



"Professionals
For Texas Agriculture"

Texas Ag Line

Official Publication of the Texas Ag Industries Association ★ 145 West Travis La Grange, Texas 78945 979-968-5602

Texas Agricultural Commissioner Todd Staples Highlights TAIA Business Meeting



Mark Hebert Presenting Commissioner Todd Staples with the Harry P. Whitworth Award

Texas Ag Industries held its 2011 Annual Conference and Business Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison January 18 - 20. Great attendance and a very diverse group of companies and individuals, made the 2011 Conference one of the best on record. TAIA was very honored to have Todd Staples, Texas Agriculture Commissioner, speak to a packed room at the Business Meeting Breakfast about the future of agriculture in Texas.

The 2011 Conference had a record number of thirty-seven companies that were sponsors for the conference and seventeen companies set up meeting rooms to meet with customers and staff. Both conference sponsors and companies with meeting rooms are listed on pages 5 and 6.

The receptions were very well attended with entertainment provided by singer and guitarist Ken Brothers, Wii competition and a very well supported
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Congress Moves Legislation On NPDES Permits

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits have caught congressional attention. With the help of our national and state associations and contacts by our members, HB 872 was able to move through the House Agriculture Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and passed by the full House of Representatives under the Reduced Regulatory Burdens Act. The bill required a two-thirds majority and it passed by a margin of 292 - 134. It now is filed in the Senate as SB 350 by Senator Pat Roberts from Kansas. We will again need a lot of support from our members to get the bill passed out of the Senate where we hear it will face a tougher fight to pass.

On the EPA side, the 6th Circuit Court has granted them a six month delay to start issuing NPDES permits. This moves the implementation date to October 31, 2011. EPA has published draft regulations in the federal register. The Texas Commission of Environmental Quality has regulations ready to publish, but is waiting to see the final EPA regulation.

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Vol. 88, Num. 1 -----Spring, 2011

OFFICERS

Benny Martinez ----- Chairman

John Oppelt ----- Vice Chairman

Scott Piercy ----- Sec./Treas.

Mark Hebert ----- Imm. Past Chair.

Ken Mull ----- Exec.Comm.

Jimmy Schulz ----- Exec.Comm.

Brad Locke ----- Exec.Comm.

STAFF

Donnie Dippel ----- President & Editor

Governmental Affairs and Marketing

Provided by CHB Consulting, Inc. Staff

The *Texas Ag Line* is published by
CHB Consulting, Inc. for the Texas
Ag Industries Assn.

Chairman's Comments

First and foremost, I would like to start by saying what a privilege it is for me to be able to serve as the 2011 Chairman of the Board. I feel blessed to continue to have the opportunity to be a part of one of the best associations in the agricultural industry. The best thing about it is that I continue to have the opportunity to work with the individuals that serve TAIA.

By coincidence, I was elected by the Board to serve as the Chairman on the 50th Anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inaugural speech where he famously said, "**Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.**" As I serve as your 2011 Chairman and ask myself how I can better serve our association, I would like to ask the membership to do the same. I challenge everyone who is a part of the association to think and act with TAIA in mind. I am proud to announce that TAIA has reached a major milestone by breaching the 500 member mark. This long time goal is very crucial in its significance as we continue to invest in the needs and defend the issues that are important to our members. Although we have reached this major milestone, it's not a time to relax. We need to continue to reach out to nonmembers and express to them why our association is one that they need to be a part of. Staying above 500 is no longer a goal for TAIA, it's a necessity.

As always, do not hesitate to call Donnie or me with questions or concerns. Thanks again for this great opportunity,
Benny Martinez,
Chairman of the Board

President's Comments

I hope everyone that attended the 2011 Annual Conference had an enjoyable experience. I would like to thank all those who attended. I also would like to thank those who sent comments for all the positive remarks we received about the conference and the contacts they were all able to make. I hope you pass these comments on to those who were not able to attend so they get January 17 - 19, 2012 on their calendar for next year's conference. Be sure to check the calendar on the back of the newsletter for the dates of the 2011 Regional Planning Committee Meetings. Everyone is invited to join the committees to help plan the regional meetings for this year. It is so important that we get topics related to specific regions of the state and find the best possible speakers to address the subjects. We are also starting to make plans for the Summer Meeting that will be held August 10 -12 in Fredricksburg. Plug in these dates and help make important decisions on how your association will operate this next year.

The Eighty-Second Texas Legislative session is running at full steam with an extremely heavy load to accomplish. Their number one goal is passing a budget with a twenty-four to twenty-seven billion dollar short fall, depending on whom you talk to, for the next biennium. As the budget hearings continue, we are seeing the agriculture agencies taking extreme budget cuts. The agencies are also saying there will be an increase in fees they are charging for their services to help cover the cost. There are several groundwater bills filed, and all of them have some concerns for agriculture. A map of redistricting should soon appear and that will surely bring a lot of discussion. On the federal scene congress is also trying to pass a budget with major cuts, but between all of that we have been able to move the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits Bill through the House and on to the Senate. The Courts have also given EPA a six month delay to get its NPDES Regulations in place. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has also delayed its regulations.

Looking back to 2010, TAIA was able to accomplish many great things. We had a year in which we broke every record for sponsorships at every event TAIA held. We had great attendance at all our meetings. We were able to reach out and do two Anhydrous Ammonia Trainings to help our members comply. I did receive a call last week from the US Department of Transportation saying they are starting inspections in Texas in April. We finally accomplished a membership goal of 500 that we have worked so hard to meet. Thank you for making 2010 a great year, while helping us strive to make 2011 an even a better year with your help and participation.

Donnie Dippel

TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Individual Members

Eric Patton / Matt Vaughn / Bryan Henson Bayer CropScience
Jon Miron / Earl Hunt / Bayer CropScience
Ryan Garner / CPS
Filemon Guzman / CPS
Rob Brooks / Raymond Miller Dow AgroSciences
Scott Fuchs / Dow AgroSciences/ PhytoGen Cottonseed
Austin Horn / Kyle Lawless / Steve Carlson / Monsanto
Danny Gonzalez / Rhett Brewster / Monsanto
Bert Stoddard / Syngenta
Jeff Fox / SureGrow Agriculture Products, Inc.
Brandon Joy / Tristar Chemical
Mark Spiller / Yara North America

Dealers

Ronnie Hoelscher / B F & M Cooperative, Inc.
Daylon Royal / GB Aerial Applications, Inc.

Allied Industry

Doug Campbell / Alliance Tank Service

Distributors

Charles Delaney / Agri-B
Rick Bohls / Transammonia Inc.
Jeff Wilson / West Gaines Seed, Inc.

Manufacturers

Larry Wilde / Dan Pinther / Brandt Consolidated Inc.
Tim Parma / SipcamAdvan

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

Kyle Kromer Joins Tank Builders, Inc.

Tank Builders, Inc. has announced that Kyle Kromer has joined them full time to do Business Development and Marketing work. You can contact Kyle at 817/510-0160 extension 103 or at kylekromer@tankbuildersinc.com.

PIONEER HI-BRED AND ADVANTA COLLABORATE ON SORGHUM TRAITS AND TECHNOLOGY

DuPont and Advanta have entered into a collaboration and licensing agreement to develop and deliver sorghum with increased productivity and value.

Under the agreement, DuPont will provide proprietary biotechnology traits and enabling technologies to Advanta for the purpose of developing improved biotechnology sorghum products. DuPont business Pioneer Hi-Bred and Advanta will have commercial rights to sorghum products developed under the agreement, once regulatory approvals have been received. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

"Improving the productivity and livelihoods of farmers everywhere is critical to meeting the demands of the future population, and biotechnology crops continue to play an important role in increasing farmer productivity," said John Bedbrook, vice president - DuPont Agricultural Biotechnology. "Advanta is the leading sorghum developer, and this partnership will enhance our sorghum product offering by providing more options through biotech traits."

A staple grain for many parts of the world, almost three-quarters of the world sorghum crop is used for human consumption. It is grown across the globe and ranks fifth in global production for cereals. It is planted in many dry regions because of its high-energy and tolerance to drought. Pioneer is a leading seller of sorghum in all of the major areas of the United States where sorghum is grown. With a range of forage, grain and sweet sorghum products in its portfolio, Advanta is the world's leading sorghum seed research and marketing company.

"Sorghum is an important crop for food and feed, and in many parts of the world, its role in energy production is growing," said Alberto Leon, research head - Advanta. "This collaboration will accelerate our ability to provide high yielding, high-value biotechnology sorghum products to our customers."

Pastures Now Get Weed Control in *Dry Fertilizer*

HOUSTON – (March 14, 2011) – Texas cattle raisers now have another way to get the benefits of pasture weed control and fertilization in a single step.

The Texas Department of Agriculture recently registered two Dow AgroSciences pasture herbicides- GrazonNext® and Chaparral™ – for impregnation onto dry fertilizer. The products are labeled for impregnation *only* in the state of Texas.

Herbicide impregnated onto dry fertilizer is a staple in lawn applications. And many ranchers utilize herbicide applications with *liquid* fertilizer on pastures and hay meadows. But until the recent registrations, no current pasture herbicide was labeled for impregnation onto dry fertilizer, says Dr. Vernon Langston, a range and pasture field scientist with Dow AgroSciences.

“For ranchers who prefer to use dry fertilizer, this could save a trip or an extra custom application,” Langston says. “At busy times of year, it could mean the difference between having weed control or not.” To impregnate fertilizer with the herbicide, dealers and applicators spray a concentrated solution of the product on dry fertilizer pellets during the blending process. Dow AgroSciences recommends that retailers dye all herbicide-impregnated fertilizer to alert users to the presence of the herbicide. To get an adequate dose of the herbicide properly distributed, the herbicide has to be applied with at least 200 pounds of dry fertilizer per acre. Spreader trucks or fertilizer buggies apply the herbicide-impregnated fertilizer as they would normally apply dry fertilizer.

From there, rainfall puts the herbicide-fertilizer solution into the soil. Weed control is almost entirely dependent upon the soil activity of the herbicide and root uptake by the weeds. For that reason, weed control from herbicide-impregnated fertilizer usually will be less than that from a liquid foliar application, says Andy Carriger, a Dow AgroSciences range and pasture specialist who did much of the development work. Control also may be slower.

“Where we normally expect 90 percent or better control from a liquid application, we often see about 75 percent control from impregnated fertilizer,” he says. “Sometimes it’s better, but 75 percent should be the expectation.”

Because GrazonNext contains 2,4-D, GrazonNext is a state-limited use product in Texas. At least a private applicator’s license is required to self-apply dry fertilizer impregnated with GrazonNext. Chaparral is not a state-limited use product and no license is required to apply it. While Chaparral applied as a liquid foliar treatment can be used to control Pensacola bahiagrass in bermudagrass, its activity on bahia through dry fertilizer is expected to be negligible. Still, Chaparral is not recommended for use on bahiagrass pasture. For more information on impregnated fertilizer, contact your local Dow AgroSciences representative.

TAIA Elects Benny Martinez Chairman

Benny Martinez with Dow AgroSciences was elected Board Chairman at the January Board Meeting replacing Mark Hebert. Also elected were John Oppelt with Advanta US as Vice-Chairman and Scott Peircy with Poole Chemical Co as Secretary / Treasurer.

Chairman Martinez appointed Ken Mull with Martin Resources, Jimmy Schulz with Farmers Coop of El Campo, and Brad Locke with Crop Productions Services to the Executive Committee. Brad Locke was also welcomed as a new member to the board replacing James Nichols with Inter-Chem who completed his second term on the board.

TAIA Would Like to Thank the 2011 Annual Conference Sponsors

Chairman's Reception Sponsor

Helena Chemical

2011 Annual Conference Sponsors

Adams Fertilizer Equipment
 A&L Plains Labs
 Agrium U. S. Inc.
 Agrotain International LLC
 Alliance Tank Service
 American Plant Food
 AMVAC
 ASMARK
 BASF
 Bayer CropScience
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 CF Industries
 Crop Production Services
 Dow AgroSciences
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 El Dorado Chemical
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 Martin Resources
 Monsanto
 Mosaic
 Nichino America
 Poole Chemical Co. Inc.
 PotashCorp
 Rhizogen
 Syngenta
 Tessenderlo Kerley
 Transammonia, Inc.
 UPI
 Wilbur-Ellis Company
 Winfield Solutions

Continued From Page 1

silent auction held to help fund the Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship Program.

The business meeting took a new turn at this year's conference by moving it to a breakfast instead of a lunch meeting. It seemed to go over well since we had a packed house for the meeting. Chairman Mark Hebert welcomed everyone, Zandy Goode gave the blessing and Mark then introduced our guest speaker, Todd Staples. After Commissioner Staples gave a very inspirational talk on the future of Texas agriculture those attending gave him a standing ovation. After the Commissioner's talk, Chairman Hebert presented Commissioner Staples with the Harry P. Whitworth Award for government involvement.

The Business Meeting proceeded with the election of board members. Scott Johnson, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, nominated Linda Hlavinka, John Oppelt, Scott Piercy, Todd Smith and Jason Veasart for their second terms and Brad Locke for his first term. The nominees were elected by acclamation.

Chairman Hebert then gave the Chairman's speech thanking the board members for all their hard work this past year. He proceeded to mention the many accomplishments TAIA had in 2011 and the great support we received from the members. Mark then mentioned that TAIA, after several years of striving for the goal of 500 members had finally accomplished the goal. He announced that Shelly Nutt with the Peanut Producers Board had signed up as our 500th member. He then talked about working under different individuals during his career, and how those individuals were involved with TAIA and often served as TAIA Chairmen. He looked up to those individuals for their participation and leadership roles. Mark expressed how honored he was to have been given the privilege of serving as the 2010 Chairman.

Chairman Hebert also recognized the 2011 Award Winners. The 2011 Member of the Year went to Scott Johnson with Intrepid Potash. The 2011 Company of the Year went to American Plant Food and was accepted by Donald Ford. The 2011 Environmentally Conscious Dealer Award went to El Dorado Chemical Company and was accepted by Jason Gough. 2011 education Achievement Award went to Dr. Mike Stewart. and the 2011 Honorary Lifetime Member went to Jerry Christian. James Nichols was recognized as an outgoing board member after serving two terms on the board. Benny Martinez, Vice-Chairman, presented Chairman Hebert with the Outstanding Achievement Award for his work with the Anhydrous Ammonia Nurse Tank Meetings and the great job he did with the television interview. Vice-Chairman Martinez then presented Mark with the 2010 Chairman's Plaque. Chairman Hebert closed the meeting thanking everyone again for great 2010.

Pictures of the Award Winners and Conference Events continue on the next page.



Member of the Year
 Scott Johnson



Company of the Year
 American Plant Food Corp.
 Accepted by
 Don Ford

Continued on next page

2011 Annual Conference Company Meeting Rooms

Agrium
American Plant Food
AMVAC
BASF
Bayer CropScience
Dow AgroSciences
DuPont
Equalizer
J. R. Simplot Co.
Koch Nitrogen
Martin Resources
Mosaic
Nichino America
PotashCorp
Simplot Grower Solutions
Syngenta
Wilbur-Ellis Fertilizer



Environmentally Conscious Dealer Award
Accepted by Justin Gough,
Mike Donegan, and Carl McCormack



Jerry Christian
Awarded Honorary
Lifetime Membership



Benny Martinez Presents
Mark Hebert with Out-
standing Achievement
Award and the Past
Chairman's Plaque



The Educational
Achievement Award
Was Given to
Mike Stewart with the
International Plant
Nutrition Institute



James Nichols with
Inter-Chem was
Recognized for His
Two Terms Served on
the TAIA Board

2012 Annual Conference
January 17 - 19

TAIA Leadership

2011 Officers

Chairman

Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Bishop

Vice Chairman

John Oppelt, UPI/Advanta US, Castroville

Secretary/Treasurer

Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co. Lubbock

Immediate Past Chairman

Mark Hebert, Simplot Grower Solutions, Hempstead

Executive Committee Member (Manufacturer)

Ken Mull, Martin Resources, Lubbock

Executive Committee Member (Crop Protection)

Brad Locke, Crop Production Services, College Station

Executive Committee Member (Plant Food)

Jimmy Schulz, Farmers Coop of El Campo, El Campo



2011 Board of Directors

Dealer / Distributors

Tommy Brandenberger, Migl F & G, Hallettsville
Darin Hofferichter, Wilbur-Ellis Co., China Springs
Don Barry, Winfield Solutions LLC, Edinburg
Linda Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard
Brad Locke, Crop Production Services, College Station
Tony Savage, Helena Chemical Co., Bardwell
Jimmy Schulz, Farmers Coop of El Campo, El Campo
Todd Smith, Wilbur-Ellis. Round Top
Jason Veesart, ChemNut, Lubbock
Cord Willms, Terral Seeds., Corpus

Manufacturers

Bob Fisherkeller, BASF Corp., Hurst
James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon
Mark Hebert, Simplot Grower Solutions, Hempstead
Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Bishop
Ken Mull, Martin Resources, Lubbock
John Oppelt, UPI/Advanta US, Castroville
Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co. Lubbock
Sean Wells, American Plant Food, Arlington

Allied Industries

Scot Coleman, A&L Plains Ag Lab, Lubbock
Doug Heck, Warren Cat, Lubbock

2011 Committee Leaders

Administration Committee

Ch: Tommy Brandenberger, Migl F & G, Hallettsville
Co: Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Denver, CO

Communications Committee

Ch: Zandy Goode, Gaviion, Lorena
Co: James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon

Conference Committee

Ch: Linda Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard
Co: John Oppelt, UPI/Advanta US, Castroville

Governmental Affairs Committee

Ch: Randy Stephens, SureGrow Ag Prod., Comanche
Co: Todd Smith, Wilbur-Ellis Co., Round Top

Membership/Marketing Committee

Ch: Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Denver, CO
Co: Mark Hebert, Simplot Grower Solutions, Hempstead

Nominating Committee

Ch: Mark Hebert, Simplot Grower Solutions, Hempstead
Co: Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Denver, CO

Regional Committees

Dumas Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon
Co: Kenneth Mull, Martin Resources, Lubbock

El Campo Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Jimmy Schulz, Farmers Coop of El Campo, El Campo
Co: Joe Martinez, Bayer CropScience, San Antonio

Lubbock Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co., Lubbock
Co: Scot Coleman, A & L Plains Ag Lab, Lubbock

Rio Grande Valley Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Kingsville
Co: Juan Zamora, Wilbur-Ellis Co, Edinburg

Salado Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: John Oppelt, United Phosphorus Inc., Castroville
Co: Mark Hebert, Simplot Grower Solutions, Hempstead

TAIA MEMBERS

Have you received your
*2010 - 2011 Membership
Directory & Buyer's Guide?*

Have you paid your 2011
dues?

Have you asked someone
to join TAIA today?

Calendar of Events

April 19, 2011
Lubbock Regional Planning
Committee Meeting

April 21, 2011
Dumas Regional Planning
Committee Meeting

April 25, 2011
CCA Board Meeting
Dallas

April 26, 2011
TAIA Board Meeting
Dallas

May 5, 2011
Rio Grande Valley Planning
Committee Meeting
Edinburg

August 2 & 3, 2010
CCA Exam Training
La Grange & Lubbock

August 5, 2011
CCA Exam
La Grange

August 10 - 12 2011
TAIA Summer Meeting
Fredericksburg

September 13, 2011
Lubbock Regional Meeting

December 5 & 6, 2011
Texas Plant Protection
Conference
Bryan

January 17 - 19, 2012
TAIA Annual Conference
Addison