



# ACPA Newsletter

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## Industrial Hemp in Arkansas

By: Terry Walker, Director, Arkansas State Plant Board

Act 981 of the 2017 regular session of the Arkansas Legislature was adopted and codified as A.C.A. 2-15-401 thru 2-15-412 to create a research program to assess the agricultural and economic potential of industrial hemp production in Arkansas. The responsibility for administering the program was assigned to the Plant Board. Since the law became effective on August 1, 2017, the Plant Board has been researching and reviewing activities in other states. The activities provided a basis to start the process for developing a set of regulations for administering the program.

As members of the public have become aware of the law and the establishment of the research program, many calls have been received requesting information on securing a permit to grow/process hemp. The Plant Board staff is developing a list of interested parties to provide notification and offer opportuni-

ties for participation in development of regulations.

Within a few weeks, a meeting will be held with those interested parties to discuss the rough draft proposal and seek input in order to secure proper participation from the regulated industry in developing the regulations. The goal will be to develop regulations that are effective but not be overly burdensome to the development of the industry. Following that exercise, the regulations will enter the promulgation phase. The regulations will be presented to the governor for review and, if approved, will proceed to a public hearing. The final step will be review by the legislative council and filing with the Secretary of State to become effective.

The ultimate goal is to have regulations in place and allow for establishment of research projects for the 2018 growing season.



Industrial hemp crop mature



Harvesting industrial hemp

## Cotton Variety Trials are Available

By: Dr. Bill Robertson, Cotton Agronomist, UA Division of Agriculture

Many producers are in the process of booking seed for next year. There are several new varieties in new technologies that are worthy of a look. Variety selection is perhaps the most important decision a producer makes. Once planted, no amount of worry, work, or money can make up for a poor decision. Our recommendations for planting are that roughly two-thirds of your acres be planted with varieties that are proven on your farm. Of the remaining acres, limit new varieties to no more than 10% of your total

acreage. The remaining 25% should be dedicated to those varieties in which you have limited experience. This strategy provides stability while allowing for evaluation of new varieties.

There are a number of unbiased information sources available to assist in selecting new varieties. Our primary source is the University Variety Testing Program. Results from the Arkansas Trials conducted by Dr. Fred Bourland may be found at <http://arkansasvarietytesting.com/home/cotton/> soon.

A great deal of information is

collected and presented in a way to help evaluate fiber quality, maturity, growth characteristics, and other variety traits as well as yield. County data will also be included in the University Variety Testing Program publication. Don't restrict yourself to your home state or area. In Arkansas, it is appropriate to evaluate variety performance trials from neighboring states in the Mid-South. Evaluating the consistency of a variety under a wide array of conditions will be beneficial.

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January 16-18, 2018,*

## ACPA Elections at Arkansas Crop Management Conference

ACPA will hold elections on Tuesday at the annual meeting at 5pm. Brad Koen with BASF has been nominated for President elect and, if elected, will serve as ACMC program chair. Chris Grimes will be nominated for President. Jarrod Hardke will be nominated to continue as Vice President. Dr. Terry Spurlock has been nominated for the board and continuing as Scholarship Chair. Mallory Everett, Valent, has been nominated for the board serving as Industry Representative. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

## Planting Non-Commercial Cotton Requires Waiver by State Plant Board

By: Adriane Barnes, Arkansas Department of Agriculture



**The Boll Weevil, an invasive pest that is capable of devastating damage to our cotton crop**

The boll weevil, an invasive pest that causes devastating damage to cotton crops, was successfully eradicated from Arkansas in 2006 after years of collaborative efforts between cotton producers and the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. To help the state retain its boll weevil-free status, the Boll Weevil Eradication Act requires that non-commercial cotton may not be planted without a waiver from the State Plant Board. Non-commercial cotton is defined as cotton intended for any purposes other than sale. When individuals plant non-commercial cotton outside of monitored areas, they are creating the risk of reintroducing a boll weevil popu-

lation in Arkansas. "Cotton seed should not be distributed or planted outside of commercial areas if we want the monitoring system in place for boll weevil prevention to continue working," says State Plant Board Director Terry Walker. "Our cotton producers have invested millions of dollars in a successful boll weevil eradication program, and we remain committed to preventing the pest from threatening our crop again," he said. Teachers, civic groups, travel center managers, and others should consider alternatives to planting small gardens and demonstration areas of cotton, or should go through the process of having the seed regis-

tered and monitored by the State Plant Board. Contact State Plant Board officials to request waivers by calling 501-225-1598 or emailing Scott.Bray@aspb.ar.gov or Mark.Stoll@aspb.ar.gov.

The boll weevil is an invasive beetle that feeds on the squares (flower buds), blooms, and boll of cotton plants. Boll weevil is transported most commonly by the movement of farming equipment and vehicles, or weather events such as hurricanes. Quick identification of the weevil is the best way to prevent it from re-establishing a population in Arkansas, which is accomplished through actively monitored traps.

## 2018 Scholarship Auction at Arkansas Crop Management Conference

As the 2018 ACMC approaches, it is time to start lining items up for the annual scholarship auction. We essentially tied the record last year by raising \$3,750. We have a goal of trying to break \$4,000 this year. In order to do that, we need your help in soliciting items to be placed in both the silent auction as well as larger items to be raffled off or sold in a live auction. Any items will be appreciated. Past items have included guns, hunting gear, sports tickets, home decorations, etc. Please take a few minutes as you read this to think about what you could gather up for the auction. Get something lined up right now, as you are thinking about it. We are all busy, but there is no better time than the present! Please call or text what you plan to bring to Jared Fannon at (870)-267-8233 or John Schultz at (731)-445-4780. The silent auction is scheduled for Wednesday evening at the Arkansas Crop Management

Conference. The event is an exciting evening that features opportunities to bid on numerous items. There have been shotguns, yeti coolers, mugs, clothing items, and more in past auctions.

Finger foods and drinks, complimentary of the Conference, will be served while you bid. Drink tickets are a part of the registration packet.

Arkansas Crop Protection Association sponsors four scholarships at three Universities that provide agricultural education programs: Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas Fayetteville and University of Arkansas Monticello. In addition, scholarships are provided by the Arkansas Crop Consultants Association and the Arkansas Plant Food Association. Arkansas Crop Protection Association also sponsors student competition at the ACPA Research Conference conducted each year starting the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in Fayetteville.

This year the competition involved over 30 students including undergraduate, masters, and PhD students from the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Plan to support our students by participating and supporting the silent auction of 2018.

We will see you at the ACMC in Little Rock when you arrive with your auction item!

**"As the 2018 Arkansas Crop Management Conference approaches, it is time to start lining items up for the annual scholarship auction."**



**Dr. Kelly Bryant with student scholarship winners. Dr. Bryant coordinates scholarships at UA Monticello**



## Field Performance of Selected Soybean Varieties in a Southern Root-knot Nematode Infested Field

By: Dr. Travis Faske, Extension Plant Pathologist, UA Division of Agriculture

The southern root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*) is the most important yield-limiting plant-pathogenic nematode that affects soybean production in the mid-South. It is found in nearly all soybean producing counties in Arkansas and can cause significant (>50%) yield loss when the wrong soybean variety (i.e. susceptible) is planted in field with a high population density of root-knot nematodes. During the 2017 season, the Lonoke Plant Pathology Program selected 48 soybean varieties that were grouped based on herbicide technologies and maturity

groups to be evaluated in a root-knot nematode infested field. Soybean varieties in each category with the lowest gall rating contributed to the greatest yield with some cultivars averaging 70+ bu/A. Soybean cultivars with <10% of root of system galled are considered resistant compared to those with the greatest galling percentage. Of the maturity group IV cultivars with tolerance to glyphosate and glufosinate, five were identified as resistant with no resistance detected among those cultivars with tolerance to dicamba. Of the maturity group V cultivars,

12 cultivars with tolerance to glyphosate were resistant, 3 with tolerance to dicamba were resistant, while none of the cultivars with tolerance to glufosinate were resistant to the southern root-knot nematode. Details of this information is available on the Arkansas Row Crops website (<http://www.arkansas-crops.com/2017/11/20/performance-varieties-southern/>), and the information on the variety testing website can be used to make decisions about variety selection for the 2018 cropping season.



Root knot nematode in soybean

## The Future is Bright Thanks to ACPA Scholarships

By: John Schultz, ACPA Director, BASF

The University of Arkansas held its annual scholarship luncheon on Friday, November 3, to allow scholarship recipients to meet the individuals that support them. I attended the luncheon representing ACPA and was able to have lunch with ACPA scholarship recipient Laura Ortega and other Bumpers College of Ag scholarship recipients. The luncheon was a great experience to meet and get to know these

individuals better, in learning about their backgrounds and goals. I can assure you all that the future is very bright based on the talent I met that day. While visiting, I learned that Laura worked at Cornell University over the summer and developed a profound interest in plant pathology. She graduates in December 2017 from the University of Arkansas and plans to start graduate school at Arkan-

sas in the fall working in plant pathology. Our scholarship dollars are undoubtedly going to deserving individuals that will help to make for a better future in agriculture both in Arkansas and the world. Arkansas Crop Protection Association supports agriculture education by providing scholarships to Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas Fayetteville and University of Arkansas Monticello.

***“The luncheon was a great experience to meet and get to know these individuals better, in learning about their backgrounds and goals.”***

## Great Success Presenting Students Awards at ACPA Research Conference

The Arkansas Crop Protection Association had our annual Research Conference in Fayetteville November 28-29. The meeting featured more than 30 students in the student competition for undergraduate, masters and PhD categories. ACPA expresses thanks to BASF, Dow Agrosiences, Gowan, Syngenta, and Valent for sponsoring the student competition. The winners of the student Undergraduate competition were the following:

first place, Robyn Mulloy; second place, Zane Taillon; third place, Adam Whitfield. In the Masters of Science category, the winners were: first place, Payton Phea and Joe Black; second place, H. D. Bowman and M. E. Fogleman; third place, M. C. Caster and G. L. Priess. The Masters competition had two groups of winners. In the PhD student contest the winners were: first place, Zackary Lancaster; second place, C. J. Meyer; third place, A. J.

Cato. Overall, 40 presentations providing 9 continuing education credits for attendees were available at the Research Conference. The conference is coordinated by Dr. Jarrod Hardke, UA Rice Agronomist. Dr. Taghi Bararpour, a weed scientist with Mississippi State University at the Stoneville Experiment Station, coordinates the student competition each year. Thanks to him for his continued dedication.



Dr. Taghi Bararpour presents first place award in PhD competition to Zachary Lancaster. Dr. Jarrod Hardke, left, also assists in awards competition and coordinates conference.

**We're on the web:**  
**acpanews.com**

## **Arkansas Crop Management Conference, January 16-18, 2018, Set to Have an Excellent Program This Year**

The Arkansas Crop Management Conference is scheduled for January 16-18, 2018, at the Wyndham Riverfront, North Little Rock, AR. Topics of interest this year to be addressed at the conference include proposed new regulations on auxin technologies, dicamba issues, understanding and interpreting soil moisture sensors, drones in agriculture, peanut production, aerial imagery, feral hog control options, plus topics on water management and several topics on nutrient management. Randy Veach, President of Arkansas Farm Bureau, will be the featured speaker at the awards luncheon on Tuesday. Dr. Nick Seiter, University of Illinois, will address redbanded stink bug management which has caused concern this past summer. The

production changes recommended for this year will be addressed by our University faculty.

The opening session will feature Susie Nichols, Pesticide Division Coordinator with Arkansas State Plant Board, speaking about 2,4-D and Dicamba regulations that seem to be in constant limbo. Also, a panel discussion on "Budget, Supply, and Recommendation Perspectives on Phosphorus and Potassium Fertilization Practices will be led by Carlton Fisher. Come early on Monday; registration opens at 3pm in the afternoon. The conference will also include several industry updates that feature new products and uses.

The Wyndham offers a room rate of \$104.00 single or double occupancy and \$10.00 for each additional person. These rates

include breakfast. Guests may call the hotel toll free number 1-866-657-4458 or the hotel directly at (501) 371-9000 to make reservations. Please mention Arkansas Crop Management when calling to make reservations. Members calling after the cut-off date (December 31) may not be able to receive the negotiated rate. Cancellation of an individual guest room reservation needs to be made 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid no-show charges.

Register for the conference online at: <http://acpanews.com/>.

**On a different note, we have had rogue websites confusing folks on dates. 10times.com and h2oinitiative.com have listed wrong dates for the conference. These websites should be ignored.**



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