



"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

2014 TAIA Annual Conference

Hope you are making plans to attend the 2014 Texas Ag Industries Association Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas January 22 – 24. Over the last several years the conference has continued to grow with more companies requesting rooms to hold meetings with customers and employees to prepare for the coming year. Dealers, this a great time to meet with manufacturers and distributors in one location. The TAIA Annual Conference has become a business meeting for our industry.

TAIA is very pleased to have Texas House of Representative Joseph Pickett, Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, as the speaker at the Business Meeting Breakfast on Friday morning to address possible proposed legislation that might be seen in the next session. You will also have an opportunity to meet with Representative Pickett at an early morning coffee prior to the Business Meeting.

Enclosed in the newsletter is a conference sponsor and registration form. Also enclosed is a scholarship silent auction form to donate items for the auction. Please book your hotel rooms before January 10, 2014 at 972-980-8877 and use the code TVN. You may also register online by going to txag.net.

Now would be a good time to contact manufacturers and distributors for a meeting appointment on Wednesday or Thursday. Listed on page 6 are the are the company meeting rooms reserved at this time and the sponsors that have already committed to help make this a great meeting.

Will Our Industry See New Laws on Ammonium Nitrate?

Seven months after the fire and explosion at the West Fertilizer Company, ammonium nitrate is still the main issue that TAIA addresses almost daily.

TAIA has testified before the U.S. Homeland Security Committee in Washington, D.C. and the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security in Austin. TAIA has been the only industry representative in Texas allowed to make comments at the hearings. On August 1, 2013, the President signed Executive Order (EO) 13650, "Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security." The stated purpose of EO 13650 is to improve chemical safety and security and to build on Federal agencies' ongoing work to reduce the risks associated with hazardous chemicals. Specifically, the EO directs the Federal Government to: improve operational coordination with state and local partners; enhance Federal agency coordination and information sharing with respect to chemical safety and security; modernize chemical policies, regulations and standards; and work with stakeholders to identify best practices. This last week Lt. Governor David Dewhurst assigned a Senate committee to examine the regulatory requirements for the storage of ammonium nitrate in response to April's explosion in West that killed 15 and injured more than 300. Dewhurst said the review, which could result in recommended legislation, would include the roles of the Office of the Texas State Chemist and the State Department of Insurance which would include:

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Chairman's Comments

Fall always seems to be the busiest time of year for TAIA and this fall has certainly lived up to that standard. The association holds five regional meetings each year and I was fortunate enough to attend all five in 2013. We started in Lubbock in early September then went on the Belton (Salado), Kingsville, El Campo and finished in Dumas in early November. It's a tribute to the association that we always have members step up to plan each meeting so that the topics are relevant to that particular part of the state. I gave a short introduction at each meeting and then was able to stay and listen to the great lineup of speakers that the planning committees arranged. We all need to be sure and thank the committees for the hard work they put in each year.

In addition to the regional meetings, TAIA teamed up with the ASMARK Institute to offer a Professional Applicator Training on October 23rd. Dr. Robert Wolf brought this "one of a kind" program to Lubbock and I think that anyone who attended will tell you how valuable the course is. Dr. Wolf's equipment makes this a "hands-on" class and participants get to see spray equipment in action. We plan to bring the program back to Texas next fall so watch the calendar. It has been six months since the tragic explosion at West. While the incident may not be in the press or on TV as it was in April, we can't forget the 14 people who lost their lives. As an industry, we must remain committed to making sure we do everything we can to prevent this from happening again.

Throughout the summer and fall, TAIA has taken the lead in helping both members and non-members make sure they are in compliance with state and federal regulations. We are still feeling the ramifications of the explosion at West and our association is an important resource for our industry to make sure we are the safest we can be. The Annual Conference will be back at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison January 22 through January 24. This is a great opportunity to network with other members of our industry and it grows every year. Make your plans to be there, it is a perfect time to get together with customer as well as vendors.

Thanks for your support of TAIA and a special thanks to the members of our 5 regional meeting planning committees. If you see them, make sure they know how much we appreciate their work. See you in Addison.

Scott Piercy, 2013 Chairman

President's Comments

As we begin December, it is time plan for the holidays and 2014. At the TAIA we are office putting the finishing touches on the directory and planning for the annual conference January 22 – 24 in Addison. We are getting calls about sponsorships and securing meeting rooms for the conference. I hope you are planning to attend the 2014 Annual Conference in Addison. If you have never attended the annual conference you are missing a great networking opportunity.

Since the fire and explosion at West Fertilizer Company, TAIA has become one of the most influential voices in the agriculture community. TAIA has been in Washington D.C. and Austin to give testimony, has met with several agencies from Home Land Security to the Texas Fire Marshalls Office, and has been all over the state helping dealers with compliance issues. TAIA has been appointed to serve on the Private Sector Advisory Committee that reports to the Governor on Homeland Security Issues. The one thing I can tell you is that regulatory compliance will be a major issue in 2014. As we prepare for the 2014, I hope everyone takes a hard look at what it costs to comply with today's regulations. After the event at West Fertilizer Company, I feel the regulatory agencies will be very active in the coming year to ensure compliance of the laws and regulations. Both the federal and state agencies are being told by congress and the state legislature to step up inspections to ensure our industry is in compliance. When I say our industry, that means the entire agriculture industry from the dealer to the manufacturer and not just the companies that deal with ammonium nitrate. Compliance includes filing proper reports, inspecting equipment, training employees and keeping very good records. This is all a cost of doing business because no one will like the cost of the fines if compliance is not in place.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and Happy New Year!

Donnie Dippel

Fall Newsletter New Members

Dealers

3-D Ag Services - Dennis Dickson
Eco Drip Irrigation - Pat Marse
Fredonia Peanut Co. Inc. - Randy Moore
Grow Moore LLC - Matt Moore
Mason Feed - Jim Bob Smith
Riddle Fertilizer, Feed & Seed - Billy Riddle

Individuals

Douglas Basgal & Jason Harris - Simplot Grower Solutions
John Klepper - J.R. Simplot
Katie Parish & Charlcey Vinyard - Dow AgroSciences

Manufacturers

ADM Fertilizer - Kris Kehl
Diverse Enterprises Ltd. Co., LLC - Larry Lancaster

Allied

ProPartners Financial - Corey Grosdidier

News From The Industry

Well Known Agricultural Attorney and TAC Member, Ed Small,
Receives Excellence in Agriculture Award

November 8, 2013

Jackson Walker law firm partner, Ed Small, recently received the Excellence in Agriculture award for private practice from the American Agricultural Law Association.

The award is presented each year to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to agricultural law in a variety of areas, including legal representation, continuing legal education, professionalism, pro bono service, public education programming, classroom teaching, public policy, public service, and leadership. Mr. Small received this prestigious honor during the association's annual conference in Madison, Wisconsin, on November 2, 2013.

The American Agricultural Law Association is a 35-plus-year-old national association of private practitioners, academics, NGO representatives, and government officials with a common interest and involvement in Agricultural law.

Mr. Small has more than 40 years' experience representing clients before the Texas Legislature and Texas regulatory agencies, in addition to his litigation practice. His clients include associations and entities seeking solutions to issues affected by State Government. His litigation experience includes water rights, boundary issues, condemnation, oil and gas, and other land related issues. He has been on the front lines of historic Texas agriculture police initiatives. Perhaps most notable was his work in brucellosis eradication for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and boll weevil eradication for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. Mr. Small is listed in the 2007-2012 editions of The Best Lawyers in America. He was also voted "Best of Business Attorneys & Corporate Counsel" by the Austin Business Journal in 2005 for Legislative/Lobbying. Small earned his B.B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Texas.

Jackson Walker L.L.P. has 125 years of experience in providing legal counsel to clients throughout Texas, the United States and internationally. the firm provides a strong regional base of more than 340 attorneys in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Angelo, San Antonio and Texarkana.



Continued from page 1

Examining the current regulatory and insurance requirements for the storage of ammonium nitrate, including the role of the State Chemist and the Texas Department of Insurance. Make recommendations on the changes to current law that are needed to eliminate duplication or inconsistencies, improve transparency, and protect Texans' safety without creating an undue burden on Texas businesses.

Examining the role of state and local governments regarding recovery operations across the state in the event of a disaster. Study and make recommendations to identify essential personnel and resources needed to increase existing response capabilities. Make recommendations on how state, local governments, and businesses can work together in order to assist with the rebuilding/recovery of affected jurisdictions in the event of a disaster.

Donnie Dippel has been appointed to serve on the Private Sector Advisory Council representing the agriculture industry. The council provides a forum for effective coordination of private sector security strategies and activities, policy, and communication across the entire sector to support the state's homeland security mission. Specific Council initiatives include:

Advising the governor on the development and coordination of a statewide critical infrastructure protection strategy

Implementing of the governor's homeland security strategy by state and local agencies and provide specific suggestions for helping those agencies implement the strategy.

Forming specific priorities related to the governor's homeland security strategy that the committee determines to be of significant importance to the statewide security of critical infrastructure.

Addressing other matters related to the planning, development, coordination, and implementation of initiatives to promote the governor's homeland security strategy.

TAIA has continued to work with members and nonmembers in our industry to help them with their regulatory requirements. It is important that our industry ensure that we are in compliance with all regulatory requirements as our whole industry will be watched very closely by state and federal agencies. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is fining the parent company of the West Fertilizer plant that exploded \$118,300 for 24 workplace violations. OSHA found that West Fertilizer Co. failed to train and license its forklift operators, did not pressure test replacement hoses on chemical tanks, had inadequate relief valves, did not have an emergency response plan or have required fire extinguishers. Do you have all these in place in your company? Have you taken the time to run the ASMARK's Compliance Assessment Tool to help identify your regulatory requirements and suggested management tools?

ASMARK Offers Employee Training Kits

The ASMARK Institute has just initiated a new program to help with training employees. This online training tool allows you to order training kits personalized to your facility and personnel. All ASMARK Institute DVDs are professionally produced specifically for the agrichemical industry using actual footage shot at farm centers, terminals, implement dealers and other agribusinesses. Pre-printed SMART Scoring Sheets are personalized to each employee at your facility and are shipped with other materials which may include training manuals, tests, pens, highlighters, instructions, etc. All shipments are made via a special arrangement with UPS. Upon return of the training materials, the scoring sheets will be graded and facilities will be notified of any participants that fail to achieve a passing score. ASMARK will also enter the documentation into a database for tracking purposes.

If you need additional information on employee training, contact the TAIA Office.

2013 Regional Meetings

The 2013 Texas Ag Industries Regional Meetings were very well attended again this year with a great group of speakers addressing issues in our industry. The Regional Planning Committees did a superb job of identifying topics pertinent to their areas to make the meetings very interesting.

TAIA would not be able to offer coffee breaks and the great lunches at the Regional Meetings without the support of the sponsors. Please take time to review the list of sponsors below and remember to thank them for the great support.

2013 TAIA Regional Meeting Sponsors

A & L Plains Ag Labs	Monsanto
Adams Fertilizer Equipment Mfg.	Mosaic
Agrium	Nachurs Alpine Solutions
Agrium Advanced Technologies	Novozymes Bio
Albaugh Inc.	ORO AGRI
American Plant Food	Poole Chemical
Americot Inc.	PotashCorp
AMVAC	Ray Lee Equipment
ASMARK	Red Ewald
BASF	Sanders
Bayer CropScience	Servi-Tech Labs
Boyd's Equipment	Simplot Grower Solutions
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CF Industries	Specialty Fertilizer Products
ChemNut Inc.	Syngenta
CHS	Terral Seeds
Crop Production Services	Texas Plant & Soil Lab
Dow AgroSciences	Transammonia Inc.
DuPont Crop Protection	Truth Chemical
El Dorado Chemical Company	United Agricultural Cooperative, Inc.
Equipment Supply	United Suppliers, Inc.
Fast2Grow	UPI
Gowan USA	Valent
Heartland Tank Services, Inc.	Vital Fertilizers LLC
Helena	Warren Cat
Holt Agribusiness	Wilbur-Ellis
Inter-Chem	Winfield Solutions LLC
Intrepid Potash	Winstead PC
Koch Agronomic Services/Agrotain	Wylie Manufacturing Company
Martin Resources	

TAIA Will Offer A Kim Coker Scholarship

Texas Ag Industries will offer an additional two thousand dollar scholarship in honor of Kim Coker. On August 15, 2013 Kim passed away after a lengthy illness. He worked in the agricultural field for 35 years. He spent most of his career with Texas Liquid Fertilizer in Hempstead, Texas, and Ouachita Fertilizer in Monroe, Louisiana. At the time of his passing, he was employed with J. R. Simplot Company as Area Manager based in Hempstead. Kim took great pride in his work and the companies he managed and strived to create a rewarding work environment for his employees. He enjoyed all his colleagues and truly valued the friendships he made over the years with them and many long-time customers.

He was a member of the Board of Directors and Past-President of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, Board Member and Past-President of Texas Agricultural Industries Association, Organizing Chairman of the Texas Certified Crop Advisors Association, Executive Board Member of the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Board, Board Member of the Southwestern Fertilizer Association, and was a member of the Brenham Evening Lions Club and various other civic and church organizations.

He took the time to mentor young people coming up in the agriculture industry, making a real and lasting contribution to his field, both through his service and his willingness to testify before state and national hearings when called as an expert witness. He was a consistent supporter of Texas Tech and was a life-time Red Raider. He was a gifted athlete in his younger years and despite his lengthy illness, he loved playing golf with his daughter, Makenzie.

A memorial was set up to fund the Kim Coker Scholarship. As of today approximately sixteen thousand dollars have been committed to the fund. If you would like to donate to the Kim Coker Scholarship Fund, memorials can be sent to the TAIA Office.

2014 Annual Conference Sponsors

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A & L Plains Ag Labs
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Boyd's Equipment
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Mosaic
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Poole Chemical Co.
Specialty Fertilizer Products
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United Agricultural Cooperative, Inc.
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Meeting Rooms

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Bayer CropScience
Dow AgroSciences
Equalizer
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TAIA Leadership

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Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

Zachary Adams, Intrepid Potash, Denver

Charlie Grymes, DuPont Ag Products, Inez

Noble Laminack, Bayer CropScience, San Angelo

John Oppelt, Castroville

Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co., Lubbock

Larry Unruh, American Plant Food, Galena Park

Allied Industries

Matt Murphree, Heartland Tank Services Inc, San Marcos

Doug Heck, Warren Cat, Lubbock

2013 Committee Leaders

Administration Committee

Ch: Tommy Brandenberger, Simplot Gower Solutions, Hallettsville

Co: Scott Johnson, ADM, Minneapolis, MN

Communications Committee

Ch: Doug Heck, Warren Cat, Wolfforth

Co: James Nichols, SureGrow Ag Prod., Tyler

Conference Committee

Ch: Alan Pitts, Truth Chemical, Lubbock

Co: Noble Laminack, Bayer CropScience, San Angelo

Governmental Affairs Committee

Ch: Randy Stephens, SureGrow Ag Prod., Comanche

Co: Tony Savage, Helena, Bardwell

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Nominating Committee

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Co: Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Bishop

Regulatory Committee

Ch: Larry Unruh, American Plant Food, Galena Park

Co: File Guzman, CPS, College Station

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: Leon Blackwelder, American Plant Food, Liberty

Co: Jimmy Schulz, United Ag. Coop, Inc., El Campo

Lubbock Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Scot Coleman, A & L Plains Ag Lab., Lubbock

Co: Justin Bellar, Wilbur-Ellis Co., Littlefield

Co: Katy Parrish, Dow Agro Sciences, Lubbock

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, Sanders, Rosebud

Co: Mike Donegan, El Dorado Chemical Co., Rockwall

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Calendar of Events

December 10 - 11, 2013
Plant Protection Conference
Bryan, TX

January 22- 24, 2014
TAIA Annual Conference
Addison, TX

February 4 & 5, 2014
CCA Training
Lubbock, TX

February 7, 2014
CCA Exam
Lubbock, TX