

The Harvest



News and Views from the North Carolina Agricultural Consultants Association

April 2009



NCACA SPRING EDUCATIONAL MEETING BIG SUCCESS!

Our spring conference on Tuesday, March 10 at the Vernon James Research Center in Plymouth was a huge success; nearly 30 consultants, their employees and presenters spent the day receiving updates on micro-nutrients and sulfur - the use of Avail and Nutrisphere-N; nematode management and fungicide use on field crops, and TSP information and updates. Special thanks to all our presenters: Carl Crozier and Steve Koenning of NCSU, and Greg Walker of the USDA NRCS.

Part of the crowd of 30 attendees at the NCACA Spring Educational Meeting.



NCSU's Carl Crozier helps Steve Koenning cue up his presentation while NCACA members Danny Pearce and Billy McLawhorn contribute some advice.



A smiling Webster Harrell did a great job as conference coordinator lining up speakers, getting attendees and arranging a great lunch.



Greg Walker of USDA covered the sweeping changes in TSP.



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DANIEL FOWLER IN AG LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

NCACA Secretary / Treasurer Daniel Fowler is currently enrolled in the Agricultural Leadership Development Program. In the past, this has been a program only for farmers in NC, but recently it has been opened up for diversification.

The issues of Daniel's 2008-2010 class are public education of agriculture, farm labor, farmland preservation, environmental policies and food safety. The whole group traveled to Washington, DC in February where they met with congressmen, legislative assistants and political organizations that are stakeholders on our group issue. The group is going to tour Brazil and California in January/February of 2010 to try to learn more about their production and leadership skills they use.

Daniel shared the background of the program: In the increasingly competitive global marketplace, North Carolina agriculture needs leaders who can effectively advocate for our food, fiber and forestry industries, which account for \$68.3 billion of North Carolina's \$336 billion gross state product. Policies developed at the state, local and national levels impact agriculture and agribusiness. Agricultural leaders need the tools to advocate for agriculture at all levels to ensure that government policies and public opinion related to agriculture remain positive to ensure profitability.

Since the 1980s, CALS has conducted an Agricultural Leadership Development Program to promote personal development and teach leadership skills to professionals from government, commodity and farm organizations. In the early years, the program targeted mainly those involved in the production and marketing of tobacco, but today group members reflect a greater diversity in the roles they play and the products they grow. The program has spawned some of the state's strongest agricultural leaders, including Larry Wooten of the NC Farm Bureau and Lawrence Davenport, president of the agribusiness firm J.P. Davenport and Son, Inc.

Members of the past agricultural leaders class already have had an impact on agricultural policy, developing white papers on five major agricultural issues: biofuels, public education about agriculture, green space protection, farm labor and the 2007 Farm Bill. The group that worked on the Farm Bill paper traveled to Washington, DC to share their concerns with the state's elected leaders.

For more information on the program, you can contact: Dr. Bill Collins, (919) 515-2717 or bill_collins@ncsu.edu, or Dr. Lanny Hass, (919) 513.0479 or lanny_hass@ncsu.edu



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Global Alliance of Independent Agricultural Consultants Launched; NCACA Member Al Averitt Elected As GAIAC Vice Chairman

The NAICC Annual Meeting 2009 was held in Memphis the last week of January and it was a great success. The venue was the Peabody Hotel and it was not the first time the meeting had been held there, indeed the last time NAICC met in the same surroundings was their first meeting in 1979 some thirty years ago. It was therefore fitting and appropriate that, after several years in the planning, the GAIAC (The Global Alliance of Independent Agricultural Consultants) should be officially launched as an organisation in The Peabody and its inception in this place should prove a good sign for GAIAC.

The newly formed board of GAIAC hope that it will experience similar success through time with the support of NAICC in the USA and AICC in the UK:

Chairman Allen Scobie United Kingdom
Vice Chair Al Averitt USA
Director Gary Coukell Canada
Director Ian Macleod Tasmania
Director Bob Glodt USA
Director Patrick Stephenson United Kingdom

The mission statement of GAIAC is "To unify and support agricultural consultants and researchers throughout the world and to provide a forum for information exchange within the agricultural community. Some of initial aims of GAIAC are:

- To arrange a web site with discussion forum facilities for the benefit of GAIAC members
- To discuss how we can help facilitate internships around the world for students of Dr Plant Medicine at University of Florida and Dr of Plant Health Program at University of Nebraska (To seek out similar programs in other countries and liaise with them)
- Enable crop consultants and researchers access to information on crop varieties, crop protection products, fertilisers, crop growing systems, weather and crop conditions throughout the growing season.

All this information will help us to better understand global crop conditions and yield estimates from information generated by fellow professionals. At present, this information is generated by government departments and market research organisations.

Membership is open to agricultural consultants and researchers throughout the world. If you want to find out more about GAIAC, as an initial approach please contact Al Averitt, or either AICC, Sarah Cowrick, Chief Executive or NAICC, Allison Jones, Executive Vice President

The Harvest is a monthly newsletter of the North Carolina Agricultural Consultants Association intended to give a quick overview of the activities in the lives and careers of the NCACA membership. Anyone with contributions should email the information to Kelly Andrews, NCACA Executive Director at kellybob@earthlink.net.