

The pursuit of happiness

“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness.” Little did George Washington know what the pursuit of agriculture would entail in the 21st century. Volatile weather, limited resources and uncertain legislation all come together to form an uphill battle for most agriculturalists. Fortunately, with innovative research, new technology and better management practices, farmers are better equipped to fight the perils of Mother Nature. And we can all agree it’s a battle worth fighting for.

It all begins with a seed.

WenWei Xu, a nationally renowned geneticist with Texas A&M AgriLife Research, is working toward developing a germplasm that will exhibit drought- and heat-tolerant characteristics, ensuring a better probability of a high-yielding harvest. His research, which is supported by checkoff funds from the Texas Corn Producers Board, leads the field in the area of seed genetics and, especially considering the 2011 drought, is

extremely pertinent to Texas producers. Xu begins with a plant tolerant to heat and drought and incorporates genes specific to those traits into new corn hybrids through a procedure called cross-breeding. Unlike genetically modified crops, cross-breeding does not have to be federally approved because the trait is moved into the plant via a natural pathway called selected pollination. By creating a seed that will not only use less water, but also produce a better harvest, farmers have greater opportunity for success.

Genetics only half the battle.

For years producers have sought to perfect their management practices to become more efficient and enable the longevity of local resources. The North Plains Groundwater Conservation District is committed to help educate producers on efficient groundwater use, while still remaining successful and financially stable; ultimately enhancing the regional economy. The District has developed a 200-12 Project with a goal of pro-

continued on p. 3



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

the kernel



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CORNER Comments

David Gibson.....	2
Scott Averhoff.....	2
TGPIB referendum.....	3
The pursuit, cont.....	3
The Voice: Association News	
President: Robert Gordon	4
SWAIS recap	5
Mickey Black.....	6
Odds & Ends	7
Upcoming Events	8

CORNER Comments



David Gibson
TCPB Executive Director
CPAT Exec. Vice President

With the harvest underway in the Panhandle, corn producers in Texas have had a much better year than last; while it still may be just below average yield per acre compared to the past few years. As I have discussed with many in the media, as well as our neighbors across the U.S., the 2012 crop is indicative of a normal drought for corn producers in our state, much unlike what our friends in the Midwest have seen.

Recently I attended the Office of the Texas State

Chemist advisory committee meeting. One of our main discussions each time is concerning the distribution of mycotoxins across the state as evidenced in the surveys collected by their inspectors. This year, numbers have been generally low across the state for aflatoxin. The elevator industry represented in the meeting made statements that it was due to the atoxigenics that are used to lessen the threat of aflatoxin. Many statements were made that even though aflatoxin was not totally

continued on p. 5

Turbulent times are probably an understatement for the way this year has unfolded. At the beginning of this year, we were looking at \$5 corn hoping it wouldn't trend lower. Then the drought of 2011 spread across the Midwest and remained in parts of Texas for 2012. Commodity markets responded to the lower anticipated production helping to offset some of the production shortfall if you had adequate irrigation or received enough rainfall to produce a crop. Crop insurance will work well for farmers in regions where it is more affordable to carry higher levels of coverage with higher APH's. For growers that have suffered multiple year losses and have seen their APH's decline, it will not be as beneficial to their economic survival.

Market demand for corn at price levels seen this year is obviously going to see some market demand shifts. Livestock feed use is going through some difficult times with some herd liquidation occurring. It will take time for their markets to adjust and even longer to rebuild national herd inventories.

If history is any indication, we can all expect production costs to increase for the coming year. If you farm in a volatile production area this can be a real challenge to manage operating budgets.

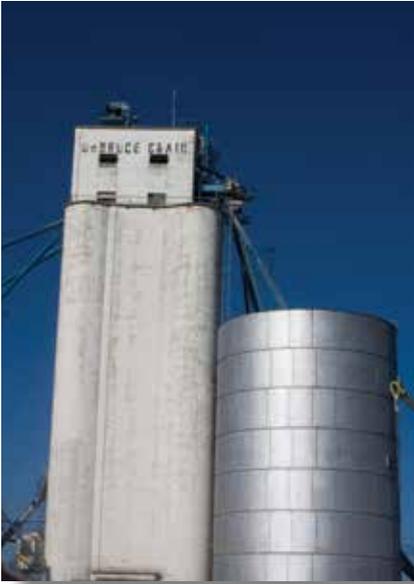
The producer referendum voting period for the Texas grain producer indemnity fund program will be Nov. 19-Dec. 7, 2012. Ballots will be available from your local extension office or by writing to TDA and requesting one.



Scott Averhoff
TCPB Chairman
Waxahachie, Texas

TCPB manages programs to increase the profitability of Texas corn producers. If there is an issue you feel needs to be addressed, please make us aware. ●

Protecting assets after harvest



This month, corn and other grain producers across the state finally have the op-

portunity to establish long-awaited protection from grain buyer financial failures.

The Texas Grain Producers Indemnity Board is holding a referendum on the statewide establishment of a grain indemnity fund. The referendum will open Nov. 19, 2012, and close Dec. 7, 2012.

CPAT supports establishing this fund, which would mitigate up to 90 percent of the financial losses suffered by producers of corn, sorghum, wheat and soybeans when a financial failure prevents grain buyers from paying for sold/contracted grain or delivering unsold grain.

The association and its membership worked throughout the 2011 state legislative session to pass the legislation that created the TGPIB, and ultimately enables producers to determine if they want to self-insure against the financial risks associated with storing or selling grain. Rep. Larry Phillips of Sherman and Sen. Craig Estes of Wichita Falls introduced the legislation after a series of grain buyer financial failures in recent years resulted in millions of dollars in losses to Texas grain producers.

Not only would producers who market their grains in
continued on p. 4

The pursuit, continued from p. 1

ducing 200 bushels of corn with just 12 inches of applied water supplementing natural rainfall. The goal of the project is to provide producers with relevant water management practices, including irrigation technology and seed development, enabling them to remain profitable today and into the future.

NPGCD Director Wesley Spurlock, a Stratford, Texas, farmer and also an active director for TCP, says it is imperative for producers to look toward research when making water management decisions.

“Research is improving our ability to raise high-yielding corn in the Texas Panhandle with less water, and people are looking to research fund-

ed by Texas Corn Producers and others like WenWei’s to do it,” Spurlock says. “He has the most up-to-date and relevant information.”

Look to the future.

Technology has become more apparent in every aspect of life, but especially in agriculture. AgriLife Research Engineer Thomas Marek said to ensure a future for the agricultural industry one of the most important factors needed is for producers to continue pursuing knowledge. Improvements made to their operations are making them more profitable and proficient. Marek encourages producers to utilize innovative technologies to their advantage. Sav-

ing time and resources, producers are able to make more with less; a vital accomplishment considering the current economic climate.

United we stand.

A producer knows it takes a well-rounded operation to succeed. It will take multiple groups pursuing unity to ensure a profitable business capable of supporting farm families, while meeting the growing food and fuel needs of the world.

“There is no ‘I’ to it but it’s a ‘we,’” Marek says. “It’s amazing what we can accomplish when everything works together. It’s like a well-oiled machine that can only benefit the future of agriculture.”

THE VOICE: Association News

A note from the President...

Since no farm bill was passed by the House, and therefore no farm bill in place by Sept. 30, producers are operating in a void until Congress reconvenes after the election for a lame duck session. Some of our South Texas corn producers are experiencing the repercussions as they are beginning to make financial plans for the 2013 crop year

If an extension of the current bill is passed for the 2013 year, then producers will understand the program without doing lots of homework. If this occurs, it is still not certain if direct payments would be continued at the same level or not, and if any changes in payment limits or AGI would occur. These would have to be spelled out in the language of the extension.

If a new bill is passed, growers will have lots of homework to do when determining the program they would choose if a bill similar to the House Ag Committee bill is passed, since it has both a Revenue Loss Coverage program and a Price Loss Coverage program. There is a new Supplemental Crop Option (SCO) insurance policy that can be included with either option. So a choice will have to be made on which you use for wheat, corn, sorghum or soybeans. The Senate-passed bill currently only has a revenue option included in it.

CPAT is already working with the Agriculture and Food Policy Center and other commodity groups to have decision aid programs for producers to use once a new bill is passed. We certainly encour-



Robert Gordon
CPAT President
Dalhart, Texas

age Congress to act quickly on the farm bill when they go back into session in November. It is imperative farmers know what the program is so good decisions can be made as they produce the food, fiber and fuel for this great country of ours. ●

TGPIB referendum, continued from p. 3

Texas benefit from the indemnity fund program, but the fund would indirectly benefit any entity that has a vested interest in the farmer and/or their grain could be affected. With an indemnity fund in place, producers, agricultural lenders, equipment dealers, suppliers, and ultimately local and regional economies would be protected from the harm a grain buyer's financial failure would cause. The volatility of today's commodity markets has further emphasized a desperate need for post-harvest protection.

The referendum must receive a two-thirds vote in order to implement this safeguard, which would be put into place Feb. 1, 2013.

Eligible voters in the referendum will vote to establish an assessment rate within a range of 0.2 percent to 0.6 percent of the final sales price of grain. The assessment would be collected by the "first point of sale" grain buyer, and be remitted to the TGPIB. Once the fund reaches an amount sufficient to cover the overall risk, a dividend will be initiated on a first in, first out basis.

Ballots are available at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices, and must be mailed to the Texas Department of Agriculture with a postmark date of no later than Dec. 7, 2012, to be counted.

CPAT strongly supports the TGPIB in their efforts to ensure financial security for grain producers across the state, and ultimately to protect the stability of Texas agriculture. For more information visit www.TexasGrainIndemnity.org. ●

Industry leaders gather to discuss ag issues

More than 200 agricultural industry leaders attended the Inaugural Southwest Agricultural Issues Summit at the Barton Creek Resort in Austin, Texas, in September. Attendees included producers, commodity leaders, agri-business representatives, agricultural students and others looking to gain the latest knowledge on pertinent issues impacting the industry.

The event boasted a strong list of “heavy-hitter” speakers, including Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee Frank Lucas, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples, noted economist and futurist Lowell Catlett, and well-known agricultural reporter Jim Wiesemeyer.

Additionally, attendees heard from experts on farm policy, energy issues, global trade and outlook, and gained insight on the 2012 election from David Wasserman with the Cook Political Report.

The event offered more than these highly informational sessions though. Attendees also had numerous networking opportunities, including a golf tournament on the prestigious Crenshaw Cliffside Course.

Attendees, speakers and media hailed the Summit as one of the best agricultural industry events.

“The event was beneficial to both our producer leaders and others in agribusiness,” David Gibson, executive director for Texas Corn Producers, stated.



Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) was still optimistic on progress and future of the Farm Bill.

“I look forward to seeing the event grow in the future and more people benefitting from what it has to offer.”

Sad you missed it? Visit www.AgIssuesSummit.com, to access presentations from some of the speakers, view the picture gallery, and even listen to the speakers’ presentations.

Gibson, continued from p. 2

eliminated, it was at levels where the corn could move into mainstream markets.

I encourage producers in areas where aflatoxin can be a problem, to consider using one of the labeled products in 2013. Afla-Guard® by Syngenta and AF 36® by Arizona Cotton Research and Promotion Council are both labeled for use in Texas and have to

be applied at a stage prior to knowing the severity of the aflatoxin problem in a given year. When buyers and processors are encouraging use, and many growers are looking at results where premiums were given for corn from treated acres, they certainly need to be considered for application.

Texas corn checkoff dollars were used in the research

and development of both of these products and we continue to work with researchers to develop new strains, new methods of application and to determine better timing for application.

For more information on these products, contact our office at 806.763.2676 or go to our website www.TexasCorn.org.

Helping hand in conservation for 50 years

By Krista Lucas, USDA- NRCS intern



Mickey Black has been an advocate for conservation and agriculture his entire life. After 50 years of federal service in Texas, working for the Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service, he will be retiring this year.

Black started out as a summer trainee in college, and after graduating from Texas Tech University in 1964, he was hired as a soil conservationist in Dumas. Shortly after, he entered the military, serving as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. While in the army, he attended officer training school in Aberdeen, Md., and was later transferred to Fort Sill, Okla., from 1965 through 1966.

When Black returned to civilian life, he continued working for the SCS/NRCS. By 1976, his hard work had earned him the title of area conservationist and then assistant state conservationist in the High Plains region.

Over the years, he has provided supervision and administration for 51 counties in the Panhandle and South Plains Region, impacting land and water areas with over 31 million acres. Black has worked in Texas for five decades, serving in resource areas for Memphis, Abilene, Pampa, Waco and Lubbock.

Black's outstanding leadership and commitment has not gone unnoticed. In 2003, he was honored by Texas Tech as a Distinguished Alumni from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. He has also been recognized in helping to develop and adopt regional water management planning utilized by the Panhandle and Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning groups.

His service and hard work has benefited many pro-

ducers over the years, as he has overseen the conservation efforts in the largest corn producing region in the state. Black has been a strong supporter of producers throughout the years, and said he has always enjoyed working with people on the land.

"I like what I do - I like working with farmers and ranchers," Black said.

His devotion to helping protect and conserve valuable natural resources will be greatly missed. Black has always worked to improve the quality of living in Texas and said his career has always brought him true joy.

Black said, "Money's not everything life is about; you need to like what you are doing."

NRCS will be celebrating Black's retirement on Dec. 7, 2012. The reception will be held at the American Museum of Agriculture from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.



"Mickey has been a valuable friend to agriculture for many years. Corn producers and land owners have been able to implement many conservation strategies on their land due to the leadership and guidance of Mickey Black. His leadership and expertise on conservation programs will be missed. I want to personally thank Mickey for the support he's provided producers over the years."

-David Gibson

ODDS *AND* ENDS



Texas producers appointed to NCGA action teams

State's producers hopeful for opportunity to represent Texan interests

NCGA Appointees

Mycotoxin Task Force:

Charles Ring, *Vice Chair*
Sinton

Corn PAC:

Pamela Yoder, *Secretary*
Dalhart

Finance Committee:

Wesley Spurlock, *Chair*
Stratford

Ntl. Cattleman's Beef

Assoc. Liaison:

Wesley Spurlock
Stratford

The National Corn Growers Association relies on a strong group of farmer leaders for the organization to thrive and serve its purpose as a nationwide representation of one of the largest agricultural segments of the United States. The NCGA Corn Board recently determined the farmers who will serve as the core influencers for the association by announcing the members and leaders of its action teams, committees and working groups for the 2013 fiscal year, which began in October.

NCGA Action Teams

Grower Services:

Larry Mason
Dalhart

Public Policy:

Steve Yoder
Dalhart

Trade Policy & Biotech:

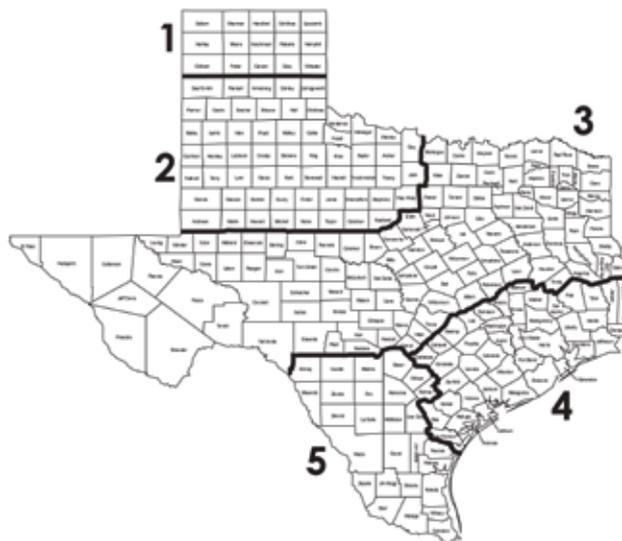
Robert Gordon
Dalhart

CPAT annual meeting and elections

The 2012 CPAT Annual Meeting will be held at 1:15 p.m. on Nov. 28, immediately following the Texas Commodity Symposium at the Amarillo Civic Center.

CPAT director positions in Districts 1, 4, 5, as well as two At Large seats, are open for election this year.

Incumbant directors in these positions are Dee Vaughan of Dalhart (1), Gary Obenhaus of Eagle Lake (4), Wesley Valerius of Harlingen (5), Joe Reed of Kress (AL),



Directors will be elected to Districts 1, 4 and 5, as well as two At Large seats, at this year's annual CPAT meeting.

and Wesley Spurlock of Stratford (AL).

Additionally, CPAT members will elect a president, vice president and secretary/treasurer for the association. Robert Gordon of Dalhart is the current president, Jimmy Wedel of Muleshoe serves as vice president and Bruce Wetzel of Sherman is secretary/treasurer. The present officers have served for two consecutive years each.

We hope to see you in Amarillo at the end of the month!

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.*

Staff

David Gibson

Executive Director

Stephanie Pruitt

Communications Director

Angie Martin

Executive Assistant

Kaci Bearden

Executive Assistant

Holly Harrison

Communications Intern

Vanessa Rutherford

Administrative Intern

Thanks to our Corporate Members



Become a corporate member TODAY!

Learn more at
www.TexasCorn.org

Upcoming Events

November 7-9, 2012

San Antonio Farm Show
San Antonio, Texas

November 26-27, 2012

TCPB/CPAT Board Meetings
Amarillo, Texas

November 12-13, 2012

Texas Seed Trade Assoc. Convn.
Galveston, Texas

November 27-29, 2012

Amarillo Farm Show
Amarillo, Texas



www.TexasCorn.org
[Facebook.com/TexasCorn](https://www.facebook.com/TexasCorn)
[Flickr.com/TexasCorn](https://www.flickr.com/photos/TexasCorn/)
[Twitter.com/TexasCorn](https://twitter.com/TexasCorn)
[YouTube.com/TexasCorn](https://www.youtube.com/TexasCorn)

4205 N. Interstate 27
Lubbock, Texas 79403
806.763.CORN (2676) phone
800.647.CORN (2676) toll free
806.762.2674 fax