



Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

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Intern

TACC NEWSLETTER



2022

COOPERATIVE MANAGERS CONFERENCE

RUIDOSO

The 2022 edition of the TACC Cooperative Managers Conference is nearly upon us. We will again be in Ruidoso, New Mexico, July 13-15 hearing from interesting and invigorating speakers that will be sure to improve knowledge and "level up" the leadership abilities of our managers.

The conference begins with State Senator **Drew Springer** of Muenster talking on the current election cycle and how it relates to agriculture, as well as future legislation. We will also hear from **Ben Cheng** of El Paso Concealed Carry on "what-if" situations in our co-ops and start our series on cyberattacks with **Douglas Edwards** of Calcot.

Day 2 starts with a panel on labor automation, including **Dr. Ed Barnes** of Cotton, Inc. from Cary, NC. We come back to continue our conversation on cyberattacks, then hear from the co-op legal wiz, **Gary McLaren**.

Day 3 ends our conference with a national commodity outlook from **Tas Smith** of the National Cotton Council, we'll chat with **Shawn Fonville** of Western Texas College in Snyder on new teaching components offered at his school, then end the conference with **Dr. Darren Hudson and Dr. Donna McAllister** of Texas Tech.

Schedule

Day 1

Luncheon: 12-1 p.m.
Session 1: 1:15-5 p.m.
Reception: 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Day 2

Session 2: 8-11:30 a.m.
Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.
Golf and Washers: 12:30 p.m.

Day 3

Session 3: 8-11:30 a.m.

Cooperative Managers Conference

2022

July 13-15

Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort &
Casino

287 Carrizo Canyon Rd

Mescalero, NM

(575) 464-7777

INTERN UPDATES

M'Lane Cunningham - Willacy Co-Op

"I'm learning the ins and outs of a co-op from the store to bookkeeping in the office, while also keeping social media up to date and bringing more foot traffic in through that. I'm enjoying getting to have one on one conversations with all of the local farmers and ranchers while they explain to me what is going on around their homesteads."



Joseph Hanson - EdCot Co-Op Gin

"My name is Joseph Hanson, I am a management intern at EdCot Co-op Gin in Odem, Texas. I have really enjoyed my time here and I have learned a lot about the ins and outs of the cotton industry. This internship has given me the vital experience I need to be a good manager in any industry. The most important thing I have learned this summer is how to get out of my comfort zone in order to meet employees where they are, and motivate them to get the job done."



Juan Gonzalez - Perryton Equity Exchange

"I am currently at Perryton Equity Exchange where I am interning to be an agronomist. I shadow the senior agronomist and even get to go out on my own to put my knowledge to the test. I primarily gather chemicals for spraying applications, gather crop samples, and help make prescriptions for pest control in fields."



Conner Neumann - Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

"This summer I have learned a tremendous amount about policy and association work, all while seeing cooperatives function in real-time. Taking this summer with the Cooperative Council has allowed me to develop myself while also using my studies in education, management, and design to benefit the Council. I can't wait to see what the remainder of the summer holds!"

Bo Thompson - Central Rolling Plains Co-Op & Farmers Co-Op Gin (Anson)

"I have just finished up a one month internship with the Central Rolling Plains Co-op in Roscoe, Texas. The internship has helped me get an inside look at the cotton industry and discover the many functions I did not know and work with some really great people. I'm super excited to continue learning as much as I can in the month of July as I will be continuing my internship at the Farmers Co-op Gin in Anson, Texas."



FROM
OUR

facebook

Quick Facts



We averaged nearly **1,200 views** a week on our Facebook posts in the last month, with one week receiving 1,569, another 979, and another 813 views



Our most interacted posts center around **current agricultural events**



In the past month, we have received **135 likes** on our daily facebook posts

Most Interaction-Single Post

Sharing a report that gave an outlook on fuel prices over the next six months garnered the most attention on our Facebook, reaching nearly **1,000 people**. Below is the text of the post:

"According to an AgWeb article by Jim Wiesemeyer, the price of diesel has jumped 37% in the past 10 weeks. The article also tackles several potential remedies for our energy crisis, with the leading solution being a rebate to combat fuel prices. For the full story follow the link below: <https://www.agweb.com/news/business/taxes-and-finance/diesel-prices-jump-37-10-weeks-gas-prices-projected-hit-620-august>"

CALENDAR

July

- 12-15** Texas State FFA Convention, Fort Worth
- 13-15** **TACC Cooperative Managers' Conference, Ruidoso, NM**
- 17-19 Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Workshop, Granbury
- 20 Texas Cotton Producers Board of Directors Meeting, Austin

September

- 1** **TACC Award Applications Due**
- 5** **Labor Day Holiday**
- 7-8** **TACC Board Meeting, Lubbock**
- 20 Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Annual Meeting, Lubbock

November

- 6 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 8 General (Midterm) Election Day
- 9-10** **TACC South Texas Cooperative Leadership Conference, Corpus Christi**
- 24-25** **Thanksgiving Holidays**

December

- 23-26** **Christmas Holidays**

THE RIGHT TO FARM

Several Recent Events Causes Hot Button Issues to Surface for Ag Commodity Groups in Texas

Several weeks ago, 36 select ag science teachers came to Austin to get a better understanding of ag advocacy. Numerous key issues were outlined by TACC and other ag commodity groups. Shortly thereafter, the Texas House Agriculture and Livestock Committee held an interim committee hearing to flush out a few issues destined for the January 2023 State Legislative Session in Austin.

Repeatedly, several key topics came to the surface, but the biggest of them all dealt with the **Right to Farm Act**. This will be one of the top issues for the Texas Farm Bureau. Simply stated, *this legislation says that if you have a farm or ranch operation, such as a large hog feeding facility or poultry houses, and then a town moves in around your operation, you are immune to most public nuisance ordinances such as odor and land use.* This law is now being challenged by several municipalities in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Three cases were cited as examples.

In one case, a farmer showed up one morning to plant corn on property within Midlothian (*southeast of Fort Worth*) city limits. As he arrived and began to make some adjustments on his planter, a new neighbor across the fence came for a visit and inquired what the farmer was doing. The farmer responded that he was planting his field of corn. The neighbor bowed up and shot back that the corn would ruin his treasured view! This case was challenged in court. Further, the neighbor informed the farmer that he would be broadcasting sunflower seeds on his field of corn if he continued planting.

In another case, a farmer rented some land from a corporation (*to be later used for expansion*) within the city limits to plant, cut and bale hay. Some time later, the farmer received a citation from the City of Farmers Branch noting that the grass had exceeded city height restrictions of 12 inches. Most in agriculture would agree, hay fields can have stands from a few feet to 6–8 feet tall. Not only did the farmer get cited thousands of dollars for exceeding grass height restrictions, but he also failed to remove the round bales from the field within 48 hours of bailing ---- another city code restriction!

Yet, there is another unbelievable case within the Metroplex, this time with "buffer zones." Some of the cities in the Metroplex require the farmer to set aside a buffer zone of the first 250 feet around the edge of the property where no farming activity can occur. How would you like to pay exceptional lease prices on 100 – 200 acres of land within the city limits and the first 250 feet must remain "farm inactive" and mowed short? Some are asking, "What Department of Stupidity" wrote this city code?

Perhaps this is why 65 ag commodity groups have legislative and regulatory representation in Austin, Texas!

FOSSIL FUTURE

TACC Strikes It Big ---- Landing TV Climate Change Celebrity

The Council has a reputation for landing some big fish when it comes to speakers for meetings. Many of these speakers are relatively unknown to most. As an example, TACC was the first ag commodity group in Texas to have Ted Cruz speak at their annual meeting. Later, he became the U. S. Senator from Texas. After that appearance, many were saying, "Wow, that guy was dynamic, where did TACC pull that rabbit out of the hat!" The same will be said of **Alex Epstein**, author of a new book called *Fossil Future*. He and his book have appeared on the *Rob Schmidt Tonight* cable TV news program three times, *The Kudlow Report*, and the *Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight* show.

Like many TACC speakers, this one had the same origin; TACC's **Tommy Engelke** was home one night thumbing through the TV channels and this guy popped up on the *Rob Schmidt Tonight* show. The next morning, TACC's **Christy Lewis** looked him up, reviewed some prior talks and podcasts, then called. A few minutes later, they were talking.

His take on climate change is different from others in recent years. He is a fresh face! In fact, he suggests we need climate change to occur in order to survive as a productive society. Further, he considers himself an energy expert and professes that nuclear is the future. He says that unlike the 1960's when nuclear facilities were built and safety concerns were real, today's facilities will survive explosions, wars and other risk-related attacks, and the energy is considerably more efficient. Epstein, a philosophy graduate of Duke University, was raised in Maryland and for the past 17 years has lived in California.

Several things sparked his interest to come to TACCs Joint Cooperative Meeting, March 12–14, 2023 at La Cantera Resort in San Antonio. One of the biggest, however, was it had never occurred to him that a farm audience would be the perfect fit for what he had to say. In short, this will be his first ag audience to ever address! Another huge feature to him was the concept of farmer ownership, via the co-op structure, of some of the largest food companies in America. He simply could not wrap his mind around that some of the larger co-ops in his own state of California like Sunkist & Blue Diamond Almonds are farmer-owned cooperatives.

OUT & ABOUT

WITH TACC

(Since May 11, 2022)

Since May we have...

- Hosted a TACC Executive Committee Meeting in Fredericksburg on May 12.
- Attended a Texas Ag Council Meeting of all ag commodity groups on May 31 at the State Capitol.
- Coordinated placing five interns at co-ops throughout Texas for the summer.
- Spoke to the Central Texas Grain & Feed Association annual meeting in Taylor on May 24.
- Hosted associate member Ag Workers Insurance summer interns to the State Capitol & ag commodity group offices on May 23 – 24.
- Attended a Texas A&M Cotton Engineering & Mechanization Chair Advisory Board meeting in College Station on May 25.
- Attended the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association South Texas Gin School in San Antonio on June 9.
- Assisted in hosting "Legislative Ag Day" for State Capitol staffers to the Luling Foundation Farm on June 9.
- Attended House Agriculture and Livestock Committee hearing on the "Right to Farm Act" on May 31.
- Hosted a South Texas Conference planning meeting in Corpus Christi on June 21.
- Attended a Sunset Advisory Commission meeting on TCEQ and State Soil & Water Conservation Board on June 22.
- Participated in Texas FFA Foundation "LEAD" program where 36 Ag Teachers learned more about ag advocacy on June 24.
- Attended the Texas Cotton Ginners Association Summer Meeting at Horseshoe Bay on June 27 – 28.
- Began exploring TACC office options once the current lease expires on December 31.

What will we be up to...

- Attending the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin School in Granbury on July 17 – 19.
- Attending both the Texas Cotton Producers Board Meeting and Cotton Board Caucus Meeting in Austin on July 20.
- Hosting TACC Member interns in Austin at the State Capitol and key ag stakeholders in early August.
- Preparing for the TACC Board of Directors Meeting at the Overton Hotel in Lubbock on September 7-8.
- Preparing the proposed 2022-2023 TACC Budget.
- Developing a TACC-PAC October 2022 Newsletter.
- Actively working the Fall General Election campaign season and making TACC-PAC contributions.
- Continue exploring TACC office options beginning January 1, 2023.



2023 TACC AWARDS

NOMINATIONS DUE SOON

It is now time to submit award applications for the **Cooperative Ginner of the Year Award** and the **Cooperator of the Year Award** for presentation at the 2023 Joint Cooperative Meeting to be held at La Cantera Resort in San Antonio. Please find the applications attached to this email newsletter and fill out for candidates you deem as an outstanding nominee for these awards and send them to TACC. The final date applications will be accepted is **September 1, 2022**. Please contact TACC (512-450-0555) if you have further questions or concerns about the applications process.

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL'S

Cooperative Ginner of the Year Award Application

I wish to submit the name of _____ of _____, Texas, for the honor of Cooperative Ginner of the Year.

I understand that the award will be made at the Joint Cooperative Meeting in March 2023, and the award is a plaque.

Facts in support of my nominee are as follows:

(1) _____ is an employee of the _____, a cooperative gin which has had a current active ginning season (2021).

***(2) Reasons for submitting my nominee are provided in the enclosed written report.**

(3) One or more letters (*addressed to the selection committee*) supporting the nominee's selection. (*These letters may come from friends, business associates, civic and community leaders, church groups, cooperative officials, or others.*)

*** PLEASE REFER TO THE EVALUATION SHEET. THE COMMITTEE WILL FOLLOW THIS GUIDE IN SELECTING THE WINNER.**

This nomination must be completed and returned to the TACC office by September 1, 2022.

Submitted by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

COOPERATIVE GINNER OF THE YEAR EVALUATION SHEET

	<u>MAXIMUM POINTS</u>	<u>POINTS SCORED</u>
1. <u>Service to their patrons by:</u>	40	_____
a. Efficient and quality ginning.		
b. Ethical cooperative business standards.		
c. Improvements for customers' benefits.		
d. Assistance and cooperation on miscellaneous problems related with harvesting and ginning of cotton.		
e. Providing leadership to local membership education and public relations programs.		
f. Patronizing regional cooperatives where available.		
2. <u>Service to all branches of the cotton industry through support and leadership of constructive activities and programs such as:</u>	25	_____
a. Information and advice to producer on latest production methods, seed treatment, fertilization, and proper soil preparation and cultivation.		
b. Preparation of bale for compress.		
c. Preparation of cottonseed for oil milling.		
d. Preparation of cotton for better marketing.		
3. <u>Service to the people of their community, county and state such as:</u>	20	_____
a. Civic leadership and church activities.		
b. Cooperation with other farm organizations in the community, either on a club or individual basis.		
c. Attendance at farmer cooperative meetings or other meetings where problems of farmer cooperatives are discussed.		
d. Active participation in youth education activities such as 4-H Clubs, Vocational Agriculture, etc.		
4. <u>Story or narrative submitted in support of applicant.</u> <i>(Additional letters of recommendation may be included.)</i>	10	_____
5. <u>State Cooperative Association membership.</u>	<u>5</u>	_____
TOTAL	100	_____

APPLICANT: _____

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL'S

Cooperator of the Year Award Application

I wish to submit the name of _____ of _____, Texas, for the honor of **COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR**. I believe they are duly qualified for this honor because of the years of service spent in serving their cooperative and community. I understand the award will be presented at the Joint Cooperative Meeting in March 2023, and the award will be a specially designed plaque.

Facts in support of the nominee should include:

- *(1) A narrative (*written report*) listing the nominee's service and accomplishments in their occupation, cooperative, community, and other groups.
- *(2) A narrative (*written report*) giving a complete listing of education, family, past and present professional organization affiliations, and complete work record of the nominee.
- (3) One or more letters (*addressed to the selection committee*) supporting the nominee's selection. These letters may come from friends, business associates, civic and community leaders, church groups, cooperative officials, or others.

*** PLEASE REFER TO THE EVALUATION SHEET. THE COMMITTEE WILL FOLLOW THIS GUIDE IN SELECTING THE WINNER.**

This nomination must be completed and returned to the TACC office by September 1, 2022.

Submitted by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR EVALUATION SHEET

	MAXIMUM POINTS	POINTS SCORED
1. Cooperative industry leadership accomplishments:	15	_____
a. Willing to serve in cooperative leadership roles.		
b. Active in cooperative promotion and development.		
c. Active in cooperative trade associations and regional cooperatives.		
d. Encourages employees/directors/others to be positive about the cooperative form of business.		
2. Commodity/industry accomplishments:	10	_____
a. Willing to serve in industry leadership roles.		
b. Active in issues/organizations affecting his industry.		
c. Willing to make a difference in industry's future.		
3. Cooperative management or board leadership success:	20	_____
a. Successful history of management or board leadership.		
b. Efficiency, profitability, quality, results oriented.		
c. Personal/professional style achieves results with largest consensus agreement possible.		
4. Director and management relationship accomplishments:	15	_____
a. Understands, accepts, and works toward a constructive relationship between board and management.		
b. Manages communication well between management/board.		
c. Understands/respects appropriate roles of management vs. board.		
d. Specific accomplishments in this area can be identified.		
5. Farmer/member focus and accomplishments:	15	_____
a. Understands cooperative is to benefit farmer/owner members.		
b. Respects farmer owned/controlled/benefit principles.		
c. Specific accomplishments in this area can be identified.		
6. Personal and community accomplishments:	10	_____
a. Involvement in civic, church, and youth education activities.		
b. Leadership roles accepted/executed in this area.		
c. Specific accomplishments in this area can be identified.		
7. Contribution to cooperatives overall:	15	_____
a. Is this person's contribution significant?		
b. Does this person make a "difference" in the cooperative industry?		
c. Does this person strive to improve the success of his cooperative and to reach beyond his own cooperative to extend cooperative benefits to others?		
TOTAL	100	_____

APPLICANT: _____

Should this application be carried over to next year if not chosen this year? Yes No

Should a Distinguished Service Award be considered as an alternative this year? Yes No

The presidents' committee shall have the option to "carry over" applications that did not win in the current year. Submitter shall be contacted next year to see if application again is acceptable and to update information.