

Stout Program Driving Expected Big Crowd to Ruidoso Co-op School

If plans continue as is, nearly 200 people are expected to invade the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort (575-464-7777) in Ruidoso, NM for TACCs annual Cooperative Managers' Conference on July 11 – 13, 2018. Some 13 high-powered speakers will dominate the program with a focus on attacking labor shortage issues in agribusinesses. In addition, an individual that works at the regional sugarcane co-op in the Rio Grande Valley and serves as their safety and compliance officer, will discuss OSHA inspections and how to deal with them. He also trains OSHA safety inspectors.

Other features will be the topic of dealing with a variety of personality types and will be handled by a nationally - recognized leader on the subject. The point – person from Washington D. C. behind all the controversy over the new IRS tax law on Section 199 / 199A will also be with us. One of the “sleeper” topics that will likely blow people away will be on how to begin planning a long – term effort for eventual retirement, what questions to ask if you are about to retire, and how to / how not to file for social security. There are big differences!

“What’s surprising to me about this conference”, says TACCs **Tommy Engelke**, “is how this conference has grown in recent years even though agribusinesses continue to merge --- go figure!”

The traditional golf outing and washer pitching contest will continue as always on Thursday afternoon, while others will enjoy the cool weather, dining, and shopping up and down the valley.

Hard Times Demand Committed Directors --- TACCs Co-op Board Chair Conference to Accommodate

TACCs **Tommy Engelke** says, “In my 20 some odd years of hosting this school, I don’t recall a conference with the executive level talent that will be speaking at this one! If there is ever a time to come to this conference, this is the year to do it. The talent is over-flowing!”

Two of the speakers will be professional presenters on the topics of “A Perfect 10: Keys to an Effective Board” and another on “Your Role at Managing the Board, Directing a Culture, and Connecting People”. This will be a dynamite forum! However, the most interesting session will be one requested in past evaluations: an interactive panel discussion titled “Situational Workshop 101 --- Addressing Complex Co-op Issues”.

Of course, the highly-popular co-op attorney **Gary McLaren** will be present to state his legal case examples pertinent specifically to co-op board chairs. Perhaps one of the most anticipated speakers will be the first one --- a large millennial Iowa farmer that once spent more than a decade in the technology department at John Deere all over the world and who calls himself “the largest cotton producer in Iowa”. He’ll explain!

The conference will run from July 25 – 27 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort in Ruidoso, NM. (575-464-7777). To register and secure your hotel room, please contact Christy in the TACC office.

The conference is designed for only one director per co-op and if the president cannot come, chairs are encouraged to send a designee!



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TACC to **Host** Co-op New Managers Conference in July --- an **Every Other** Year Conference

Unlike many other Council conferences and seminars, TACCs Co-op New Managers Conference is much more laid back, low – profile, and yet seems to get the most chatter every time it is held. This year should be no different! The school is designed for co-op managers new to their role within the last two years, mid-level and assistant managers with a promising future, newer supervisory personnel needing to get a jump start on Co-op 101, and TACCs summer co-op interns.

This year's conference will be held from 8 a.m. – Noon, Wednesday, July 11, 2018 just ahead of the TACC Co-op Managers Conference and presenters will mostly include our own seasoned co-op general managers. However, we'll also include academia and the ever – popular co-op attorney **Gary McLaren**.

Presentations will include from a banker's perspective, learning to work with a board, what some seasoned CEOs would do if they could start their career all over again, how to keep the company strategic, and many others.

If you have someone on your staff that would do well at such a conference, it's not too late to call the TACC office and get them registered!

TACC Facebook Posts (In an effort to more fully communicate the Council's activities to those that do not follow TACCs Facebook, we are repeating some of the earlier posts of the last two months.)



May 29, 2018

Staying in the co-op family --- Chance Crossland, a 2008 Texas A&M University in Animal Science graduate from Floydada, Texas, recently worked as the Agronomy Operations Manager at Producers Cooperative Association in Bryan. He recently accepted a position in sales at PYCO Industries, Inc. in Lubbock, Texas.

May 8, 2018

A few ag commodity groups including TACC and the Texas Farm Bureau will be meeting with Austin's leading political newspaper (The Texas Tribune) editor Evan Smith this morning. The Texas Tribune is proposing a "Rural Symposium" in College Station on November 11 – 12 and has requested input into the executive level program by the ag community. Topics such as rural representation, rural road funding, education, health care, property rights, water use and ownership are all possibilities on the table.

May 10, 2018

Several ag commodity groups including TACC and the Texas Association of Dairymen are renting a bus and hosting nearly 130 State Capitol staffers to the Luling Foundation Farm today to learn more about agriculture and where their food comes from. Program runs from 10:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and will include House Ag Committee Chairman Tracy King of Uvalde and topics on animal welfare demonstrations, feral hog control, pesticide use, gun safety, a game warden, and a discussion on proper use of eminent domain.

May 21, 2018

Producers Cooperative Association in Bryan, Texas, last week, ran its 1,000th episode of "From the Ground Up". One of the largest farm supply co-ops in the nation with nearly 10,000 producer – members, the organization has been airing the weekly TV show for 19 years to educate the public about where their food comes from. Co-op Manager James Deatherage produces the show.

May 30, 2018

DID YOU KNOW ... TACCs point person at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas for its annual Co-op Internship program is Dr. Mallory Vestal, one of its three agricultural economics professors. The Oklahoma State University graduate is also the APPOINTED director on the 11 – member Amarillo-based farm credit co-op board known as Panhandle – Plains Land Bank.

June 1, 2018

Effective today, June 1, 2018, the health insurance provider for many agribusinesses in Texas ---- Texas Ag Co-op Trust ---- has a new name. It's called "AgBenefits" to more accurately reflect its membership reach, which is much more than agricultural cooperatives. Kim Maxwell, serves as CEO of the Amarillo – based organization that can be accessed at <https://www.youragbenefits.com/> or (806) 731-4740.

June 4, 2018

The Senate Ag Committee is holding hearings today and tomorrow at the State Capitol to cover impacts of the increased Texas Department of Agriculture fees last year, groundwater and surface water issues impacting agriculture, and monitoring bills that passed during the 2017 State Legislative Session. TACC and other ag groups will be attending and testifying during the meetings.

June 7, 2018 (afternoon)

Did you see two co-op leaders on RFD – TV "Rural Evening News" last night at 6:30 p.m.? Both Daniel Gavronovic, the board president of United Ag Co-op in El Campo and David Wyatt, the general manager of Bayside – Richardson Co-op Gin in Woodsboro, were featured in a six - minute segment regarding the comeback of the cotton industry in 2018 from the August 2017 Hurricane Harvey destruction. A great human interest feature!

June 14, 2018

Famous FFA legend, State Senator, and former U. S. Congressman Bill Sarpalius, who grew up at Boys Ranch, just northwest of Amarillo, was in Austin recently, at a book-signing event for his April 2018 – released autobiography titled "The Grand Duke from Boys Ranch". He was elected State FFA President at the July 1968 State FFA Convention in Lubbock. The night before --- at that same convention --- an unassuming high school kid from South Texas brought the house down and won the State FFA Talent Contest singing the country music song "Kaw-liga". The kid's name was George Strait!

June 28, 2018

The first bale of cotton in the United States was delivered to Willacy Co-op in Raymondville on June 13th. Manager of the co-op is Chris Breedlove who is hosting two TACC summer interns for the first time. Both interns are from Texas A&M University, Thomas Human of Port Isabel and Zachary Matthews of Anton.

June 27, 2018

DID YOU KNOW: that the states' tax collector, budgeter and the one that pays all the states' bills --- the State Comptroller --- (Glen Hegar) is a farmer, has an ag law degree, AND two of his top three key lieutenants have an ag economics degree?



TACC: OUT & ABOUT

- ✓ Conducted an educational forum for **Jordan Grier** and Taylor Compress in Austin on May 17 along with co-op attorney **Gary McLaren**, and PCCAs **Cris Gwinn**.
- ✓ Participated in the Cooperative Communications Association (CCA) Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, June 2-5.
- ✓ Attended Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Workshop in Corpus Christi, June 7-8.
- ✓ Attended a Texas A&M Cotton Engineering Chair Advisory Board Meeting in College Station on June 13 - 14. **Jimmy Roppolo** of United Ag Co-op in El Campo chairs the group, but is also represented by TACC, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, and Farmers Cooperative Compress of Lubbock.
- ✓ Assisted TACCs five summer co-op in getting established in their host locations throughout the state.
- ✓ Prepared for TACCs two co-op conferences to be held in July in Ruidoso, New Mexico.
- ✓ Hosted associate member Ag Workers Insurance four interns to the State Capitol, TACC, several state agencies, and a number of statewide ag associations June 18-20 to learn more about state government.
- ✓ Conducted a planning meeting for the October 31 - November 1 TACC South Texas Cooperative Leadership Conference on July 2 at Gulf Compress in Corpus Christi.
- ✓ Facilitated a 90 - minute kick-off group dynamics workshop at a week - long leadership camp of approximately 120 people representing multiple electric cooperatives in East Texas. It was held at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall on June 25.
- ✓ Attended the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Summer Membership Meeting in Frisco, June 25-26.
- ✓ Participated in the Cotton Board's Women's Tour to Cary, North Carolina, June 24 - 26.

Will Be:

- ◇ Preparing the 2018 - 2019 TACC budget for consideration at the September 2018 Board of Directors Meeting on September 5-6 in Lubbock.
- ◇ Attending Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Workshop in Ruidoso, NM on July 15 - 17.
- ◇ Hosting TACC's Managers' Conference on July 11-13 in Ruidoso, NM.
- ◇ Hosting TACC's Board Chair Conference on July 25-27 in Ruidoso, NM.
- ◇ Attending an AgBenefits (*formerly the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Trust*) Board Meeting on July 11.
- ◇ Attending a Cotton Inc. Caucus meeting on July 19 and a Texas Cotton Producers board meeting in Austin.
- ◇ Hosting TACC's five summer co-op interns to Austin in early August to learn about state government, receive a mock interview and to conduct an exit interview.
- ◇ Confirming numerous speakers for the October 31- November 1, 2018 South Texas Co-op Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018

July

- 11 TACC New Managers Conference - Ruidoso, NM.
- 11 - 13 TACC Cooperative Managers Conference - Ruidoso, NM.
- 15 - 17 Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Workshop - Ruidoso, NM.
- 18 - 19 Texas Cotton Producers Board Meeting - Austin
- 25 - 27 TACC Cooperative Board Chair Conference - Ruidoso, NM.

August

- 5 - 8 National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives National Convention - Austin

September

- 3 TACC Labor Day Holiday
- 5 - 6 TACC Board of Directors Meeting - Lubbock
- 15 Texas Tech University vs Houston Cougars Celebrate Cotton weekend - Lubbock
- 19 Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Annual Meeting - Lubbock

October

- October 31 - November 1 TACC South Texas Leadership Conference (*formerly known as the TACC South Texas Cooperative Manager / Director Conference*) - Corpus Christi

November

- 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 12 PYCO Industries, Inc. Annual Meeting - Lubbock
- 22-23 TACC Thanksgiving Holidays

