

Agriculture across the world

Global agriculture is becoming more prominent as the world population continues to grow. Innovators in the agricultural industry predict trade will increase as supply and demand perpetually rise. With this in mind, U.S. farmers and ranchers will have to adapt their production practices as the population expands. Traveling to other countries to learn about grain markets is an insightful way to gather information for the future of trade for U.S. farmers and ranchers. One Texas corn producer gained much more than a trade forecast on his trip across the world.

CPAT Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Wetzel, a Sherman, Texas, corn producer who also serves as a director for TCPB, attended the Asian Leadership Trade

Mission with U.S. Grains Council at the end of last year. During the mission, participants toured parts of Japan, China and Vietnam — the three most prominent Asian grain markets. The mission was designed to promote two-way learning by providing firsthand exposure to the dynamics and defense of export markets, as well as allowing U.S. grain growers to share their experiences with customers from across the world.

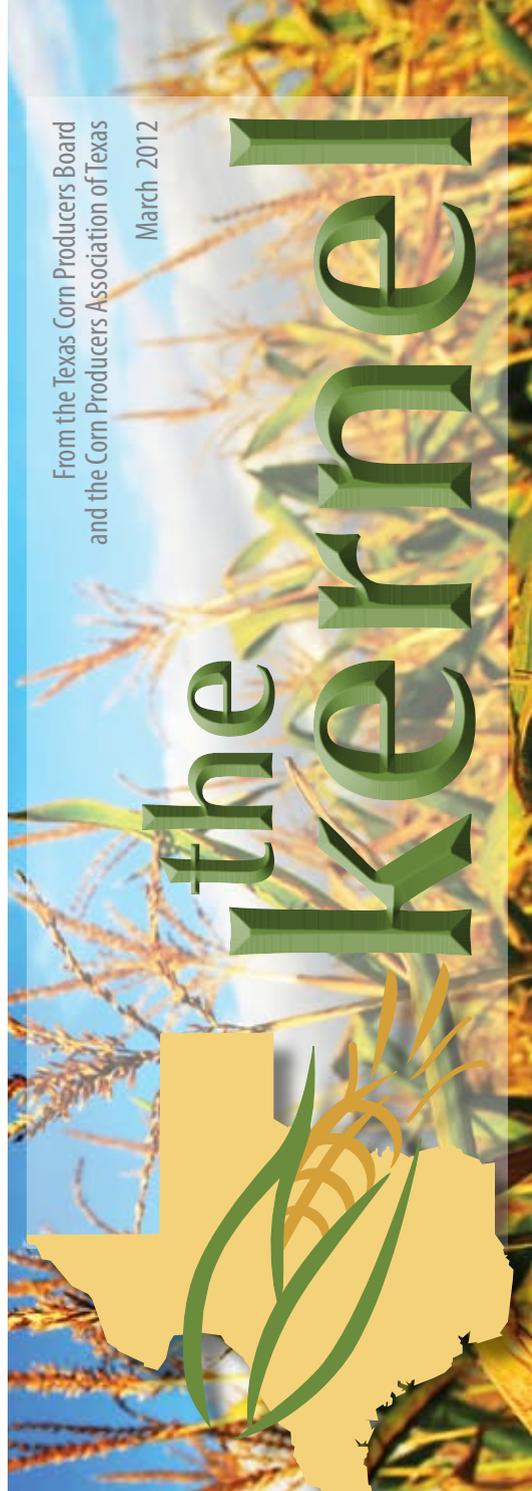
“This mission was a good opportunity to meet with our international customers,” Wetzel said. “It’s beneficial to meet with key foreign government officials to share on-the-ground insights about the 2011 U.S. corn crop supply and quality.”

Mission participants toured grain facilities, trade ports and a few local

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TCPB & CPAT Director Bruce Wetzel was in Asia for two weeks learning about grain trade.



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

the kernel

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CORNER Comments



David Gibson
TCPB Executive Director
CPAT Exec. Vice President

Another crop year is ready to begin, but outside our office a few weeks earlier, the reality of how dry the High Plains still are was very evident with brown skies, high

winds, low humidity and above normal temperature.

We can all certainly hope these conditions will not continue, but many meteorologists are predicting 2012 could be another drought-stricken year. Luckily, some parts of the state have had moisture recently and several parts of the state received above normal precipitation throughout December.

Growers, in light of the dry weather, should certainly review their crop insurance policies very closely, work with your agents, and be informed as we enter the year. I have heard some growers say they know changes may be coming this year, but many aren't sure what these changes could mean for them. Grow-

ers can obtain crop insurance information when signing up for the insurance policy or going to the USDA-Risk Management Agency website, www.rma.usda.gov. It is important to remember once the 2012 rules were issued they cannot be changed, and once you have taken your insurance the policy cannot be changed by the company or RMA. Often new interpretations are made, and that is where many questions arise. Please contact our office if you have questions or need specific information regarding crop insurance, and we will assist in any way possible.

On another note, recent news from several national media outlets, has predicted gas prices to rise to \$4-\$5 per gallon this summer. If

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As you read this, planting will not only have started, but it will already be completed in southern and central areas of the state. It will be interesting to see what 2012 holds in store for us. Hopefully it will not be a repeat of 2011. A year like that is enough for a lifetime.

With the state legislature's enactment to have a producer referendum to begin a Grain Producer Indemnity Fund, much work will be done this year by the appointed board to develop rules and schedule a vote for producers to decide whether or not they want to have a fund to pro-

tect them in the event of a grain buyer failure.

The next Farm Bill is going to be a long and arduous process. Chances of passing a Farm Bill pre-election are going to be very slim. With budget issues being what they are, agriculture is going to be targeted heavily for cuts.

TCPB staff works hard and directors donate their time for Texas corn producers. If there is an issue you feel should be addressed by TCPB, or if you have questions regarding the Texas corn industry, please bring it to our attention. 🌽



Scott Averhoff
TCPB Chairman
Waxahachie, Texas

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attractions in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, China's Pearl River delta and Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.

Each country taught U.S. grain farmers something different, but the same key message resonated throughout the trip; Asian markets will play an integral part to U.S. trade in the near future.

"It is vital to have U.S. Grains Council personnel in countries across the world that understand the Asian customs and culture," Wetzel said. "Having that type of communication is essential for the success of U.S. grain export."

Wetzel shared this international experience with nine other representatives from corn organizations across the

nation. The states in attendance represented more than 62 percent of the total U.S. corn production.

"Overall, we learned so much about the Asian market corn exports, and we hope to share our knowledge with each organization we represented," Wetzel said.

View a recap of Wetzel's Asian Trade Mission trip at YouTube.com/TexasCorn.

Looking back on his trip across the world, Wetzel learned how the other side of the world trades, produces and lives. He returned to U.S. soil with newfound knowledge and



Asian markets will play an integral part in U.S. trade

an experience of a lifetime.

"Traveling to foreign countries is an eye-opening experience in many ways," Wetzel said, "but it mostly showed me how fortunate we are in the U.S. to have enough land and resources to produce the amount of food and fiber that we do." 🌽

Texas takes top honors in 2011 NCYC

Two Texas corn growers brought top honors back to the Lone Star state in the 2011 National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by National Corn Growers Association.

Double 'SA' Farms in Hart, Texas, won first place nationally in the Irrigated Class with 370.3836 bushels/acre using Pioneer 32N74AM. Donny Carpenter Farms, Ltd. in Dimmitt, Texas, won third place nationally in the same class with 312.9834 bushels/acre using Pioneer 32N74AM1.

Congratulations to all our Texas producers who fared

well in this year's contest, while battling the driest year on record in our state's history. "It is always rewarding for Texas corn growers to place in the national yield contest," Texas Corn Producers Executive Director David Gibson said.

"Every year brings new challenges, and we are so proud of Texas corn farmers who were able to overcome obstacles this year to have success in the yield contest," Gibson added.

Winners will receive national recognition in publications, as well as

cash, trips or other awards from participating sponsoring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. In Nashville, Tenn., during the 2012 Commodity Classic, state and national winners will be presented awards.

Will you be the one have the highest yielding corn in the 2012 NCYC? Texas Corn Producers encourage you to accept the challenge and take advantage of production techniques and technologies to enhance your future yield potential. Learn more on NCGA's website. 🌽

view state winners on p. 7

THE VOICE: Association News

A note from the President...

Texas is in a better place than anticipated coming out of the record-breaking drought of 2011. Central and Southern Texas having received some rain and the Panhandle has gotten a mixture of rain and snow. Hopefully there will be the more to come in 2012.

Agricultural organizations continue to work together in effort to create a Farm Bill that will pass through Congress. We are optimistic the work being done will result in a strong farm policy that will prove reliable for Texas producers. CPAT directors and members plan to visit Washington, D.C., to meet with our state legislative representatives, as well as key agricultural leaders.

We will inform our state representatives of the needs for Texas producers so they can be aware of key issues when determining policy.

While it is important to advocate to our state legislators, it is equally important to help representatives supporting agriculture sustain their positions in D.C. The Texas Corn Political Action Committee is working to ensure the legislators defending agriculture at both a state and federal level are financially supported. Do your part and support the Texas Corn PAC's efforts to keep the voices for agriculture in office. Checks can be made to the Texas CornPAC and sent to our CPAT office.



Robert Gordon
CPAT President
Dalhart, Texas

I encourage you to join CPAT or renew your membership annually if you're already a member. ●

Farm Bill: Keep it going

By Tom Sell, Combest, Sell & Associates

Nobody knows when or how the Farm Bill will get done this year. Washington seems hamstrung on nearly every issue, EPA is on a terror, and farm policy stakeholders of every stripe have offered so many proposals it takes a program to keep them straight.

As disquieting as it is, our consolation is we have true allies in Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture has assembled a solid team so whatever opportunity arises this year, the right people are in place to achieve good farm policy in D.C.

So with the uncertainty, what can we say? To producers in Texas and throughout the U.S., I say keep going.

Agriculture is one of the few bright spots in our economy. Farmers spent \$320 billion in communities across the country to produce \$410 billion in goods last year, making U.S. agriculture bigger than the GDP of all but 25 countries. These folks put everything on the line each year to feed a hungry world.

Farm policy has backed this investment when necessary (e.g., \$2.5 billion in

crop insurance indemnities to Texas farmers in 2011). But it has also backed-off, spending less than ever historically – with the average annual cost of the last 5 years fully 30 percent less than the average of the previous 10.

The message to Washington is, first, do no harm. Maintain that policy backs agriculture when needed and then let America's producers lead. These are the wisest investments a nation can make. ●

Carl King — An Original Advocate



In loving memory, 1924-2011

Corn farmers across Texas probably know the name Carl King, even if they weren't around when he founded the original seven-county Texas Corn Producers Board in 1980. King was one of the original advocates for agriculture, specifically

for the Texas corn industry. King has left behind the legacy of possessing ambition, passion and determination to always do what he believed was the right thing – no matter the reaction that might come with it.

One of the many who knew King well was Jerry Don Glover,

who served with him on the original corn board. He came to know and respect King for making his voice heard in any circumstance.

"He wasn't shy about communicating his side of the argument," Glover said, "and most of the time he won."

Glover said he believes he could write a book about King and all of his accomplishments in the agricultural industry.

In addition to advocating for agriculture locally, King worked extensively, in Washington, D.C., and Austin, promoting ethanol and Farm Bill policy throughout his 20-plus years serving on the board. He was always a

"He wasn't shy about communicating his side of the argument and most of the time he won."

-Glover

progressive thinker and innovative leader, said Bert Williams, also a fellow board member when King served on the corn board.

In his time on this earth, Carl impacted the agricultural industry in many ways. He will be remembered as the Stetson-wearing, ambitious advocate for agriculture for many years to come. 🌽

Gibson, continued from p. 2

this occurs, corn producers need to be prepared for another concern blaming corn for increasing food prices, as we witnessed during the last price hike in 2008. In actuality, the price of food will increase due to increased transportation costs from higher petroleum prices, as well as higher overall energy costs for processing and storing goods in climate-controlled environments. These same energy prices will also be increasing the cost of production for producers who are producing the

grain. Remember, less than 12 cents of every food dollar goes back to agriculture.

This could be an interesting year for all producers. I encourage you to become involved in the commodity groups that represent you, as each organization faces challenging issues and as the writing of the Farm Bill continues. If you want to get involved with our efforts or become a member of the Corn Producers Association of Texas, please contact our office, one of your directors or myself. 🌽

Support our corporate members

www.netafimusa.com

Become a corporate member TODAY!

Learn more at
www.TexasCorn.org

EQIP program is underway in 2012

By Quenna Terry, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, Lubbock

Most producers agree the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a valuable tool to help agricultural landowners and managers implement conservation practices that help sustain their agricultural operations, while providing environmental benefits that affect everyone.

Known as one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill, EQIP is administered by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

“Last year, NRCS obligated more than \$85 million for EQIP,” NRCS Texas State Conservationist Salvador Salinas said. “NRCS partnered with farmers and ranchers to achieve a record year for conservation in Texas.”

In 2012, NRCS in Texas anticipates another successful year in conservation. The agency has already announced the first ranking of

applications for EQIP in early February with plans for future ranking periods offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. The EQIP program offers a



Producers can benefit from NRCS EQIP services.

continuous sign-up year-round for producers to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific practices. Producers are encouraged to apply for EQIP by contacting their local NRCS office to develop a conservation plan as a first step in the application process.

NRCS works with soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) and others to help private land managers take a comprehensive approach to conserve, maintain, or improve natural resources.

NRCS, working through the SWCDs, plans to host local work group meetings this year where producers will have the opportunity to provide input for local resource concerns in their county. Meetings will be publicized as dates and locations are planned.

Since 1935, NRCS has provided conservation services that enable people to be good stewards of the nation’s soil, water, and related natural resources on non-federal lands. The historic partnership between local, state, and federal agencies in Texas is a key factor in achieving conservation success.



TCPB referendum passes, directors elected

The referendum held by TCPB in Jan. to increase the statewide assessment amounts of corn and silage passed by more than the required two-thirds vote. Additionally, five board members were elected or re-elected in the organization’s biennial elections held in conjunction with the referendum. Each person elected

will serve a six year term.

Corn producers voted in favor of a checkoff assessment of up to \$0.074 per ton of silage and \$0.01 per bushel of corn, to be collected and submitted to TCPB, effective June 1.

The Texas Department of Agriculture ratified the results of the referendum and elections.

Elected Directors

- Scott Averhoff, Region 3
- Jay Beckhusen, Region 3
- David Ford, Region 1
- Charles Ring, Region 4
- Bart Thoreson, Region 1

ODDS *AND* ENDS



CPAT Director appointed to Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Board

CPAT Director Dee Vaughan was appointed chairman to the Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Board. The Board is made up of nine appointed delegates representing agricultural commodities, as well as agribusinesses from across Texas. Appointed board members have begun work

on determining procedures, discussing the goal date for the producer referendum, and other related items to get the fund in place so producers will be covered from losses when they are not paid for grain they deliver to a buyer or a storage facility.

Congratulations Dee!



Workforce commission chair meets with commodity groups

Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Paulken recently met with commodity leaders in Lubbock, including CPAT, to discuss important workforce factors impacting the state's agricultural industry. One of the primary issues discussed was the need to en-

courage vocational skills and education across the state.

In addition to discussing the vital role of skilled trades, Chairman Paulken spoke of the state's stance against the child labor laws recently proposed by the U.S. Department of Labor. The

Texas Workforce Commission and commodity organizations are working toward the common goal to preserve and enhance the state's workforce and ensure the further security of the agricultural industry, which is vital to the state's economic success.

Congratulations to our state yield winners, continued from p. 3

A Non-Irrigated

1. Norman Ventures , Randolph, TX	77.58 bu/ac	Pioneer 33F87
2. DJ Farms , Trenton, TX	77.45 bu/ac	Pioneer 33F87
3. S & S Farms , Mertens, TX	67.42 bu/ac	Pioneer P2088HR

No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated

1. Right Way Farms , Dalhart, TX	270.17 bu/ac	DEKALB DKC64-69
2. Steve & Darrell Buckley , Dimmitt, TX	261.73 bu/ac	Pioneer 32N74AM1
3. Don Carpenter , Dimmitt, TX	259.27 bu/ac	Pioneer 32N74AM1

Irrigated

1. Double 'SA' Farms Inc. , Hart, TX	370.38 bu/ac	Pioneer 32N74AM1
2. Donny Carpenter Farms Ltd , Dimmitt, TX	312.98 bu/ac	Pioneer 32N74AM1
3. Jase Merritt , Hart, TX	295.29 bu/ac	Pioneer P1508HR

Directors

Scott Averhoff, *Ellis 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 Weitzel, *Grayson Co.*

Steve Yoder, *Dallam Co.*

Staff

David Gibson

Executive Director

Stephanie Pruitt

Communications Director

Angie Martin

Executive Assistant

Kaci Bearden

Executive Assistant

Adeline Fox

Communications Intern

USFRA advocating with Food Dialogues

The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, an organization Texas Corn Producers is part of through NCGA, is reaching out to consumers regarding food supply, one commodity at a time.

Food Dialogues is a movement designed to educate consumers by engaging social media and creating video segments seating agricultural producers at the same table with Americans who are removed from agricultural practices. These table-talk video pro-



ductions spark questions from consumers regarding crop production, animal welfare, general processes of running a farm or ranch and more. To learn more about this campaign visit: www.FoodDialogues.com.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 28-March 4, 2012

Commodity Classic
Nashville, Tennessee

March 19-23, 2012

CPAT Legislative visit
Washington, D.C.

April 1-3, 2012

TCPB & CPAT Board Meeting
Lubbock, Texas

April 6, 2012

Texas Corn Producers office
closed for Good Friday

April 15-17, 2012

Texas Grain & Feed Assoc.
Annual Meeting & EXPO
Fort Worth, Texas



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