



Texas Ag Line

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

New Braunfels Here We Come!

The TAIA Summer Meeting takes off in New Braunfels on Wednesday, August 13th at T BAR M resort and runs until Friday, August 15th. Please join everyone for a great time at this key meeting to plan 2009 for TAIA. We will begin with a social on Wednesday evening after which members can swim, take a peaceful walk, sit and rock, or hit the big town of New Braunfels for an evening out. Committee meetings will be all day Thursday with a special treat on Thursday night. Tommy Brandenberger is going to prepare his world famous barbecue for us in Landa Park. Bring the family and use this time as a working get-a-way.

To register for the meeting and hotel go on line to txag.net or call 1-800-292-5469. Please book early telling them you are with TAIA so we can make plans and ensure that you have a room. The \$135 per night includes breakfast on Thursday and Friday and lunch on Thursday. This year the board voted to charge a fifty dollar registration fee per member, not per attendee, to offset some of the rising prices. But for that fifty, TAIA is providing four meals and a social for all in attendance. You and your family will have an enjoyable time. The area is unique and offers Schlitterbahn, Gruene, tubing, shopping, and numerous other activities. Sponsorship is \$200 and includes registration. We cannot thank sponsors enough for their generosity.

With changing times in all facets of agriculture, Texas Ag Industries is an even more important organization to make sure a strong voice for agriculture is heard throughout the state, nation, and world. TAIA also needs to continue providing educational classes, scholarships, problem solving and networking to those in agriculture and related

fields. What better way to work than in an enjoyable setting! If you have never been to a summer meeting, consider making this your first. TAIA would enjoy having more participation from members in all planning sessions. Plan, pack and participate for your organization. See you in New Braunfels!

2008 Summer Meeting Sponsors

So Far Include:

A&L Plains Ag Labs	Equalizer
AMVAC Chemical Co.	Mosaic Co.
ASMARK	Syngenta
Bayer CropScience	Wilbur-Ellis

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

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of the

Texas Ag Industries Association

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Vol. 16, Num. 2 -----Summer, 2008

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Governmental Affairs and Marketing
Provided by CHB Consulting, Inc. Staff

The *Texas Ag Line* is published by
CHB Consulting, Inc. for the Texas
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Dear TAIA Members,

Just a reminder that we are trying to get our Regional meetings planned, and if you have any input on your region let us know. Regional meetings begin in Lubbock on September 9th. Much of the planning is done for all of the meetings, but we would love to have your input. Also I want to emphasize our Summer Meeting at the T Bar M Ranch near New Braunfels on August 13-15. This will be a fun time to get away with your family and also try to get some work done for next year's activities. At the spring board meeting, the board discussed more services on-line for TAIA, and, as one of the first steps, you can now register on-line for the summer meeting so go to the website and check this out. Work is also underway to create a "Members Only" section of the web page so next year's catalogue can be posted on-line. The catalogue is only as good as the information given to TAIA, so if you know of any changes, additions, or deletions, please let the TAIA office know. Cell phone numbers have been requested as a new addition to the catalogue so send in yours or those for your company if you have not already done so with your membership renewal. A survey is also in the works to find out how members want to receive their newsletters. Options include a hard copy, a hard copy and electronically, or just electronically which would save postage and printing. Do not forget to encourage all your friends and coworkers to become members of TAIA so we can continue to work to keep our industry up-to-date on the issues that we are facing today. Changing times make the need for a strong organization to work for agriculture interests even more important. I look forward to seeing you at the summer meeting and hope you are having a great year!

Thanks, Jerry Bellar

President's Comments

I hope everyone is enjoying summer and spending time with their families. I sure hope you have reserved August 13-15 to bring your family to T Bar M Ranch in New Braunfels for the TAIA Summer Meeting. If you have never been to T Bar M Ranch or New Braunfels, you are in for a great time. If you have kids and if you enjoy water activities, you will want to visit the Schlitterbahn Water Park in New Braunfels or take tube ride down the river. This German community offers great food and shopping for those who prefer to stay dry. We will have our Thursday evening reception in Landa Park and our own expert chef, Tommy Brandenberger, has volunteered to bring his barbecue pit and cook. I am not sure what Tommy plans to cook, but he did mention that there should be a lot of options to choose from on his drive between Hallettsville and New Braunfels. So bring your horseshoes, washers, lawn chair, kids, wife, or friend, for a great time.

If you were unable to attend the Regulatory Compliance Seminar and the Bulk Blend Workshop you missed two informative meetings. We had speakers from both meetings comment on the amount of interaction that took place between the speakers and attendees. The TAIA Board realizes the importance of these educational programs to help members with compliance issues and to produce the best possible products for their customers. It is also important to demonstrate to the regulatory agencies we are concerned about staying current on regulatory issues. Those attending were also able to make great contacts for assistance in the future.

In the last newsletter Chairman Jerry Bellar set a goal of 500 in 2008. We have currently 418 members 84% of the goal. TAIA needs your help to get the next 82 members. We need you to ask your friends, co-workers and businesses in our industry to join. TAIA does a lot for our industry, and potential members need to understand why they should join our association.

Please look at the back of the newsletter and mark your calendar for upcoming events. I hope to see you at the Summer Meeting. Remember we need 82 more members to reach the 500 goal for 2008.

Donnie Dippel

TAIA Would Like to Welcome New Members

Allied Industry

Enviropac, Inc. - Dennis Neal

Individuals

Ag Communication Services - Amanda Powell

Terra Industries, Inc. - Rodney Eden

Mosaic Company - Gladys Rogers

Wylie Manufacturing Co. - Bradley Russell

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

Intrepid Potash Announces Promotion of Sean Wells

"Intrepid Potash is pleased to announce the promotion of Sean Wells to the position of Sales Representative. Sean joined the company three years ago as Sales and Logistics Coordinator. He will continue to report to Scott Johnson and will be handling potash and Trio sales in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Prior to coming to Intrepid Sean worked for American Plant Food in Galena Park. Sean graduated from Texas A&M University and has recently been accepted into their Masters of Agriculture program starting this fall."

United Phosphorus Acquires Garrison and Townsend

Through its seed division, Advanta, United Phosphorus has acquired 100% shares of Garrison & Townsend, LP, (GT) in Hereford, Texas, USA. GT is a hybrid grain and forage sorghum research, production, conditioning, marketing and selling company. Grain Sorghum, accounts for about 32% of GT'S total revenue, forage sorghum, BMR sorghum and Sorghum - Sudan about 67% of its revenue.

GTs products are marketed throughout the United States as well as in Italy, Israel, Pakistan, Mexico, Central America, South America and Japan. Ten largest customers of GT contribute about 60% of its revenue.

The acquisition will strengthen the company's presence into Sorghum in USA in particular and strengthens the Advanta's presence in sorghum world wide, in general. Earlier this year, Advanta acquired Unicorn Seeds of India. Unicorn has a strong presence in the domestic and export markets of vegetable seeds. Unicorn also undertakes the custom production of vegetable seeds for the customers all around the globe.

For more information you can contact John Oppelt the UPI representative at his office number (254)947-3260 or on his mobile (254)716-0054, or visit the UPI website at www.upi-usa.com.

Ben Jones Named OTSC Assistant Director

Ben's career with the Office of the Texas State Chemist began in 1985 as a Feed and Fertilizer Inspector in the Austin/San Antonio area and the surrounding Texas hill country. After a 23-year career with the agency, Ben was recently promoted to Assistant Director. In this capacity, Ben will continue to manage 14 field investigators, whose duties include routine surveillance inspections and sample collection of feed and fertilizer, medicated and non-medicated feed mill inspections, BSE inspections, consumer compliant investigations, and animal and plant death/sickness investigations. Ben now leads the development and implementation of the annual plan of work for OTSC in addition to his other responsibilities. He is also active on a number of committees for the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO), the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), and has served as AAFCO President from 2003-2004.

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

Dow Agro Announces Several New Releases

Control More Weeds, Better Protect the Land With GrazonNext

INDIANAPOLIS – (May 5, 2008) – Southwestern ranchers recently gained a new and better tool to control broadleaf weeds *and* take better care of the land. It's new GrazonNext™ herbicide from Dow AgroSciences.

Labeled for use on permanent grass pastures, rangelands and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres, GrazonNext is the successor to the company's venerable Grazon® P+D herbicide, a product that over a quarter-century has become a southwestern standard.

"GrazonNext is even better than Grazon P+D, which is saying something," says Bob Gordon, range and pasture marketing specialist for Dow AgroSciences. "GrazonNext provides outstanding weed control and an improved environmental profile." GrazonNext is more effective on most broadleaf weeds, particularly tough perennials such as nightshades, horsenettle and Texas bull nettle. Safe to desirable grasses, GrazonNext™ herbicide provides soil residual activity to control new weeds that germinate *after* spraying. It mixes easily with liquid fertilizer for one-pass, weed-and-feed programs, and it has fewer restrictions. The product is based on unique chemistry. GrazonNext contains aminopyralid, which was reviewed and accepted for registration under the Reduced Risk Pesticide Initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The program is reserved for products that demonstrate lower risk to the environment and to humans than commercially available alternatives. GrazonNext combines this innovative chemistry with 2,4-D for cost-effective weed control.

GrazonNext has no grazing restrictions for any class of livestock, including lactating dairy cows, horses (including lactating mares) and meat animals prior to slaughter.

Of interest to commercial grass hay producers, GrazonNext has a shorter restriction on haying after spraying – just seven days. Producers can spray weeds after the first cutting and still maintain a four-week cutting schedule. Most other pasture herbicides have restrictions of 30 days or longer. GrazonNext™ herbicide poses less risk to desirable, non-leguminous trees, including liveoaks. However, GrazonNext should not be used where damage to woody legumes – including locust trees – cannot be tolerated.

Compared to the active ingredient picloram in Grazon P+D, the aminopyralid in GrazonNext has less potential for leaching, groundwater contamination and runoff. Aminopyralid is non-toxic to birds, fish, honeybees, earthworms and aquatic invertebrates. GrazonNext can be sprayed up to the edge of non-irrigation water with no need for a buffer.

GrazonNext is not a federally Restricted Use Pesticide, but state restrictions on the sale and use of 2,4-D do apply. For more information on new GrazonNext™ herbicide, contact Dow AgroSciences Customer Information at 1-800-263-1196.

INTREPID® 2F Insecticide Now Protects Valuable Pastures

INDIANAPOLIS — June 16, 2008 — Armyworms can chew up a pasture seemingly overnight. Given the high value of intensively managed forage, it makes sense to protect it.

Because of a supplemental product label now available for INTREPID® 2F insecticide, cattlemen have a new option — offering several advantages — to stop armyworm feeding and keep their cattle grazing. The new label for INTREPID 2F includes the control of armyworms in grass forage, fodder and hay. And INTREPID 2F controls those damaging pests for 14 days.

Equally important: the convenience factor. This new label gives cattlemen an additional, cost-effective option for armyworm control without grazing restrictions. Cattle can re-enter and graze treated areas immediately after application.

"Southern regions of the United States and even areas as far north as Kansas and Missouri can experience significant armyworm pressure," says Tom Linnen, marketing specialist for INTREPID 2F at Dow AgroSciences. "Not only does INTREPID 2F allow growers to treat armyworms without disrupting beneficial insects, but for cattlemen, it provides little disruption of their livestock."

INTREPID 2F has been used for many years as an insect growth regulator effective against many species of lepidopteran insects, including those that commonly feed on pastureland, such as fall armyworms, southern armyworms and true armyworms. It does not disrupt beneficial insects, mites and pollinators, making INTREPID® 2F insecticide ideal for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. For more information contact, Amanda Powell at 770/356-4803 or Brett Garrard at 317/337-1480.

NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

New POWERFLEX™ Herbicide from Dow AgroSciences Receives Federal Label Registration

New Active — Pyroxsulam — Delivers Grass plus Key Broadleaf Weed Control in Winter Wheat

INDIANAPOLIS — Feb. 28, 2008 — Dow AgroSciences announced today that it has received federal registration for new POWERFLEX™ herbicide (www.PowerFlexHerbicide.com) for use in winter wheat. Containing pyroxsulam, a new active ingredient, POWERFLEX provides excellent control of tough grass weeds, including downy brome, cheat, Italian ryegrass and wild oats, plus broadleaf weed control.

“POWERFLEX gives performance that winter wheat growers can count on by delivering excellent control of the toughest grass weeds they face today, plus control of many other important grass and broadleaf weeds,” says Jim Parker, senior marketing specialist for Dow AgroSciences. “By providing powerful weed control at a price that’s right for winter wheat, POWERFLEX brings excellent value to weed control programs.”

POWERFLEX controls a broad spectrum of difficult grasses and broadleaf weeds in winter wheat, including downy brome, cheat, Italian ryegrass, wild oats, Russian thistle, pigweed, chickweed and cleavers. POWERFLEX™ herbicide also controls many mustard species, such as field pennycress, flixweed (tansy mustard), shepherdspurse, Jim Hill (tumble) mustard and blue mustard.

New POWERFLEX™ Herbicide Delivers Grass and Broadleaf Weed Control in Winter Wheat In 2007 trials conducted throughout the Plains and Pacific Northwest, POWERFLEX provided superior control of downy brome compared with commonly used grass weed treatments in winter wheat.

POWERFLEX offers growers improved crop rotation flexibility versus most other winter wheat herbicides. For example, it contains a short nine-month interval for rotating into crops like soybeans, sorghum, peas, lentils, sugar beets, corn, potatoes, canola and sunflowers in all geographies. Even shorter intervals for certain crops will be allowed in specific geographies.

POWERFLEX can be applied postemergence to actively growing winter wheat in either fall or spring. Monte Weimer, product technology specialist for Dow AgroSciences, recommends applying 3.5 oz./A of POWERFLEX to grass weeds between the two-leaf and two-tiller stages of growth, though its flexibility allows application on wheat from the three-leaf to the jointing stage with excellent crop safety. To learn more about POWERFLEX herbicide, visit www.PowerFlexHerbicide.com or contact Betsy Francoeur at 262/938-5473 or Kylee Swyers at 317/337-4776.

Dow AgroSciences Submits SmartStax™ for Regulatory Review

New Stacked Trait in Corn on Track for End of Decade Commercial Launch

INDIANAPOLIS – June 16, 2008 – Dow AgroSciences LLC announced today it has submitted SmartStax™, a new insect-protection and weed control stacked trait combination in corn, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for regulatory review.

SmartStax is the industry’s first-ever eight gene stack combination in corn that will feature multiple modes of action to control both above and below ground insects as well as herbicide tolerance. The combination of these traits is designed to improve insect protection, expand herbicide application options and minimize the potential for insect resistance.

“Ensuring technology like in-plant insect protection remains effective for the long-term is critical to providing a dependable grain corn supply to a global market that continues to see increasing demands. The multiple modes of action in SmartStax is an effective way of ensuring durability and increasing yields,” said Antonio Galindez, vice president, Crops Global Business Unit, Dow AgroSciences.

Currently, corn growers are required to plant a “structured refuge” or plot of corn that does not use the same *Bt* technology near corn acres that have in-plant *Bt* protection. Data collected for the submission of SmartStax indicates that its multiple modes-of-action are highly effective in protecting the plant and managing the long-term viability of the technology in a reduced refuge environment. Accordingly, the EPA submission for SmartStax seeks a reduction from the refuge area required for the *Bt* corn products currently on the market. This type of refuge reduction, where two independent insecticidal proteins are present in a single plant, has already proved effective in cotton.

Dow AgroSciences will offer SmartStax through its Mycogen and Triumph Seed brands, and will use the trait platform to launch future trait technologies including Dow Herbicide Tolerance (DHT) and other agronomic enhancements. DHT is a new family of traits that will provide tolerance to 2,4-D and other classes of herbicides.

“Game changing trait technologies, such as SmartStax and DHT, coupled with continued investment in plant breeding, expanded seed production facilities, and seed company acquisitions will help Dow AgroSciences continue to expand its corn platform,” said Brian Barker, global business leader for corn seeds and traits for Dow AgroSciences.

SmartStax is being jointly developed and registered by Dow AgroSciences and Monsanto. SmartStax is on track to become commercially available for the 2010 growing season in the United States pending receiving appropriate regulatory approvals. SmartStax has also been submitted to Japanese regulatory agencies for review. Learn more at www.dowagro.com or contact Garry Hamlin at 317/337-4799 or Robyn Heine at 317/337-4807.

™SmartStax is a trademark of Monsanto Technology LLC

Scholarship Recipients Announced for 2008

For 2008, Texas Ag Industries has had the privilege of awarding the four Gary Fitzgerald Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 instead of \$1,000 each as in the past. TAIA has to thank all the sponsors for the raffle, individuals who brought items to the silent action, and members who participated in the raffle for this positive increase to help children of our members pursue their educations. Congratulations to all the recipients and applicants on all their accomplishments.

Again this year there was an impressive field of candidates. The four recipients were

Ethan Boening of Floresville who will be attending Texas A & M in the fall with a petroleum engineering major, Kristie Rieckhoff of Georgetown planning to major in biological science at Colorado State University, Kaley Rother of Hallettsville also attending Texas A & M and majoring in agriculture, and Tori Schwarzlose of Spring Branch who will be attending Texas A & M with a major in recreation, park and tourism sciences.

Their parents include Russell and Margie Boening, Scott and Kim Rieckhoff, Robert and Carol Rother, and Gary and Jody Schwarzlose respectively.



Ethan Boening



Kristie Rieckhoff



Kaley Rother



Tori Schwarzlose

2008 Regional Meetings

Planning for the 2008 Regional Meetings is about to be finalized. The Regional Planning Committees have prepared great agendas and selected top speakers in their fields to present the programs. The dates of the meetings or located on the back page, and we will be mailing out more information in the very near future. Listed below are the companies that have signed up so far to be sponsors. Please take time to thank the sponsors for helping make the Regional Meetings possible.

2008 Regional Meeting Sponsors

Adams Fertilizer Equipment

Ag 1 Source, LLC

A & L Plains Ag Labs

Ag Workers Mutual Auto Ins.

Agriliance

Agrium

AMVAC Chemcial Company

ASMARK Institute

BASF Corp.

Bayer CropScience

CF Industries

Chemical Solutions

DuPont Ag Products

El Dorado Chemical

Gowan Company

Helena Chemical Company

Intrepid Potash

Martin Resources

Monsanto/Delta & Pine Land Co.

Mosaic Company

Murray Equipment Co.

Poole Chemical Co.

PotashCorp

Servi-Tech Laboratories

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UPI

Valent USA Corp.

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Executive Committee Member (Crop Protection)

Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

Executive Committee Member (Plant Food)

Todd Smith, Mosaic Co., College Station



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Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

Benny Martinez, Dow AgroSciences, Kingsville

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John Oppelt, United Phosphorus Inc., Georgetown

Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co. Lubbock

Todd Smith, Mosaic Co. College Station

Cord Willms, Monsanto/Delta & Pine Land Co., Corpus

Allied Industries

Scot Coleman, A&L Plains Ag Lab, Lubbock

Ron Cox, Wylie Manufacturing Co., Lubbock

2008 Committee Leaders

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Co: Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

Communications Committee

Ch: Zandy Goode, ConAgra Fertilizer, Lorena

Co: James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon

Conference Committee

Ch: Zandy Goode, ConAgra Fertilizer, Lorena

Co: Jerry Christian, CF Industries, Crockett

Education Committee

Ch: Steve Frazier, United Agri Products, Harlingen

Co: Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

Governmental Affairs Committee

Ch: Toby Hlavinka, Helena Chemical Co., East Bernard

Co: Randy Stephens, SureGrow Ag Prod., Comanche

Membership Committee

Ch: Scott Johnson, Intrepid Potash, Arlington

Co: Mark Hebert, Texas Liquid Fertilizer, Hempstead

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Co: Billy Wood, Martin Resources, Plainview

Technology Committee

Ch: Tom Koranek, DuPont Ag Products, Grapevine

Co: Scott Piercy, Poole Chemical Co., Lubbock

Dumas Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: James Hopkins, Agrium U.S. Inc., Canyon

Co: Kenneth Mull, Martin Resources Inc., Lubbock

El Campo Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: Larry Hoelscher, Valent USA Corp., El Campo

Co: Jimmy Schulz, Farmers Coop of El Campo, Wharton

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: Hunter Wilhem, Bayer CropScience, Harlingen

Salado Regional Meeting Committee

Ch: John Oppelt, United Phosphorus Inc., Georgetown

Co: Mark Hebert, Texas Liquid Fertilizer, Hempstead

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TAIA MEMBERS

Have you registered for
Summer Meeting?

Have you booked your
room for the Summer
Meeting? Due by
July 13!

We need **82** more
members to reach our
2008 goal.

Calendar of Events

July 29 & 30, 2008

CCA Exam Training
La Grange

August 1, 2008

CCA Exam
La Grange

August 13-15, 2008

TAIA Summer Meeting
New Braunfels

September 9, 2008

Lubbock Regional Meeting
Reece Center
Lubbock

September 16, 2008

Rio Grande Valley Regional
Meeting
ECHO Hotel Edinburg

October 7, 2008

Salado Regional Meeting
Stagecoach Inn
Salado

October 14, 2008

El Campo Regional Meeting
Mikeska's Barbecue
El Campo

November 6, 2008

Dumas Regional Meeting
Boar's Nest Restaurant
Dumas

December 2-4, 2008

Agriculture Retailers Association
Convention
Austin