

TACC FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

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TACC OFFICERS

President

Greg O'Brian

Friona Wheat Growers
Friona, Texas

Vice President

Aaron Hendricks

Floydada Co-op Gins
Floydada, Texas

Secretary

Eric Wanjura

Farmers Cooperative Compress
Lubbock, Texas

Immediate Past President

April Graves

United Agricultural Cooperative, Inc.
El Campo, Texas

TACC STAFF

Executive Vice President

Christy Lewis

Director of Member Services

Raley Kirk



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Council's Executive Committee will meet in Lubbock on September 6 to engage in a number of year-end assignments.

- Leading the meeting will be TACC President **Greg O'Brian**, General Manager of Friona Wheat Growers in Friona, TX. The group will hear a number of operating reports and also hire an auditor to audit the Council's October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023 financials.
- In addition, the group will hear from **Corey Smyth**, Director of Cotton Services & Gin Accounting and chair of TACCs Budget and Finance Committee regarding the proposed budget for 2023-2024.
- The group will set the date of the next full working board meeting of TACC to be in Lubbock in September of 2024.

NSAC TRAINING

The Texas Chapter of the National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives is once again offering a seminar for a variety of cooperative personnel - accountants, bookkeepers, office managers, and controllers.

- The meeting will kick-off with an evening of golf and games on October 5 at 4ORE in Lubbock, TX! The program will begin the next day on October 6 at 8:00 a.m. at PYCO Industries in Lubbock.
- Meeting, registration and hotel information will be coming soon! You will earn 8 hours of CPE credits for this meeting. No advanced preparation or prerequisites are required to attend.
- Questions can be directed to raleym@texas.coop.

TACC STAFF



After a lengthy selection process, TACC is pleased to announce that Christy Lewis has been appointed as the new Executive Vice President as of July 1, 2023. She is a lifelong Austinite, having graduated from Westwood High School and Texas State University in San Marcos with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and from National American University in Austin with a master's degree in Management.

Christy has nearly 20 years of experience to the position, working for nearly nine years at TACC as both Vice President of Administration and Member Services and Director of Member Services, as the Director of Admissions at National American University in Austin, and as a Partnership Coordinator at the University of Texas at Austin.

Christy brings a broad range of experience to the position including member and partner relations, legislative affairs, meeting and event planning, human resources, accounting, webinar development, social media content creation, database management, and marketing.

"We're confident that Christy can guide this association into the future. She has a unique skill set, sincerity and focus that will ensure her success and the success of TACC!" said Greg O'Brian, TACC Board President and General Manager, Friona Wheat in Friona, Texas.

TACC is also excited to announce that we have hired a Director of Member Services. Raley Kirk joined TACC on July 31. She grew up on a ranch in San Saba, Texas where her family farms wheat and raises cattle and Spanish goats. She graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's in Agricultural Economics and a Master of Agribusiness.



SOUTH TEXAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

- The conference will be held November 1-2 at the Holiday Inn on the River Walk in San Antonio, TX.
- As is tradition, this meeting will kick off with a dinner at the hotel the night before!
- Meeting information will be sent via email to the membership in the coming days and can also be found on our website at www.texas.coop under the 'Meetings' tab.
- The Holiday Inn River Walk has provided a link to secure rooms at the rate of \$139/night - The deadline to secure this rate is **October 10**.
 - **Click here for the link to the hotel rooms.**
 - Once you click on the link it will take you to our hotel website, then **enter your arrival/ departure dates**, it will automatically populate your group name and discounted group rate.
 - You may also call the 24-hour reservation phone number at 210-224-2500.
 - If you are calling, please remember to reference your group's block code: TEX
- Registration will be done online via Google Form; The deadline to register for the conference is Friday, October 27.
 - **Click here for the link to the Google Form.**
- The conference fee will be \$275 per attendee (spouses, guests, and/or children are free).

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

6:30 p.m. Convention Welcome & Dinner - Skyline Atrium

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

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| 9:00 a.m. | Registration - <i>Tango 4 Foyer</i> | 12:45 p.m. | "A Recap of Important Legal Issues."
• Gary McLaren , Attorney, McLaren Law Firm, PLCC, Lubbock, TX |
| 10:00 a.m. | Welcome - <i>Tango 4</i> | | |
| 10:10 a.m. | "World Commodity Outlook and Markets."
• Keith Lucas , Vice President of Marketing, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, Lubbock, TX | 1:30 p.m. | "A Review of Co-op Tax Advantages."
• Greg Taylor , CPA, D. Williams & Co., Lubbock, TX |
| 10:50 a.m. | Break | 2:10 p.m. | "Formulating a Member Value Proposition"
• Dr. John Park , Roy B. Davis Co-op Chair & Agricultural Economics Professor, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station, TX |
| 11:05 a.m. | "The Future of Agriculture in South Texas."
• Dr. Yuri Calil , Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX | | |
| 11:50 a.m. | Lunch - <i>Skyline Atrium</i>
• Sponsored by Plains Cotton Cooperative Association | 3:10 p.m. | Summary & Conclusion |

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Preparing for the 2023-2024 dues solicitation process to begin October 1.
- Begin the internship recruiting process beginning in the Fall 2023 semester at multiple colleges throughout Texas.
- Holding the 2023 South Texas Cooperative Leadership Conference in San Antonio, TX November 1-2.
- Continuing to finalize speakers and an agenda for the Farm Store Summit to be held in Fredericksburg January 11-12 at the Inn on Baron's Creek.

“HELP US CREATE A FARM FRESH GENERATION”

A Message from Texas Department of Agriculture:

The Texas Department of Agriculture is on a mission: To ensure Texas is Homegrown & Healthy by creating a generation of students who have access to food produced right here in the Lone Star State.

The Farm Fresh Network connects Texas food producers with local school lunch professionals who need to source food for their school's cafeteria. In doing so, we are establishing a state-wide network that connects communities in need of each other's support.

Not only does this initiative reduce the prevalence of food insecurity and childhood obesity, farmers, ranchers, and producers are provided with sustainable markets that will protect them when crises strike. In addition, our environmental footprint is reduced and communities all across the state are provided with an increase in local job opportunities.

When Texans support Texans, **we all win!** Local market opportunities help Texas students be Homegrown & Healthy and keep our economies strong: Join the Farm Fresh Network now!

CLICK HERE



INTERNSHIP RECAP

In our June newsletter, we introduced our 2 summer interns, Rachyl and Kirsty. Since their internships have recently wrapped up, we asked both of them to tell us about their experiences!



Rachyl Kitten

"My name is Rachyl Kitten and I am from Slaton, Texas. I am currently a senior agricultural communications major at Texas Tech University. This summer I interned at United Agricultural Cooperatives Inc. in El Campo, Texas. One of my favorite parts of my internship was the fact that my day to day was always changing. Whether it was helping with marketing for different sales and advertisements, getting to do some photography to update the website, or setting up for meetings and events, my day was always filled. The most interesting thing I learned during my internship was the vastness of the cooperative's world. Being from West Texas, where cotton is king, I was very narrow minded when it came to co-ops. I loved being in a cooperative that was so large and diverse and seeing how every aspect worked together concisely. My favorite part of my internship was the connections I made along the way. I had the opportunity to work in an area I had never been to and that helped me to broaden my network. I also made some great friends and enjoyed my time at United Ag."

"My name is Kirsty Putnam and I am from Georgetown, TX. I just graduated in August from Tarleton State University with a major in Agriculture Industries and Agencies and a minor in Agriculture Economics. I completed my internship at the Willacy Co-op in Raymondville, TX. I primarily worked behind the counter of the farm supply store, but I also worked on updating and maintaining the website and Facebook page for the co-op. The most interesting thing I learned was how different things can be depending on the part of Texas you are in. My favorite part of my internship was getting to know all the customers and employees. It was such a small community, so I was quickly welcomed with open arms and felt right at home."



Kirsty Putnam



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 4 TACC Labor Day Holiday
- 6 **TACC Executive Committee Meeting:**
Lubbock, TX, Farmers Cooperative Compress

OCTOBER

- 6 **NSAC Meeting:**
Lubbock, TX, PYCO Industries

NOVEMBER

- 1-2 **South Texas Cooperative Leadership Conference:**
San Antonio, TX, Holiday Inn Riverwalk
- 23-24 TACC Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER

- 25 TACC Christmas Holiday

JANUARY

- 11-12 **Farm Store Summit:**
Fredericksburg, TX, Inn on Baron's Creek

To stay up to date on all TACC news and upcoming events, like us on Facebook!

