogongrass - an Invasive Nightmare !!!!

In 2009, an effort to cooperatively control noxious weeds was started. A project was formed in which several organizations would become [partners](#). This effort established a 41,220 square mile Cooperative Weed Management Area encompassing all of Tennessee. It constitutes a joint venture of land management and industry representatives as well as state, federal, county agencies including all 95 counties of Tennessee. Hundreds of volunteer hours, human resources, equipment, chemicals, biological controls, supplies, and technology were exchanged to accommodate the common cause of noxious weed control within Tennessee.

The focus was on trust, common goals, building relationships, establishing agreements, leadership and support groups, communications and fiscal responsibilities all which would support on-the-ground projects. Given this philosophical and organizational base we began to build support and establish the TNCWMA organization.

The TNCWMA specifies the partner's desire to "cooperate on public relations, education and training in the noxious weed area as well as weed eradication and other resource protection that might be agreed upon." The partners elected a Steering Committee to guide and implement the terms of agreement, develop a strategy, and accomplish cooperative noxious weed management projects. The Steering Committee divided the TNCWMA into three distinct management zones to help organize and prioritize specific cooperative projects.

New Web Site Offering Pesticide Information

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs has a new Web site on non-regulatory programs for reducing pesticide risk through environmental stewardship - partnerships, grants, and education. The site, titled "PestWise": Partnerships for Environmental Innovation in Pest Management, has information for industry professionals, growers, school teachers, and anyone

interested in learning more about responsible pest management to reduce pesticide risk. It also contains information concerning grants available to support projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of Integrated Pest Management and biopesticides. The PestWise site spotlights the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, the Agency's partnership program dedicated to reducing pesticide risk where people live, work, play, and farm. The site also features information on the Strategic Agricultural Initiative, IPM in Schools Program, Biopesticide Demonstration Grant Program, and other grant programs. The new site may be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/pestwise>

USDA Crop Insurance Deadlines Approach

Tennessee producers who wish to purchase Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) for the 2010 crop year are reminded of the following final sales closing dates:

- Adjusted Gross Revenue – Lite (AGR-L) – March 15, 2010
- Corn – March 15, 2010
- Cotton – March 15, 2010
- Fresh Market Tomatoes – March 15, 2010
- Grain Sorghum – March 15, 2010
- Processing Beans – March 15, 2010
- Soybeans – March 15, 2010
- Tobacco – March 15, 2010 (Burley, Dark Air, and Fire Cured)

Insured growers have an opportunity to make important changes to their coverage. Current policyholders as well as uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage, especially which crops to insure and which level of coverage to obtain, prior to the sales closing date. Producers should contact a local MPCI agent to learn additional program details. If the traditional MPCI program for your crop is not available in your county, please ask your agent whether you would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the U.S. or on the RMA Web site:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents> .

2010 UT Annual Commercial Applicator Recertification Program

The University of Tennessee Extension Service will hold its annual Commercial Applicator Recertification Meeting in Knoxville on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at the UT Plant Biotech Building, Room 156-157. The time of the meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., EST. Four points may be earned in all pesticide certification categories.

The program will be downlinked from Knoxville to ETSU, UT Chattanooga, UT Nashville and UT Jackson, if there are enough pre-registrations at the different sites. For more information, you may contact Dr. Gene Burgess @ 865-974-7138 or "gburgess1@utk.edu."

Antibiotic Resistance in US Agriculture ?

Several media outlets have reported that use of antibiotics in livestock production has been associated with antibiotic resistance found in humans. However, research conducted in Denmark in 2000, suggests the two are not linked. Most products used within the cattle industry have withdrawal periods listed on the label and producers are following these guidelines. Recently, pork producers adopted national withdrawal periods for antibiotic usage within their industry. The World Health Organization conducted a study in 2002, and reported that they could find no evidence that human health has actually improved or that risk has actually been reduced due to strict withdrawal guidelines. Scott Hurd, a former deputy under the secretary for food safety at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a scientist who has actively researched food safety for over 20 years, said he was disappointed by recent media reports blaming antibiotic use in livestock for most antibiotic resistance in humans. Source: <http://www.promedmail.org>.

Two Invasive Insects You May Observe This Year

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and the Bean Plataspid are two invasive insects that have been recently reported in our area. These pests have been reported to feed on various legume hosts as well as they may become pests by invading structures such as homes and/or office spaces. They also have the potential of becoming pests of soybeans, so keep your eyes open this year and report any suspicious insect activity to your local county extension office.

While each of these pest are potentially an agricultural pest which have a broad host ranges, they are also given a nuisance pest status, due to their ability to overwinter in structures, much like the multicolored Asian lady beetle. Adult bugs will seek overwintering sites in spring or fall as the temperatures change. Once inside, they will become active on warm days throughout spring, fall and winter. Unlike the lady beetle which is a beneficial insect throughout the growing season, the BMSB can be a pest throughout the year. If a BMSB is disturbed or crushed, it will release an obnoxious odor as is common with other stink bugs.

The plataspid bug, *Megacopta cribraria* is native to India and China. This insect, also called the bean plataspid, seems to be attracted to light surfaces and appears to be most active during warm periods of the day. This is similar to the congregating activity that might be reported by homeowners calling about the brown marmorated stink bug, a similar brown speckled insect. The plataspid is rounded, pea-sized and brownish with a wide posterior. For more information concerning these pests please visit the following URLs.

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/wh2009/Issue-17-2009.pdf>

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/wh2009/Issue-22-2009.pdf>

http://74.125.47.132/custom?q=cache:7JgbS_YFnQAJ:www.bugwood.org/blog/post.cfm/new-pest-in-u-s-megacopta-cribraria-bean-plataspid-found-on-kudzu-in-georgia+new+pest&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=google-coop-np

Pesticide Certification

Just a reminder for anyone with an active Commercial or Private applicator card: we are now in the 2nd year of the 3-year certification cycle that ends October 21, 2011.

Private Applicators

Private applicators must attend a recertification meeting at their local extension office anytime after January 1, 2011 until October 21, 2011, to be rolled over to the next 3-year cycle ending October 21, 2014.

Commercial Applicators

For commercial applicators with an active certification, it is important to remember that you cannot get all your required continuing education units (ceu's) in only one certification year. If you haven't yet earned any ceu's, you must earn at least one ceu both before and after October 21, 2010, and have the total required number of ceu's by October 21, 2011, to roll over to the next 3-year cycle ending October 21, 2014.

You can check on approved meetings by going to our website and scrolling through the meetings listed - look for those that have points pertaining to your category. A contact name and phone number is usually listed. Go to: <http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/> and then click 'Pesticide Information' and click on Pesticide Training Schools. The best way is to click on 'future' schools, and then you can search by entering a city, or the word 'various' or 'statewide'. The schools are updated every day. After you have attended a school, you can check on your points by going to <http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/> click on 'Pesticide Information' and then click on 'Commercial Applicators - Point Standings' and then enter your social security number or you can search by ID number or last name.

Once you have accrued the total number of points required, your certification will be rolled over to the next 3-year certification cycle. You cannot earn more than 75% of your total point requirement at any one school. No more than 50% of the total required number of points can be 'In-House' points. 'In-House' points refer to approved training done by an employer for his employees or approved CD, video/online training.

Please be aware that you cannot earn all your total required ceu's or 'points' in only one certification year (each certification year ends October 21st) unless you become certified on or after October 21, 2010 and prior to April 21, 2011.

Those certified on or after April 21, 2011 will be certified through October 21, 2014.

Limited Herbicide Applicator

TDA now has a special Limited Herbicide Applicator certification for those who only wish to spot-spray with Round-up in ornamental beds or in areas in conjunction with hand-weeding or mechanical weed trimming. Either a category 3 certification or a special Limited Herbicide Applicator certification is required, proof of liability insurance of at least \$300,000, and a certification number displayed in the applicator's vehicle plus any trailer used in the business. A person operating under this special Limited Herbicide Applicator certification is not authorized to advertise the application of herbicides or any other pesticide application nor supervise the application of any pesticide by an uncertified person.

May 28, 2009 (8:30 AM- 2:00 PM)
West TN Research and Education Center
605 Airways Blvd., Jackson , TN 38301
Email contact: sdstewart@utk.edu,

To prepare for the Limited Herbicide Applicator exam one must study the 'Core' *Applying Pesticides Safely* plus be able to read a pesticide label. The number to call to order the study material is 865-974-7138. You must send in proof of insurance **first** to John Ewell - 615-837-5340.

The Limited Herbicide Applicator must accrue **18** category 3 continuing education units (ceu's) within the three-year certification cycle. The ceu's are pro-rated depending on the date of certification. For example, anyone taking the LHA or the category 3 certification at the present time would have to have 12 ceu's by October 21, 2011. The LHA ceu's are the same as category 3 ceu's and follow the same requirements as listed above under Commercial Applicators.

Published Soil Surveys for Tennessee

Soil surveys are being completed and published on a continuing schedule. As time passes, the data in published surveys become dated. The official information about the soils in a given area is available from the Soil Data Mart, which provides the most current data about the soils. If spatial data are available, the Web Soil Survey also provides access to the most current information. In the "Date" column, the word "current" is used for those surveys having both tabular and spatial data in the Soil Data Mart. "Archived PDF online" refers to any surveys published as PDF files on the Web, including new surveys as well as old ones dating back to 1899. More information concerning Tennessee soils and information explaining surveys may be found at: <http://www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/index.html>.

For more information concerning soil surveys and current soil maps of Tennessee, please visit: http://soils.usda.gov/survey/printed_surveys/state.asp?state=Tennessee&abbr=TN



2010 Schedule of Events

TOPIC	Location	Date	Time
Organic Crops Field Tour	Knoxville, TN - ETREC	4/29	7:30am
Tobacco & Forage Production	Greeneville, TN - REC	5/13	8:00am
TN – Healthy Hardwoods	Tullahoma, TN - FRREC	6/5	7:00am
Beef & Forage Field Day	Knoxville, TN - ETREC	6/10	7:30am
Fruits of the Backyard	Spring Hill, TN - MTERC	6/15/	8:30am
International Plant Virus Epidemiology Symposium / Plant Virus Ecology Network.	Ithaca, NY - Cornell University	6/20 – 6/24	
Tobacco, Beef and More	Spring Field, TN – HREC	6/24	7:00am
Summer Celebration	Jackson, TN – WTREC	7/8	10:00am
Milan No-Till Field Day	Milan, TN – REC@Milan	7/22	7:00am
TAPA –Summer Meeting	Gatlinburg, TN - Edgewater	7/28-7/30	
Steak and Potatoes Field Day	Crossville, TN –PREC	8/3	8:00am
American Phytopathological Society Meeting	Nashville, TN – Opryland Hotel	8/7 – 8/11	
Cotton Tour	Jackson, TN - WTREC	9/8	8:00am
Turfgrass Field Day	Knoxville, TN - ETREC	9/16	7:30am
Pumpkin Field Day	Jackson, TN - WTREC	9/30	1:00pm
Northeast TN Beef Expo	Greeneville, TN - REC	10/7	7:30am
Entomological Society of America	San Diego, CA – Town and County Hotel	12/12 – 12/15	

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