



**"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

Professional Applicator Training November 19 Lubbock

The Asmark Institute and TAIA will present a Professional Applicator Training Course on November 19, 2012 in Lubbock at the Texas Tech Livestock Arena. The Asmark Institute will handle registration, collections and all aspects of administering this course. Wolf Consulting & Research will handle conducting the training and recertification credits from the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Certified Crop Adviser Program.

With the way application technology is rapidly changing how crop protection products can be applied to maximize efficacy while minimizing spray drift proper education and training is needed to assist pesticide applicators in the safe and efficient use of current pest control equipment. Currently there is a void in the amount of professional applicator training being offered for commercial ground-based applicators. This Professional Applicator Training Course is a newly designed one-of-a-kind professional training course not only for the pesticide applicator, but also for the management staff who supervise them. The course will be interactive and hands-on in nature and open to only thirty participants.

For more information go to <https://www.asmark.org/TrainingCourses/CourseCalendar>.

To register for the course go to <https://www.asmark.org/TrainingCourses/PATCourse> and use invitation code 12450.

2013 TAIA Annual Conference

January 22 - 24, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Addison, Texas

Plans are underway for the 2013 Annual Conference to be held again at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison on January 22- 24. Following last year's annual conference and hearing many positive comments on the site from those attending, the TAIA Board decided to return to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison. The board also heard comments from companies with meeting rooms that they did not have enough time for all their meetings. Several companies that did not have a meeting room asked for a place to have individual meetings, and the board was also concerned with company meetings held during the business meeting, limiting the business meeting attendance.

To help with the concerns, the board has decided to open the conference the morning of Tuesday, January 22 instead of the evening to allow an extra day for company meetings. The board has also decided to ask companies not to hold meetings during the business meeting to allow everyone to attend.

We will be contacting companies to reserve a meeting room if they had one last year. If your company did not have a meeting room last year, please let us know if you are interested in one for this year's conference.

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Donnie Dippel-----President & Editor
Governmental Affairs and Marketing
Provided by CHB Consulting, Inc. Staff

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Chairman's Comments

Our industry is certainly no stranger to change. All but gone are the days of "kept" seed and row markers. These "old standbys" are being replaced by "high technology" seed solutions and GPS navigation systems. As an association, one of our major goals is to provide training and education opportunities for our membership so that we can stay ahead of the learning curve. The regional meetings are our way of addressing localized needs to fulfill this goal. Not unlike past years, we have a great group of committee members for each regional meeting and they have assembled speakers and venues to best fit these needs. Please thank the regional planning committee members for a "job well done" when you see them.

This year's summer meeting was held in Fredericksburg. The meeting was as well attended as it sponsored. Thank you to all. We are very grateful for the resources that you dedicated to the meeting, whether it be in your time, sponsorship or both.

It was great to see new members, who offered fresh perspectives and insights. However, equally as welcomed were the seasoned industry veterans that were new to this meeting. Your insight is invaluable. The summer meeting is always a great starting point for everyone interested in what we do as an organization and an excellent networking event.

Our annual meeting in Addison is fast approaching (January). Compared to our regional meetings, the format is quite different. We've purposely structured this meeting to meet the networking needs of our members coupled with the amenities to hold more formal meetings for company specific business. If you're interested in meeting room accommodations, please contact the TAIA staff.

In closing, let me say that I am looking forward to the coming year. Commodity prices have risen. Couple this with a little help from Mother Nature and this creates opportunities for all of us.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming annual conference.

Regards,
John Oppelt

President's Comments

It always surprises me how fast the year passes, one day we are planning for Regional Meetings and it seems like the next day we are in Dumas at the last one of the year. We are now finalizing the Asmark Professional Applicator Training plans for November 19 in Lubbock. This training promises to be a one-of-kind training for pesticide applicators. I hope you will take advantage of this training that Asmark is putting on throughout the United States.

Work is under way for the 2013 Annual Convention to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison on January 22-24. The Annual Convention has continued to grow over past several years and is expected it will continue that growth in 2013. We have had several new companies already contact us about dates and locations for the convention. As mentioned earlier the convention will be expanded for an additional day to allow more time for companies meetings. If you have never attended or it has been a while since you attended, you will find out this a meeting where a lot business takes place. I hope everyone has this important meeting for your business on his or her calendar.

January 2013 is also the beginning of the Eighty-Third Texas Legislative Session. One of the major legislative issues this session will be water. Much of Texas agriculture depends on irrigation and over the past several years agriculture has done much to cut its use by investing in more efficient irrigation methods while cities have continued to grow in use. Cities definitely have the majority of the House Members leaving agriculture to depend on the Senate to level the playing field. In fact, Houston has more House of Representative Members than all of the members west of Interstate 35. The legislative makeup will be a very key aspect in determining how water is proportioned between agriculture and the urban areas in the future.

Hope to see at the 2013 Annual Convention
Donnie Dippel

Summer Newsletter New Members

Manufacturer

Fast 2 Grow - James Knape and Patrick Knape
Nutra-Flo Company - Jason Glover

Individual Members

J Robert Gonzales - AM-AG LLC
Dr. Charles Hart, Dr. Robert Lemon and Chris Pritchett - Dow AgroScience
Goeffrey Martin - San Antonio Food Bank
Melanie Acklin, Michael Berry and Dave Schwartz - Specialty Fertilizer Products
Dr. Ambrose Charles - Toxfactor
Ron Backus and Tanner Kechersid - West Texas Agriplex

News From the Industry

HAVE I HAD A RELEASE?

By Barbara Roeling
Cardno ATC

How Facility Operations Can Impact the Environment

Releases. There are obvious ones, and not-so-obvious ones. If you had a large catastrophic spill, my guess is you would know what to do. But if you have operated uneventfully for decades, does that mean you don't have any environmental issues? With clean drinking water in shorter supply, regulatory agencies are taking a closer look at the relatively unregulated agriculture industry as a source for contaminating both surface water and groundwater. To be more prepared in case you suspect some issues, or if you plan to sell the property, there are a few questions that can help determine if your operations may have environmental concerns:

- Has my facility been in business for more than 10 years?
- Has it distributed dry bulk products?
- Has it stored/distributed liquid fertilizers and/or pesticides?
- Do I have ASTs outside of secondary containment?
- Have loose products been exposed to the elements?
- Are bulk products loaded or unloaded over unpaved surfaces?
- Does my facility have poor housekeeping practices?
- Do I have storm water that runs offsite?
- Do I have storm water that's discolored, or have stressed vegetation in runoff areas?

If you answered "yes" to some of these questions, you may have impacted soil, surface water or ground water that will be regulated by the state. Historical releases can have a significant impact on the ability to pass regulatory inspections, or sell the property in the future. So, what is the next step?

First, identify and improve housekeeping issues that have caused these problems in the first place. This may include sweeping up spilled product daily, or adding concrete pads at load-in and load-out areas. Removing the sources of a release is the most important step. Otherwise, anything done to treat the issues won't be effective.

In the next newsletter we'll talk about how to identify whether a regulated release has occurred, as defined by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

2012 Regional Meetings

Once again the 2012 Regional Meetings were very successful. TAIA would like to thank all those who attended and give a very special thank you to the 2012 Regional Meeting Sponsors those listed below.

2012 Regional Meeting Sponsors

A and L Plains Ag Labs	Martin Resources
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AMVAC	ORO AGRI
ASMARK	Poole Chemical Company
BASF	Ray Lee Equipment
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C F Industries	Servi-Tech Labs
ChemNut Inc.	Simplot Grower Solutions
CHS	Specialty Fertilizer Products
Crop Production Services	South Plains Valley Irrigation, Inc.
Dow AgroSciences	Syngenta
DuPont	Terral Seeds
El Dorado Chemical Company	Texas Plant and Soil Lab
Equipment Supply	Transammonia Inc.
Fast2Grow, Inc.	Triumph Seed Co.
Gowan USA	Truth Chemical
Heartland Tank Services Inc.	United Agricultural Cooperative, Inc.
Helena	UPI
Holt Agribusiness	Valent
Inter-Chem	Wilbur-Ellis
Intrepid Potash	Warren Cat
Koch Agronomic Services/ Agrotain	Winfield Solutions LLC
Lloyd Gosselink	Wylie Manufacturing Company

2013 Annual Meeting Silent Auction

Over the past several years at the Annual Convention, TAIA has used a silent auction to raise funds for scholarship and on a lesser degree the political action committee fund (PAC). Funds for the PAC are harder to raise since items must be donated and purchased with private funds. At the Summer Meeting Barbara Roeling took on the challenge to help raise funds for the PAC fund. Linda Hlavinka will again be working on the scholarship fund silent auction items. If you have not received a call from Barbara or Linda asking for the silent auctions items, expect one in the next couple weeks or give them a call and see how you can help support these two great TAIA causes.

TAIA Leadership

2012 Officers

Chairman

John Oppelt, Castroville

Vice Chairman

Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co., Lubbock

Secretary/Treasurer

Jimmy Schulz, United Agricultural Cooperative, El Campo

Immediate Past Chairman

Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Bishop

Executive Committee Member

Noble Laminack, Bayer CropScience, San Angelo

Executive Committee Member

Don Barry, AM-AG, Edinburg

Executive Committee Member

Darin Hofferichter, Wilbur-Ellis Co., China Springs



2012 Board of Directors

Dealer / Distributors

Alan Pitts, Truth Chemical Co., Abernathy
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Darin Hofferichter, Wilbur-Ellis Co., China Springs
Don Barry, AM-AG, Edinburg
Linda Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard
Brad Locke, Crop Production Services, College Station
Tony Savage, Helena Chemical Co., Bardwell
Jimmy Schulz, United Agricultural Cooperative, El Campo
Todd Smith, Wilbur-Ellis Co., Round Top
Jason Veasart, ChemNut, Lubbock
Cord Willms, Terral Seeds, El Campo

Manufacturers

Bob Fisherkeller, BASF Corp., Hurst
Charlie Grymes, DuPont Ag Products, Inez
Noble Laminack, Bayer CropScience, San Angelo
Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Bishop
Ken Mull, Agrium Advanced Technologies, Lubbock
John Oppelt, Castroville
Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co., Lubbock
Larry Unruh, American Plant Food, Galena Park

Allied Industries

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

2012 Committee Leaders

Administration Committee

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

Communications Committee

Ch: John Oppelt, Castroville
Co: James Nichols, SureGrow Ag Prod., Tyler

Conference Committee

Ch: Linda Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard
Co: John Oppelt, Castroville

Governmental Affairs Committee

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

Membership/Marketing Committee

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

Nominating Committee

Ch: Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Bishop
Co: Mark Hebert, Simplot Grower Solutions, Hempstead

Regional Committees

Dumas Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Ken Mull, Agrium Advanced Technologies, Lubbock
Co: David Reinart, Better Harvest, Inc. Dumas

El Campo Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Linda Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard
Co: Dave Hermann, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard

Lubbock Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Scot Coleman, A & L Plains Ag Lab., Lubbock
Co: Justin Bellar, Wilbur-Ellis Co., Littlefield

Rio Grande Valley Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Juan Zamora, Wilbur-Ellis Co., Edinburg
Co: Rick Hernandez, Bayer CropScience., Edinburg

Salado Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Justin Allen, Helena Chemical Co., Rosebud
Co: Mike Donegan, El Dorado Chemical Co., Rockwall

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TAIA MEMBERS

Have you sent in your ad for the
2012 - 2013 TAIA Directory?

Is your information in the 2011-
2012 TAIA Directory correct?
If not, please send in corrections
for the new directory.

Calendar of Events

November 19
Professional Applicator Training
Lubbock, TX

January 22 - 24, 2013
TAIA Annual Conference
Addison, TX

February 1, 2013
CCA Exam
Lubbock, TX

December 6 & 7
2012 Texas Plant
Protection Conference
Brazos Center, Bryan, TX

January 29 -30, 2013
CCA Exam Training
Lubbock, TX