

Ethanol fueled for success

Each year, millions of fans gather to watch fast cars race at exhilarating speeds in NASCAR competitions across the country. It is this excitement that entices fans to travel great lengths to watch these races – but what fuels both NASCAR drivers and their fans? Ethanol.

Since 2011, NASCAR has partnered with the National Corn Growers Association and Growth Energy to reduce fuel emissions by powering race cars with biofuels. This American Ethanol partnership has rallied support for American-grown, American-made fuel among many NASCAR drivers and fans.

In November, American Ethanol brought its largest promotion to-date to Texas Motor Speedway. The effort was made possible through

Texas Corn Producers, Minnesota Corn Growers, North Dakota Corn Growers, NCGA and Growth Energy working together to bring a large exhibit to the speedway's midway and spreading nearly 3,000 green flags throughout the infield and campgrounds. Farmers and staff from the respective organizations reached out to NASCAR fans throughout the weekend, igniting discussions about how ethanol can be incorporated into daily lives and how biofuel benefits America's economy.

Ethanol has economic and environmental benefits that reach to all areas of the United States. Ethanol works to keep hard-earned dollars in Americans' pockets. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, 10 percent of ethanol

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From the Texas Corn Producers Board
and the Corn Producers Association of Texas
January 2014

the kernel



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CORNER Comments



David Gibson
TCPB Executive Director
CPAT Exec. Vice President

It's already planting time in 2014 even though some in the state have barely fin-

ished harvesting the 2013 crop. Parts of the state are in much better shape for moisture than they have been in awhile, but other areas remain dry. Hopefully 2014 will be the year we see all areas of the state begin to break out of this long-term drought that has caused much damage to many of our producers.

Many challenges greeted corn producers for 2014, one of the most important and unexpected was EPA proposing to reduce the amount of corn ethanol by about 1.4 billion gallons in 2014 or the equivalent of not using about 500 million bushels of the record 2013 national corn crop. This could potentially impact

more than just corn prices for Texas producers. According to a paper from Texas A&M University, corn prices in the low \$4.00 per bushel range along with the reduced corn usage could equate to Texas having 500,000 to 1 million more acres of cotton in 2014, which would potentially have a negative impact on cotton prices. See more information in the newsletter on this issue, and send comments to EPA through the links provided.

If you have not done so, you should be checking with your crop insurance agent to see what changes are in place for 2014. One example is the final planting date for the

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It seems as though we as farmers are constantly bombarded with new "phraseology;" whether it be global warming aka climate (yes, it is cyclical in nature) or those terrible GMOs, which, by the way, have drastically reduced chemical pesticide applications, or one of the more current phrases being circulated "Sustainable Agriculture."

Now, I am not sure what the intended definition of sustainable agriculture is, but one thing I am sure of is land to produce crops on is the biggest investment farmers make for their operation. I am not sure what the pundits are implying when they talk about changing food production practices to a sustain-

able format. I am pretty sure farmers are already managing their land and production systems in a way that is best suited to their local conditions. Their primary focus is to ensure the land will be available for production for future generations.

We are fortunate to live in a country with the most efficient food production system in the world as related to quantity, availability, quality and safety. I would suggest to the naysayers, please allow us to do what we do quite well.

Texas Corn Producers Board invests growers' checkoff dollars in research, education and promotion to increase the



Scott Averhoff
TCPB Chairman
Waxahachie, Texas

profitability of Texas corn farmers. If there is an area you feel needs addressed, please make us aware. 🌽

American Ethanol promotion, *continued*



Texas Corn Producers volunteers distribute American Ethanol starter flags in the Texas Motor Speedway Midway.

can be found in each gallon of gasoline in the United States. This allowed for as much as \$1.09 in savings for each gallon of gasoline in 2011.

NASCAR drivers love this biofuel product. NASCAR Driver Austin Dillon shared his

support with American fans.

“When it comes to performance and durability, you can’t get better than American Ethanol,” Dillon said. “Home-grown ethanol is actually the highest performance fuel on the

market — with an octane rating of 113, when blended with gasoline, ethanol helps improve engine performance and helps our race cars – and our own cars – burn cleaner and better. “

In addition to a packed race

weekend visiting with fans, the American Ethanol group assisted the Ag and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University with its biofuel educational event hosted for key thought leaders at a state and federal level. This helps get information about this valuable corn market into the hands of people making decisions on pertinent policy and regulations.

The promotion of American Ethanol at the Texas race this fall allowed Texas Corn Producers to promote this essential market for corn. Additionally, the effort allowed farmers to further foster a relationship with thought leaders, as well as the average consumer who may be unaware of the value of agricultural production in the state.

Texas Corn expands industry relations efforts

Hallie Bertrand joined Texas Corn Producers in December in its new industry relations position. She will be working to foster the organization’s relations primarily in North, Central and South Texas.

Hallie graduated with honors in December 2013 with a degree in agricultural communications from Texas Tech University where she was involved in AgriTechsans and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. Previously, she

interned with Plains Cotton Cooperative Association for two years, and was a student researcher in the agricultural education department while earning her degree.

Hallie grew up in Floydada, Texas, working for her father’s aerial application busi-



Hallie Bertrand, a Texas Tech alumna, joins Texas Corn Producers for her father’s aerial application business with family ties to cotton farming.

THE VOICE: Association News

A note from the President...

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Still no farm bill, but close! In my last letter, I switched horses, and predicted that by now we would have a farm bill – I should have stuck with my predictions for the previous 12 months, and I would have had a perfect score. But I let optimism trump realism, thinking that we could get a farm bill through congress before the end of the year.

However, I am again optimistic that by the time you read this newsletter, we will be close to a new farm bill. All sides seem to be converging on a compromise that might pass both branches of congress. But I will not make a prediction either way this time – as I have made a New Year’s resolution to never bet on the outcome of congress! Unfortunately, even when

a new farm bill is passed, it will likely have less support for traditional farm programs than previous bills, and will likely have no direct payment provision.

It’s not too late to comment on the EPA’s proposal to gut the corn ethanol requirement from the RFS. Go to TexasCorn.org and follow the links to comment to the EPA. Tell them how the cut in the Renewable Fuel Standard would depress the rural economy of Texas, as well as increase air pollution from cars. The comment period is open until Jan. 28, so act **NOW!**

The Corn Producers Association of Texas was one of the first groups to endorse J Allen Carnes for Texas Agriculture Commissioner. He is a third generation farmer from Uvalde. He grew up on a farm and ranch, and makes his living from farm-



Jimmy Wedel
CPAT President
Muleshoe, Texas

ing. Texas agriculture needs the kind of fresh and inspiring leadership offered by J Allen Carnes to ensure that our state’s oldest and largest industry continues to grow and deal with the many challenges facing Texas farmers and ranchers. ●

Corn association holds annual meeting

Endorses Carnes and re-elects directors

State farmers gathered for the Corn Producer Association of Texas’ Annual Meeting in Amarillo on December 3, 2013.

At the meeting members voted to endorse J Allen Carnes, a third generation farmer from Uvalde, for Texas Commissioner of Agriculture in the Republican primary election.

“Texas agriculture needs

the kind of fresh and inspiring leadership offered by J Allen Carnes to ensure that our state’s oldest and largest industry continues to grow and deal with the many challenges facing Texas farmers and ranchers,” Jimmy Wedel, president of CPAT, said.

Additionally, the membership voted to re-elect directors David Ford of Dumas

for District 1, Charles Ring of Sinton for District 4, and Scott Averhoff of Waxahachie, Robert Gordon of Dalhart and Max Swinburn of Dimmitt for At Large.

The organization’s officers were also elected for a second term, as follows: Jimmy Wedel as president, Bruce Wetzel as vice president and Wesley Valerius as secretary/treasurer. ●

Federal proposal would hurt rural economy and urban air quality

A proposal from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut renewable fuel production would depress the farm economy in rural Texas and increase air pollution from cars.

EPA has proposed cutting annual production of clean-burning fuels from renewable resources, including ethanol made from corn, from 18.15 billion gallons to 15.21 billion gallons per year, a 16 percent reduction that would have to be replaced by increased imports of oil from foreign countries.

Comments can be made to the EPA regarding this regulation through Jan. 28. Visit TexasCorn.org for information on submitting comments online or send comments via mail to Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460.

The national standard for production of clean-burning renewable fuels was enacted in 2007 to reduce foreign oil imports and reduce air pollution from auto exhausts. It also had the effect of spurring American agricultural production and halting a long decline in rural communities across the nation.

“This reduction poses a tremendous risk to corn markets at a time when Texas farmers are beginning to plan for next year’s crops,” David Gibson, executive director for Texas Corn Producers, said. “Over the past 14 months, corn prices have fallen nearly 50 percent and this proposal threatens to further plunge prices below what it costs many farmers to grow corn.”

“Our national policies on agriculture, energy, foreign trade and environmental pollution are like complex machines with many moving parts. When you

make a drastic change in one part, it throws all the other parts out of balance,” Gibson said. “If Texas farmers can’t make a profit from growing corn, they likely will switch to growing other crops like cotton or sorghum, increasing the supply and depressing the prices of those other commodities. It creates a downward spiral in income for American farmers while enriching the profits of foreign oil producers.”

“Farmers and a strong agricultural industry greatly impact rural communities’ economies,” Gibson said. “When farmers struggle to break even, they in turn bring in less money to the region’s economy. Ultimately, the EPA’s proposal would depress rural Texas economies, while taking a momentous backward step away from the environmental advantages of clean-burning, American-produced fuel,” Gibson said. ●

Gibson, continued from p. 2

counties on the South Plains and High Plains has moved to June 5. Other changes may be in place in certain areas that need to be noted as you take your 2014 coverage.

As the farm bill is passed hopefully in early January 2014, TCPB will be reaching out to producers across the state to provide them information on decisions that will have to be made pertaining to the program. It appears crop insurance and supplemental

crop insurance will be some part of the bill with either a revenue protection plan or a price loss protection plan. Be on the lookout for details. We will send details as soon as we get them in the office and work with Ag and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M, as well as the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension county agents and USDA-FSA to provide growers pertinent information so well informed decisions can be made.

We are entering a very busy time, but for the producers that can, I would encourage you to attend the Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Feb. 27- March 1, 2014. This is the annual meeting site for the National Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association, National Association of Wheat Growers and National Sorghum Producers. Information is available at www.commodityclassic.com. ●

13th Annual Commodity Symposium

More than 400 farmers and others in agribusiness gathered on Dec. 4, 2013, in Amarillo for the Thirteenth Annual Texas Commodity Symposium, which was held in conjunction with the IdeAg Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show. The Corn Producers Association of Texas, Plains Cotton Growers Inc., Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, Texas Peanut Producers Board and Texas Wheat Producers Board hosted the event.

The symposium included a number of topics, including a report on farm policy, estate planning, market outlook, and more.

The Water Conservation Advisory Council also awarded its Blue Legacy Awards

in Agriculture at the symposium.

The event concluded with the Annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon with a keynote address from Wyman Meinzer, the official state photographer, giving insight into what he's seen

and experienced across the state in rural Texas capturing what it is to be a Texan.

The event was made free of charge for attendees because of the generous support of the symposium's sponsors, including Bayer



Official State Photographer Wyman Meinzer highlighted sites around Texas

CropScience, High Plains Journal, Monsanto, National Peanut Board, ArmTech Insurance Services, BNSF Railway, DuPont Pioneer and Syngenta.

The next symposium will be Dec. 3, 2014, in Amarillo.

Final planting date adjusted for some areas

There is some glimpse of a silver lining to the past three years of drought. Innovation.

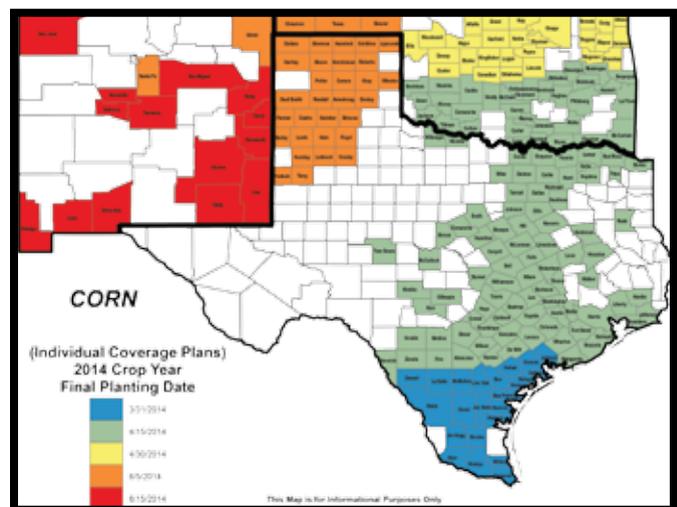
While dealing with ongoing drought, South Plains farmers have found it beneficial to plant later in the calendar year than traditionally done.

Many across the area are working with more shorter-season varieties, and also found water efficiency benefits to planting later in the year.

Texas Corn Producers then worked with the USDA-RMA to push back the final planting date for corn in the region. The final planting date

for the High Plains and South Plains regions is June 5 effective the 2014 crop year.

Working with agencies to improve regulations and guidelines is just one of the many ways TCP works on behalf of farmers.



June 5 is the final planting date for corn in the orange shaded area

ODDS *AND* ENDS



TCPB biennial elections for five seats

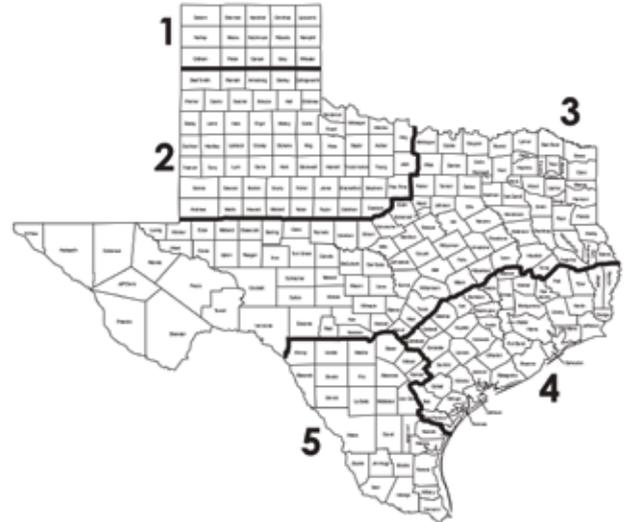
The Texas Corn Producers Board is holding elections in two of its five voting regions to elect five board members where current members' seats are expiring through Jan. 23, 2014. The TCPB election is conducted by voting regions and opened Jan. 9.

There are four seats open for election in Voting Region One, and one seat open for election in Voting Region Four.

Corn producers eligible to vote in the elections are persons, including the owner of a farm on which corn is produced or the owner's tenant or sharecropper, engaged in the business of producing corn or causing corn to be produced for commercial purposes for at least one production period

during the three years preceding the date of this election (Jan. 23, 2014). For the producer to vote in director elections, the producer must reside within one of the counties stated above to vote in the respective voting region.

The elections are held by mail ballot. Ballots containing the nominations of all persons who have validly filed are available at grain elevators and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in each of the appro-



TCPB voting regions

appropriate voting regions, or by writing TCPB.

Additional election information is available online at www.TexasCorn.org.

2014 Commodity Classic in San Antonio

The 19th Annual Commodity Classic is Feb. 27-March 1 along the famous banks of the River Walk at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

Commodity Classic is presented annually by the National Corn Growers Association,

American Soybean Association, National Association of Wheat Growers and National Sorghum Producers.

The event offers a wide range of learning and networking opportunities for growers in the areas of production, policy, marketing,

management and stewardship—as well as showcasing the latest in equipment, technology and innovation.

For more information or to register for this year's event in the Lone Star State visit www.commodityclassic.com.

Texas Corn Producers fund farm program decision aid

Texas Corn Producers worked with the Ag and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M to build an online decision aid for farmers to better determine the appropriate farm program for

their operation.

The online resource will be launched shortly after the farm bill is finalized.

Provided the farm bill is completed in January, the next edi-

tion of *The Kernel* will contain information about this invaluable resource.

Visit www.TexasCorn.org, or sign up for *Stalk Talk* eNews for access as soon as it's available.

Directors

Scott Averhoff, *Ellis Co.*

Jay Beckhusen, *Milam Co.*

David Ford, *Hartley Co.*

Robert Gordon, *Dallam Co.*

Mark Howard, *Parmer Co.*

Larry Mason, *Dallam Co.*

Gary Obenhaus, *Wharton Co.*

Joe Reed, *Swisher Co.*

Charles Ring, *San Patricio Co.*

Wesley Spurlock, *Sherman Co.*

Max Swinburn, *Castro Co.*

Bart Thoreson, *Hansford Co.*

Wesley Valerius, *Cameron Co.*

Dee Vaughan, *Moore Co.*

Jimmy Wedel, *Bailey Co.*

Bruce Wetzel, *Grayson Co.*

Steve Yoder, *Dallam Co.*

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Industry Relations

Angie Martin

Industry Relations

Shelbie Reid

Administrative Intern

Thanks to our Corporate Members



Become a corporate member TODAY!

Learn more at
www.TexasCorn.org

Upcoming Events

January 21, 2014

Bell Co. Crops Conference
Belton, Texas

February 4-5, 2014

Mid-Texas Farm Show
Waco, Texas

January 23, 2014

TCPB Elections Close

February 27-March 1, 2014

Commodity Classic
San Antonio, Texas



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