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Tennessee Agricultural Production Association Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Wills



The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association will be at the Edgewater Hotel in Gatlinburg on August

1-3. 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.

TAPA conducted the 2007 Agronomic Workshop in Jackson on February 5-7 at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center. Program chairman Mark Spiller planned an excellent program and several excellent speakers provided some very useful and up-to-date information on a variety of topics. One hot topic of interest was the current push by the Bush Administration to replace much of our imported oil supplies with renewable fuels. Currently, there are 111 ethanol refineries in the U.S. producing about 5 billion gallons of ethanol annually. Another 80 or so plants are under construction or expansion. Estimates are that the ethanol industry will need another one billion bushels of corn in 2007-08 and much more than that in the next five years. This means that at least seven million more acres of corn are needed in 2007 over 2006 production. Are we moving too fast? Will there be enough corn to meet the demands of the ethanol refineries in the near future? Will the price for corn drive up corn based food products? Will switchgrass and wood cellulose conversion processes become cost efficient and take some pressure off of corn production

for ethanol? There are many more acres of land more suited to grass and wood production than to expanded corn production. As corn prices increase from about \$2.00 per bushel in 2006 to about \$4.00 per bushel now, more acreage is projected to be planted in corn this year and well into the future. Some of this new acreage will come from marginal land that has not been in recent production or is not capable of 150 bushel per acre yields. What effect will the increase in corn prices and acreage have on fertilizer availability and prices? The price for ethanol per gallon has been very volatile over the past several months with highs of \$2.50 per gallon to lows of \$1.70 per gallon.

Will there be a similar domino effect on other crop inputs? Several speakers at the Agronomic Workshop in Jackson spoke about fertilizer trends. For sure, nitrogen prices will continue to rise and the availability of other nutrients may be limited. With higher demand from other countries such as China, costs of fertilizers will surely increase and availability could be limited in some markets. The availability of railroad cars and barge scheduling for fertilizer transport will be a cause for concern in the future.

This discussion leads us to the very purpose of TAPA. As consultants and advisors, how can we assist our producers and customers to avoid shortages and exorbitant prices for crop production inputs? Should a given acreage be put into corn production or would it be better suited to a different crop? Are there better times of the year to purchase crop production products when prices may be a little lower and demand is not at peak?

Can we substitute nitrogen sources and still achieve good yields and quality? Do we need to apply as much total fertilizer as we have in the past? Will some lower cost pesticides give as good a control on specific pests as more expensive ones? Will soil testing save money on fertilizer needs? These and many more similar questions can be discussed and some solutions to these problems answered by speakers at TAPA meetings. If you miss a meeting, you may miss the answer to a burning question you have. See you at the annual meeting in Gatlinburg on August 1-3, 2007

Jim Wills
President

Southern Crop Production Association Hill Visits

The SCPA Board of Directors will be visiting congressmen and senators and their key staff from 15 southern states on May 10th in Washington. The purpose of this visit is to get to know them on a more personal basis and discuss relevant issues affecting the agricultural industry.

Robin Thomas, Chair, 2007 TAPA Legislative Committee, has agreed to represent TAPA at the 2007 SCPA Hill Visits. Participants plan to arrive on May 9 in time for an issues briefing session on Tuesday afternoon. The group will be divided into teams of three or four with scheduled visits for each team on Thursday, May 10th.

TAPA Board Meeting

The TAPA Board met prior to the Agronomic Workshop on February 5. Following is a summary of action taken:

1. Approved the appointment of the following committee chairmen for 2007.
 - a. Operating Procedures – Gene Burgess
 - b. Education and Information – Fred Allen
 - c. Finance and Auditing – Greg Brann
 - d. Local Arrangements – Ricky Foster
 - e. Membership – Angela Thompson
 - f. Nominations – Rick Turnage
 - g. Recognition and Awards – Melvin Newman
 - h. Sponsorship and Fund Raising – John Duke
 - i. Legislative Affairs – Robin Thomas
2. Approved expenditure of \$1,000 for the sponsorship of the 4-H Plant Science Project (agronomy) at the University of Tennessee in 2007.
3. Approved the date and location of 2008 Agronomic Workshop as follows: West TN Research and Education Center, Jackson - February 4 – 6, 2008.
4. Approved a motion to authorize Rick Turnage to represent TAPA at the 2007 Southern Crop Protection Association Hill Visits in Washington on May 9 and 10. (Editor's note: Turnage could not attend the SCPA Hill Visits due to a conflict with a company meeting. Robin Thomas agreed to represent TAPA at this event)
5. Approved a motion to appoint Harry Craft for a three-year term as the TAPA representative on the TN CCA Board of Directors.
6. A suggestion was made and consensus reached to invite a representative from Asmark Institute to participate in TAPA's Meeting Program by presenting information regarding their services to our membership. Mark Spiller, TAPA Vice President and Annual Meeting Program Chair will contact Asmark as to their availability for the program.
7. Next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 13 at 1 pm following the 2007 UT Weed Tour at the Milan Research and Education Center.

Information of Pesticide Safety Education Programs, PSEP, URLs

UTIA marketplace

To order pesticide certification and licensing materials and to reregister for pesticide certification and licensing seminars:

1. Go to the following website: <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/emarketplace>
2. After you get to the website, log in and create an account.
3. Go to the shopping cart and order or register for classes.

To Order Publications

Go to Categories in Left Column

Click on:
Publications
Pesticide Training Materials & Classes
Certification Exam Manuals OR
Licensing Exam Manuals

Select your manual(s) and proceed to check out.

To register for Certification and Licensing Classes

Go to Categories in Left Column

Click on:
Conferences & Training
Pesticide Commercial Applicator OR
Pesticide Licensed Pest Control Operator

Select the seminar(s) and proceed to check out.

PSEP Website

To download UT and TDA certification and licensing forms and fact sheets go to the following website:
<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/psep/psep.htm>

Extension forms for public use
Extension forms for extension use
TDA forms and fact sheets
Training dates
Study materials
Study materials order form
Upcoming meetings for recertification points
Publications for Extension agents
Publications for the public
PSEP Questions and Answers

TDA Website for Pesticide Certification Point Standings

<http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/regulate>

Click on Ag Inputs and Pesticides
Click on Online Pesticide Systems
Click on Commercial Applicator Point Standings

UT Weed Tour

The University of Tennessee Weed Tour will be Wednesday, June 13, 2007 beginning at 8:00 am at the West Tennessee Research & Education Center and concluding at Milan Research & Education Center with lunch in the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum.

There are approximately 40 experiments that attendees will be viewing during the tour. These will include burndown, early preplant, preemergence, postemergence, post-directed and lay-by trials on corn, cotton and soybeans. In addition, trials evaluating carryover to crops, residual activity, application timing, herbicide resistant crops and glyphosate-resistant horseweed will be viewed and discussed.. Plot plan books will be available for attendees.

UT personnel will be available for consultation and discussion of issues and product performance.

Points will be available for pesticide recertification. In addition, this event is being submitted to the Tennessee CCA Board for CEU approval.

REMINDER!
2007 TAPA ANNUAL MEETING
EDGEWATER HOTEL
GATLINBURG, TN
AUGUST 1 -- 3, 2007

CCA Update Chairman's Message



Kenneth K. Hassell
TN CCA Board Chair

As I sit down to write this message it is a beautiful spring day outside, with bright sunshine and temperatures in the 80's. The

wheat crop has been fertilized for the most part and corn planting is well under way here in West Tennessee. Hopefully by the time you get this message everyone will have a good stand of corn and it will be growing good. As I begin this message, I am compelled to say "Thank You" to those of you who work in the agricultural industry in support of producers and especially to the individuals that have accomplished the CCA designation as a testimony to commitment. We mentioned in an earlier newsletter that anticipation for the CCA program has not been fully met, but the program continues to mature and move forward.

The winter meeting season has passed and those of us that just finished our second year of our CCA recertification cycle will start looking at where we can get our CEU's. As usual there will be many opportunities this summer with all the field days, weed tours and other events going on throughout the state.

With this being a very busy time of the year for most all CCA's, some started the new cycle year off by attending the TAPA/CCA Agronomic Workshop in Jackson, TN in February. Let me tell you of one good place to obtain part of your CEU's this summer and that is by attending the TAPA Annual Meeting and Workshop in Gatlinburg, TN the first week in August.

The CCA board met Monday, February 5, 2007 at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson, TN prior to the CCA Agronomic Workshop. Those present for the meeting were: Fred Allen, Boyd Barker, Joe Duck, Rob White, Cleston Parris and Kenneth Hassell. We had a very productive meeting. The August board meeting minutes were read and approved as were the other reports. Here are a few of the highlights of the meeting:

statements, reporting of self-study programs and communication cost savings.

The TN CCA Board ratified the appointment of new board member, Boyd Barker, representing the TN Dept. of Agriculture. Barker replaced John Mc Clurkan as the TDA representative to the TN CCA Board, effective August 17, 2006.

In addition, Joe Pearson, TN Farm Bureau Federation, and Greg Brann, USDA-NRCS, were re-appointed for 3-year terms to the TN CCA Board as representative of their respective organizations.

Hugh Savoy was appointed to serve a 3-year term as the UT Extension Service representative to the TN CCA Board, replacing Paul Denton.

Harry Craft was appointed to serve a 3-year term as the TAPA representative to the TN CCA Board, replacing Charles Leslie.

The TN CCA Board also renewed the Executive Secretary's Contract.

On behalf of the CCA Board and the CCA's across the state, I would like to express appreciation to Charles Leslie and Paul Denton for their dedicated service to this board.

Kenneth K. Hassell

(6) July 26-- Making Forages Work Field Day, UT Middle TN Research and Education Center, Spring Hill, TN. Contact: Dr. Dennis Onks. Tel: (931) 486-2129. E-mail: donks@tennessee.edu

(7) August 1 - 3 -- TAPA Annual Meeting and CCA Workshop, Edgewater Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN. Contact: Cleston G. Parris, Tel: (865) 925-4448. E-mail: C.G.Parris@juno.com

(8) August 2-- Crop Technology Field Day, Monsanto Research Facility, 2303 Pleasant Valley Avenue, Union City, TN
Registration: 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Tours: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Contact: Ron Akin, Tel (731) 431-7216

E-mail: ron.akin@monsanto.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION POINTS

An updated list of meetings where pesticide applicators may earn recertification points in various categories may be obtained at the Entomology and Plant Pathology PSEP home page. The PSEP web address is as follows:

<http://epsever.ag.utk.edu/psep/psep.htm>

(1) June 6, 2007

Initial Certification Meetings

Knoxville, Chattanooga, Johnson City, Nashville and Jackson, TN

Contact: Gene Burgess (865) 974-7138

CAT: 3, 7 = 4 points

CAT: All other categories = 3 points

** All sites other than Knoxville must have 6 people pre-registered to avoid cancellation.

(2) June 13, 2007

UT Weed Tour 2007, West TN Research and Education Center.

Contact: Larry Steckel (731) 424-1643

CAT: 1, 10, 12 = 4

(3) June 21-23, 2007

2007 Southeast Greenhouse Conference, Greenville, SC. Contact: Dr. Charles Hall (865) 974-7410. CAT: 3, 10, 12 = 3 points.

(4) July 11, 2007

Initial Certifications Meetings --

Knoxville, Chattanooga, Johnson City, Nashville and Jackson. Contact: Gene Burgess (865) 974-7138

CAT: 3, 7 = 4 points. All other Categories = 3 point

** All sites other than Knoxville must have 6 people pre-registered to avoid cancellation.

For a summary of current earned points, visit the TDA website at

www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/regulate

MEETING AND EVENTS FOR CCA CEUS

(1) May 15 and 16 -- Turfgrass Field Day and Workshop, E. TN Research and Education Center, Plant Science Unit, Knoxville, TN.

Contact Dr. Scott McElry, Tel: (865) 974-8603.

E-mail: mcelry@utk.edu

(2) June 13-- UT Weed Tour, West TN Research and Education Center, Jackson, TN.

Contact: Dr. Larry Steckel, Asst. Prof. Plant Sciences, UT Inst. of Ag., Jackson, TN. Tel: (731) 425-4705. E-mail: lsteckel@utk.edu

(3) June 14-- Beef and Forage Field Day, East TN Research and Education Center – Blount Unit, Alcoa, TN Contact: Dr. Bobby Simpson, Tel: (865) 974-7201.

E-mail: rsimpso4@utk.edu

(4) June 28-- Tobacco, Beef, and More Field Day, UT Highland Rim Research and Education Center, Springfield. Contact: Dr. Barry Sims, (615) 382-3130. E-mail: bsims@utk.edu

(5) July 19-- Tobacco and Forge Production Field Day, UT Research and Education Center at Greenville, TN. Contact: Robert Ellis, (423) 638-6532. E-mail: relis1@utk.edu

2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Turfgrass Field Day and Workshop	E. TN Res. & Ed. Center, Knoxville, TN	May 15 and 16
UT Weed Tour	W. TN Res. & Ed. Ctr., Jackson, TN	June 13
Beef and Forage Field Day	E. TN Res. & Ed. Ctr., Blount Unit, Alcoa, TN	June 14
Tobacco, Beef, and More Field Day	Highland Rim Res. & Ed. Ctr., Springfield, TN	June 28
Summer Celebration	W. TN Res. & Ed. Ctr., Jackson, TN	July 12
Tobacco and Forage Production Field Day	Research and Ed. Ctr., Greeneville, TN	July 19
Making Forges Work	Mid. TN Res. and Ed. Center., Spring Hill, TN	July 26
TAPA Annual Meeting and CCA Workshop	Edgewater Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN	August 1 - 3

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