

Texas Ag Line

Official Publication of the Texas Ag Industries Association ★ 726 Camp Lone Star Rd La Grange, Tx 78945 9792474300

2006 TAIA SUMMER MEETING

The TAIA Summer Meeting has come and gone and a lot of work for 2007 was accomplished while having fun and enjoying the German hospitality in Fredericksburg. The attendance was great and we even had several new faces at the meeting. There was plenty of food, refreshments and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Some of the wives enjoyed a trip to the Wildseed Farm while all the wives enjoyed the shopping in Fredericksburg. Several of those members who attended for the first time were asked to send comments back about the Summer Meeting.

This was my first summer TAIA meeting, and after attending the winter meeting, it was a completely different atmosphere. It was more of an opportunity to get to know the members; see what goes into the development of an ever growing organization; and a fun time for family togetherness.

Not knowing what to expect I really enjoyed myself, from meeting the members' spouses and the children that attended to being involved in the meetings themselves. I was able to sit in and listen and learn about what goes on, along with having my ideas voiced. After the meetings were completed we had lunch or dinner at any number of the nice places Fredericksburg has to offer. However, the shrimp, tenderloin and huge chocolate covered strawberries at the evening reception was quite tasty.

Overall it was a good summer meeting and I look forward to the regional meetings coming up. Sean Wells, Sales and Logistics Coordinator, Intrepid Mining.

I just wanted to start off by saying that I thoroughly enjoyed attending the TAIA Summer Meeting held in Fredericksburg this past week, and want to thank you as well as everyone involved for the generous hospitality and allowing me the privilege of being

Continued p. 2

2006 TAIA Regional Meetings

The 2006 TAIA Regional Meetings are underway with Lubbock and Rio Grande Valley Regional Meetings complete and successful. The attendance has been great and the surveys show both meetings to have met the expectations of those attending. There are three more TAIA Regional Meetings this year. The next regional meeting is in Salado, October 10; followed by El Campo, October 31; and the final meeting in Dumas, November 2. TAIA hopes your schedule will allow you to attend at least one of these meetings. The Regional Planning Committees have put together a great set of topics for each meeting and have matched the topics with the best speakers available in their fields. TAIA would like to thank the record number of sponsors who help make the Regional Meetings possible.

2006 Regional Meeting Sponsors

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Helena Chemical Company

Continued p. 2

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2006 Regional Meeting Sponsors

Continued From P. 1

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Thank You 2006 Regional Meeting Sponsors

Summer Meeting Continued From p. 1

there. I especially enjoyed having the opportunity to visit with the members of TAIA and was pleased to know that there are still people with sincere intentions that are willing to work together for the betterment of today's world of Agriculture. I am very fortunate to be employed under such leadership as Toby Hlavinka and Linda Hlavinka, two individuals that grasp the importance to inspire and encourage young people like myself to get involved and passionately pursue topics as well as challenge issues that surround Agriculture today and I owe them a great deal of gratitude for including me in their attendance. I look forward to future meetings and not only furthering relationships made through TAIA, but my ongoing education in Agriculture from those that are dedicated in making the industry a better place for everyone involved. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity. Greg Griffin, Helena Chemical Company.

TAIA would hope that you will save the time in August next year to attend the Summer Meeting to experience what these two first time attendees did and to understand why so many of our members attend every year.

TAIA would like to thank those sponsors and supporters that made the 2006 Summer Meeting possible.

Summer Meeting Sponsors

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Summer Meeting Supporters

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TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Individual Members

Billy G. Hinkle

Kenneth Kelm

Jose Luis Silva

Allied Members

Equipment Supply Co. / Mike Stephens

John Deere Agri Services / Cody Hurdt

New Member Information

John Deere Agri Services

Agricultural producers are continuously looking for solutions to bring more efficiency and productivity to their operations. John Deere Agri Services offers an array of products and informational services to help better manage cropping systems and operations. The OptiGro Variable Rate Imaging System uses an advanced digital camera to take high-resolution, aerial images which are georeferenced to make a map showing variations in the crop.

The OptiGro™ Variable Rate Imaging System is one such service combining advanced, high-resolution aerial imagery and spatial analysis with direction and scrutiny from local crop advisors to help growers make better in-season crop decisions.

"Your crop consultant orders an aerial image from John Deere Agri Services and a trained operator flies over your land to take digital images of the field," says Terry Brown, account manager, John Deere Agri Services. "By using global positioning satellites (GPS) to match images to specific areas in the field, the resulting processed images highlight areas that may indicate potential issues which could affect crops and impact yields."

These digital results are provided to a crop consultant who analyzes the images and makes a prescription recommendation for the grower. The consultant uses his or her local knowledge to prescribe optimal options for those areas which indicate plant variation or potential crop problems.

Working with the consultant, the grower then employs variable rate chemical application technology to have products applied only where needed according to the digital map. This system enhances efficiency by applying the right amount of inputs for reduced plant variability.

"This system can help to reduce input expense, improve environmental stewardship, and document where chemicals are applied," explains Brown. "The OptiGro System is among the first to integrate the new technologies of digital imaging, computer analysis, GPS, variable rate systems, and the Internet. Growers will truly appreciate the ability this innovation offers to reduce plant variability and optimize crop development."

Because of the speed and accuracy of this integrated system, the producer can get information fast enough to make in-season decisions to improve irrigation, efficiently apply chemicals, and even improve harvest.

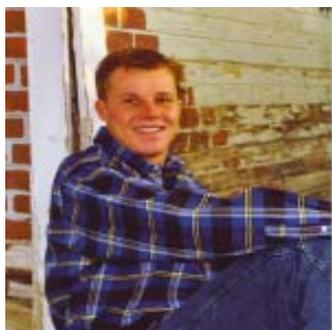
This new OptiGro system is based on leading edge technology from GeoVantage, an aerial imagery company recently acquired by John Deere Agri Services. The system was developed by John Deere and is marketed through agricultural service providers.

John Deere (Deere & Company -NYSE:DE) is the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural and forestry equipment; a leading supplier of equipment used in lawn, grounds and turf care; and a major manufacturer of construction equipment. Additionally, John Deere manufactures engines used in heavy equipment and provides financial services and other related activities that support the core businesses. Since it was founded in 1837, the company has established a heritage of quality products and services providing performance that endures to customers worldwide.

For More Information, Contact: Cody B Hurdt, National Account Manager, John Deere Agri Services
Ph: 806-445-6548 Fax: 806-698-1810 E-mail: HurdCodyB@JohnDeere.com

TAIA Scholarship Winners

TAIA has made its selections for the recipients of the 2006 Gary Fitzgerald Scholarships. TAIA would like to thank everyone who applied for a scholarship, and we wish all the applicants the best of luck in their educational goals. Those applicants who have received the Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship in the amount \$1000.00 for 2006 are



Barry Bainum is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Bainum of Dalhart. Barry is a student at Oklahoma State University majoring in Mechanical Engineering Technology.



Britt Campbell is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Billy Campbell of Idalou. Britt will be attending Texas Tech University and is planning to major in agriculture or geology.



Laura Hayes is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hayes of Harlingen. Laura will be attending Texas A&M University majoring in finance and entering law school.



Spenser Piercy is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Scott Piercy of Lubbock. Spenser plans to study abroad to become fluent in Spanish and then continue his education in law school.

TAIA would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets and items in the silent auctions to make it possible for TAIA to give these well deserving youth a scholarship to help with their educational expenses. TAIA would also like to thank the 2006 Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship Sponsors for their donations to purchased the items for the raffle. TAIA members you did a great job in promoting this activity!

2006 Gary Fitzgerald Scholarship Sponsors

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Dupont Ag Products
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Mosaic Company
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Syngenta
Texas Liquid Fertilizer
United Agri Products
Wilbur-Ellis Company

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

Dupont Adds New Consultant to Staff and Makes Company Changes

Charles Stichler, widely known for his many years service to the farming community of Texas as a member of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, has joined Dupont as a consultant with emphasis on helping to ensure that our products are in harmony with "best management practices". Charles' role will be to help growers understand BMP, and as appropriate, the use of Dupont products in such. He will be a leader in the development and implementation of field demonstration programs for crop protection products, as well as, assisting in solving field issues troubling farmers. It is indeed Dupont's pleasure to have a person of Charles' integrity helping us make the "right" decisions as we advance our product offerings; we consider his experience invaluable in helping evaluate and select new products from our research programs.

Dupont would like to announce that to better serve our customers in the Western United States, Dupont has integrated our VM (Vegetation Management)/ Forestry and Ag sales forces. This integration will also allow Dupont to focus on emerging growth markets in the Western United States. The current Dupont sales representative will ensure that the customers business needs are met through this transition.

Helena Chemical Company Announces New Location

Helena Chemical Company is pleased to announce the purchase of Texoma Ag Products based out of Burkburnett, TX in July 2006. Texoma Ag has long been operated by Ralph Harvey and his excellent support staff. Texoma Ag has state of the art facilities servicing the area surrounding Wichita Falls, TX. Along with the main facility in Burkburnett, Helena acquired the depots in Iowa Park, TX, Electra, TX and Devol, OK. Helena will continue to operate the facility's fertilizer, service, application and grain marketing/storage business and incorporate it into Helena's core business of Agricultural Chemicals, Proprietary Products and Seed. All of the existing Texoma Ag employees have accepted positions with Helena and continue to operate the facility today. Helena is extremely excited to have completed this acquisition and its continued growth into the future.

M&M Air Service Makes New Management Assignments For 2007

M&M Air Service has made its new management assignments for 2007. The changes for 2007 will consist of George Mitchell handling the following responsibilities: the presidency, administration, finance, aerial wildland firefighting, and aerial brush spraying. David Mitchell's responsibilities include the vice-presidency, administration, operations, and aerial forestry fertilizing. Mark Mitchell's company responsibilities include the vice-presidency, administration, operations, aerial and ground fertilizing and spraying.

Blick's Phosphate Conversions LLC Completes Stack Testing

Blick's Phosphate Conversions LLC, formerly Blick's Inc, has completed stack testing information on there 10-34-0 or 11-37-0 portable T-Reactors. The results came back with very low release numbers to be used at any location, especially if your facility is close to any sort of population. Interested parties should contact Kenny Kalb 620-640-3569.

UPI Acquires Leading Sugar Cane Herbicide from Bayer

Trenton, N.J. – Leading post patent crop protection marketer United Phosphorus, Inc. (UPI) has acquired the asulam chemistry and two insecticides from Bayer CropScience.

Under the terms of the agreement, UPI, and its parent company United Phosphorus Limited (UPL) will assume global ownership and marketing rights to the asulam chemistry and its associated tradenames, Asulox® and Asilan®. The agreement also includes two insecticides, ODM and trichlorfon, which will be marketed in international markets but not in North America.

Asulam is a post-emergence herbicide used primarily for control of annual grasses in sugar cane. It is also labeled for use on turf, ornamentals, Christmas tree plantations and non-cropland.

"Sugar cane is a very important segment to UPI and asulam complements our herbicide portfolio in this market," says

Continued p. 6

Chairman's Comments

TAIA Members,

Fall has arrived and brought much needed rain across the state. It is a little late to help many of our crops this year, but was very nice to receive. Fall and Winter moisture is very important to the state and gives our industry a better outlook for the coming year.

Our summer meeting was a great success. There was a great turnout with everyone getting involved with our planning sessions for the upcoming year. If you did not attend the summer meeting, I encourage you to try and make plans for next year's meeting. This is a good time to see friends and have a lot of fun along with a little work. I hope to see you at next year's meeting!

The 2006 TAIA Regional Meetings are under way now and I hope you make plans to attend one of these. I just attended the Lubbock meeting prior to this newsletter and the attendance was at 200 people. This may be the best turnout we have had in numerous years if not the most ever. The planning committee did a great job again this year with a group of excellent speakers. I hope to see you at one of the remaining Regional Meetings in the next weeks ahead. In closing, on behalf of all the TAIA members I would like to thank Donnie and Kay Dippel for all the hard work they put into making all of these meetings a success. Next time you see either one, let them know how much they are appreciated by us all.

THANK YOU ALL
BILLY WOOD

President's Comments

The year seems to be flying by. The Summer Meeting has come and gone. Two regional meetings have taken place and the other three will take place within a month. The annual conference is less than four months away. The good news is the *TAIA Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide* is progressing very nicely. I felt the summer meeting was a great success with all the work that was accomplished and the great ideas that came out of the committee meetings. The regional meetings in Lubbock and the Rio Grande Valley were well attended and the surveys indicated that the meetings were a success. The preregistrations for the other three regional meetings indicate they will also be well attended.

I have attended several Ag Council Meetings getting ready for the next legislative session starting in January. The hot issues that have already surfaced are property tax appraisals, cattle identification, eminent domain, animal cruelty, and water issues. All of these issues have a direct affect on agriculture. It appears this will be a very interesting session. If you have any issues that you are aware of for this next session, please let me know and I will track the issue and keep you posted on progress.

I have had several companies do a regulatory compliance assessment through Asmark to get an idea of what compliance items they need to address. The regulatory compliance is free and it only takes a few minutes of your time to complete. Give me a call and I will send you the information. I hope to see you at one of the next regional meetings.

Thank you, Donnie Dippel

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY Continued from p. 5

Jeffrey Pritchard, vice president and general manager of United Phosphorus, Inc., the North American subsidiary of UPL. "Asulam, along with Metri DF, expands the grass and broadleaf weed control options for growers and retailers."

UPI is one of North America's leading suppliers of post-patent crop protection technologies with a product portfolio that includes generic products as well as branded products such as Surflan and Ultra Blazer herbicides.

UPI is a subsidiary of United Phosphorus Limited, India, one of the world's 10 largest producers and marketers of crop protection and pest control products, including herbicides, insecticides, grain fumigants, fungicides and rodenticides. UPI North America is based in Trenton, NJ.

For more information, contact UPI at 1-800-247-1557, or visit the company's Web site at www.upi-usa.com.

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La Grange, TX 78945

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Is your information in the
Membership Directory
and Buyer's Guide
correct?

Have you registered for
a regional meeting?

Have you sent in your ad
for the *Membership*
Directory and Buyer's
Guide?

Calendar of Events

October 10
Salado Regional Meeting
Stagecoach Inn
Salado

October 31
El Campo Regional Meeting
Civic Center
El Campo

November 2, 2006
Dumas Regional Meeting
Boar's Nest Country Club
Dumas

December 5 & 6
Texas Plant Protection Conference
Hilton Inn & Conference Center
College Station

January 17 - 19, 2007
TAIA 2007 Annual Conference
Embassy Suites
Austin

January 30 & 31, 2007
CCA Exam Training
Lubbock

February 2, 2007
CCA Exam
Lubbock