

AUGUST



2016

news

Fiscal Year End Board Meeting Comes to *Lubbock* with Plenty of Tradition!

With TACCs 2015-2016 fiscal year quickly coming to an end, the September TACC Board Meeting will serve as the final chance for all board members to come together and brainstorm and give direction for the coming year.

TACCs September Board Meeting will be held at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center (806-776-7000) on September 7-8. We have secured a special room rate of \$109 single and double, but to ensure this rate, please contact the hotel or reserve a room online (<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1621791&hotelID=74387>). If you need assistance with hotel reservations contact **Christy Lewis** at christy@texas.coop or 512-450-0555 by **Tuesday, August 23, 2016 to reserve a room.**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	TACC Executive Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	TACC Division Meetings
3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.	TACC Committee Meetings
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Reception

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Full TACC Board of Directors Meeting
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A packed agenda Includes:

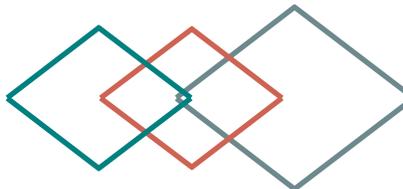
- ◆ Approving the 2016-2017 Budget;
- ◆ Conduct initial planning of several co-op conferences;
- ◆ Hear the results from the August 2016 TACC strategic plan and take steps in Division and Committee meetings to address opportunities noted;
- ◆ Review Council operations and establish the program agenda for the new year;
- ◆ Hear from TACC interns regarding their co-op experiences; and
- ◆ Hear from agency personnel and West Texas leaders and legislators.

2016 - 2017 TACC *Award* Applications

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 2017 Joint Cooperative Meeting to be held in Frisco in March. The final date applications will be accepted is September 1, 2016. Please contact TACC (512-450-0555) if you have further questions or concerns about the application process.

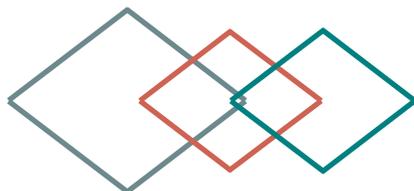
The Past Five *Cooperator of the Year* Winners:

- 2015 – **John Dunlap**, Farmers Cooperative Compress – Lubbock
- 2014 – **Lonnie Winters**, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association – Lubbock
- 2013 – **Ron Harkey**, Farmers Cooperative Compress – Lubbock
- 2012 – **David Fields**, Gulf Compress – Corpus Christi
- 2011 – **James Deatherage**, Producers Cooperative Association – Bryan



The Past Five *Cooperative Ginner of the Year* Winners:

- 2015 – **Randy Reid**, TriCounty Producers Cooperative – Loop
- 2014 – **Bob Ballard**, Farmers Cooperative Association #1 – Tahoka
- 2013 – **Marvin McCaul**, Maple Cooperative Gin - Maple
- 2012 – **Glenn Throckmorton**, Midkiff Farmers Cooperative, Inc. – Midkiff
- 2011 – **Sid Brough**, EdCot Co-op Gin – Odem



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

1210 San Antonio Street; Suite 101
Austin, Texas 78701
512-450-0555 - Phone
512-450-0655 - Fax
www.texas.coop

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Largest crowd in 25 years made their way to Ruidoso, New Mexico for *Two* Manager Conferences!

A successful run in Ruidoso, New Mexico brought the largest crowd and high evaluation marks in years. With 68 co-ops, university, and industry members represented, including family members; nearly 185 people attended. A panel of TACCs summer interns and 11 speakers spoke during the Managers' Conference and ten industry leaders presented during the half-day New Managers Conference. These two conferences were made possible with donations from 35 sponsors.

For the Managers' Conference, TACC brought in speakers from all over the United States; including co-op favorites **Gary McLaren** with Phillips and McLaren, LLP and **Gail Faries** with D. Williams and Company, state legislative updates, and an outlook for the 2017 Legislative Session from **Ed Small**, of the Jackson Walker law firm and a national legislative update from **Dana Brooks**, of Land O'Lakes. **Shane Stephens** with the National Cotton Council gave an update on the cotton industry, and **Daniel Berglund**, with the Texas Grain Producers Indemnity Board, gave an update on the grain indemnity fund.

Trey Rice, Program Coordinator for Web-Based Technologies with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service enlightened the group on how to create a "mobile-friendly" website, while NFL Super Bowl V Champion **Norm Bulaich** entertained the crowd with stories from his playing days. A crowd-pleaser from the 2015 Board Chair Conference, **Dr. Tom Field** who holds the Paul Engler Chair in Agribusiness Entrepreneurship at the University of Nebraska, presented the group with a message that parallels the teachings of the management book "Small Giants." **Tim McDonald**, CEO of AgTexas Farm Credit Services discussed the difficulties of financing producers during hard times. Agricultural technologist and owner of Colby AgTech, **Chad Colby**, brought new and upcoming technologies to the group with an exciting presentation of drones and other innovations and the different uses of them.

18th Anniversary of Board Chairmen's Conference Proves to be a *Successful* Run!

With the second largest crowd in its history, great speakers and sponsors who support TACCs efforts, the Board Chairmen's Conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico, July 20-22 was a huge success.

After receiving high remarks at the 2015 Co-op Managers' Conference, TACC asked **Brad Perry**, President of Perry and Associates in Omaha, Nebraska, to expose the audience to all the dynamics, finance, and economics at play in agriculture. Also addressing the crowd was **Raleigh Ward**, Board Chair at regional feed and farm supply co-op, Southern States Cooperative, in Richmond Virginia, who gave his personal view on being a board chair. Other crowd favorites included: **Gary McLaren**, **Dr. John Park** and **Tommy Engelke**.

TALL Program Selects *New Class*...continues with co-op *representatives*!

Twenty-four agriculturalists have been named to the 2016-2018 Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) XV program, by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. One of these representatives is **Daniel Luehrs** of EdCot Co-op Gin in Odem. Luehrs, a Texas A&M University 2012 ag systems management graduate and a 2014 masters degree recipient in the same discipline, interned with Gulf Coast Co-op in Robstown, at Smith Gin Co-op in Odem, and United Cotton Growers in Levelland during his college days and upon graduation worked in a cotton gin in Australia for nearly a year.

The recent TALL graduating class had several co-op representatives in it:

- ◆ **Sandra Choate** of Ag Workers Insurance in Ft. Worth, a TACC associate member,
- ◆ **Dustin Cleavinger** of Lazbuddie with AgTexas Farm Credit Service,
- ◆ **Travis Thorne** of Bowie with Capital Farm Credit, and
- ◆ **Cody White** of Lubbock with CoBank.

TACC *Partners* with TRAK-1 to *Enhance* Its Employment Screening Services

One of the lesser prominent, but highly – heralded member benefits of TACC is employee background screening services. TACC currently partners with **TRAK-1**, used and recommended by the Texas Oil and Gas Association, headed by former Texas Ag Commissioner, **Todd Staples**. TRAK-1 is an accredited provider of background screening, to enable industries to safely, securely and quickly screen employees for their workforce. Not to mention, all Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council members will receive a discount on all screening needs!

It's easy to get started! Simply visit www.trak-1.com/r/tacc and complete the contact form. A representative from TRAK-1 will contact you shortly and set up an account with your co-op or you may contact **Christy Lewis** at 512-450-0555 or christy@texas.coop with any questions.

Highest Ranked Whistleblower Executive in U.S. History to Address TACC...

Mark Whitacre holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University and is the highest-ranked executive of a Fortune 500 company to ever become a whistleblower in U.S. history. His story of corruption, bravery, double-dealing, then triple-dealing, became the subject of the hit 2009 Hollywood film, *The Informant*, starring Matt Damon. It received four Golden Globe nominations.

Whitacre, a high-level executive at Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) witnessed corporate greed at its best and agreed to be an informant to help the FBI develop a case against ADM. He wore a wire for the FBI every day for three years to build what would become the largest price-fixing case in American history---all while perpetrating his own fraud, stealing \$9 million right under the watchful eyes of the FBI. When confronted, Whitacre denied any wrongdoing, thus losing his immunity from prosecution and his claim as an American hero. He served nearly nine years in a federal penitentiary for his crime---all the while his wife and three children stood by his side.

Despite his wrongdoing, the industry overall was grateful to Whitacre for breaking the case. As a result of Whitacre's efforts, many feed manufacturers were returned significant compensation from settlements as a result of price-fixing claims filed on their behalf. Many companies even shared a portion of their settlements with Whitacre's family to help financially support them while he was in prison.

This story is the ultimate real-life lesson in business ethics---but it's also about hope, family commitment, redemption and second chances. You won't want to miss this compelling story! The Farm Credit Bank of Texas in Austin has stepped forward and agreed to sponsor Whitacre to TACC's Joint Cooperative Meeting in Frisco, March 12-14, 2017.

Whitacre joins two other confirmed and sponsored top-shelf performers: **Lisa Whelchel**, a Littlefield, Texas-born Hollywood actress who played on "The Facts of Life," *Different Strokes*," "Survivor," and "The Love Boat" and **Moe Russell** (sponsored by CHS, Inc.), the nation's foremost ag economist.

TACC 2016 Summer Interns *Conclude* with a Trip to Austin

The 2016 TACC summer co-op interns finished their internship with a trip to the TACC Cooperative Managers' Conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico on July 6-8 and a trip to Austin on August 2-3. In Austin, they were introduced to the legislative and regulatory environment faced by co-op businesses. The students met with several state agencies, the State Capitol, and took in some BBQ and a Round Rock Express baseball game! While in Austin it was not all fun and games, these young adults were also given a "mock" interview to prepare them for the future and a group "exit" interview.



Interns meeting with **Dan Hunter** at the Texas Department of Agriculture

Interns meeting with **Robert Wood** at the State Comptrollers Office.



This year's interns were:

- ◆ **Mitch Brewer**, Dalhart Consumers Co-op, Dalhart – West Texas A&M
- ◆ **Alex (John) Eveler**, Producers Co-op Elevator, Floydada and Slaton Co-op Gin, Slaton – Texas Tech University
- ◆ **Aaron Herring**, Hereford Grain Corporation, Hereford and United Agricultural Cooperative, El Campo – Tarleton State University
- ◆ **Audrey Irwin**, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, Corpus Christi – Tarleton State University
- ◆ **Baili McCaslin**, Consumers Supply Cooperative, Canyon – West Texas A&M
- ◆ **Karessa Nordyke**, Texhoma Wheat Growers, Texhoma – West Texas A&M

TACC: OUT & ABOUT (Since June 27, 2016)

- ✓ Facilitated TACCs New Manager and Managers' Conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico July 6 - 8.
- ✓ Initiated work on several economic footprint placemats.
- ✓ Attended Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Board of Directors dinner / retreat in Austin July 12.
- ✓ Participated in the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Agents School in Ruidoso, New Mexico July 17 - 19.
- ✓ Conducted TACC Board Chairmen's Conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico July 20 - 22.
- ✓ Coordinated activities for TACC's six summer co-op interns and hosted them to Austin on August 2 - 3.
- ✓ Assisted in new hires at several co-ops throughout the state.

Will Be:

- ◇ Preparing the 2016 - 2017 TACC budget for consideration at the September board of directors meeting.
- ◇ Attending a Cotton Board Women's Tour to Cary, NC August 14 - 16.
- ◇ TACC will be making a strategic planning presentation to the board of Winter Garden Co-op Gin in Batesville on August 17 and Wall Co-op Gin on September 21.
- ◇ Attending the "Celebrate Cotton" activities on September 17 in Lubbock.
- ◇ Preparing for the November 2-3 TACC South Texas Co-op Manager / Director Conference in Corpus Christi and hosting a joint fundraiser with the Texas Grain and Feed Association for U.S. House Ag Committee Chair, **Mike Conaway** on November 3 in Corpus Christi.
- ◇ Helping to coordinate a TACC strategic plan in Marble Falls on August 18-19.
- ◇ Attending a **Dr. Calvin Parnell**, holder of the Gin Engineering and Mechanization Chair at Texas A&M University, retirement luncheon in College Station on August 26.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

September

- 5: Labor Day Holiday
- 7-8: **TACC Board of Directors Meeting - Lubbock**
- 17: "Celebrate Cotton" --- Louisiana Tech at Texas Tech football game - Lubbock
- 21: Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Annual Meeting - Lubbock

November

- 2-3: **TACC South Texas Cooperative Manager / Director Conference - Corpus Christi**
- 11: Veteran's Day Holiday
- 14: PYCO Industries Annual Meeting - Lubbock
- 24-25: Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 23-26: Christmas Holiday

2017

February

- 6: **TACC Director Development Program - Amarillo**
- 9: **TACC Director Development Program - Lubbock**
- 10-12: National Cotton Council Annual Meeting - Dallas
- 15-17: National Co-op Convention - Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

March

- 12-14: **TACC Joint Cooperative Meeting - Frisco**

"NO is an answer, but it is not a solution!"

R) State Representative Drew Darby of San Angelo responding to a question regarding his take on some of the newly-elected state representatives from the March 2016 Primary Election --- while speaking at the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association summer membership meeting in San Antonio, Texas on Tuesday morning, June 28, 2016. Referencing that work in Austin by elected leaders and in Washington D.C. should be all about give and take, working together, seeking good policy, and coming to reasonable conclusions on issues for all parties concerned.