



**Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists**

## **2017-2018 Annual Meeting and Report**

### **Pickwick Landing State Park**

*Counce, TN*

*May 9-11*



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# Officers and Committee Chairs

## Present State Officers

President	Ranson Goodman
President Elect	Justin Stefanski
First Vice President	Steven Huff
Second Vice President	Chris Cooper
Third Vice President	Amy Dismukes
Secretary	Chris Hicks
Treasurer	Amanda Mathenia
Past President	Adam Hopkins
Life Member	J.W. McGuire

## Present Regional Officers

Western Region Director	Jeff Lannom
Western Secretary/Treasurer	Danny Morris
Central Region Director	Matthew Deist
Central Secretary/Treasurer	Darby Payne/Mitchell Mote
Eastern Region Director	Aaron Smith
Eastern Secretary/Treasurer	Shannon DeWitt

## Present Committee Chairs

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Agronomy & Pest Management	Ed Burns
Ag. Econ & Community Development	Danny Morris
Animal Science	John Goddard
Natural Resource/Aquaculture	Bruce Steelman
Horticulture & Turfgrass	Celeste Scott
Sustainable Agriculture	Finis Stribling
Public Relations & Ag. Issues	Justin Rhinehart
Early Career Development	Rebekah Norman
Administrative Skills Development	Martin Koon
Teaching & Educational Technologies	David Yates
Communications	Melody Rose
Search for Excellence	Jerri Lynn Sims
4-H Youth	Matt Webb
Professional Excellence	Lindsay Griffin
Public Relations	Jake Mallard
Recognition & Awards	Shannon DeWitt
Scholarship	Timmy Mann
Life Members	J.W. McGuire

# President's Report

Greetings from TAAA&S,

In Extension, time can pass in a blink of an eye. We all wear so many different hats and are pulled in so many different directions as Extension agents/specialists that we sometimes lose track of time. I have been honored to serve as your President since the end of the 2017 Galaxy Professional Development Conference in Chattanooga. The time has truly flown by. I cannot begin to express my appreciation and gratitude to the state board and committee chairs during this past year. Their leadership and dedication to our organization is evident through their hard work and support of our programs and membership. In addition, I would also like to thank and commend our regional officers for their leadership and guidance they provided over the past 12 months. The regional officers are our leaders that recruit, promote and serve as our foundation that allows us to come together and build a larger, stronger professional development association. The Tennessee Association of Agriculture Agents and Specialists is standing tall with deep roots which were established and maintained by its members and leaders past and current.

The word "Volunteer" can be defined as "to freely offer to do something". In Extension, it is not uncommon to serve as or recruit a volunteer. As the 2018 National Association of County Agriculture Agents Professional Development Conference nears it is obvious that our organizations membership is full of volunteers. As a member and President of TAAA&S I could not be prouder of a group of professionals as I am our members. To host a conference as large and demanding as the 2018 AM/PIC it takes more than just a hand full of members. It takes a membership. Our membership has come together, planned and is currently finalizing an unbelievable professional development conference. The 2018 AM/PIC leadership, committee chairs and our members should be commended on your commitment and dedication. I would also like to share my appreciation to all the other extension professional associations for their support and volunteerism as well. Our fellow extension professional associations have been very gracious.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate all of our 2018 award participants and winners for their hard work and excellent programming. I wish all those competing for national awards the best of luck. I congratulate Alan Galloway on being elected NACAA President. It has been an honor to work with him and the NACAA this past year. Also, I would like to extend a special thanks to the administration at The University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University for their continued support of TAAA&S. I joined TAAA&S because of its commitment to agriculture, membership and family. Like a family our membership educates, supports, leads, devotes, and cares for one another. I appreciate your time, thoughts and most of all your friendship. Our future is bright with all the opportunities of diversity in a new agricultural landscape. Your successes are sustaining and building for the next generation of farmers.

Ranson E. Goodman

2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

"STATE FUNDS"

<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
	<b>December 31, 2016</b>	<b>December 31, 2017</b>	<b>May 1, 2018</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Checking	\$5,408.37	\$21,917.00	\$16,227.42
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Equity	\$5,408.37	\$21,917.00	\$16,227.42

Category	1/1/2017- 12/31/2017
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	25,620.00
Refund	450.00
State Meeting Sponsorship	8,799.91
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>34,869.91</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Annual Meeting Expenses	6,418.04
Board Expenses	3,732.72
Fees	40.00
National Dues	8,100.00
Postage	70.52
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>18,361.28</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>16,508.63</b>

**NOTE:** TAAA&S sponsors two accounts in the UT System (technically, these are UT funds with no legal ties to TAAA&S). The first account is what many TAAA&S members refer to as the "B" account or "travel" account and its UT account number is R12-1040-048, account name "TAAA&S Travel Fund." The May 1, 2018 balance was \$3,442.59. This account is listed as a "public service" account. The second account is F12-0000-006 and is called "TAAA&S Endowment." This account is on the list for the UT family campaign and is set up as an endowment where the principal balance cannot be touched. The original value of this account was \$44,871.49 and the May 1, 2018 market value was \$65,870. Additional contributions can be made to the balance of this; the earnings of this account are placed into UT account R12-0140-005 from which the Hicks Award is paid. The May 1, 2018 balance is \$9,132.53.

2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

"FOUNDATION FUNDS"

<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
	<b>December 31, 2016</b>	<b>December 31, 2017</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Checking	\$5,242.99	\$8,421.88	\$3,178.89
Total Raymond James	259,602.23	293,804.67	34,202.44
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>264,845.22</b>	<b>302,226.55</b>	<b>37,381.33</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Equity	<b>264,845.22</b>	<b>302,226.55</b>	<b>37,381.33</b>

	<b>12/31/2014</b>	<b>12/31/2015</b>	<b>12/31/2016</b>	<b>12/31/2017</b>
"State" Checking	\$5,763.79	\$5,583.46	\$5,408.37	\$21,917.00
"Foundation Checking"	10,964.32	10,169.03	5,242.99	-1,878.12
<b>Total Discretionary Funds</b>	<b>16,728.11</b>	<b>15,752.49</b>	<b>10,651.36</b>	<b>20,038.88</b>
Raymond James Investment Account (Foundation BASE)	250,146.25	250,146.25	254,874.24	276,703.45
Raymond James Investment Account (Foundation Operating)	19,604.10	0	4,727.99	17,101.22
UT Account (R12-1040-048 TAAA&S Travel Fund)	958.79	2,412.37	2,578.24	3,442.59
UT Account (R12-0140-005 TAAA&S Endowment)	8,724.89	7,927.39	7,329.59	9,132.53
<b>Total Investment and UT Accounts</b>	<b>279,434.03</b>	<b>260,486.01</b>	<b>269,510.06</b>	<b>306,379.79</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$296,162.14</b>	<b>\$276,238.50</b>	<b>\$280,161.42</b>	<b>\$326,418.67</b>

<b>Category</b>	<b>1/1/2017-12/31/2017</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Awards	1,180.00
College Scholarship	3,000.00
National Meeting (city)	2,941.11
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,121.11</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-7,121.11</b>

# Western Region

Region Director	Jeff Lannom
Regional Director Elect	Ryan Blair
Region Secretary/Treasurer	Danny Morris
2018 Membership	43
2018 Early Career Award-Agent	Ronnie Cowan
2018 Early Career Award-Specialist	Danny Morris

## **Western Region Meeting and Activities Summary**

Western Region TAAA&S held its annual meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Championship Room of Hardy M. Graham Stadium at the University of Tennessee – Martin. There were 38 in attendance. Of those 38, there were 5 specialists, 1 University of Tennessee benefits director, 1 regional director, 4 UT Martin faculty and staff and 2 spouses in attendance.

The meal was catered by Sudexo of UT Martin and provided by the UT Martin School of Agriculture, courtesy of Dr. Wes Totten. Door prizes were sponsored by: Weakley Farmers Co-Op, Crop Production Services, Monsanto, Pioneer-DuPont, Bayer Crop Sciences and Final Flight Outfitters.

Professional development was provided by: Jon Gushen – UT Employee Retirement Benefits, Dr. Mark Simpson, UT Martin: Building Capacity for Climate Change Communication and Research in West Tennessee; Patton Webb, UT Martin: Use of Precision Agriculture/Drones in Detecting Heat in Beef Production. Ranson Goodman gave an update of the TAAA&S state meeting to be held at Pickwick Landing in May. A tour of the UT Martin Farm was provided to attendees by Mike Pierce, UT Martin Farm Manager.

The business meeting following lunch was conducted by Lindsey Griffin. Awards were voted on prior to the meeting by all members and the recipients for the 2016/2017 Western Region TAAA&S were recognized. New officers were also voted in during the business meeting.

### **2018 Western Region Early Career Awards**

#### **Specialist- Danny Morris**

Danny is currently an Extension Area Specialist – Farm Management based in the Gibson County office at Trenton. Danny provides leadership in the farm and financial management educational programs in Carroll, Chester, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Madison, McNairy, and Weakley counties. He works well with producers, Extension Agents, agribusiness, and others in developing this comprehensive program as a part of the Tennessee MANAGE program.

Danny is well thought of across the state and has given presentations at the Tennessee Grain & Soybean Conference in Dyersburg and the Middle Tennessee Grain Conference in Manchester. He has also been involved in the planning as well as a presenter for the Considerations for Beginning Farmers workshops conducted across the state of Tennessee. Danny also provides a weekly Grain Newsletter that is disseminated by email and posted on the UT Crops News Blog.

Danny is currently serving as the Western Region TAAA&S treasurer.

## **County-Ronnie Cowan**

Ronnie's time in Lewis County is currently split as a 4-H Agent, the ANR Agent, & County Director which is no small feat in itself. Ronnie has served in this role since 2013 and immediately impacted Lewis County with his vision and leadership ability. Lewis County 4-H as well as ANR programs have continued to grow under his direction, and annually host many successful educational programs, most notably a large community involvement event, Farm City Day. Ronnie is active with the local Cattlemen's Association, fair board, foresters, beekeepers, the LMTPTeam, and the Lewis Co. Chamber of Commerce. While Ronnie is a man that can wear many hats, his favorite to pull off the shelf is in the areas of fisheries, wildlife management, and forestry. Ronnie's expertise and teaching ability in these areas serve his clientele well. Ronnie was honored in 2014 with a "Conservationist of the Year" Award by the Lewis Co. Soil Conservation District and has earned multiple accolades among his peers in TAE4-HW. UT Extension and the people of Lewis County and beyond are lucky to have a man dedicated to his craft like Ronnie, and we congratulate him.

**2018 Western Region DSA Recipient**

**2018 Western Region AA Recipients**



# TAAA&S - Central Region Report

Director:	<i>Matthew Deist</i>
Secretary:	<i>Darby Payne</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Mitchell Mote</i>
Director Elect:	<i>Dan Owen</i>
Director in Training:	<i>Matt Webb</i>
Current Members:	58
New Members:	4
Lifetime Members:	2

## **- Regional Meeting & Activities Summary -**

### **2017 Central Region TAAA&S Award Recipients:**

Adult Agent of the Year - *Chris Hicks*  
Youth Agent of the Year - *Clint Parker*

### **2017 Central Region TAAA&S - Fall Meeting Summary:**

The Central Region TAAA&S Association met on October 23, 2017 in Kimball, TN at Pat's Summit located within Jasper Highlands. Members were catered to a breathtaking view overlooking the beautiful Sequatchie Valley courtesy of John Thornton and the Jasper Highlands Staff.

The meeting began with a review of old business and then quickly transitioned into discussing new business with a strong emphasis on committee updates and fundraising pertaining to the upcoming NACAA AM/PIC

Conference in July/August of 2018. Regional Director term length was also discussed and ultimately extended from a one year term to a two year term. This term extension provides the Director an opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the first year of his/her term to the second year with the intention of further developing themselves and the organization professionally. A suggestion to form a nominating committee for regional officer elections in 2018 was mentioned as well with a goal of providing other members the chance to grow

professionally and serve the organization in an official capacity. The notion of a dues increase was proposed, debated and adopted to include a regional fee of \$10 to help fund regional TAAA&S activities in the future. At end, in other business, the TAAA&S State Meeting in May at Pickwick State Park was announced, a financial contribution to Ag-in-the Classroom in Honor of Joe Pearson to be decided on by the State Board was proposed, and the Agent of the Year Awards were presented.

After the business meeting, lunch was provided on site allowing members a final chance to take in the view from atop the bluffs before touring Cardin Forest Products LLC in South Pittsburg, TN. Upon arrival to Cardin

Forest Products LLC, Bob Hughes and JoJohn McCraw opened all the doors to their state-of-the-art and family owned sawmill. From kiln-dried and green lumber to pallet stock and bi-products, Central Region TAAA&S members learned all about the manufacturing of Appalachian hardwood lumber during their professional development tour.

### **Elections:**

Darby Payne & Mitchell Mote were reelected to serve as Secretary & Treasurer for 2018 respectively.

Matthew Deist will continue to serve as Central Region Director for 2018.

Dan Owens will continue to serve as Central Region Director Elect for 2018.

Matt Web was elected to serve as Director in Training for 2018.

# Eastern Region

Region Director	Keith Boone
Region Secretary/Treasurer	Becky Bowling
Current Regular Members	70
New Members	7
Outstanding Young Agent	Blake Ramsey
Outstanding Young Specialist	Natalie Bumgarner

## **Eastern Region Meeting and Activities Summary**

The Eastern Region TAAA&S held its fall annual meeting on November 30, 2017, hosted by Aaron Smith, Assistant Professor and Becky Bowling, Specialist, Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. The group convened at the UT Arboretum and traveled to Oak Ridge National Laboratory for a tour of the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility. The tours were led by Barbara Penland, Bill Renaud and Kat Engstrom. They spoke about ORNL's history and past and present research projects. The group viewed the supercomputers. The group left the ORNL's main campus to tour the Manufacturing Demonstration Facility where they learned about 3D printing. The ORNL tour concluded and the group reconvened at the UT Arboretum for lunch and business meeting.

Lunch was provided by the Union County Hog Project.

The business meeting was held at the UT Arboretum with Dr. Aaron Smith presiding. Jerry Lamb made a motion to approve the 2016 Eastern Region TAAA&S meeting minutes. David Bilderback seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dr. Aaron Smith stated he had served a three terms as Eastern Region Director and wanted to step down. Jacob Boone was willing to serve as Eastern Region Director. Aaron Smith made a motion that the nominations cease and we elect Jacob Boone by acclamation. Greg Upchurch seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jacob Boone was elected Eastern Region Director for 2018-19.

David Bilderback introduced the new dairy specialist, Elizabeth Eckelkamp. David Bilderback made a motion to donate \$1,500 to the 2018 NACAA AMPIC in Chattanooga. This was a challenge from other regions. Tom Stebbins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

David Yates reported on the 2017 NACAA AMPIC in Salt Lake City. There was a good delegation from Tennessee. 2017 DSA winners were David Bilderback and Ty Petty. AA winner was Laura Mobley. There was larger attendance. David thanked the members for the \$1,500 donation. The TAAA&S group will be meeting in Chattanooga next week on the 7th & 8th with the national board. They will tour the convention/conference site and present the proposed budget. Once the budget is approved, they will set the registration fee. David said they were confident that the registration fee would be less than \$400, with a goal of \$375. There will no longer be a free first-timers' fee. The first-timers' fee will be reduced by \$125. There will be 26 tours that showcase Tennessee. Everyone needs to help with tours, etc. There is an aggressive program planned and expecting 1,300 people. Will need help from other organizations. All call for help will go out in January. Jerry Lamb discussed how to pay to attend the meetings. Some ideas were: fee-based program funds, director e-account, etc. With e-accounts -have to manage this account-no limit but once out of money in account, don't ask for more.

Shannon DeWitt discussed the awards—DSA, AA & Hall of Fame. DSA was greater than 10 years of service and AA was 3 to 10 years of service. Hall of Fame (HoF) winner in past was Larry Moorehead. No one could recall another HoF from Tennessee. The HoF winners have lots of community involvement and leadership. Everyone is encouraged to apply. An e-mail will be sent out to encourage application. John Wilson discussed the application process. To apply, the email needs to be email used in NACAA database, for example [awilson@tennessee.edu](mailto:awilson@tennessee.edu). When you apply, submit a high quality photograph in business attire. This photo will be used in the programs.

In the past, Dr. Burns has offered \$400 for poster or presentations to help with travel. It is up to 10 people and in order of when applied for. One of presentations is the opportunity to present what you've done in your county. On Wednesday of the meetings, there is a call to expand the schedule to allow more opportunity to present. In the past there has been low participation. There is hope that participation is this will increase.

John Wilson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Lamb seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

After the meeting, Dr. Kevin Hoyt, Center Director of UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, gave the group an overview of the center. Michelle Campanis gave the group an overview of some of the outreach programs that are conducted at the UT Arboretum. Dr. Virginia Dale, from ORNL gave a presentation of research about wood pellets and the sustainability of Southern forests. This research is based on data collected from the US Forest Services' Forest Inventory Analysis. After Dr. Dale's presentation, the group went to a demonstration plot located at the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center. At the demonstration plot, Dr. Tom Brandeis, Angie Row, and John Simpson discussed the Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA). They discussed/demonstrated how the data was collected and used. They gave us examples of industry and academia use the data. The group adjourned after this presentation.

# Committee Reports

The following committees had no report this year:

Agronomy & Pest Management

Natural Resources/Agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture

Life Members

Administrative Skills Development

Early Career Development

Ag. Econ & Community Development

Horticulture & Turfgrass

Public Relations & Agriculture Issues

Teaching & Educational Technologies

Animal Science

Search for Excellence

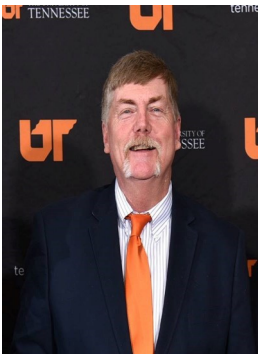
## Recognition and Awards Committee

### Shannon DeWitt, Chair

The committee received three nominations for Achievement Award and three nominations for Distinguished Service Award this year. Our state, based upon membership, may recognize three AA's and three DSA's. Upon review and evaluation by committee, the members listed below were approved and will receive their national awards during the NACAA AM/PIC in Chattanooga, TN July 29–August 2, 2018.

## 2018 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

### John Goddard



John Goddard has 36 years of Extension experience in Loudon, Bradley, and Hawkins counties. He conducts dairy, beef, row crops, and forage research and education. John oversees an Advanced Master Beef Producer Course with over 100 participants. John has coached seven National Champion 4-H judging teams in four different areas. Notable winning teams include State Livestock Judging Teams in 2014 & 2016 and the National Winning 2017 Livestock Skillathon Team. He is a member of the University of Tennessee Exempt Staff Council (2016 Chairman), President's Advisory Board, Faculty & Ag Leadership Team, and Received the 2017 Extension Outstanding Award.

### Steven Michael Huff



Steven Michael Huff has had the honor of education nearly 50,000 people without the two counties he has served. Programs he has been involved in are East Tennessee Grain Conference, Advanced Master Beef, Profit and Production, Beekeeping, Grafting, Fruit Tree Pruning, Gardening, Beef Expos, and much more. These programs have had an economic impact on program participants and communities of over \$9.6 million.

### Megan Bruch Leffew



Megan Bruch Leffew has worked as a value-added Agriculture and Marketing Specialist focusing on agritourism and direct marketing since June 2003. She has received awards for Outstanding Specialist, Innovative Programs, and Outstanding Publications. Megan has served as TAAA&S Communications Award Chair, Specialist Region Director and Publicity Chair for the 2018 NACAA AM/PIC. She has served as Chair and Southern Region Vice-Chair for the NACAA Professional Improvement Council for Agriculture Economics and Community Development Committee.

## 2018 Achievement Award Recipients



### **Ronnie Cowan**

Ronnie Cowan has been with UT Extension– Lewis County since April 2013. In 2014, Ronnie began conducting Advanced Master Beef Producer Courses in Lewis County. This opportunity allowed producers from Lewis County to attend meetings in their own county. Since 2014, participation in Advanced Master Beef Producer Courses and the Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program (TAEP) has increased and earned approximately \$2 million for producers in Lewis County. In the last 3 years, seventy five producers have graduated the Advanced Master Beef Producer Program. In addition, Ronnie has partnered with the South Central Area Fair to bring agricultural exhibits back to for the first time since the 1980s. Producers may enter exhibits in 35 different categories.



### **Justin Hargrove**

Justin Hargrove provides educational support to Benton County livestock, forage, and row crop producers. Thirty eight Advanced Master Beef Producers and 45 Beef Quality Assurance producers were certified in 2016-2017. Twenty eight Private Pesticide Applicators were recertified in 2017, resulting in \$374,000 in positive financial impact. Justin is a 2015 graduate of the AgStar Leadership Development Program and active TAAA&S Member, having received the Early Career Award in 2015.



### **Blake Ramsey**

Over the past three years, 250 producers completed the Advanced Master Beef Course. Educational impact to their operation was \$800,000 dollars. Over 4.8 million dollars' worth of Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Programs monies come back to Hawkins County. The Northeast Tennessee Goat and Sheep Alliance sold over 2,400 head. Profiting the producers over \$60,000. The Hawkins County Cattlemen's Association Video sale has sold more than 4,200 head of livestock. Profited producers \$275,000 over local market price.

## **2018 Early Career Award Recipients**

**In recognizing agents and specialists by region for Early Career Awards, each region may nominate two county level members or two non-county level members or one of each to receive this recognition.**

**TAAA&S member agents and specialists with less than 10 years of service are eligible to receive this award.**

### **Central Region**

County Level Award – Matthew Deist

County Level Award – Amy Dismukes

Friend of Extension Award— Keith Harrison

### **Eastern Region**

County Level Award – Blake Ramsey

Specialist – Dr. Natalie Bumgarner

### **Western Region**

County Level Award – Ronnie Cowan

Specialist – Danny Morris

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## 2018 Communications Awards Program

Melody Rose, Chair

25 members submitted 58 entries for the 2018 TAAA&S Communications Awards Program. A summary of entries, members participating and state winners by region are presented in the following table:

<i>Region</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Members Participating</i>	<i>State Winners</i>
Central	36	10	9
Eastern	14	9	4
Western	8	4	1
Totals	58	25	14

The number of entries by class is presented in the following table:

<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number of Entries in State</i>
1	Audio Recordings	5
2	Published Photo & Caption	3
3	Computer Generated Graphics Presentation	5
4	Program Promotional Piece	12
5	Personal Column	6
6	Feature Story	5
7	Newsletter, Individual	4
8	Newsletter, Team	1
9	Video Recordings	4
10	Fact Sheet	3
11	Publication	5
12	Web Site	2
13	Learning Module/Notebook	2
14	Bound Book	1
	Total Entries in the State	58

Special thanks are extended to the following for the judging of all entries: Lydia Sweatt, George Mays, Randi Nott, Kathy Noel, Aliceson Bales, Jeanie Jackson, Kitty Earl, Jeff Aiken, Jeanne Driese, Tammy Kinser, Sylvia Reynolds, Holly Lamons, Rob Ellis, Ronnie Sartain, Lamanda Weston, Jake Haun, David Teague, and Barry Bales.

## 2018 Communications Awards State Placing By Class

First Name	Last Name	Team Members	County	Region	Category	Region Placing	State Placing
Chris	Cooper		Shelby	Western	1	1	1
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	1	3	
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	1	1	3
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	1	2	
Blake	Ramsey		Hawkins	Eastern	1	1	2
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	2	3	3
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	2	1	1
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	2	2	2
Johnny	Barnes		DeKalb	Central	3		
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	3	3	3
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	3	1	1
Mitchell	Mote		Rutherford	Central	3	2	2
Hal	Pepper		Specialist	Central	3		
Johnny	Barnes		DeKalb	Central	4		
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	4	1	2
Joellen	Dimond		Tipton	Western	4	2	
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	4	3	
Thomas	Greenlee		Rhea	Eastern	4	2	
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	4		
Booker T.	Leigh		Shelby	Western	4	3	
Amanda	Mathenia		Perry	Western	4	1	
Blake	Ramsey		Hawkins	Eastern	4	3	
Tom	Stebbins		Hamilton	Eastern	4		
Virginia	Sykes	Natalie Bumgarner	Specialist	Eastern	4	1	1
Matthew	Webb		Marshall	Central	4	2	3
Christopher	Cooper		Shelby	Western	5	1	2
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	5	1	1
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	5	3	
Mitchell	Mote		Rutherford	Central	5	2	3
Chris	Ramsey		Sullivan	Eastern	5	1	



## 2018 Communications Awards State Placing By Class

First Name	Last Name	Team Members	County	Region	Category	Region Placing	State Placing
Tom	Stebbins		Hamilton	Eastern	5	2	
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	6	2	2
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	6	3	3
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	6	1	1
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	6		
Amanda	Mathenia		Perry	Western	6	1	
Johnny	Barnes		DeKalb	Central	7	1	1
Anna	Duncan		Coffee	Central	7	3	
Thomas	Greenlee		Rhea	Eastern	7	1	3
Matthew	Webb		Marshall	Central	7	2	2
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	8	1	1
Anthony	Carver		Grainger	Eastern	9	1	1
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	9	1	2
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	9	2	3
Margarita	Velandia		Specialist	Eastern	9	2	
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	10	1	1
Anna	Duncan		Coffee	Central	10	2	2
Amanda	Mathenia		Perry	Western	10	1	3
Michael	Barry		Davidson	Central	11	1	3
Natalie	Bumgarner	Bob Ary, Darby Payne, Carol Reese, Melody Rose, Lee Sammons, Virginia Sykes, Gregg Upchurch	Specialist	Eastern	11	1	1
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	11	2	
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	11	3	
David	Hughes		Specialist	Eastern	11	2	2
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	12	1	1
Amanda	Mathenia		Perry	Western	12	1	2
Natalie	Bumgarner		Specialist	Eastern	13	1	1
Thomas	Greenlee		Rhea	Eastern	13	2	2
Megan	Leffew		Specialist	Central	14	1	1

First Name	Last Name	County	Region	Category	Region Placing	State Placing	Award
Michael	Barry	Davidson	Central	11	1	3	\$10.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
Natalie	Bumgarner	Specialist	Eastern	11	1	1	\$40.00
				13	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>
Anthony	Carver	Grainger	Eastern	9	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Chris	Cooper	Shelby	Western	1	1	1	\$40.00
				5	1	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>
Johnny	Barnes	DeKalb	Central	7	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Jason	De Koff	Specialist	Central	2	3	3	\$10.00
				3	3	3	\$10.00
				4	1	2	\$25.00
				6	2	2	\$25.00
				9	1	2	\$25.00
				10	1	1	\$40.00
				12	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
Amy	Dismukes	Williamson	Central	2	1	1	\$40.00
				5	1	1	\$40.00
				6	3	3	\$10.00
				8	1	1	\$40.00
					Communicator of		\$100.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$230.00</b>
Anna	Duncan	Coffee	Central	10	2	2	\$25.00

						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
Thomas	Greenlee	Rhea	Eastern	7	1	3	\$10.00
				13	2	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
Melissa	Henry	Putnam	Central	2	2	2	\$25.00
				3	1	1	\$40.00
				6	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>
Chris	Hicks	Smith	Central	1	1	3	\$10.00
				9	2	3	\$10.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
David	Hughes	Specialist	Eastern	11	2	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
Megan	Leffew	Specialist	Central	14	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Amanda	Mathenia	Perry	Western	10	1	3	\$10.00
				12	1	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
Mitchell	Mote	Rutherford	Central	3	2	2	\$25.00
				5	2	3	\$10.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
Blake	Ramsey	Hawkins	Eastern	1	1	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
Virginia	Sykes	Specialist	Eastern	4	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Matthew	Webb	Marshall	Central	4	2	3	\$10.00
				7	2	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
						<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1060.00</b>

## **2018 State Communications Awards Communicator of the Year**

The Fletcher Sweet Award honors the TAAA&S member who earns the title of Communicator of the Year. To be eligible, a member must enter at least four categories in the communications awards program. The winner is based on the number of entries and the quality of entries submitted. “Sweet Award” recipients must wait two years before they are eligible to receive this award again.

### *In Memoriam*

The “Sweet Award” honors Mr. Fletcher Sweet, retired University of Tennessee Communications Specialist. Mr. Sweet began his career at the University of Tennessee in 1943 in the Public Relations/News Department on the main campus. Three years later, he came to the Agricultural Campus and the Extension Service as an Assistant Editor for the Information Department. In 1973, he became section leader of the Extension Communications section. He retired in 1974, and after a valiant battle with cancer, passed on December 20, 1995.

### **Finalists for the 2018 “Sweet Award”**

Jason De Koff\*

Amy Dismukes

Melissa Henry

Chris Hicks

Amanda Mathenia

*\*Members who had at least the minimum number of 2017 entries to qualify (4) but were ineligible due to having won in the past two years.*

## ***2018 Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winner***

Amy Dismukes

### **Previous Winners:**

Jason De Koff, 2017	Ronald L. Barron, 2007
Chris Hicks, 2016	Creig C. Kimbro, 2006
Megan Leffew, 2015	Karla Keen, 2004
Melissa Henry, 2014	Kevin L. Rose, 2003
Tonya K. Ashworth, 2013	Glen E. Wolfenbarger, 2002
Thomas Stebbins, 2012	Joseph Donaldson, 2001
Melissa Henry, 2011	John Campbell, 2000
Tony K. Ashworth, 2010	Gary Kirchhofer, 1999
Booker T. Leigh, 2009	David A. Yates, 1998
Thomas Stebbins, 2008	

## 2018 State Communications Awards Procedures

Points for the Sweet Communicator of the Year Award are based on the following scale:

State Placing	1 <sup>st</sup> = 6 points	2 <sup>nd</sup> = 5 points	3 <sup>rd</sup> = 4 points
Regional Placing	1 <sup>st</sup> = 3 points	2 <sup>nd</sup> = 2 points	3 <sup>rd</sup> = 1 point

In the event of a tie for the title of Communicator of the Year, the following procedure is employed to determine the winner:

Number of state winning entries.

Number of entries in the state (includes 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place state entries).

Number of region first place entries.

Number of entries placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the region.

Total number of entries.

The Sweet Award winner receives a plaque and a \$100 cash award.

State winners receive cash awards as follow:

1 <sup>st</sup> = \$40	2 <sup>nd</sup> = \$25	3 <sup>rd</sup> = \$10
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### ***Budget for State Communication Awards***

State 1 <sup>st</sup> place \$40.00	X 14	\$560.00
State 2 <sup>nd</sup> place \$25.00	X 14	\$350.00
State 3 <sup>rd</sup> place \$10.00	X 14	\$140.00
Communicator of the Year \$100.00	X 1	\$100.00
"Sweet Award" Plaque \$30.00	X 1	\$30.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$1,180.00</b>

### ***2018 Expenditures for State Communication Awards***

State 1 <sup>st</sup> place \$40.00	X 13	\$520.00
State 2 <sup>nd</sup> place \$25.00	X 12	\$300.00
State 3 <sup>rd</sup> place \$10.00	X 10	\$100.00
Communicator of the Year \$100	X 1	\$100.00
"Sweet Award" Plaque \$30.00	X 1	\$30.00
<b>Awards Total</b>		<b>\$1050.00</b>

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## 2018 Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award

Jake Mallard, Chair

3 members submitted 2 entries for the 2018 TAAA&S Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award. A summary of entries, members participating and state winners by region presented in the following table:

<i>Region</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Members Participating</i>	<i>State Winners</i>
Central	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	0
Western	2	3	1
Totals	2	3	1

Special thanks is extended to the UT Extension Agents and Regional Program leader that judged this years Award.

### 2018 Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation State Placing

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Region Placing</b>	<b>State Placing</b>
Joseph	Griffy		Stewart	Western	2	2
Lindsay	Griffin	Jake Mallard	Haywood/	Western	1	1

## Professional Excellence Committee

*Lindsay Stephenson Griffin, chair*

Sixteen members have submitted abstracts for posters or presentations for the 2018 NACAA AM/PIC in Chattanooga. State judging for the posters were done by a group of Extension Specialist and Agents throughout the state. The judging panel had a variety of program knowledge and educational backgrounds in areas such as economics, livestock, row-crop, horticulture, Family and Consumer Sciences, and marketing.

<b>PRESENTATION</b>		
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Category</u></b>
Chris Hicks	<i>Controlling Cool Season Forage Weeds in the Fall</i>	Agronomy & Pest Management
Hal Pepper	Providing Educational Opportunities For Tennessee Farmers Markets	Ag Economics & Community Development
Tim Roberts	<i>Urban Youth Education in Agriculture, Forestry, &amp; other Natural Resources</i>	4-H & Youth Education
Chris Cooper	<i>Creating an Effective Master Gardner Speakers Bureau</i>	Horticulture and Turfgrass
Joellen Dimond	<i>Introduction to Tree Identification</i>	Horticulture and Turfgrass
Jason De Koff	<i>Twitter Tips for Extension Excellence</i>	Teaching & Educational Technologies
<b>POSTER</b>		
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Category</u></b>
David Bilderback	<i>Fencing Budgets Calculator</i>	Extension Education
Becky Bowling	<i>Decision Making Tools</i>	Extension Education
<b>Megan Bruch Leffew<sup>1</sup></b>	<b><i>Growing Digital Educational Program</i></b>	<b>Extension Education</b>
David Cook	<i>Pollinator Health Garden Workshop</i>	Extension Education
Amy Dismukes	<i>Garden Talk...Horticulture for Homeowners</i>	Extension Education
David Hughes	<i>Feasibility &amp; Economic Impact of a Small Federally Inspected Cattle Harvest Facility</i>	Extension Education
Mitchell Mote	<i>Middle Tennessee Landscape Short Course</i>	Extension Education
Lena Beth Reynolds	<i>Happy Cows on Cattle Lanes</i>	Extension Education
<b>Jake Mallard<sup>2</sup></b>	<b><i>Effects of Cover Crops on Corn and Cotton Yield in Tennessee</i></b>	<b>Applied Research</b>
John Goddard	<i>Biomass Application Benefits for Loudon County, Tennessee</i>	Applied Research

1-State Winner in Extension Education

2-State Winner in Applied Research



## **Excellence in 4-H Programming**

### **TAAA&S**

Submitted by Matthew Webb, Chair

There was one entry in 2018 for Excellence in 4-H Programming. Thomas Greenlee, Extension Agent Rhea County was our participant. A committee was formed and Thomas Greenlee was named our state winner. Below is a summary of his submission.

Thomas Greenlee, Extension Agent, Rhea County

The Rhea County 4-H Program has emphasized livestock production and its ties to the future success of youth. Youth livestock programs alone teach youth responsibility, respect, time management and work habits. Over the course of the last three years, other life skills have been integrated into the program in an effort to better prepare youth for future careers. By implementing skills such as communication and teaching on topics such as record keeping and financial management youth participants are better prepared for the future. Utilizing topics such as livestock judging, skillathon and career exploration, youth better understand how to prepare for their futures. It is imperative that we prepare our participants to enter the workforce and the livestock program as a gateway to ensure they are setting goals and achieving them.

# Scholarship Committee

Timmy Mann, Chair  
Ronnie Barron, Vice-Chair

A committee of TAAA&S members was chosen to assist the Chair and Vice-Chair with the selection process for the 2018 college scholarships. The 2018 recipients are Hunter Goodman, son of Ranson Goodman (Extension Agent, Henry County) and Rhett Bowling, son of Becky Bowling (Extension Specialist, Knoxville, TN).

Congratulations to these two young people.

## **2018 Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists Scholarship**

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded annually, following submission of proof of completing one successful semester of coursework to the Scholarship chair who will notify the Treasurer of the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists.
2. Recipient must be a child of a TAAA&S member or Life Member in good standing with three or more years of TAAA&S membership.
3. Recipient can be of any major with preference given to agriculture, family and consumer science, and other sciences (in descending order).
4. Recipient can attend any university with preference given to attendance in the University of Tennessee System, TSU and the Tennessee Board of Regents system.
5. Preference given to year in college: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior (in descending order).
6. Selection committee should use other information on the scholarship application if needed to select recipient. Examples: leadership activities, grade average, etc.
7. If recipient attends the University of Tennessee, Knoxville majoring in agriculture, the scholarship should be awarded at the Agriculture Awards Banquet if possible. Otherwise, arrangements can be made for the presentation of the scholarship.
8. A recipient can receive the scholarship only one time.

## 2018 AM/PIC

Jeff Via & David Yates – Co-Chairs

We are fast approaching the 2018 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference hosted by Tennessee July 29 – August 2. Chattanooga is excited to be the host for this year's conference. We have been working with the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau and they are looking forward to having us in town.

Many committees are hard at work to put things together. Everything that we have discussed over the past three years now has to happen. This includes all the details with our facilities, all the programs and entertainment, food (which is very important) and our educational tours. There are so many people working together and may we say thank you to all the committee chairs and members for an outstanding job.

This conference would not be possible without the efforts of fundraising. We have been very fortunate to receive funding at many different levels. Our Celebrator Donor Level of \$50,000 or greater includes the Tennessee General Assembly and the University of Tennessee Extension. We will be recognizing our sponsors all during the meeting in multiple ways. We are at the point that we have all the sponsors listed whether they have given a monetary or in-kind donation. Kevin Rose is handling our sponsorship listing.

Finally, we would like to thank you as members of TAAA&S along with all our Extension colleagues at UT and TSU for your help and willingness to step up to the challenge of hosting this conference. The nation is coming to visit and we know that our southern hospitality will be here to give everyone a warm welcome. Thanks for making this a great experience.

Jeff and David

# **Officers and Committee Chairs**

## **2018-2019 State Officers**

President	Justin Stefanski
President Elect	Steven Huff
First Vice President	Chris Cooper
Second Vice President	Amy Dismukes
Third Vice President	Eastern Region
Secretary	Chris Hicks
Treasurer	Amanda Mathenia
Past President	Ranson Goodman
Life Member	J.W. McGuire

## **2018-2019 Regional Officers**

Western Region Director	Ryan Blair
Western Secretary/Treasurer	Danny Morris
Central Region Director	Dan Owens
Central Secretary/Treasurer	Darby Allday/Mitchell Mote
Eastern Region Director	Keith Boone
Eastern Secretary/Treasurer	Becky Bowling

## **2018-2019 Committee Chairs**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Agronomy & Pest Management	Ed Burns
Ag. Econ & Community Development	Danny Morris
Animal Science	John Goddard
Natural Resource/Aquaculture	Bruce Steelman
Horticulture & Turfgrass	Celeste Scott
Sustainable Agriculture	Finis Stribling
Public Relations & Ag. Issues	Justin Rhinehart
Early Career Development	Rebekah Norman
Administrative Skills Development	Martin Koon
Teaching & Educational Technologies	David Yates
Communications	Melody Rose
Search for Excellence	Jerri Lynn Sims
4-H Youth	Matt Webb
Professional Excellence	Lindsay Griffin
Public Relations	Jake Mallard
Recognition & Awards	Shannon DeWitt
Scholarship	Timmy Mann
Life Members	J.W. McGuire

# TAAA&S/Hicks Award Recipients

<b>1997</b>	James D. Taylor, Giles County Harry Bryan, Knox County Dean Northcutt, Coffee County	<b>2016</b>	Rebekah Norman, Montgomery County Alan Bruhin, Sevier County Melody Rose, Greene County
<b>1998</b>	Bob Whitworth, Tipton County Kevin Rose, Giles County David Perrin, Smoky Mountain District	<b>2017</b>	Jason De Koff, Specialist Troy Dugger, Hickman County
<b>1999</b>	Jerry Parker, Lauderdale County Kevin Ferguson, Central District David Qualls, Lincoln County		
<b>2000</b>	Chuck Danehower, Lauderdale County Mike Gordon, Haywood County John Teague, Bedford County		
<b>2001</b>	Tim Campbell, Dyer County Scott Chadwell, Putnam County Steve Glass, Decatur County		
<b>2002</b>	Warren Gill, Specialist, Animal Science Rob Holland, Center for Profitable Ag. Ron Johnson, Overton County		
<b>2003</b>	John Campbell, Maury County Dewayne Perry, Williamson County David Yates, Loudon County		
<b>2004</b>	Marcus McLemore, Hardin County Rick Skillington, Marshall County		
<b>2005</b>	Larry Moorehead, Moore County John Wilson, Marion County Michael Smith, Williamson County		
<b>2006</b>	Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County Alan Galloway, Putnam County Jim Neel Specialist, Animal Science		
<b>2007</b>	Ronnie Barron, Cheatham County Tim Woods, McMinn County		
<b>2008</b>	Tammy McKinley, Agricultural Economics Alice Rhea, Blount County Cynthia Zeitz, Jackson County		
<b>2009</b>	Megan Bruch, Maury County Joseph Griffy, Stuart County Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County		
<b>2010</b>	Ricky Thomason, Johnson County Jerry Lamb, Rhea County Clyde Lane, Animal Science		
<b>2011</b>	Kevin Rose, Giles County Ron Blair, Henderson County John Ferrell, Franklin County		
<b>2012</b>	Philip Shelby, Gibson County		
<b>2013</b>	Jonathan Rhea, Monroe County Creig Kimbro, Grundy County Mike Buschermohle, Specialist		
<b>2014</b>	Jeff Via, Fayette County Becky Muller, Tipton County Lena Beth Charmichael Reynolds, Area Specialist		
<b>2015</b>	Jeff Lannom, Weakley County Jeremy West, Scott County Michael Barry, Davidson County		

## Membership History

YEAR	TOTAL	CHANGE	% CHANGE
2005	187	0	0
2006	175	-12	-6.4
2007	176	+1	+0.6
2008	173	-3	-1.7
2009	165	-8	-4.6
2010	157	-8	-4.8
2011	159	+2	+1.3
2012	158	-1	-0.60
2013	153	-5	-0.03
2014	155	+2	+0.01
2015	168	+18	+11
2016	171	+3	+0.05
2017	162	-9	-5%
2018	173	+11	+6.8

# Friends of Extension Award Recipients

1982- Dan Wheeler, K. C. Dodson  
1983- Rep. Roscoe Pickering, Rep. C. E. DePriest, William Walker III  
1984- Sen. Anna Belle O'Brien, Sen. Tommy Burks,  
Bill Johnson  
1985- Sen. John Wilder, Sen. Ned McWherter, Rep. Ed Jones  
1986- Gov. Lamar Alexander, William E. Bailey, Clyde York  
1987- Jesse Safely  
1988- Flavius Barker  
1989- A. C. Clark  
1990- Joe Hawkins  
1991- Ray Wilson  
1992- Comm. L. H. "Colon" Ivy  
1993- Rep. Shelby A. Rinehart  
1994- Sen. Robert Rochelle  
1995- Dan Wheeler  
1996- Jim Webb  
1997- Fred Shuler, Claude Harris  
1999- Dr. Joseph Johnson  
2000 - Senator Charlotte Burks  
2001 - Nolan Turner  
2002 - Chip Blalock  
2003- TN Farmers Co-Op  
2004- Bill Mayfield  
2005- TN Livestock Producer  
2006- Don Fowlkes  
2007- Joe Gaines  
2008 – NRCS Area Biologist Team: Mike Hansbrough of West TN, Chris Wolkonowski of Middle TN and Robin Mayberry of East TN  
2009- Ken Givens  
2010 - Julius Johnson of TN Farm Bureau  
2011 - Dr. Jim Byford, University of Tennessee Martin  
2012- Kevin Thomson, Director MTREC  
2013 - Ronnie Sartain, Farm Credit of Mid-America  
2014 –Lois Bartee  
2015 - Dr. Warren Gill, MTSU  
2016 - Andy Holt, State Representative  
2017 - Lucas Owen, BASF

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