



# ACPA Newsletter

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## 2021 Arkansas Crop Protection Association Research Conference Offers Last Minute CEU's

By: Dr. Nick Bateman, ACPA Vice President and Program Chairman

Register ACMC:  
<https://acpanews.com/>

The annual Arkansas Crop Protection Association Research Conference will be in person starting at 12:30pm Tuesday, November 30, and ending at noon Wednesday, December 1. The meeting this year has 18 MS, 8 PhD and 3 undergraduate student talks plus a new section of poster presentations by faculty associate members. A total of 8 CEU's are available this year with 6 in pest management, 1 in nutrient management, 0.5 in soil

and water and 0.5 in crop management. The meeting showcases our current graduate and undergraduate students working in Arkansas agriculture. These presentations cover multiple aspects of crop, nutrient, and water management. Most of these projects are funded by check off dollars administered by the various promotion boards in Arkansas (Soybean, Rice, Corn, and Cotton). Growers, consultants, and industry representa-

tives are encouraged to attend to get the latest and newest information on methods to maintain and improve profitability growing row crops. Registration for the meeting is \$50 per person this year, and you can register at the hotel, credit cards are accepted. The meeting will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fayetteville, a very nice hotel and easily accessed. Address: Hilton Garden Inn (479-856-6040), 1325 N. Palak Dr., Fayetteville, AR, 72704

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## Scott Selected by Governor as ACPA Plant Board Representative

Lester Scott is a fourth-generation agriculturalist from North Louisiana. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Amber University, Garland, Texas. He is a Certified Crop Advisor and Board Advisor to the National Black Growers Council. Lester is also a pioneer member of the employee resource group, Employees for Black Excellences (EBEx), and Chair of the New Hire Peer Champion Program at FMC. Lester has forty-four years of professional sales, marketing, and management experience with three major agricultural chemical companies (FMC Corporation,

Valent USA, and Chevron Chemical). His career successes and achievements are many and span from Indiana to Texas with Chevron Chemical in sales, marketing, and account management. He was also Sales Manager of the Great Plains Region (eight states) with Valent USA and is currently a Retail Market Manager with FMC having served Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. Lester Scott was recently nominated by the Arkansas Crop Protection Association and appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson to serve and represent pesticide manufactures on the Arkansas State Plant Board. The appointment is for a term of two years and will expire on October 1, 2023. The Arkansas State Plant Board held its first meeting since early May on Friday, November

5th. The board was redesigned under a new statute approved by the Arkansas General Assembly earlier this year that added two new farmer representatives to the board and adjusted the nomination and appointment process for the seats, while also consolidating the seats previously held by the Arkansas Horticultural Society and Arkansas Green Industries. During the meeting, members of the board nominated and elected Matthew Marsh to serve as Chairman of the Plant Board. Mark Morgan was nominated and elected as Vice Chairman. Sam Stuckey was elected to serve as Secretary. The board had 13 members appointed to serve on the Arkansas State Plant Board for a term to expire October 1, 2023.



ACPA Welcomes Lester to Our Staff. Lester is our ACPA Plant Board Representative Appointed by The Governor.

## Register Now for Arkansas Crop Management Conference 2022

The Arkansas Crop Management Conference is scheduled for January 18-20, 2022, at the Wyndham Riverfront, North Little Rock, AR. The 2022 conference will have 20+ educational credits available. Those wishing to make reservations may call the hotel toll free number at 866-657-4458 or the hotel directly at 501-371-9000 to make

reservations. The ACMC program will be a diverse program developed by the program committee and coordinated by chairman and ACPA President Elect Dereck Clarkson. Registration will be on-line and also at the Hotel. Thanks to everyone that assisted in development of the program. The program committee includes members of the

Arkansas Plant Food Association, Certified Crop Advisors, Arkansas Crop Consultants Association, Arkansas Crop Protection Association and University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. The meeting will have several events that support the meeting including an Awards Luncheon, Social Hours in evening, a Silent Auction for Scholar-

ship Support and a Morning Devotional. Plan to attend and enjoy visiting with others in agriculture.

Register online at:  
<https://acpanews.com/>

## Retired UofA Entomologist, Dr. N. P. Tugwell, Died October 20th

Phil Tugwell, “Tug” to his friends, was known as a hard worker who was generous with resources, knowledge, credit and well, pretty much everything.

Noel Philip Tugwell died Oct. 20 in Fayetteville. He was 88. He served the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas as an entomology researcher and teacher for 36 years.

He is survived by his wife, Ramona, daughters Tracey McCartney and Heather Williams, son Noel Tugwell, sister Carolyn Boyer, and seven grandchildren.

“He was one of the great and good entomologists,” said Don Steinkraus, professor of entomology for the Agricul-

tural Experiment Station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. A native of Leveland, Texas, Tugwell was an Air Force veteran and worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska before completing a master’s degree at the University of Arkansas and a doctorate at Louisiana State University. He joined the Division of Agriculture in 1966 and retired in 2002.

“He was unselfish with his expertise, his time, and shared knowledge and help without expecting anything in return,” Steinkraus said. “He would help me with experiments, I mean field experiments in the heat of the summer in Marianna, hard physical work and expected little or nothing in return.

Mark Cochran, who recently retired after 39 years with the Division of Agriculture and a



Dr. Tugwell with wife Ramona on left, Carol Phillips, wife of late Dr. Jake Phillips and Dr. Tina Teague, a friend and Professor at ASU.

decade leading the division as U of A System vice president-agriculture, remembers Tugwell as the motivating force behind the COTMAN project. COTMAN is a cotton management system that

times everything from irrigation and fertilizer to pest control and harvest preparation to the physiological development of the plant. .

## U OF A Investigating Pathogen Causing Soybean Taproot Decline

A monster that lives by eating the dead is hiding underground, and it has developed a taste for soybeans. For the past two years, Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station researchers have worked in the lab and in the field to learn more about an emerging pathogen identified in 2014 as the prime culprit of soybean taproot decline, *Xylaria necrophora*. Researchers with the experiment station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, are studying its genetics and testing for resistance and susceptibility in different soybean strains. They have also conducted crop cover tests to develop better recommendations for limiting development of the killer fungus in one of the state’s top three cash crops.

Terry Spurlock, associate professor and extension plant pathologist for the Division of Agriculture, said *Xylaria necrophora* so far has not been a serious problem for Arkansas soybean farmers outside of Chicot, Desha and Jefferson counties. But the pathogen has been found in other areas of Arkansas and has caused a stir

in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Tennessee. “The severity at the moment is highest for growers in the southeast part of the state,” Spurlock said. “I’ve been in a field in Chicot County where the entirety of the field had it.” Spurlock went on to say the pathogen had been misidentified for years, creating confusion because it looked like something else. “We knew in 2014 it was something different. We pulled a fungus out of the ground that wasn’t on record for this. A lot of people thought it was black root rot, but that is caused by a different fungus,” Spurlock said. Spurlock, along with fellow experiment station plant pathologist Burt Bluhm, was one of 10 authors of a paper published by the American Phytopathological Society in 2017 that gave the first description of the causal agent of what has become known as taproot decline in soybean. Other authors included researchers from Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University and Alabama Extension. The Arkansas cover crop study provides more insight into this plant disease. Since it is a relatively new pathogen, research on management options has been limited. Signs of the *Xylaria necrophora*

presence are small, fingerlike stromata that some call “dead man’s fingers” on debris from previous harvests, Spurlock said it’s easy to overlook, these 1-inch spikey stromata are usually white at the tip and sometimes pinkish when young. They turn black at maturity. Symptoms of *Xylaria necrophora* include rotten taproot, yellow foliage, and rusty leaves on the soybean plant. The fungus starts out white in the pith center and turns black after it matures, he said. If the pathogen is correctly identified, a farmer can work with their extension agent to develop a plan to control it, Spurlock said. The plan would include ways to prevent the infection of disease-free fields and reduce the amount of inoculum from a previous season so the land can be replanted with a more tolerant variety. In his observations so far, Spurlock has noticed *Xylaria necrophora* more in fields that have been continuously planted with soybeans with no crop rotation. However, he said he has also observed severe taproot decline in fields that have been in a corn-to-soybean crop rotation. This was a “frustrating” observation, he said, because a corn-to-soybean rotation can increase yield by 3 to 4 bushels of soybeans



Taproot decline in soybean is a potential threat to yields

per acre. In an experiment station cover crop study, barley and oats were the most susceptible at the seed level to *Xylaria necrophora*. The study also found that cover crops at the seedling level were less susceptible, but mustard and radish had the greatest reduction at root mass. Some of the cover crops like rye and winter pea had reduced root damage. The cover crop study provides insight into how the fungus survives from one growing season to the next. Spurlock said he is “almost always going to recommend crop rotation,” but he realizes that not every farmer can afford to rotate. Each farmer’s situation is different, he noted, and they must decide what is the financial impact of taproot decline for them.

**Register for a Room at Wyndham  
for Arkansas Crop Management  
Conference Today**



- ◆ Complimentary FULL HOT BREAKFAST BUFFET each morning starting at 6:30 am
- ◆ Complimentary PARKING,
- ◆ Complimentary WIFI
- ◆ Complimentary SHUTTLE to Downtown North Little Rock as well as the Little Rock Rivermarket area
- ◆ UPDATED FURNITURE IN ALL SLEEPING ROOMS last fall
- ◆ REFRIGERATORS in ALL sleeping rooms
- ◆ Newly updated EXERCISE ROOM
- ◆ Staff known for their Customer Service!
- ◆ TWO RESTAURANTS on property! The RIVERFRONT STEAKHOUSE and BENIHANA have great service and 2 onsite BARS



***The Wyndham Riverfront  
Little Rock is happy to  
be the HOST HOTEL for the  
Arkansas Crop Manage-  
ment 2022 Conference***

**The Wyndham Riverfront**

*Book online:*

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groups/hr/arkansas-crop-  
management-conference-2022](https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/hr/arkansas-crop-management-conference-2022)

*Offer Ends: 01/10/2022*

*Or Contact Reservations at 1-  
866-657-4458*