



*An educational newsletter for TAPA members and others concerned with agricultural production in Tennessee*

## Message from the President, Angela Thompson McClure



Greetings from west Tennessee!! It is shaping up to be an eventful year already with most folks keeping one eye on the economy to try and prepare for what might be coming next. Like other agricultural organizations, TAPA has some challenges ahead but we also have many energetic and positive board members who will keep the organization moving forward so that we can continue to provide training that has value to agricultural professionals through our CCA workshops and meetings. We are in the process of updating and improving our TAPA website and plan to transition to an e-newsletter to more effectively communicate with our members.

TAPA conducted the 2009 Agronomic Workshop in Jackson on February 11-12 at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center. We tried something a little different this year by combining part of our training program with the Cotton Focus meeting in order to reduce the number of meetings folks attended in February. The program put together by Ron Akin our president elect and Program chairman was excellent and several speakers provided some very useful and up-to-date information on a variety of topics from switchgrass production to pesticide safety and labeling. Some topics of particular interest were on managing fertilizer inputs with conventional and precision agriculture technology. Thirty eight registrants participated in the agronomic workshop. Special thanks to the program speakers who made this workshop possible: UT - Ken Goddard, Dr. Fred Allen, Bob Williams, Dr. Melvin Newman, Dr. Scott Stewart, Chuck Danehower and Tim Campbell; University of Missouri- Dr. Joe Henggeler, Dr. Gene Stevens; Mississippi State Univ.- Dr. Wayne Ebelhar; NRCS- Ms. Pat Turman, Matthew Denton

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association will be held at the Edgewater Hotel in Gatlinburg on **July 22-24**. Please note these dates are earlier than we typically hold this meeting. I encourage members, officers, board members and potential members to mark your calendars now so that potential conflicts with other meetings and activities do not interfere

with these dates. Ron Akin is currently working on the program and would welcome any input or suggestions for relevant topics.

## New URL for the Pesticide Safety and Education Program (PSEP)

The University of Tennessee, Entomology and Plant Pathology Department currently offers the Pesticide Safety and Education Program (PSEP) formerly known as Pesticide Applicator Training to all interested parties. This program provides training and supplies an extensive listing of information concerning commercial and or private pesticide certification and licensing. A new URL was recently developed to aid internet users when searching for the website.

Individuals looking for more information concerning this program or looking for listing of current training programs may find that the new URL provides some essential information, so please visit <http://psep.utk.edu>.

For information concerning certification points standing please visit TDA's web site @ <http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/regulate>  
Click on Ag Inputs and Pesticides  
Click on Online Pesticide Systems  
Click on Commercial Applicator Point Standings

## West Tennessee Summer Celebration

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual **Summer Celebration** Lawn and Garden Field Day will be held July 9<sup>th</sup> at the West Tennessee Ag Research & Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd, Jackson, TN. In addition to the All-American Selection of annual flowers, they have added Camellia, daylily, and no-spray rose selections to the WTREC Gardens. Also, the event will include the ever popular overview wagon tour of the Center. Check out the website [www.west.tennessee.edu](http://www.west.tennessee.edu) for the program and listing of indoor seminars, tours, and exhibitor information.

## **Placing Chemicals in Unlabeled Containers can Cause Problems**

Ten children at an Arkansas day-care center drank windshield wiper fluid after the owner served it from a container mistaken for blue colored, fruit flavored drink. The owner purchased the windshield wiper fluid with several other items on a recent shopping trip and accidentally placed it into the refrigerator. Doctors estimated the children, ages 2 to 7, drank about an ounce of the blue fluid, before realizing it tasted strange. Only one child remained hospitalized for a day, after blood samples showed "measurable levels" of methanol, a highly toxic alcohol that can induce comas and cause blindness, officials said. In moderate cases, it can cause nausea, vomiting, staggering and sleepiness. The day care also provided the original container of fluid for laboratory testing. (Source: AP 3/13/09)

## **Furadan - carbofuran; Product Cancellation Order**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it received a voluntarily request made by the registrant (FMC) concerning some registrations, termination of certain uses and cancellations of other uses of carbofuran (Furadan) which will be effective as of March 18, 2009. The Federal Register notice announced the cancellation and use terminations, as requested by registrants, of certain end-use carbofuran products registered under sections 3 and 24c of FIFRA. This order terminates flowable carbofuran use in or on alfalfa, cotton, ornamentals, popcorn, small grains (wheat, oats, and barley), soybeans, sugarcane, sweet corn, and tobacco. This order terminates carbofuran products registered under FIFRA section 24 Special Local Need Labels for use in or on corn (field), CRP acres, cucumbers, grapes, melons, ornamentals (container and field production), peppers (including Chiles and bell), sorghum, squash, sugar beets, sugarcane (soil applied), tobacco, and small grains (wheat, oats and barley). The order also terminates, subject to a 2-year phase-out period, the use of flowable carbofuran as a post-plant application to artichokes. The order terminates use of granular carbofuran on bananas, coffee, cucumbers, melons, and squash. More information concerning carbofuran may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2009/March/Day-18/p5833.htm>.

## **TAPA has New Web Presence**

Recently, I have been updating TAPA's webpage which resided on another server. A new site was created on the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department's server. The new URL is <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Extension/TAPA/TAPA.html>.

Also, TAPA now has a presence on the social network known as FACEBOOK. You can find TAPA on Facebook when searching for groups, however you will need to specify the group title exactly like the following: Tennessee Agricultural Production Association (TAPA)

To visit TAPA's site on Facebook, point your browser to <http://www.facebook.com> and add TAPA as a group to your Facebook profile.

## **Tennessee Enhances Beekeeping Services**

Honeybees play an important role in increasing the quantity and quality of many agricultural crops as well as assuring the reproduction of countless species of plants including wildflowers. Also, honeybees provide several other products that are enjoyed by Tennesseans such as honey and bees wax. Due to these factors, The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has made two very important changes to help beekeepers. Beekeepers can now register their colonies online and sign-up to participate in the UT Beemaster Program. A state law requires that all beekeepers to be registered with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and they must re-register every three years. This allows the state apiarist to notify beekeepers in the event of disease outbreak or if aerial pesticide sprays may be made in areas where bees are kept. The Beemaster course, helps educate beekeepers as well as keep them up to date on the most recent methods of bee management. Source:<http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/node/1097>

## **REMEMBER TAPA's new URL**

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Extension/TAPA/TAPA.html>

## **Wheat: Hessian Flies**

There have been several reports of severe infestation of Hessian fly in Alabama. You will have to look beyond the sheath, near the base of the plant to find the "flaxseed" or pre-pupae stage of this pest.. Most individuals observe Hessian fly infestation at the flaxseed stage, usually when the head begins to mature or just prior to drying down. There are several resistant varieties available, however they are specific for certain Hessian fly biotypes and we currently have biotype L in which no resistance is available.

## **New Method Applies Pesticides in Nanofibers to Keep Chemicals on Target**

Research associate Chunhui Xiang, Ph.D. and Margaret Frey, associate professor of fiber science and apparel design in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University are working on a new pesticide application technology. This new technology may decrease the amount of pesticides that are applied, therefore reducing possible adverse effects on the environment. The materials researchers are working with are biodegradable and are developed from renewable resources. Another positive aspect of this new technology is that it extends how long the pesticides remain effective and improves the safety of application. As the fiber biodegrades, the chemicals are slowly released into the soil. The pesticide is protected, so it won't degrade from being exposed to air and water when it is placed within the fiber. It also keeps the pesticide where it needs to be and allows it to be time-released. This new delivery system is created by electrospinning solutions of cellulose, the pesticide and PLA -- a polymer derived from cornstarch., which creates a fiber. The individual fibers tested had a diameter more than 100 times finer than a human hair and could hold up to 50 percent of their weight in agricultural pesticides. Research results showed that tested pesticides were released gradually over the entire four-month period, and that the rate of release could be adjusted by changing the composition of the fiber. The tested pesticides did not degrade.

(Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news157384863.html>)

## **You Should Be Alert to Scams**

As the economy is spiraling downward, scam artists appear to be working over time. Scams are usually generated via the internet, direct phone calling, emails,

and less frequently via the postal service. Most scams start by informing individuals that they are selling a product at a very good price. Please take caution with any company which makes claims that seem almost too good to be true.

Pesticides being sold in Tennessee must be registered with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture prior to being offered for sale. Anyone purchasing pesticides over the telephone should ask for the product's EPA registration number and review the label for the percent of active ingredient and the application rates. The cost per acre, not per gallon, needs to be compared to the cost per acre of the products normally used. Remember to ask for the seller's name, company name, address and telephone number. If the salesperson will not provide you with this information, it is likely that the pesticide product is being sold illegally. Also, you may want to check with the Better Business Bureau to see if the company has any negative reports. If you received information via email, see if you can find the company on the internet using one or two of the larger search engines (ex., Google or Yahoo). If not, you may be receiving emails used in scams.

## **Rust Resistance Genes In Soybeans Identified**

A team of scientists from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Iowa State University (ISU) and Brazil have identified a cluster of soybean genes that provide resistance to the fungus *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, which causes Asian soybean rust (ASR). Although fungicides usage can be effective against ASR, providing farmers with resistant cultivars would be more sustainable. ASR resistance was linked to five DNA regions, or "loci," within the soybean genome, named Rpp1 through Rpp5. Screening of 15,000 accessions in the ARS soybean germplasm collection revealed how uncommon resistance is and determined that less than 5 percent of the accessions are resistant. The researchers sequenced the Rpp4 locus and identified a cluster of candidate genes that confer ASR resistance. Comparisons of susceptible and resistant cultivars identified a single candidate gene, Rpp4C4, thought to bestow resistance. Rpp4C4 is one of five nearly identical genes in the Rpp4 locus. Frequent "shuffling" or recombination within the cluster allowed new disease resistance genes to be formed. The discovery will help defend the \$27 billion U.S. soybean crop against ASR, through conventional breeding or biotechnological means.

# Tennessee Agricultural Production Association 2009 Calendar of Events

Event	Location	Date
Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods	Forest Resources Research & Education Center-Oak Ridge	May 30
Dairy Field Day	Dairy Research & Education Center	Cancelled
Beef and Forage	East Tennessee Research & Education Center- Blount Unit	June 11
Fruits of the Backyard	Middle Tennessee Research & Education Center	June 16
Tobacco, Beef and More	Highland Rim Research & Education Center	June 25
Summer Celebration	West Tennessee Research & Education Center	July 9
Tobacco & Forage Production	Research & Education Center at Greeneville	July 16
Tennessee Agricultural Production Association, annual meeting	Gatlinburg, TN	July 22-24
Making Forages Work	Middle Tennessee Research & Education	Cancelled
American Phytopathological Society	Portland, OR	July 31- Aug.6
Steak & Potatoes	Plateau Research & Education Center	August 4
Turfgrass Field Day	East Tennessee Research & Education Center -Plant Sciences Unit	September 3
Pumpkin Field Day	West Tennessee Research & Education Center	October 9
Fall Folklore Jamboree	Milan, TN at the Milan REC	Oct. 17
Entomological Society of America	Indianapolis, Indiana	Dec 13-16

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