



# ARKANSAS PLANT FOOD ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

April 2012

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Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

Oscar Ameringer

## MISSION STATEMENT

"The association shall foster and promote the dissemination of useful and practical information regarding all forms of plant food and lime, their application to crops of all kinds, better cultural practices, and other related information which would result in the production of better crops and increased farm income."

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Whether we like it or not crop nutrient management practices are changing. The growing demand for food and bioenergy has emphasized the need to increase soil productivity and crop yields. In response to these demands and needs, industry has developed and/or marketed a number of enhanced efficiency fertilizers and fertilizer amendments. Growers, consultants, and other farm service professionals are faced with an increasing number of product and application options. Sorting out what products and practices are legitimate and have the potential to increase crop yields, decrease production inputs, and maintain agronomic and economic sustainability while reducing nutrient loss into the environment is a monumental challenge. Open communication of unbiased information will be a prominent process for ensuring legitimate products are used properly and the use of unproven 'less legitimate' products is discouraged.

In last April's newsletter, Jim Magness, the Arkansas Plant Food Association's (APFA) past president, emphasized the APFA's mission statement (see above) in writing that we needed to '...be proactive in our professions and the APFA...' to meet the challenges facing production agriculture. The APFA membership took his message to heart and started planning.

Keeping our mission statement in mind, the APFA sponsored nutrient management workshops (Marianna and Jonesboro) in February that reviewed fundamental principles of soil and fertilizer nutrient management and provided continuing education units to CCA's. The PowerPoint presentations are available on the APFA web site. The two training sessions were attended by more than 100 participants and will be offered again in 2013. We welcome your input on where next year's training sessions should be held and what topics to present. Your input can be directed to anyone involved in the APFA. The contact information for APFA board members is listed on the APFA web site ([www.arkplantfood.com](http://www.arkplantfood.com)). I encourage you to provide us with constructive comments concerning these training efforts.

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Open communication concerning the performance and legitimacy of 'new' products and nutrient management practices will be essential for planning research and implementing educational programs that provide accurate unbiased information to our farmers.

Technology, practices, and products that are good for the farmer are usually good for each sector of the farming industry. Unfortunately the opposite is also true and highlights the need for educational activities. We look forward to hearing from you.

See you in the field!

Nathan Slaton  
President, APFA

### **2012 APFA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President** – Nathan Slaton, University of Arkansas

**President-Elect** – Josh Searcy, Alliance Application Equipment

**Vice President** – Josh Long, Koch Agronomic Services

**Executive Director** – Dan Gladden, The Gladden Group

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **Term Expires 2013**

Larry Fortner, CHS, Inc.

Josh Searcy, Alliance Application Equipment

Nathan Slaton, University of Arkansas

#### **Term Expires 2014**

Todd Berry, Success Grain, Inc.

Mark Browning, Tri County Farmers Cooperative

Ralph Lunsford, Atlantic-Pacific Agriculture Co.

#### **Term Expires 2015**

Jim Magness, Gavilon Fertilizer

Clint Jayroe, Cresco Ag, Inc.

Josh Long, Agrotain International

#### **Term Expires 2016**

Gary Jayroe, Jimmy Sanders, Inc.

Billy Curbo, Ritter Ag Services

Dale Reed, Gillett Grain Co.

### **EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS**

Larry Jayroe, Arkansas State Plant Board

Jamey Johnson, Arkansas State Plant Board

Rick Norman, Ph.D., University of Arkansas

Morteza Mozaffari, Ph.D., University of Arkansas

Leo Espinoza, Ph.D., UA Extension Service

Steve Green, Ph.D., Arkansas State University

Jim Magness, Immediate Past President

### **MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTORS**

Billy Curbo, Ritter Ag Services, Jonesboro, AR

Dale Reed, Gillett Grain Company, Gillett, AR

Gary Jayroe, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Forrest City, AR

### **NEW VICE PRESIDENT**

At the recent board meeting, APFA Directors elected board member Josh Long as APFA Vice President for 2012. Josh lives in Forrest City and works as Regional Manager for Koch Agronomic Services (formerly Agrotain International).

After a year as VP, Josh will serve a year as President-Elect before taking the reins as President in 2014.

### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

#### **Employment and Training Administration Labor Certification Process for the Temporary Employment of Aliens in Agriculture in the United States: 2012 Adverse Effect Wage Rates**

**AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor (Department) is issuing this notice to announce the 2012 Adverse Effect Wage Rates (AEWRs) for the employment of temporary or seasonal nonimmigrant foreign workers to perform agricultural labor or services (H-2A workers).

AEWRs are the minimum wage rates the Department has determined must be offered and paid by employers to H-2A workers and workers in corresponding employment for a particular occupation and area so that the wages of similarly employed U.S. workers will not be adversely affected. 20 CFR 655.100(b).

In this notice, the Department announces the AEWRs for 2012.

**DATES:** Effective Date: This notice is effective December 22, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

William L. Carlson, Ph.D.,  
Administrator, Office of Foreign Labor  
Certification, U.S. Department of Labor,  
Room C-4312, 200 Constitution Avenue  
NW., Washington, DC 20210.  
Telephone: (202) 693-3010  
(this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security will not approve an employer's petition for the admission of H-2A nonimmigrant temporary agricultural workers in the U.S. unless the petitioner has received from the Department an H-2A labor certification. The labor certification provides that: (1) There are not sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, and qualified and who will be available at the time and place needed to perform the labor or services involved in the petition; and (2) the employment of the foreign worker(s) in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the U.S. similarly employed.

**8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a), 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b), 1184(c)(1), and 1188(a); 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5) and (6). Adverse Effect Wage Rates for 2012**

The Department's H-2A regulations at 20 CFR 655.120(l) provide that employers must pay their H-2A workers and workers in corresponding employment at least the highest of: (i) The AEW; (ii) the prevailing wage; (iii) the prevailing piece rate; (iv) the agreed upon collective bargaining wage, if applicable; or (v) the Federal or State minimum wage, in effect at the time the work is performed.

Except as otherwise provided in 20 CFR part 655, subpart B, the nationwide AEW for all agricultural employment (except those occupations deemed inappropriate under the special procedure provisions of 20 CFR 655.102) for which temporary H-2A certification is being sought is equal to the annual weighted average hourly wage rate for field and livestock workers (combined) for the region as published annually by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 20 CFR 655.120(c) requires the Administrator of the Office of Foreign Labor Certification publish the USDA field and livestock worker (combined) wage data as AEWs in a Federal Register notice. Accordingly,

the 2012 AEWs to be paid for agricultural work performed by U.S. and H-2A workers on or after the effective date of this notice are set forth in the table below:

**Table – 2012 Adverse Effect Wage Rates  
State 2012 AEWs**

Alabama	\$9.39	Nebraska	11.61
Arizona	9.94	Nevada	10.43
Arkansas	9.30	New Hampshire	10.56
California	10.24	New Jersey	10.34
Colorado	10.43	New Mexico	9.94
Connecticut	10.56	New York	10.56
Delaware	10.34	North Carolina	9.70
Florida	9.54	North Dakota	11.61
Georgia	9.39	Ohio	11.10
Hawaii	12.26	Oklahoma	9.88
Idaho	10.19	Oregon	10.92
Illinois	11.10	Pennsylvania	10.34
Indiana	11.10	Rhode Island	10.56
Iowa	11.50	South Carolina	9.39
Kansas	11.61	South Dakota	11.61
Kentucky	9.38	Tennessee	9.38
Louisiana	9.30	Texas	9.88
Maine	10.56	Utah	10.43
Maryland	10.34	Vermont	10.56
Massachusetts	10.56	Virginia	9.70
Michigan	10.78	Washington	10.92
Minnesota	10.78	West Virginia	9.38
Mississippi	.30	Wisconsin	10.78
Missouri	11.50	Wyoming	10.19
Montana	10.19		

Pursuant to the H-2A regulations at 20 CFR 655.173, the Department will publish a separate Federal Register notice in early 2012 to announce (1) the allowable charges for 2012 that employers seeking H-2A workers may charge their workers for providing them three meals a day; and (2) the maximum VerDate  
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Register / Vol. 76, No. 246 / Thursday, December 22,  
2011 / Notices travel subsistence reimbursement which  
a worker with receipts may claim in 2012.

Signed in Washington, DC this 6th day of December, 2011.

Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration.

[FR Doc. 2011-32842 Filed 12-21-11; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4510-FP-P

## SOIL FERTILITY WORKSHOPS

Two workshops offering CEUs were attended by 155 consultants, farmers, dealers, and extension personnel. Workshops were held at the Lonnn Mann Cotton Research Station at Marianna on February 14 and at the Student Union of the Arkansas State University at Jonesboro on February 15. The workshops were organized by the APFA in collaboration with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Subjects covered during the 5 hour course included Soil Sampling, Nutrient Cycling, Fertilizer Recommendations, and Water Quality, among others.



## JAYROE RE-APPOINTED TO STATE PLANT BOARD

A recent press release from the office of Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe announced the re-appointment of Larry Jayroe to another term on the Arkansas State Plant Board. Jayroe lives in Forrest City and works for Jimmy Sanders, Inc., as Fertilizer Manager.



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS



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