

# THE TAPA QUARTERLY

*The Newsletter of the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association*

## Remarks from Our President Paul Kennedy



It's an amazing time in Tennessee and the Mid-south to be in agriculture. The technology that we have today, and the new innovations being brought to the table are changing the way we approach farming in all aspects. Farmers are innovators themselves. They take the new technology seriously and implement what they need to increase productivity and the bottom line. We are making headway in Tennessee on the matter of internet speed in the rural areas. There is a pilot program going on now in west Tennessee that will prove its worth. We all will benefit when our farmers obtain high speed, gaining them faster access to mainstream business.

It has been with mixed emotions when thinking about the growing season of 2019. So many challenges for our farmers including down commodity prices, weather-related planting delays, and late harvesting to name a few. On a positive note, there are those that say they had some of the best yields this year than they have had in a long time. We all want and need a good 2020 growing season, so let's hope and pray it will be a good one.

I would like to welcome Dr. Virginia Sykes as our president-elect/chairperson who is lining up a great winter and summer meeting of great speakers. Let's get the word out and make our attendance one of the largest yet and fill up our conference rooms. We hope to see all of you in February at our winter meeting in Jackson, TN.

Dec 2019—Feb 2020



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Pesticide certification and  
Paraquat Regulatory Update*  
Page 2

*Farm Credit Scholarship An-  
nouncement*  
*SCPA State Issues Summit*  
Page 3

*US Domestic Hemp Program,  
list of upcoming meetings*  
Page 4

*TAPA Sponsors, officers and  
board listing*  
Page 5

## TAPA Winter Agronomic Workshop February 12, 2020, Jackson, TN

Ladies and Gentlemen, please mark your calendars for our winter agronomic workshop, to be held in Jackson, TN on February 12th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. To make a room reservation, you may call the hotel directly at (731) 664-6900. Hotel address is 1770 Highway 45 Bypass, Jackson, TN.

On-site Registration is available beginning 7:30 a.m.

Program: 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Agenda and registration information will be coming soon. Our president-elect, Virginia Sykes, has been organizing a great program of speakers for you all. Once the agenda is finalized, we will be sending out updates.

CCA Board Meeting— Feb 11th, 1:00 p.m.

TAPA Board Meeting— Feb 11th, 3:00 p.m.

TAPA Agronomic Workshop- Feb 12th, 8:00am-5:00pm



## Remember to Keep Your Certification Up To Date!

By Darrell Hensley (Tennessee's Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator)

Private applicators have only a few months in 2020 to renew their certification. If you currently have a valid private applicator card and you would like to renew it, you will need to attend a recertification meeting held by your local county extension office. The recertification period runs from January 1, 2020 until June 30, 2020. If you do not attend a recertification meeting during this period, your certification will expire and to renew it, you would need to attend an initial private applicator training event. Recertification meetings will be held by your local county extension office or you may attend an event online. We plan to have several informative topics available to help keep you informed on current pesticide related issues.

Remember, commercial applicator requirements are slightly different from private applicators. Commercial applicators are required to accrue points/CEU's to maintain their certification. If they do not attend meetings which are assigned points/CEU's, they will be required to re-take the certification exam. Commercial applicators may contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to determine if they have accumulated the required points to roll their certification into the new certification cycle @ 615-837-5148 or they may check online at TDA's website: <https://healthspace.com/clients/tda/state/weblive.nsf/pesticides.xsp>

Additional information concerning CEU's required to maintain certification may be found here: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/agriculture/documents/pestcontrol/CEU-2020.pdf>

For more information concerning the pesticide safety education program, please our web site at: <https://ag.tennessee.edu/psep/Pages/default.aspx>

## New Requirements for Paraquat

By Darrell Hensley (Tennessee's Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator)

In Tennessee, to use or handle paraquat products, you must be a certified applicator. In addition, paraquat-specific training is required by new paraquat labels and must be completed prior to using products with the new labeling. All paraquat labels are expected to include a link to the training by November 2019. The training provides important information about paraquat's toxicity, new label requirements and restrictions, and the consequences of misuse. The training must be retaken every three years and the training is a paraquat label requirement. If commercial applicators provide the Tennessee Department of Agriculture a copy of the certificate of completion of paraquat training they may be awarded one CEU/point credit. So make certain to provide TDA a copy of your certificate of attendance.

You may send a copy of your certificate to: Certification & Licensing Section, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Box 40627, Porter Bldg., Nashville, TN 37204

Would you like to visit the  
*Tennessee Agricultural Pro-*  
*duction Association* website?  
Click here:  
[tapa.tennessee.edu](http://tapa.tennessee.edu)



TAPA has a Facebook page with excellent Tennessee ag-related posts! Just [CLICK HERE](#) and click on the "Like" button.

## Farm Credit Mid-America Accepting Scholarship Applications

Attention college-bound students! Farm Credit Mid-America is looking for the next generation of rural community leaders, future farmers and those who want to make a difference in the field of agriculture. Each year, Farm Credit Mid-America awards scholarships to individuals based on academics, leadership qualities, community involvement and their passion for promoting agriculture.

### Farm Credit Mid-America Scholars

The signature program awards incoming college sophomores and juniors with \$5,000 in financial support over a two-year period. In addition to financial support, the program provides week-long learning and travel experiences that focus on leadership development and financial education.

### Customer Agricultural Scholarship

This program awards \$1,500 in financial support. You must be a child or grandchild of a Farm Credit Mid-America customer. You can attend an accredited two- or four-year college, university, vocational or trade school.

Applications for 2020 are accepted through December 31, 2019. All scholarship funds will be awarded by August 2020 for the fall semester.

For more information, and to apply, visit <https://e-farmcredit.com/scholarships>

## Gillilan Represents TAPA at SCPA State Issues Summit



On Nov 13, Jo Gillilan attended the SCPA (Southern Crop Production Association) State Issues Summit in Charleston, SC as a representative of TAPA. The Issues Summit is a biennial program designed to educate and inform agricultural business leaders on current issues surrounding the agricultural inputs industry (crop protection, biotechnology, seed and more) and to allow interaction among the participants. Issues are local, state, and national in scope; and are presented by industry professionals. Participants include state Farm Bureau staff, state and regional ag organizations and forestry representatives.

Speakers at this year's event included SC Commissioner of Ag Hugh Weathers, CropLife America's Gen O'Sullivan ("Changing How We Talk about Pesticides"), Stephanie Regagnon representing Fieldwatch ("Growing Good Neighbors Through Stewardship"), NC Pork Council President Andy Curliss ("Attacked: How Funding & Strategy Combine to Put Farmers Under Fire"), Jeff Case of CropLife America (Region & Federal Update), Gene Harrington of Biotechnology Innovation Organization ("BIO update"), Dr. S. Eliza Dunn, MD ("The Science of Glyphosate"), and Donnie Taylor of ARA (Ag Retailers Association Update).

We, as an agricultural community, are blessed to have an organization such as SCPA to unite ag industry leaders together to discuss current issues and lobby for the best interests of farmers and ag businesses with state and federal government officials.

## USDA Establishes the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced on October 29, 2019 the establishment of the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program. This program, as required by the 2018 Farm Bill, creates a consistent regulatory framework around hemp production throughout the United States.

“At USDA, we are always excited when there are new economic opportunities for our farmers, and we hope the ability to grow hemp will pave the way for new products and markets,” said Secretary Perdue. “We have had teams operating with all hands-on-deck to develop a regulatory framework that meets Congressional intent while seeking to provide a fair, consistent, and science-based process for states, tribes, and individual producers who want to participate in this program.”

An interim final rule formalizing the program has been published in the Federal Register that will allow hemp to be grown under federally-approved plans and make hemp producers eligible for a number of agricultural programs. The rule includes provisions for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to approve hemp production plans developed by states and Indian tribes including: requirements for maintaining information on the land where hemp is produced; testing the levels of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol; disposing of plants not meeting necessary requirements; and licensing requirements. It also establishes a federal plan for hemp producers in states or territories of Indian tribes that do not have their own approved hemp production plan.

The interim final rule became effective upon publication in the Federal Register last month. Following publication, USDA invites public comment on the interim rule and the information collection burden. The [interim final rule](#) is posted on USDA’s website. USDA also developed guidelines for [sampling and testing procedures](#) that are being issued concurrently with this rule. These documents provide additional information for sampling agents and hemp testing laboratories. More information about the provisions of the interim final rule is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) website, under [U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program](#).

*Originally published on Oct 29, 2019 on USDA website: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/10/29/usda-establishes-domestic-hemp-production-program>. Press release #0165.19*

## Mark your calendar with these upcoming events!

**Beltwide Cotton Conferences – Jan. 8-10 Austin, TX**

**National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) - Jan 20-24 San Antonio, TX**

**TN Mosquito Vector Mgmt Association—Jan 29-31 Nashville, TN**

**East Tennessee Grain Conference—Jan 23 Lenior City, TN**

**Cotton and Rice No-till Conference – Jan. 30-31 Memphis, TN**

**Cotton Focus – Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Jackson, TN**

**TAPA – Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Jackson, TN**

**Southern Weed Science Society—Jan 27-30th Biloxi, MS**

**Middle Tennessee Grain Conference – Feb 4 Location TBD**

**West Tennessee Grain and Soybean Conference – Feb. 6 Dyersburg, TN**

For more information on TN Extension meetings, go to <https://extension.tennessee.edu/Pages/news.aspx>

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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.

### TAPA

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Open

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