



## Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

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### Officers

President

**April Graves**

United Ag Co-op, Inc.  
El Campo, Texas

Vice President

**Greg O'Brian**

Friona Wheat Growers  
Friona, Texas

Secretary

**Aaron Hendricks**

Floydada Co-op Gins  
Floydada, Texas

Immediate Past President

**Tony Morton**

PYCO Industries, Inc.  
Lubbock, Texas

### Staff

**Tommy Engelke**

Executive Vice President

**Christy Lewis**

Vice President of Administration  
and Member Services

# TACC NEWSLETTER

## TACC OFFICE HAS MOVED!

After nearly sixteen years in downtown Austin, TACC has moved to a NEW LOCATION in Round Rock, Texas. **Please update your records to reflect our new address: 1111 North Interstate Highway 35, Suite 208, Round Rock, Texas 78664.** We are in the northeast quadrant of a very popular intersection --- I-35 and Hwy 79 to Taylor and the Dell Diamond in the Chase Bank Building. Be sure to stop by if you are ever in the neighborhood!

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS FOR LAST TIME THIS YEAR

The TACC Executive Committee met for the last time this year via Zoom on Tuesday, December 13. The agenda for the meeting included discussing the Council's preliminary audit results conducted by D. Williams and Company on November 14-15 and a review of TACC office operations.

## TACC KICKS OFF 2023 WITH THE FARM STORE SUMMIT

For the past three years, TACC has taken the opportunity to host a meeting focused solely on the farm store side of the co-op operation—specifically, how to return profitability to these centers. The Farm Store Summit will be held January 12-13 at the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites in Fredericksburg. The program will include an expanded version of the popular roundtable discussion and speakers will address topics such as customer service, supply chain disruptions, and online sales. There will also be a vendor showcase highlighting companies, across the state, that TACC member co-ops use in their businesses. For meeting details and to register, visit <https://texas.coop/farm-store-summit/>.

Since this conference debuted, several have commented that finally there is an annual conference designed specifically for those who work in farm store operations and that is healthy!

## COOPERATIVE BOARD CHAIRMEN'S MEETS AGAIN IN JANUARY

Don't miss THE conference for co-op board chairs or their designee on January 18-20, 2023 in Fredericksburg at the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites. Last year, this meeting joined both the Ruidoso, NM conference and the Corpus Christi school ---- into one statewide board chair effort. The group agreed to continue this concept for 2023.

We will kick off this meeting with a roundtable to learn and share with one another, followed by a five-star program including a nationwide study on board governance, a presentation on best practices in board governance and strategic thinking, and important legal updates. The goal of this meeting is to provide co-op board presidents with nuggets of information to better "manage" the remaining director team and tools to become a better "partner" with the general manager. For the meeting agenda and to register, visit <https://texas.coop/meetings/board-chairmens-conference/>.

## SAVE THE DATE DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Mark your calendars for TACC's Director Development Program on February 2, 2023 at Farmers Cooperative Compress in Lubbock, Texas. This is a long-held conference for co-op directors to get their annual dose of board training --- new challenges, latest legal cases, recently-surfaced co-op tax issues, and new methods for guiding & governing cooperatives. Stay tuned for more meeting details in the coming weeks, but rest assured the meeting will be dominated by interactive discussion!

## NSAC SET FOR FEBRUARY 23-24

The National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives Texas Chapter will be holding their spring meeting February 23-24 in San Antonio, Texas at Menger Hotel (210-223-4361). Office and bookkeeping professionals at both the local and regional co-op level and those CPAs that work in co-op audit firms are encouraged to attend. More information regarding the meeting will be forthcoming. **Russ DuBose**, with D. Williams and Company CPA firm in Lubbock (806-785-5982), serves as president of the Texas Chapter. This is a great occasion to receive required CEU credits for those who need them.

# TACC'S SOUTH TEXAS CO-OP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS!

The TACC South Texas Cooperative Leadership Conference was held in Corpus Christi on November 9 – 10 at the Omni Hotel Corpus Christi, attracting over 100 co-op personnel, directors, and industry representatives. The conference kicked-off with its traditional Shrimp Boil, cooked by Smith Gin Co-op General Manager **Tyler Cross** and Valley Co-op Oil Mill Sales Manager **Aaron Peña**.

The program began with a commodity price and market outlook with **Kevin Brinkley**, CEO of PCCA in Lubbock, a glimpse into the future of co-ops by **Rocky Weber**, CEO, Nebraska Co-op Council, Lincoln, NE and an inside look at H2A labor with **Lee Wicker**, Deputy Director, North Caroline Growers Association, Vass, NC.

Our luncheon and program included welcoming remarks by **Dr. Shad D. Nelson**, Dean, Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Texas A&M Kingsville and a regional economic update by **Jesus Cañas**, Senior Business Economist, Federal Reserve Board, Dallas. After lunch, **Gary McLaren**, renowned co-op attorney, provided the latest in legal updates and **Dr. John Park**, Roy B. Davis Co-op Chair, Texas A&M University, shared a nationwide study benchmarking cooperative board governance.

FROM  
OUR

facebook

## Quick Facts



We averaged over **900** a week on our Facebook posts in the last 4 months, with one week receiving nearly 4,500 and another nearly 3,000!



Our most interacted posts center around **TACC EVP Tommy Engelke's member engagement efforts** and **past TACC Award honorees**.



In the past month, we have received **706 likes** on our daily Facebook posts

### Most Interaction-Single Post

Sharing a post of TACC's 2011 Distinguished Service Award winner garnered the most attention on our Facebook, reaching nearly **900 people**. Below is the text of the post:

*"TACC's 2011 Distinguished Service Award winner and former Plains Cotton Growers CEO Steve Verett of Lubbock, was just named as an inductee into Cotton, Inc's Cotton Research and Promotion Program Hall of Fame for 2022. The actual presentation will be made in ceremonies at Cotton Inc's Annual Meeting this December in New Orleans. Verett is being honored for his significant contributions to the cotton industry for so many years. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University and in addition to his many years at Plains Cotton Growers, he also maintained his partnership in the family's farming operation near Crosbyton."*



## WITH TACC

(Since August 30, 2022)

- Held a TACC Board Meeting September 7-8 in Lubbock.
- Coordinated registrations for the NSAC Texas Chapter's September 30 fall meeting in Lubbock.
- Executed the TACC South Texas Cooperative Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi on November 9-10.
- Assisted D. Williams and Company with the TACC FYE September 30 audit in Austin on November 14-15.
- Met with Gary McLaren and Lone Star Farmers Cooperative board members and management on October 15.
- Prepared recommendations for TACC-PAC Board of Trustees on October 3 to determine contributions to several statewide candidates for the November 8 General Election.
- Taught the co-op business model and summer co-op internship program on October 5 at Angelo State University, November 16 at Texas Tech University, November 3 at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and October 26 & 28 at Texas A&M University.
- Continued daily Facebook posts & weekly LinkedIn posts.
- Developed TACC "monthly" budgets.
- Prepared for the December 13 TACC Executive Committee meeting.
- Developed a TACC Christmas card.
- Assisted with job placements throughout the state.
- Spoke to the Texas FFA's Legislative LEAD Program at the State Capitol in Austin on November 22.
- Conducted field contact visits along the Texas Gulf Coast October 11-14.
- Hosted the Pimpson FFA Chapter at TACC offices to assist in their preparation for the state leadership competition on October 21.
- Participated in the Texas A&M Ag Development Council meeting in College Station on November 11, where TACC's **Tommy Engelle** won the coveted "Member of the Year" Award.
- Assisted graduate students at Texas A&M and Texas Tech University on their research studies.
- Closed down and relocated TACC offices from downtown Austin to Round Rock.
- Participated with Capital Farm Credit and the Texas Tech University College of Agriculture to host a tailgate at the Texas Tech vs Texas Longhorns football game in Lubbock on September 24.
- Finalized details for several upcoming 2023 meetings that begin January 12.
- Participated in several Texas Ag Council meetings of all ag commodity groups on legislative issues.
- Attended the Texas Tribune Rural Symposium at Texas Tech University in Lubbock November 17-18 regarding statewide legislative matters.
- Began arrangements for the 2023 Land O'Lakes/Texas Association of Dairymen/TACC Cooperative Legislative Dinner on April 12 at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in Austin.

### What will we be up to...

- Monitoring legislative bills impacting farmers, ranchers, and cooperatives and participating in weekly ag commodity group meetings at the State Capitol with the Texas Ag Council.
- Recruiting attendees and vendors for the Farm Store Summit on January 12-13 in Fredericksburg.
- Recruiting attendees for the Cooperative Board Chairmen's Conference on January 18-20 in Fredericksburg.
- Finalizing plans for the TACC Director Development Program that will be held February 2 at the Farmers Cooperative Compress in Lubbock.
- Preparing for the Texas Ag Council's Taste of Texas on February 9 at the State Capitol, whereby ag commodity groups provide breakfast for legislative staffers.
- Finalizing plans for Producers Cooperative Association's Legislative Day at the State Capitol for the 9-member director team in Bryan.

## CALENDAR

December

**22-26 - TACC Office Closed for Christmas Holiday**

January

10 - State Legislative Session begins, Austin  
10-12 - Beltwide Cotton Conference, San Antonio

**12-13 - TACC Farm Store Summit, Fredericksburg**

**18-20 - TACC Cooperative Board Chairmen's Conference, Fredericksburg**

February

**2 - TACC Director Development Program, Lubbock**

8-10 - National Co-op Convention, Orlando, FL  
10-12 - National Cotton Council Annual Meeting, Dallas  
28-March 2 - Land O'Lakes Annual Meeting, San Antonio

March

**12-14 - Joint Cooperative Meeting, San Antonio**

28 - Plains Cotton Growers Annual Meeting, Lubbock  
30-31 - Texas Cotton Ginners Association Gin Show, Lubbock