



ACPA Newsletter

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Industrial Hemp in Arkansas

By: Terry Walker, Director, Arkansas State Plant Board

ACT 981 (The Arkansas Industrial Hemp Act) of the 2017 Regular Legislative session conveyed established a pilot research program to grow industrial hemp in the state. The intent of the act is to assist in establishing industrial hemp production, development and commercialization in Arkansas.

Industrial hemp is mandated to contain less than three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) of tetrahydrocannabinol, the hallucinogenic compound of medical marijuana. Historically, industrial hemp at one point was an important agricultural crop for the fiber content.

That fiber was needed for commonly used products such as rope. While the need for that component of the plant is currently in small demand, other products of hemp are seeing an increase in demand. It has been shown that essentially all components of the plant can be used in a variety of products, from clothing, to rope, to construction

products and nutritional uses. The Plant Board is in the final stages of rule promulgation. While the initial hope was to have the program up and operational to allow establishment of some research projects in the 2018 crop year, that could not get accomplished. Conflicting approaches between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Drug Enforcement Administration has added an element of confusion in the industry as we feel our way in developing a program. It is anticipated the final rule could become effective in September of 2018.

This will allow entities, producers, and processors interested in conducting a research project in the fall of 2018 or summer of 2019 to get planning done and permit applications submitted for review.

Due to resource limitations of the Plant Board, the program will be somewhat limited in scope until sufficient funding can be established to allow dedication

of more personnel time and efforts to conducting the program.

Anyone interested in the program should contact Mary Smith, Arkansas State Plant Board Seed Division Director, at 501-225-1598 or email her at mary.smith@agriculture.arkansas.gov for information or to be added to the contact list for receiving updates as the program develops.



Harvesting hemp with a mechanical harvester

2018 Soybean College Will Be August 8 at Newport Research Station

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in partnership with the Arkansas Crop Protection Association will be hosting the 2018 Soybean College on August 8, 2018, at the Newport Research Station at Newport, Arkansas, starting at 8:00 a.m. and running through 4:00 p.m.

Crop consultants, industry personnel, and producers will see current research on many of the production challenges Arkansas soybean producers are experiencing today. Participants will hear presentations from Univer-

sity of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and industry personnel and have the opportunity to take part in hands-on demonstrations.

Registration for the 2018 Soybean College will be \$100 per person. Only online registrations will be accepted — no walkup registrations will be accepted the day of the Soybean College.

Online registration can be found at [2018 Soybean College Online Registration](#), or more information can be found on the Row Crops Blog.

Total participants in the 2018 Soybean College will be capped at 130 participants to keep breakout groups small.

Paid participants will receive a complementary sweep net, hand lens, and other items.

Registration fees will not be refunded due to inclement weather.

Lunch will be provided, and CEU will be available.

Please refer all questions about the 2018 Soybean College to Jeremy Ross at jross@uaex.edu or (501)944-0621.

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Special points of interest:

- Arkansas Crop Protection Association Research Conference scheduled for November 27-28
- Arkansas Crop Management Conference January 21-24, 2019
- Soybean College August 8 in Newport at Experiment Station.
- Arkansas Crop Management Conference Planning Meeting August 14 in Carlisle

Dr. Ford Baldwin Inducted into Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame



Dr. Ford Baldwin proudly holds his plaque for being inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture of Fame.

Dr. Ford Baldwin, Distinguished Professor Emeritus University of Arkansas, was inducted into the Arkansas Hall of Fame on March 2, 2018.

Dr. Baldwin retired from the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and now operates a consulting business, Practical Weed Consultants. He continues to write and contribute to the Delta Farm Press. His 43 years of assistance to farmers have resulted in improved weed control and environmental stewardship.

While herbicide-resistant weeds continue to challenge farmers, Dr. Baldwin is one of the coun-

try's leading experts in combating weed resistance to herbicides. Because of his regular writing in the Delta Farm Press, He continues to be an effective conduit for transferring technology related to new weed control approaches.

During his career with the University of Arkansas, he became the voice for sound, cutting-edge weed control practices, such as reduced rate herbicide programs initiated in Arkansas that allowed producers to save money. The program also received praise from conservation groups.

Dr. Baldwin has earned recognition from numerous industry

groups including being named Progressive Farmer's Man of the Year in Arkansas Agriculture in 1995, induction into the Crop Professionals Hall of Fame in 1999 and earning the Friend of the Farmer Award from Riceland Foods in 2006.

Farmers appreciate his practical approach to weed control and rely on his guidance for their businesses and attaining a livelihood in agriculture.

A native of Fayetteville, Ford Baldwin earned his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Arkansas, then received a Ph. D. from Oklahoma State University.

Arkansas Crop Protection Association Research Conference Scheduled for November 27-28



Student paper competition is composed of a diverse topics on crop related research.

The Arkansas Crop Protection Association (ACPA) will host its annual research conference November 27-28, 2018, in Fayetteville, AR. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1325 North Palak Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72704.

Conference highlights will include a student paper competition with cash prizes awarded to the top presentations in both Ph.D. and Master's divisions. Researchers from research,

extension, and industry are encouraged to attend and participate by making presentations. Continuing education credits will also be available.

A formal call for papers will be sent out soon. Email Dr. Jarrod Hardke at jhardke@uaex.edu for more information on presenting papers.

The 2018 Research Conference will offer continuing education credits that will be for 2018 — a great opportunity to get last

minute credits.

The student competition is a great opportunity to see our next generation of scientist at work. They are working with cutting edge technology, and their papers are great. The onsite registration fee is \$50.

Several great restaurants are close to the meeting site, and the hotel has great facilities. Dr. Hardke usually plans an outing for the meeting also.

Arkansas Crop Management Conference Planning Meeting Scheduled for August 14 at Advadas

By: Brad Koen, Program Chairman, ACPA



A review of 2018 issues will be identified and topics developed for the 2019 Arkansas Crop Management Conference

The Arkansas Crop Management Conference is scheduled for January 21-24, 2019, at the Wyndham Riverfront, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The conference for 2019 will have around 20 educational credits available this year and will end at noon on Thursday.

Topics of interest to be addressed will be developed by a program committee composed of representatives from Crop

Consultants Association, Certified Crop Advisors, Plant Food Association and Crop Protection Association.

The planning meeting for the 2019 Arkansas Crop Management Conference will be August 14 in Carlisle at Advadas. This is an important meeting, and we need good attendance to develop the program content. The meeting will start at 10:00 am and will wrap up with lunch in

Advadas. Jeremy Ross will be facilitating the meeting.

My hope is that we have a broad range of attendance to bring ideas for a good program. Please pass this email on to anyone who would be interested from our industry to give input. If you can't make the meeting, please pass on program ideas to Jeremy Ross, Don Johnson, or Brad Koen.



Governor Hutchinson Outlines Plans to Reorganize Agriculture Department

Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Monday (July 23) presented to Arkansas farmers and ranchers a revised transformation plan for the state's Department of Agriculture. Two years ago, the state farm lobby derailed similar legislation, and this time Hutchinson delivered his plea in person. The governor was Monday's keynote speaker for the Arkansas Farm Bureau's 70th officers and leader conference held in Rogers. Hutchinson said state government has ballooned over the years with 42 departments reporting directly to him. He as-

sured the farm group the regulatory functions of Arkansas agriculture would not change with the proposed changes. He said agriculture organizations will continue to appoint members to designated boards and commissions. Hutchinson did ask for the farmers' support for one proposal which changes the chain of command for all employees of the Plant Board, Livestock and Poultry Commission, and Forestry Commission. His proposal would have all employees reporting to the Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture. He said

the Secretary reports directly to the governor. He said aligning the three groups under the Secretary creates a clean chain of command that can best serve the state's agriculture interests. Hutchinson said his transformation proposals will be taken up by the state legislature this fall and he needs Farm Bureau support on this plan. In related news, Terry Walker, Director of Arkansas State Plant Board, retired and was replaced by Butch Calhoun, former Secretary of Agriculture. See page 4 for more details.



Governor Hutchinson outlined plans to reorganize Arkansas's Agriculture Department on July 23, 2018

Marvin Leslie Wall, A Great Extension Entomologist By: Dr. Gus Lorenz

Marvin Leslie Wall passed away at the age of 77 on January 30, 2018 after a sudden illness. Graveside funeral services were held at 10am on Friday, February 2, 2018 at the Tillar Cemetery in Tillar, AR.

Marvin attended the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville where he received an M.S. degree in entomology. After college, Marvin served as an Assistant County Agent in Lincoln County. Marvin left Extension and served as a navy lieutenant in the Vietnam War. After serving his country he returned to Extension in 1969 as the Southeast Arkansas Entomologist until his retirement in 1995.

Marvin was a hard working Ento-

mologist and one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever worked with in my career. At a recent meeting where he was recognized by the Arkansas Crop Protection Association for his outstanding achievements in serving Arkansas agriculture, I was honored to be able to give him his award. Upon handing him his award he told the audience that although he had tried to teach me all he could, I still didn't know anything!

Marvin was "bigger than life" and was the living embodiment of the Land Grant Mission serving the growers and county agents in southeast Arkansas. He was the quintessential Extension Entomologist and one of the best

people I have ever worked with in the field. While he will be missed, he won't be forgotten and his legacy of service to the growers and agriculture in Arkansas will live on through those of us he touched in his life.

Marvin was a member of the McGehee Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Frances Wall; two children and their spouses, Leslie (Darren) Pierce and Steven (Arlus) Wall; 4 grandchildren, Joshua (Lindsey) Jenkins, Whitney Wall, Madeline Pierce and Andrew Pierce. Pallbearers were Mar Miles, Scott Tefteller, Johnny Singleton, Jeff Felts, David Box and Larry Williams.

Marvin was a hard working Entomologist and one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever worked with in my career said Dr. Gus Lorenz.

Ford Baldwin, An Icon in Historical John Deere Tractors By: Don Johnson

On a recent visit to Waterloo, Iowa, visiting a relative, I had the opportunity to attend John Deere's 100 year celebration of producing tractors. On an earlier trip, I had taken a tour of a plant where Deere manufactures engines for large equipment, combines, marine boats, etc. During the current visit, the John Deere 100 year celebration got my attention, and I just dropped

in on the activities. As you would expect, lots of tractors — especially older, beautifully restored tractors — representing 100 years of tractors. I took a few pictures and sent them to Ford Baldwin, thinking he would be impressed by my interest. He responded. "Are you here?" Well, I should have expected Ford to be in Waterloo, Iowa, showing his tractor. John Deere

program organizers recognize Ford as an expert in the area of antique tractor restoration. They invited him to bring his tractor to Waterloo for the 100 year celebration by John Deere. His tractor is behind us in the picture. The tractor is a 1959 Model 730 Gas High Crop — very rare and really nice, only 6 produced and 3 currently exist. Another great achievement.



Ford Baldwin with his restored tractor in Waterloo, Iowa, pictured with Don Johnson



Terry Walker, Director of the Arkansas State Plant Board, Announces Retirement

Terry Walker, Director of the Arkansas State Plant Board since 2016, announced his retirement Tuesday, effective immediately.

Walker, 70, told some of his staff members Tuesday morning, then emailed the news to the 18 members of the Plant Board, a division of the Arkansas Agriculture Department.

In an interview later Tuesday morning, Walker said nothing specific prompted his decision. "Sometimes, you just decide it's time to go," he said.

The board has been embroiled for two years in a farmland drama over the use of a herbicide. That dispute has divided farmers — longtime friends and neighbors, in some cases — and manufacturers and regulators. Walker said the dicamba controversy played no role in his decision.

Walker first joined the Plant Board as Director of Plant Industry in 2002. He was named Director of the full board in February 2016 after serving about 12 years as Assistant Director — a post still vacant despite the

board's official overtures to Gov. Asa Hutchinson for an exemption to a general hiring freeze he put into place not long after taking office in 2015.

In a statement Tuesday afternoon, Hutchinson said, "I appreciate Terry's longtime service to the state and agricultural community" and "wish him the best in retirement."

"The final decision on a new Director is to be made by the Plant Board," Hutchinson said. "My recommendation to the Plant Board has not been made at this time."

The Agriculture Department was founded in 2005 (the Plant Board was founded in 1917), and Calhoun was its second secretary, appointed to the position by former Gov. Mike Beebe. "I've farmed all my life, and I have always loved public service," he said.

Walker said he was proud of his work with the Plant Board, noting how it grappled about 10 years ago with genetically modified rice by Bayer CropScience

that tainted other rice supplies, cutting into farmers' markets for their crops.

"The Plant Board got that cleaned up, and our rice certification program has continued," he said. "We continue to make sure the rice stayed clean."

Walker also noted that boll weevils are no longer decimating Arkansas farmers' cotton crops, after the Plant Board set up a program assessing farmers a per-acre fee to eliminate the insect. "It has made cotton a much better crop," he said.

As for dicamba, a herbicide linked to damage to soybeans and other crops, Walker said the board "did the best it could with limited scientific data."

"Our actions were appropriate, given the conditions," he said, referring to decisions that include a ban this year on using dicamba in-crop. "If research shows it's reliable, then the rules can be changed, but the board took action to protect everybody out there," he said.

The board, even with the ban in

place since April 16, has received about 150 dicamba complaints this summer.

While specific cases are still under investigation, Walker said time frames between the ban and complaints being filed and the type of damage found indicate some farmers continued to spray the herbicide illegally.

By: Stephen Steed, Arkansas Democrat Gazette



Terry Walker is retiring from Arkansas State Plant Board as Director. Terry was dedicated to serving agriculture in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Masters in Agronomy.

Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force

Wild hogs are conservatively estimated to cause \$800.5 million to \$1.5 billion in damage each year in the United States.

In addition to damaging farm crops and infrastructure, wild pigs carry disease that can infect livestock posing safety risks with significant economic implications. Feral or invasive wild pigs are not native to North America; introduced wild boar were released intentionally or escaped domestically resulting in self-sustaining populations of wild pigs in many parts of the US.

Feral hogs have an estimated population of between four and five million across the United States. It is estimated that feral hogs are now in every county in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force was established by the Arkansas General Assem-

bly in 2017 for the purpose of creating a plan for the eradication of feral hogs in Arkansas. Task force members include a broad range of stakeholders that have an interest in eradicating feral hogs.

An anonymous reporting system has been established to help measure feral hog removal efforts currently taking place in Arkansas and to help better estimate the state's feral hog population.

These easily accessible reporting forms are available to report wild hogs killed, here, or wild hogs sighted, here, and can be completed within minutes whenever feral hogs are removed or seen within the state.

A feral hog eradication awareness campaign is also planned for the coming months, to include fact sheets and resources specific

to different groups of landowners affected by the feral hog problem.

This campaign will eventually be assisted with the release of a Feral Hog Control Handbook that will provide information about feral hogs, assistance programs, regulations, contact information for hunters and trappers, and other resources to help landowners control hogs on private land.

"Eradication of feral hogs in Arkansas will require the hard work of a broad range of stakeholders and the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force has been working diligently over the past year to address problems and find solutions for the growing threat that feral hogs pose to our state," says Arkansas Agriculture Secretary and Task Force Chairman Wes Ward.



Feral hogs reproduce rapidly and cause damage to cropland.

"Reference: California Agriculture, Volume 72 Number 2"