

Inaugural Corn Cob Classic a Success

The Corn Producers Association of Texas hosted a golf tournament on June 2 in Dalhart, Texas, to benefit the newly established Texas CornPAC, the political action committee of CPAT.

The 15 teams participating in the tournament, the Corn Cob Classic, were both corn producers and industry supporters. Participants enjoyed an afternoon on the green followed by a meal and awards ceremony for both the duffers and experienced golfers.

“We were pleased with the turnout for our first CornPAC fundraising event,” CPAT President Robert Gordon of Dalhart said. “I particularly want to thank our sponsors that made the event such a success.”

“The Texas CornPAC is a great way for our industry

to show our support for the legislators working on policy in Austin and D.C. that’s impacting our operations back home,” Gordon continued.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three teams in the tournament. Additionally, golf drivers were presented for the longest drives

and putters for the longest putt and closest to the hole.

If you were not able to attend the Texas CornPAC golf tournament, but still want to help support the cause, individual contributions can be sent to the Texas CornPAC at 4205 N. Interstate 27, Lubbock, Texas 79403. Please note: Due to state and federal regulations, Texas CornPAC contributions can only be from individuals – not corporations, LLC, etc. ●



From the Texas Corn Producers Board
and the Corn Producers Association of Texas
July 2012

the kernel



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CORNER Comments



David Gibson
TCPB Executive Director
CPAT Exec. Vice President

The debate over the 2012 Farm Bill is currently going at full blast in Washington, D.C. CPAT President Robert Gordon of Dalhart, Board Member Charles Ring

of Sinton, and I were present for the House Subcommittee hearings on the Commodity Title and Risk Management on May 16 and 17, 2012. Dee Vaughan, president of Southwest Council of Agribusiness and CPAT board member from Dumas, was also there and presented testimony to the committee representing SWCA. Dee's testimony can be accessed on our website, www.TexasCorn.org.

While in D.C., we visited with several of our house members and their staff about the importance of passing a farm bill in 2012, and in time for those in Central and South Texas who have to make planting decisions for 2013 late this year for early plantings next year. Representative Mike Conaway of Texas 11th Congressional

District chairs the subcommittee for Commodities and Risk management. We conveyed directly to Rep. Conaway these concerns for the bill. We also discussed with him the fact that the bill produced by the Senate Agriculture Committee does not allow corn farmers the option to have a countercyclical program. We emphasized our support for a bill which allows producers to choose either the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program, as in the Senate committee bill, or a countercyclical program with at least a \$4.00 target price for corn.

The Supplemental Crop Option (SCO) should also be a choice growers could choose in conjunction with either of the other programs in order to buy up crop insurance levels.

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There is an old saying in the Blacklands of Texas, "If you have a dry, successful wheat harvest, your corn crop has probably suffered." While we are appreciative of an above average wheat crop, it wouldn't hurt to resume some precipitation to help the spring planted crops achieve their potential.

The Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Board has published proposed rules for public comment. TCPB has and will continue to be supportive of the board's work and will support passage by a produc-

er referendum. If you have ever not been paid for grain you produced, then you already realize the value of this asset if put into place.

TCPB is comprised of fifteen corn growers from across the state representing all corn producing regions. These growers donate their time away from family and business to guide the board's endeavors to increase the profitability of all the state's corn growers. If there is an issue you feel should be addressed, don't hesitate to contact the office or a board member. 🌽



Scott Averhoff
TCPB Chairman
Waxahachie, Texas

New drip irrigation videos released

Texas Corn Producers and the Texas USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service teamed up to produce informational videos on drip irrigation for the state's producers, which were released on the Water Grows Jobs YouTube Channel, www.YouTube.com/WaterGrowsJobs, this month.

The videos answer many of the questions producers may have about drip irrigation systems, and highlight the water-conserving benefits the system can offer producers' operations.

"Most Texas producers are well aware of the conservation measures they can take with existing sprinkler systems," David Gibson, TCP executive director, said. "Since drip irrigation systems in comparison are relatively new, we wanted to ensure our producers had ready access to learning more about this water-conserving irrigation option."

This new video series looks at some of the installation options and system specifications for the ins and outs for drip irrigation, answering some of the key questions farmers may have when considering the highly efficient irrigation system. The set of videos includes:

- **Designing a Drip Irrigation System:** A look at what considerations need to be made and the steps involved in implementing an effective drip irrigation system

for an operation

- **Managing and Maintaining a Drip System:** A glance at the regular and long term management and maintenance requirements of the system
- **Field Management for a Drip System:** Information about field considerations such as pests, conservation tillage and other agronomic aspects

This latest effort by TCP and NRCS is a part of the organizations' continual efforts toward further encouraging water conservation within the agricultural industry. The groups initially launched the Water Grows Jobs campaign in January 2011, with videos highlighting the economic benefits and need for irrigated agriculture in Texas. This initial launch was then followed up with tracking a Parmer County farmer's drip irrigation field as it weathered the 2011 drought, a series of videos released in January of this year.

Texas Corn Producers are dedicated to conserving our state's resources, and encour-

aging Texas corn farmers to be at the forefront of adopting the best conservation and management practices. Today's farmer is growing food to help feed the world's growing population on less land than ever before, while con-



New videos answer common questions on drip irrigation

serving resources for generations to come.

To access the informational drip irrigation videos, visit www.WaterGrowsJobs.org. For more information about drip irrigation and other efficient irrigation systems contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center. 🌽

THE VOICE: Association News

A note from the President...

As part of the National Corn Growers Association's and Growth Energy's continued partnership to promote American Ethanol, CPAT members had the opportunity to visit with this year's "face" of the American Ethanol campaign at Texas Motor Speedway during the April races. We visited with Austin Dillon and Richard Childress with Richard Childress Racing at the race, and got to experience the American Ethanol promotion firsthand. The goal of the partnership is to expose the vast NASCAR audience to ethanol and help them

better understand the benefits of this renewable fuel as the racing industry works to "Go Green." I encourage all our members to tune in to a NASCAR race (or two) during the racing season to see the exposure American Ethanol is gaining because of this partnership.

Panhandle producers were able to take a break from the fields last month, and come out to participate in the Inaugural Corn Cob Classic at the Dalhart Country Club on June 2. The event was a great success with 15 teams competing in the four person golf scramble. I want to send a big thanks to our sponsors who made the event possible. The event was a great way to kick-start fundraising for the Texas Corn Political Action Committee.

As everyone in our industry is well aware, discussions on the 2012 Farm Bill



Robert Gordon
CPAT President
Dalhart, Texas

are well underway, and it is a top priority for CPAT. We are working on a daily basis to encourage legislation with feasible options for Texas producers to secure their farming operations.

As always, if you have any items you feel CPAT should address, please contact the office or a CPAT director.

Affiliate Memberships

CPAT is excited to enhance its association with a new affiliate membership!

Affiliate members are allied trade associations and professional organizations that support the interests of Texas corn producers and the agricultural industry as a whole. Private or publicly owned companies are not eligible for affiliate membership, but can support CPAT through the corporate membership program.

Annual dues for CPAT affiliate membership is \$300 or reciprocal dues, whichever amount is a greater.

Affiliate members also receive great benefits, including a listing with hyperlink on our website and in Stalk Talk eNews, as well as various other listings in electronic and print CPAT publications. Sign up and learn more at www.TexasCorn.org.

Support our
Corporate
Members



Become a corporate member TODAY!

Learn more at www.TexasCorn.org

Director Spotlight

Jimmy Wedel currently serves as Secretary of TCPB and Vice President of CPAT. The Muleshoe, Texas, native has been farming for 32 years and currently farms corn, cotton, wheat, soybeans and peanuts, on approximately 4,000 acres. He and his wife, Susan, have a son living in Muleshoe, as well as a daughter in Dallas.

Additionally, Wedel is President of the Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Co-op, part owner and board member of Sunland, Inc., a peanut processor in Portales, N.M., a member of the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee, and serves on both the Texas Department of Agriculture Organic Industry Advisory Board and the Capital Farm Credit Board.

“I enjoy serving and being involved with leadership,” Wedel said. “I want to be involved and make a difference.”

Wedel said he hopes this

board can help shape better farm policy and find new markets and better uses for corn. Some of the biggest challenges to corn farmers, he said, involve maintaining profit in spite of a decline in price, high input costs and farm program payment pressure. And the farming in the High Plains of Texas brings along unique challenges, Wedel explained.

“Due to declining aquifer levels,” Wedel said, “we have to produce more corn with less water. This is a definite challenge we need to address to ensure we are profitable each year.”

Wedel is unique in the corn farming industry because approximately 90 percent of his corn crop is grown organically, certified by TDA. He said



**CPAT Vice President and
TCPB Secretary Jimmy Wedel**

this farming method simply presents a challenge, and he feels he can earn more profit growing organically while helping the environment.

“Joining the association is the smart thing for any corn producer,” Wedel said. “It is a good investment, and an opportunity to help shape farm policy.”

Plus, he doesn’t know anyone who couldn’t use a free bag of seed. 🌽

Gibson, continued from p. 2

This program was authored by Rep. Randy Neugebauer of Texas 19th Congressional District. This option was discussed in meetings with his staff while in D.C.

We also visited with Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas 28th Congressional District who also serves on the House Agriculture Committee. Our discussions with him echoed those with Reps. Conaway and Neugebauer.

Crop insurance appears to be key component of the bill being formulated. We expressed the importance of producers having an adequate insurance program available to them. Some of the concerns we highlighted were the rates for producers, the level of insurance that can be bought by a producer, and the fact that many of our farms have low insurance yields due to the extended drought we

have faced in many sections of Texas in recent years.

CPAT is working hard to represent corn growers across Texas as this important legislation is being written. In a time where production costs and land costs are at or near all-time highs and direct payments will no longer be a part of the farm bill, it is important to have a program that will offer protection to Texas producers when they need it most. 🌽

USDA Amplifies Water Quality Efforts in Trinity River Basin

By Dee Ann Littlefield, NRCS State Public Affairs Specialist

Approximately 77 percent of Americans cannot accurately identify the natural source of the water used in their homes, according to a 2011 poll conducted by the Nature Conservancy.

The reality is that rain which falls on rural agricultural land in Texas flows into major rivers and city reservoirs. A raindrop that fell in north Texas might end up on someone's dinner table in Fort Worth, or be used by someone in Huntsville to take a shower, or be made into ice cubes for a glass of iced tea at a restaurant in Livingston.

Over 40 percent of Texans receive their water supply from the Trinity River. The 512-mile long river flows from its headwaters north of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex (DFW) to its outlet in Galveston Bay, draining an area of over 18,000 square miles, most of which is private land.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes management of private farm and ranchland in the Trinity River watershed impacts the quality of water that arrives at municipal water treatment centers. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service recently unveiled a National Water Quality Initiative plan which will provide \$2.8 million toward land management practices that focus on improving water quality in the Chambers Creek Watershed,

a subwatershed of the Trinity River Basin in Navarro and Ellis Counties.

On May 17, 2012, Salvador Salinas, state conservationist for the USDA-NRCS, announced the rollout of the program with project partners at an event on Gary and Sue Price's 77

Ranch near Corsicana, Texas. "We are announcing a new effort to help landowners in this region who want to protect and care for their productive land and their soil in ways that will improve the quality of the stormwater that drains off of it and into our creeks and rivers," Salinas said.

"This voluntary, incentive based program keeps agriculture a cornerstone of our economy and also protects the health of our water systems," he said.

The targeted watershed encompasses 152,309 acres above the Richland-Chambers Reservoir, which supplies a large portion of the water for 1.8 million residents in Tarrant County through the Tarrant Regional Water District's water supply system.

Through the Initiative, the NRCS will provide incen-



State Conservationist Salvador Salinas announced the water quality plan

tive payments to landowners in the targeted watershed in Navarro and Ellis Counties through their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for implementing land management practices that conserve soil and water and improve the quality of water entering the Trinity River.

"Our public water supplies are going to be positively affected by this effort by private landowners," said Darrel Andrews, Tarrant Regional Water District assistant director. "This is a long-term project that has the potential to make generational impacts."

More information on the NWQI program in Texas can be found at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.



ODDS *AND* ENDS



2012 CPAT scholarship applications available

CPAT is proud to again sponsor two scholarships for its youth members. This year, CPAT will award one **\$1,000** scholarship in each of the following categories: 1) High School junior or senior, and 2) Current college or university undergraduate student who has completed at least 12

hours of course work.

Applicants must be a current CPAT youth member (which is just \$20!), and attend/plan to attend a Texas college or university and be registered for at least 12 hours.

Applicants must submit a typed essay, meeting the scholarship requirements.

All entries must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. Sept. 14, 2012, or mailed to the CPAT office and post-marked by Sept. 14, 2012.

To learn more about this exciting scholarship opportunity, visit www.TexasCorn.org.

Texas Water Smart, Ag Commissioner hopes to save water and jobs

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples recently unveiled the Texas Water Smart campaign in our state.

The purpose of Texas Water Smart is to educate families and businesses about easy and efficient ways to conserve.

The campaign aims to save jobs, food, landscape and money by curbing unnecessary, wasteful water usage.



Texas Water Smart is a diverse public-private coalition of businesses, trade associations, cities, water suppliers and elected officials who are committed to promoting water conservation.

The commissioner initially announced the campaign in North Texas in May, then brought the campaign to the Panhandle in early June.

Enter now to win the National Corn Yield Contest

It's not too late to enter in the National Corn Growers Association's National Corn Yield Contest for 2012. The entry deadline is July 16.

NCYC has provided corn growers the opportunity to compete with their colleagues to grow the most corn per acre for nearly half

a century, helping feed and fuel the world. The contests offers participants the recognition they deserve, as well as the opportunity to learn from their peers.

Winners receive national recognition in publications, and trips or other awards from participating spon-

soring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. This year's winners will be recognized in Kissimmee, Fla., during the 2013 Commodity Classic.

To enter the contest or learn more, visit ncga.com/corn-yield-contest.

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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Executive Director

Stephanie Pruitt

Communications Director

Angie Martin

Executive Assistant

Kaci Bearden

Executive Assistant

Holly Harrison

Communications Intern

Vanessa Rutherford

Administrative Intern

New administrative intern



Vanessa Rutherford of Pleasanton, Texas, is the new TCP administrative intern. Vanessa is currently earning an agricultural education degree at Texas Tech University with plans to graduate in May 2013. She aspires to be an agricultural instructor upon her graduation.

Vanessa brings with her experience in the banking industry, as well as having worked

within the meat department of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech.

As the administrative intern, Vanessa works closely with TCP executive assistants on checkoff assessments, finances, other administrative duties, and is likely the first person you'll talk to when calling into the TCP office. 🌽

Upcoming Events

July 16-20, 2012

NCGA Corn Congress and CPAT Legislative Visits
Washington, D.C.

August 27-28, 2012

TCP Board Meetings
Lubbock, TX



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