



TACC NEWSLETTER

Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

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Vice President,
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REGISTER TODAY! FACELIFT 360: CREATING NEW HORIZONS IN CO-OPS!

REGISTER TODAY for **TACC's Cooperative Managers' Conference** set for **July 12-14, 2023** in a NEW location at **Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant, OK!**

The program, recommended by a panel of industry leaders, promises to be both timely and informative! Confirmed topics include interest rates and the future of currency, rural medicine in Texas, board training, tax, legislative, and legal updates, addressing rising mental health issues in agriculture, an H2A labor expert, and promoting sustainability in cotton. **TACC will also host the 1st annual Co-op World Poker Tournament with a chance to win \$500!** Download a [detailed agenda](#) to learn more.

Choctaw Casino and Resort offers exceptional features and amenities guaranteed to "wow" both you and your family! Enjoy over 36 restaurants and bars, bowling, an arcade, virtual reality gaming, a movie theater and Tailgater's Sports Bar. Outside, the Oasis boasts four tropical pools, two swim-up bars and private cabanas and the Aqua, a three-acre pool area, has a separate pool for adults, one for kids and 50 poolside cabanas.

To secure a hotel room at the special rate of \$159/\$209 per night (*plus a \$9.99 resort fee per night per room*), [reserve your room online](#). **Hotel Cut-off Deadline: June 30, 2023.**

THE TOMMY ENGELKE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED: DONATE TODAY!

Approximately 80 TACC directors and guests hosted a **retirement celebration for Tommy Engelke** during TACC's Board Meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Round Rock on May 10. Tommy began his career at TACC in 1989 as the Associate Vice President and was promoted to Executive Vice President in 1996. The celebration was complete with notable recognition, a video of numerous 'thank yous' and congratulatory messages from friends & colleagues, as well as two gifts: a classic Henry engraved deer rifle and a chainsaw. **In addition, TACC established the Tommy Engelke Endowed Scholarship in the College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University.**

If you would like to donate to the scholarship, please follow the instructions below:

To pay by check, please make checks payable to: Texas A&M Foundation
Address: 401 George Bush Dr., College Station, TX 77840
In the memo line, write Tommy Engelke Endowed Scholarship.

If you would like to donate online, use this link [Give | Texas A&M Foundation \(txamfoundation.com\)](https://www.txamfoundation.com).

To allocate your donation to the scholarship:

1. Click this link [Give | Texas A&M Foundation \(txamfoundation.com\)](https://www.txamfoundation.com)
2. In Step 1 for the first drop down select "An Unlisted Account" (Enter Manually)
3. Under that, type in the following: Tommy Engelke Endowed Scholarship: 400-37836

In addition, the 65-member ag lobby group --- Texas Ag Council --- recognized Tommy during one of their weekly meetings at the State Capitol with resolutions, a flag that flew over the State Capitol, and a plaque for nearly 35 years of service to that organization --- serving as treasurer for over 25 years and 2.5 years as chair.



**SAVE THE DATE:
FALL TX-CHAPTER NSAC
MEETING**

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. **It will be held at PYCO Industries in Lubbock on Friday, October 6, 2023.** Join the group the evening before for a fun time of indoor golf and more at 4ORE! Golf in Lubbock. Agenda and registration information will be coming soon!

QUICK PITCH SUMMARY OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- **The only bill that must pass, out of the 7,000 – plus that were filed, is the state budget. It passed.** It is a two – year budget that starts in September 2023 and runs until August 2025. It totals \$321.3 billion and is 1,028 pages long. In addition, the federal government will send back to Texas, funds totaling between \$100 – 150 billion as well, during this two – year period.
- The property tax reduction bill did not pass because the Senate and the House could not agree how to best achieve that goal, **thus they are now in a 30 – day Special State Legislative Session** to bring remedy to this issue.
- The **special rider** included in the massive state budget bill that would have brought needed **assistance to the cotton infrastructure** in Texas, was not included in the final bill, thus it **did not pass**.
- **No school choice or school voucher bill passed.**
- **Regarding LABOR, the e-verify bill** that would have required all employers to report citizenship status on all workers, **did not pass** nor did the two bills imposing additional housing requirements for migrant workers by employers.
- Measures to continue the existence, in state law, allowing for the **continuation of the Texas Cotton Ginners' Trust as a workers comp provider, did pass.**
- **The fake meat bill did pass requiring correct labelling of “fake meat / meat-look-alike / petri-dish”** products to be so labelled, allowing the ag meat industry to continue its good name as a healthy food.
- **A great bill protecting cattlemen & landowners did pass** whereby if someone damages your fence in a vehicle accident or otherwise (at night or while you are away) and thus your cattle begin to roam the highways and someone is injured from hitting your strays---- you as a cattle owner, are no longer liable for those damages.
- **One of the top priorities** of the Texas Farm Bureau did pass **regarding the Right to Farm Act** and how ag land within a city limit traditionally faces obnoxious city ordinances that do not apply to traditional agricultural operations. This bill is quite involved and many rules will need to be written to further define how this new law will be enacted. **A real win for agriculture!**
- Much of the time, advocacy experts in Austin spend most of their time killing a harmful bill that would impact their industry. One such **bill was HB 4489**. It **did not pass** & what a welcome relief for the ag industry. The nature of the bill was to increase the ease by which odor nuisances could be brought upon poultry operations, but again, the bill was killed. **Had this bill passed, other segments of the ag industry would have been attacked next.**
- **No ag sales tax exemption or ag tax valuation changes occurred for the industry!** Another successful win.

2023 TACC SUMMER INTERNS ARE PLACED!

Fourteen years ago, the TACC Board of Directors issued a declaration that our industry needs to do its part to attract top talent and thus the **Summer Co-op Internship Program** was borne. **After visiting several classes at six ag universities in the Fall and Spring**, TACC staff along with several co-op general managers, past TACC interns that are now co-op employees, and university faculty members, interviewed several qualified applicants. **TACC is delighted to officially announce the placement of two interns for this summer's cohort:**



Rachyl Kitten – a junior Texas Tech University student currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Communications – will be working under GM Jimmy Roppolo at United Ag Co-op Inc. in El Campo. She is also on the Texas Tech 2023 meats judging team, has a 4.0 GPA, and was valedictorian of Slaton High School. Although she will spend time in all departments during her internship, since she grew up on a cotton farm all her life, most of her time at the co-op will be in the farm supply store.

Kirsty Putnam – a Tarleton State University student majoring in Agriculture Services and Development and who will be graduating in August 2023, will be working under GM Chris Breedlove at Willacy Co-op in Raymondville. In her past, she has shown pigs in stock shows, served as an intern at the State Fair of Texas, worked at an HEB and at a chamber of commerce, and grew up in Georgetown. She also served as a tour guide at the Stan Antonio and Austin Livestock shows for three years for elementary school students.



2023 TACC AWARDS: NOMINATIONS DUE

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 2024 Joint Cooperative Meeting to be held March 17-19, 2024, at the Kalahari Resorts in Round Rock, Texas. Download applications using the links below or from [TACC's website](#) and fill out for candidates you deem as an outstanding nominee for these awards. Please submit completed application by **September 1, 2023**, to Christy Lewis at christy@texas.coop. Please contact TACC (512-450-0555) if you have further questions or concerns about the applications process.

2022 Cooperative Ginner of the Year: Curtis Stewart, Spade Co-op, Inc., Spade

2022 Cooperator of the Year: Bobby Kurten, Producers Cooperative Association, Bryan

[Download Cooperative Ginner of the Year application.](#)

[Download Cooperator of the Year application.](#)

OUT & ABOUT

WITH TACC

(Since April 2023)

- Spoke on legislative matters to the board of Gulf Compress in Corpus Christi on April 27.
- Hosted a TACC May Board Meeting, May 10-11 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Round Rock.
- Attended Texas Ag Council Meeting of all ag commodity groups weekly online and in person.
- Taped a podcast about the cooperative impact in Texas for Capital Farm Credit on May 3 in College Station.
- Coordinated placing two interns at co-ops in Texas for the summer.
- Attended a Texas A&M Cotton Engineering & Mechanization Chair Advisory Board meeting in College Station on May 31.
- Attended a dinner for eight of the most ag-impacting House Committees on May 24 in downtown Austin in recognition of their work on behalf of the industry.
- Continuing to write daily Facebook & weekly educational LinkedIn posts.
- Monitored the state legislative session.
- Had lunch in New Braunfels with the recently retired CEO of the Oregon Ag Co-op Council on May 9.
- Conducted site visit to the new location of TACC Cooperative Managers Conference, Choctaw Casino and Resort, Durant, OK on May 22.
- Continue to conduct a TACC management transition.

What will we be up to...

- Attending the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association South Texas Gin School in San Antonio June 8 - 9.
- Will host a South Texas Co-op Leadership Conference planning meeting in Corpus Christi on June 14.
- Attending the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association Gin Workshop in Granbury on July 24 - 26.

What will we be up to (continued)...

- Attending both the Texas Cotton Producers Board Meeting and Cotton Board Caucus Meeting in Austin on July 20.
- Preparing for the TACC Executive Committee Meeting on September 6 at the Farmers Cooperative Compress in Lubbock.
- Preparing the proposed 2023-2024 TACC Budget.
- Attending the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association membership meeting in Galveston, June 25-27.

CALENDAR

June

8-9: Plains Cotton Cooperative Assn. Gin Workshop, San Antonio

25-27: Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Summer Meeting, Galveston

August

14-15: Texas Ag Forum, College Station

July

12-14: **TACC Cooperative Managers Conference, Durant, OK**

20: Texas Cotton Producers Board Meeting and Cotton Board Caucus Meeting, Austin

24-26: Plains Cotton Cooperative Assn. Gin Workshop, Granbury

FROM OUR

facebook

Quick Facts



On our Facebook posts since mid-February, we have reached nearly **8,000 people**



In the past month, we have received **340 likes** on our daily Facebook posts.

Most Interaction-Single Post

Sharing a post of **TACC's Tommy Engelke at his retirement celebration** garnered the most attention on our Facebook, reaching over 400 people.

"On Wednesday evening, TACC honored the career of Tommy "Mr. Co-op" Engelke in conjunction with the May Board Meeting. This dinner was a wonderful way to cap off an extensive career representing agricultural cooperatives. Thank you, Tommy!"