

A Stellar Lineup & Fresh Mountain Air --- Awaits YOU in Ruidoso!

Final preparations are underway for a stellar lineup at the 2019 Managers' Conference --- Inn of the Mountain Gods, July 10-12, 2019!

7 Reasons you should attend the 2019 Cooperative Managers' Conference:



- 1) The fresh, cool mountain air --- mixed with co-op family mingling, golf and washer tournaments are calling your name! Work hard half a day and play hard half a day!
- 2) Hear the much-anticipated results from the focus group conducted by **Dr. Erica Irlbeck**, Assistant Professor in Agricultural Education and Communication at Texas Tech University during the 2019 Academy in Excellence Conference in San Antonio, Texas regarding the "Purchasing and Decision-Making Habits of Millennials".
- 3) An update from the 86th State Legislative Session from one of your own representatives in the "fight" --- State Representative **Drew Springer**, who will also bring along one of his urban counterparts.
- 4) The crowd favorites --- **Gary McLaren**, **Gail Faries** and **Dr. John Park** will address the group on various topics throughout the conference.
- 5) A chance to meet the very promising 2019 summer co-op interns.
- 6) Back by popular command --- an OSHA / OSHCON update from one of your own from South Texas --- **Dale Kerstetter**.
- 7) Take a simple test and find out YOUR personality --- **Codie Wright**, Assistant Director and Gallup Certified Strengths Coach with the Weston AgriFood Sales Program will give the test on Wednesday afternoon and present your personalized results Thursday morning --- a session you don't want to miss! Knowing the personalities of you and others and ways to work within each --- is key!

There is still time to register if you haven't yet --- visit the TACC website (<https://texas.coop/meetings/managers-conference/>) for a more detailed tentative program. If you need to secure a room, please contact **Christy Lewis** (christy@texas.coop) as the room deadline has passed!

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

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2019 TACC Award Applications --- Due *SOON!*

It is now time to submit award applications for the *Cooperative Ginner of the Year Award* and the *Cooperator of the Year Award* for presentation at the 2020 Joint Cooperative Meeting to be held at The Woodlands Resort --- just west of Houston! Please find the applications attached to this email newsletter and fill out for candidates you deem as an outstanding nominee for these awards and send them to TACC.

The final date applications will be accepted is **September 1, 2019**. Please contact TACC (512-450-0555) if you have further questions or concerns about the applications process.

Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council's Co-op Board Chairmen's Conference

"A Person Can Make a *Difference*,
A Co-op Can Make a *Miracle*"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Registration (*Convention Center Foyer*)
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Conference Reception

Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort (575-464-7777)
Ruidoso, New Mexico

July 24-26, 2019

Tentative Program

THURSDAY, JULY 25

Emcee: **Suzy Davis**, TACC President and General Manager,
Brownfield Farmers Co-op Station, Brownfield

8:00 Welcome and Introductions

Many have said in past evaluations, one of the big takeaways from this meeting is the networking and sharing that is accomplished during the meeting. To set that stage, a forum will be provided to allow you to get to know one another in a spirited fashion. Conference speakers usually have a ball at this session!

8:45 "Creating and Instilling a Company Culture" ---

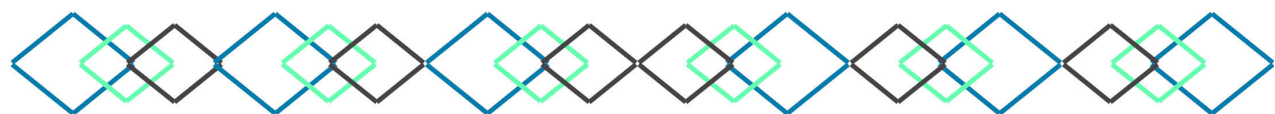
- ✓ Creating a strategic thinking board of directors
- ✓ Building a momentum of expectations – creating an atmosphere of engagement
- ✓ Getting members "director - ready"
- ✓ As a member and owner, developing a: "Making the business work for me mentality"

Bob Keplinger, Lecturer & Business Coach, Action Coach, The Woodlands

During this conference, we always like one of the presenters be a blue-chipper that will challenge the participants and get them out of their comfort zone. Well, here it is. He will provide you approaches and avenues to work with your fellow directors and also be available to help with your one-on-one challenges. This session will sparkle with breakout sessions and cutting-edge innovations to better engage your board, your management, and your community!

11:45 Summary and Conclusion

Noon Family Conference Luncheon (*Pre-Function Room*)



FRIDAY, JULY 26

Emcee: **Tony Morton**, TACC Board Secretary and CFO, PYCO Industries, Lubbock

8:00 Call to Order

8:10 “But I Never Thought That Would Be a Problem”

Gary McLaren, McLaren Law Firm PLLC, Lubbock

It’s rare when this highly-rated repeat speaker suggests his topic title, but it is an appropriate one! Gary is the reason most participants come to this school each year. His glaring stories, unbelievable conclusions, and his approach make this session sizzle. This time he will also include legal cases that keep coming up year after year --- but thought “that would never happen to me!” You are in for some unusual cases that will knock your socks off!

9:40 Break

9:55 “What’s in Your Toolbox?”

Dr. John Park, Roy B. Davis Co-op Chair, Texas A&M University, College Station
Diane Friend, PhD Candidate, Texas A&M University, College Station

Just as occurred in the July 2019 TACC Co-op Managers’ Conference in Ruidoso, NM, where a Texas Tech graduate student paper was the focus of one of the topics (“Purchasing and Decision-making Habits of Millennials”), so will it be happening at the Board Chairmen’s Conference. This time by a PhD student at Texas A&M working on her thesis regarding effective co-op board performance, governance, and leadership. You might say her leadership started years ago when her dad served as National FFA President. Leadership is a part of her family’s DNA! She has been working on this project for over a year and is not complete just yet, BUT she does have some findings and conclusions she would not only like to share with the group, but via group participation, leave the group with application-oriented material to use back home.

10:45 “As a Board, How To Encourage Your General Manager to . . . (Managing the Manager)”



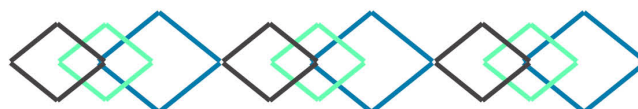
- ✓ Communicate better
- ✓ Strategize with the board more
- ✓ Explain the financials better
- ✓ Increase member engagement
- ✓ Be seen in the community more
- ✓ Train up newer directors
- ✓ Keep directors more current
- ✓ Be more cost conscience
- ✓ Engage in training more
- ✓ Be more active politically
- ✓ Be more volume / sales conscience
- ✓ Voice their opinions more in director meetings
- ✓ Confidentiality among employees
- ✓ Approach succession planning

Gary McLaren, McLaren Law Firm PLLC, Lubbock
Dr. John Park, Roy B. Davis Co-op Chair, Texas A&M University, College Station
Tony Morton, TACC Board Secretary and CFO, PYCO Industries, Lubbock

On the surface --- until you read more --- this could be a very alarming topic if you are a co-op general manager, BUT rest easy! This should be a lot of fun! In their own way and for years, attendees to this conference subtly are always grasping for nuggets of information they can learn and take home for use in their co-ops. We call it a “How To” session and one that has been requested on evaluations for years by these attendees. Oh, and co-op managers planning their own school back in April suggested this topic! Topics listed above are not necessarily requested, but are simply an example of some topics that have been mentioned in the past. This session will not only involve breakout and roundtables so that participants can learn from one another, but will also consist of a panel of co-op resources.

11:45 Summary and Conclusion

Noon Adjourn



It's a Great Gatsby Kind of Conference --- 2020 Joint Cooperative Meeting Speakers *Confirmed!*

With nearly a year to go, the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council has secured two of their featured speakers for the March 2020 Joint Cooperative Meeting to be held at The Woodlands Resort in Woodlands, Texas --- **Dr. Mechel "Mickey" Paggi** and **Michelle Miller**; better known as "The Farm Babe"!

Dr. Paggi will serve as the annual ag economist for the conference and has the background to prove it! Paggi, has served as the Economic Consultant for the National Crop Insurance Services in Overland Park, Kansas since 2016. He is the former Director of the Institute for Food and Agriculture and Associate Dean for Research in the Jordan College of Agriculture at California State University Fresno. He has held several local, state and national leadership roles; serving on the administration for the 2002 Farm Bill as well as several others. Dr. Paggi received his B.B.A. in Economics from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas in Austin, an M.S. in Economics from the University of North Texas in Denton, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Michelle Miller --- who is better known around farming communities as "The Farm Babe" will address the Spouses Program! So, who is the "Farm Babe"?

♦ She educates consumers with how their food is ACTUALLY produced --- without all the marketing gimmicks!

Miller grew up being involved in 4-H, riding horses and doing chores on a friends' farm in Wisconsin --- however, when her high school aptitude test said "go into farming" --- she headed west for college and a career in fashion. After working for Gucci On Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills and in downtown Chicago for several years, she moved to Florida to pursue a traveling dream and eventually met her "Prince Farming" leading her back to the farm life! Today, she works alongside her "Prince Farming" and they have over 2,200 acres of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and oats, as well as run a herd of cattle and sheep. Please don't confuse Michelle with the "Food Babe", who is more of an anti-commercial ag spokesperson!

Curry to *Depart* TACC!

Whitney Curry, TACC's Manager of Marketing & Communications, recently announced that she will be leaving the firm after nearly five years and beginning a new employment still in the co-op community. Effective July 1, she has accepted a role in the cotton services & gin accounting department at Plains Cotton Cooperative Association in Lubbock. Curry, originally from Dublin, has a BS degree from Tarleton State University and a masters in ag communications from Texas Tech University.

Best wishes in her new endeavor!

May 2019, the Council Hosted the Final *Board Meeting* for 2019 --- in Austin!

At the beginning of May (May 8-9, 2019), numerous Council directors and industry associates met in Austin for the final board meeting of 2019. Although the TACC Executive Committee will continue to meet in September, December and again in May 2020, the next full board meeting will not be until the March 2020 Joint Cooperative Meeting in The Woodlands and the next full 'working' board of directors meeting will be September 2020. This is a new direction initiated by the 2016 board of directors.

The May 2019 --- Austin meeting featured a new TACC administration with **Suzu Davis** of Brownfield Farmers Co-op Station, emceeding the meeting. In addition to a number of outside industry speakers, Divisions and Committees explored and gave direction on a number of fronts. Guest speaker, **Charlene Heydinger**, President, Texas-Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Authority, addressed the group on Thursday morning. She provided information about the Texas PACE Authority program, which works with property owners, contractors, lenders, and local governments to bring energy and water improvements that are both economically sound and environmentally friendly.

Key Changes in Ag Law / Strange Happenings as State Legislative Session *Concludes* in Austin

The recently completed State Legislative Session in Austin was much more civil than years past and much more meaningful legislation resulted. Some say this is the result of a very contentious upcoming campaign season as many lawmakers seek to retain their seats.

The two – year state budget of about \$250 billion passed with significant changes in property taxes, school funding and other needs. The Governor also vetoed 58 bills, which is a relatively high number. One example was HB 448 which would have forced kids two years and younger to be strapped in their car seats rear-facing. In vetoing that bill the Governor said, “I don’t believe government should be micro-managing the parenting process!”

He also vetoed a bill that would have eliminated Daylight Savings Time and a bill that would have created a felony if ineligible people knowingly or unknowingly voted in an election.

Many ag groups were disappointed that eminent domain did not get more traction despite the strong efforts of the Texas Farm Bureau and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Another noted change some will see is in fuel pump regulations. For decades this has been handled by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), where they frequently and unannounced would check the accuracy of fuel pumps all across Texas --- in rural and urban areas. That function, with passage of HB 1695 by R) **Craig Goldman** of Ft. Worth, will now move to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. This move was suggested due to abnormal fee increases in recent years at TDA. The negative to this passage is that a function used by many ag and rural groups will now have oversight by a state agency that really does not understand agriculture.

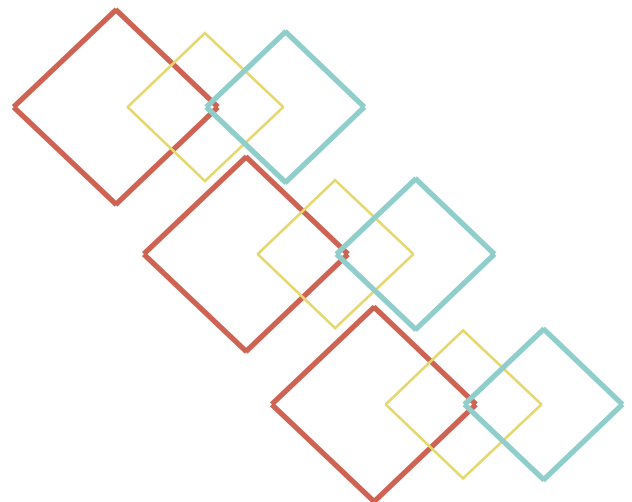
HB 191 by R) **Phil Stephenson** of Wharton also passed to where TDA will be setting up collection centers around the state where folks can dispose old or partially used pesticide and pesticide containers. \$400,000 was allocated for this. Another bill by R) **Kyle Kacal** of College Station passed expanding two additional areas (*there were six areas*) where CDLs are not required when dealing with transportation issues. Under this bill, it is now legal to transport family AND friends’ animals to livestock shows without a CDL and all equine activities.

Over 7,300 bills were filed during the Session and around 1,400 became law. Two additional measures is that it is now legal to hunt and kill feral hogs at any time without a license, whereas in the past the hogs had to be causing damage. One concerning measure that did not gain traction, but will receive attention between now and the January 2021 State Legislative Session is the study of migrant housing locations and conditions. This is found throughout many rural locations.



Spring Time Brings *New* Membership to TACC!

At the 2019 Joint Cooperative Meeting in Horseshoe Bay, Texas, **CoMark Equity Alliance, LLC**, managed by **Allan Woodard** was voted into the TACC membership. Their business is primarily grain marketing headquartered in Enid, Oklahoma. Perryton Equity CEO, **Shawn Hughes**, is a past chair of this organization!



TACC: OUT & ABOUT (since May 3, 2019)

- ✓ Hosted approximately 25 agribusiness students from Tarleton State University to the Texas Department of Agriculture and the State Capitol on May 14-15, serving as the coordinator for several guest speakers.
- ✓ Hosted TACC Associate Member --- Ag Workers Mutual Insurance and their three interns to the State Capitol May 20-22.
- ✓ Were heavily involved in the 2019 Legislative Session, participating in weekly Texas Ag Council meetings --- along with 65 Texas ag commodity groups. TACC serves as the chair of the group.
- ✓ Attended the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Workshop in Corpus Christi June 6.
- ✓ Participated in a Texas A&M Cotton Engineering Chair Advisory Board Meeting in College Station June 11-12. **Jimmy Roppolo** of United Ag Co-op in El Campo chairs the group. Also represented by TACC, Farmers Cooperative Compress and Plains Cotton Cooperative Association.
- ✓ Participated in a fundraising event for R) Supreme Court Chief Justice **Nathan Hecht** in downtown Austin June 12 and R) Supreme Court Justice **Brett Busby** on June 17.
- ✓ Assisted and coordinated TACCs three summer co-op interns in getting established in their host locations throughout the state.
- ✓ Hosted a planning meeting for the October 30-31 TACC South Texas Leadership Conference on June 14 at Gulf Compress in Corpus Christi, with 12 individuals attending.
- ✓ Prepared an economic footprint placemat for TriCounty Producers Co-op in Loop, Texas.

Will Be:

- ◇ Attending a fundraising event for R) State Senator **Dawn Buckingham** of Austin on June 26.
- ◇ Facilitating a 90-minute kick-off group dynamic workshop at a week-long leadership camp of nearly 120 people representing electric cooperatives in East Texas on June 24. This conference will be held in Marshall at the East Texas Baptist University June 24-28.
- ◇ Hosting an all-ag commodity (*Texas Ag Council*) meeting in Austin June 26 and August 14.
- ◇ Participating in the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Summer Membership Meeting in Grapevine on June 24-25.
- ◇ Hosting TACCs Managers' Conference on July 10-12 in Ruidoso, New Mexico.
- ◇ Participating in Plains Cotton Cooperative Gin Workshop on July 15-16, 2019 in Ruidoso, New Mexico.
- ◇ Hosting TACCs Board Chair Conference on July 24-26 in Ruidoso, New Mexico
- ◇ Preparing for the 2019-2020 TACC budget for consideration at the Executive Committee Meeting on September 5 in Lubbock, Texas at Plains Cotton Cooperative Association.
- ◇ Attending a Cotton Inc. caucus meeting on July 17 in Austin.
- ◇ Hosting TACCs summer co-op interns to Austin August 5-6 to learn about state government, receive a mock interview and to conduct a group exit interview.
- ◇ Confirm speakers for the October 30-31, 2019 South Texas Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi.
- ◇ Facilitating a strategic plan for Floydada Co-op Gin on August 29-30.
- ◇ Preparing a survey to be sent to local cooperatives so as to prepare the every five-year Co-op Compensation Study on co-op personnel.
- ◇ Coordinating a tour for all ag groups (*Texas Ag Council*) to visit the Port of Houston in early November.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019

June

23-25: Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Summer Meeting – Grapevine

July

4: Independence Day Holiday

10-12: **TACC Co-op Managers Conference – Ruidoso, New Mexico**

14-16: Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Work Shop – Ruidoso, New Mexico

17: Texas Cotton Producers Board of Directors Meeting - Austin

24-26: **TACC Board Chair Conference – Ruidoso, New Mexico**

August

5-6: TACC Summer Co-op Interns to visit Austin

September

2: Labor Day Holiday

5: **TACC Executive Committee - Lubbock**

17-19: National Conference of State Co-op Council's Annual Meeting - Ithaca, NY

