



TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL AGENTS & SPECIALISTS

**2023 - 2024
Annual Meeting Report**

**Galaxy Meeting | Franklin, TN
May 7th - 9th, 2024**

- 2023/2024 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS -

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- 2022/2023 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS -

State Officers

President	Laurie Rollins
President Elect	Jason de Koff
First Vice President	Seth Whitehouse
Second Vice President	Lindsay Stephenson
Third Vice President	Jacob Boone
Secretary	Matthew Deist
Treasurer	Les Humpal
Past President	Aaron Smith

Regional Officers

Western Region Director	Terrell Davis
Western Secretary / Treasurer	Jerri Lynn Sims
Central Region Director	Jonathan Johns
Central Secretary / Treasurer	Eryn Bell
Eastern Region Director	Evangelon James
Eastern Secretary/Treasurer	Ty Wolaver

Committee Chairs

Agronomy & Pest Management	Ranson Goodman
Ag. Econ & Community Development	Rachel Painter
Animal Science	John Goddard
Natural Resource / Aquaculture	Bruce Steelman
Horticulture & Turfgrass	Celeste Scott
Sustainable Agriculture	Haley Treadway
Public Relations & Ag. Awareness	Hannah Wright
Early Career Development	Lee Rumble
Leadership & Administrative Skills	Martin Koon
Teaching & Educational Strategies	David Yates
Communications	Anna Duncan
Search for Excellence	Jerri Lynn Sims
4-H Youth	Jonathan Johns
Professional Excellence	Lindsay Stephens
Agricultural Issues	Jake Mallard
Recognition & Awards	Shannon DeWitt
Scholarship	Timmy Mann
Life Members	John Campbell
Journal of NACAA	Laurie Rollins

- A word from the TAAA&S President -

TAAA&S Members and Life Members,

The 2024 Galaxy Meeting at the Cool Springs Marriott is here and will be a great time for all members. I personally would like to thank everyone for all the hard work and hours that went into planning this professional development meeting. I would specifically like to recognize Dr. Jason DeKoff for all he has done to help make this event happen. His efforts on the Galaxy planning committee have shown that he will be an outstanding TAAA&S President.

It has been an honor to serve as your President this past year. I have seen the great work being accomplished at the county, regional, state, and national level by our state members. Congratulations to all the award winners and I encourage all members to nominate a colleague or apply for TAAA&S and NACAA award. The dedication and commitment to the communities you serve shows a positive impact across the state.

Finally, I would like to thank all the board members, regional officers, and committee chairs. Without your personal commitment and effort, TAAA&S would not be as effective and create the impact it does for UT Extension. For those that are interested in entering a service role for the organization, I would encourage you to do so! The rewards of serving TAAA&S far out way the time and effort.

Sincerely,

Laurie Rollins

- Treasurer Report -

State Funds – Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet					
	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
ASSETS					
Checking	250,008.60	261,321.12	251,855.19	250,289.64	243,075.78
TOTAL ASSETS	250,008.60	261,321.12	251,855.19	250,289.64	243,075.78
LIABILITIES					
LIABILITIES	0	0	0	0	0
EQUITY					
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	250,008.60	261,321.12	251,855.19	250,289.64	243,075.78

Banking Summary – 2023

1/1/2023 through 12/31/2023

Category	State
INCOME	
Dues	8,985.00
Promotional Income (Caps & Shirts)	93
Reconcile	110
State Meeting Registration Fees	6306.86
State Meeting Sponsorship	3650
TOTAL INCOME	19,144.86

Banking Summary -2024

1/1/2024 through 4/30/2024

Category	State
INCOME	
Dues	4,640.00
JCEP Reimbursement	450.00
TOTAL INCOME	5,090.00

EXPENSES	
New State Checking	28.6
Annual meeting Expenses	16,989.15
Banking Expense	35.00
Board Expenses	1,852.54
National Dues	1,150.00
National Meeting (Des Moines)	1,165.23
Postage	76.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	21,296.72
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,151.86

EXPENSES	
Board Expenses	2,874.42
National Dues	9,150.00
Corporation Annual Fees	82.85
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,107.27
OVERALL TOTAL	(7,017.27)

Western Region Report - 11/17/23

Western Region TAAA&S Fall Meeting Minutes November 17th, 2023

The Western Region TAAA&S held their annual meeting at the Dyer County Extension office. Meeting was called to order by Celeste Scott, presiding.

Members present:

Tori Marshall Griffin, Lee Sammons, Drew Vanatta, Jared Strickland, Amanda Mathenia, Daniel Wiggins, Rachel Howell, Terrell Davis, Vickie Witcher, Clint Plunk, Lindsay Stephenson, Bob Shumake, Tracey Sullivan, JC Dupree, Chris Cooper, Calvin Bryant, John Williams, Cody Parker, Logan Meeks, Audra Flippo, Joe Seago, Joetta White, Jeff Via, Becky Muller, Joe Griffy, Justin Hargrove, Bronson Bass, Justin Fowlkes, Kari Nevill and Jerri Lynn Sims

- The minutes from the November 2022 meeting were read, discussion followed on the highlight of the changes of the Presidential term to a 2-year position and the alignment of the awards to better match the state and national titles. A motion made by Justin Hargrove and a second from Tracey Sullivan to approve the minutes as written. All votes were for.
- Treasurer's report was given. Balance in the account on 11/17/23 was \$10,905.49.
- Discussion of the State meeting that had been held at Paris Landing had only positive comments/reviews. Thank you to Laurie Rollins for organizing an outstanding event.
 - There will be no state meeting in 2024 as the Galaxy Conference will be held in Franklin May 7-9.
 - The state boards will plan the event.
- December 13 – ANR Share Day
 - Natchez Trace State Park
 - Service Project – Carl Perkins Center (personal care items as well as candy and small toy items for kids)
- December 8 – Homesteading Zoom with speaker from Arkansas
- Lewis County is looking for the “busted bag” of papers. There is a shared Google drive that all historical minutes and membership information is going to be stored in.
- February 1 – Grain Conference in Dyer County
- A trip to the Farm Machinery Show in Louisville is planned. 16 to attend. Air B&B is rented.
- Happy retirement to Bob Shumake – 33 years, 3 counties and to Lee Sammons – 23 years in 2 counties
- UT Hort is undergoing a revamp. They have great resources available now for agent access.
- There is a change coming in outcome indicators. It should make recording numbers easier and have more validity to the totals.
- A motion was made by Lindsay for Jared Strickland to take the role of Vice President. There was a second by Amanda Mathenia. Vote on motion passed.
- Motion made by Lindsay to retain Jerri Lynn Sims as Secretary/Treasurer. Second from Tori Griffin. Vote on motion passed.
- Awards were then given out.
 - Early Career Award – Tori Griffin
 - Excellence in Ag. – Jake Mallard
 - Friend of Extension – Stephen Maupin – TN Soybean and former Farm Bureau
 - Words of thanks for time invested in him as a youth and reminded of impact Extension has had to ag and home over the years. “Don’t take your foot off the throttle.” “You are the face at church, kitchen table, funeral home line and will never get paid enough for all you do for the community or be recognized publicly enough.”
- Tracey made a motion to adjourn, 2nd from Jared, motion passed

After the meeting, the members packed plastic totes full of baby items for 8 of the ANR agents who had new babies. Following a tasty lunch from Roy Boy's, the group went on a tour of the Full Throttle Distillery in Trimble.

Central Region Report - 11/06/23

Central Region TAAA&S Meeting November 6th, 2023

Woodbury Lion's Club
634 Lehman Street, Woodbury, TN 37190

Agenda

9:30 am -10:00 am: Light Refreshments and fellowship

10:00: Welcome – Jacob Boone

10:05: Dr. Bruno Pedreira Director of Beef & Forage Center –

- Dr. Pedreira outlined his phases of becoming acclimated to our state programs:
 - Phase 1: Understanding, visiting, foster communication
 - Phase 2: Meetings (Field days, Master Beef)
- He wanted to remind us that the UT Beef website is the main resource for agents and clientele <https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/>
- Dr. Pedreira discussed forage systems – Here are some key takeaways:
 - Focus on soil as well as animal product.
 - Variability can occur form acre to acre. Topography will sometimes determine number of soil tests.
 - 5-20 acres = 15-20 soil cores
- Choose Spring or Fall for taking samples. Keep consistent timeframe from year to year.
- 6-inch depth on samples is ideal.
- Target pH: Alfalfa >6.5; Fescue 6.0-7.0
- Yield/Economic Response – Low levels will see the greatest economic response for fertilizer applications.
- Clover & lespedeza can add significant amounts of nitrogen to pastures. Almost the same as 60lb N
- Here are a few dates he wanted to remind us of:
 - **TN Forage & Grassland Council** - Friday November 10 @ Lebanon, TN James E. Ward Ag Center (East-West Bldg). Registration @ 8am; program 9am-3pm
 - Need 5 farmers to serve on the board (will be discussed at meeting).
 - Dr. Rocky Lemus will be there from Mississippi State to discuss small ruminants.
 - **UT Beef and Forage Center Research and Recommendation Meeting** - December 11, 2023 @ Easter Region UT Extension Office (Knoxville, TN) Listening session from 2pm – 5pm ET. Event is on SUPER (get link). 6 credits for in-service.
- Here is his contact information – pedreira@utk.edu; @utbeefandforage (follow)

10:50: Rachel Painter- Communication Awards –

- Anna Duncan is the communications chair, but she was unable to attend, so Rachel represented her.
- Award submittals are due March 15th every year.
- There are 13 different categories for awards and you can find all of this on the website.
- You need data on who, what, how, when, why, and numbers for your submittals.
- Submit online on the [NACAA website](https://www.nacaa.com/awards-and-applications). Don't do it the day before!
- All information on criteria for submitting can be found on the NACAA website. <https://www.nacaa.com/awards-and-applications>

10:55: Troy Dugger - Center for Profitable Agriculture Updates/Information

- Thanks to all who helped with the CPA event in September!
- Gift from Rob (coolers) and letters of appreciation.
- SARE:
 - In-service in Rutherford focused on IPM on November 14th (20 can go; 10 slots left). Email Jason de Koff for more information. The event is from 9am – 12pm.
 - SARE funds are available for travel for the meeting today.
- New addition to the team Alaina Boyd – she will be part of the marketing team at CPA and is part of the Value-Added Dairy team.

Central Region Report - 11/06/23 cont...

Central Region TAAA&S Meeting November 6th, 2023

Woodbury Lion's Club
634 Lehman Street, Woodbury, TN 37190

11:00: TAAA&S Business Meeting and Awards

- Doug Berny director called to order.
- Clarification on awards – currently there are 2 awards.
 - We do not currently have a specialist's award. The 2 awards are for an adult agent of the year and youth agent (specialists and agents both qualify).
 - No other corrections on the minutes were made.
 - Questions posed by Doug Berny.
 - Should we have a separate award for specialists?
 - Should we have a new agent award? (3 years or less)
 - There was a nomination for "new agent" & Specialist awards – Motion made by Matt Deist and seconded by Johnathon Johns.
 - Matt Deist discussed getting the past director, current director, director elect, Matt Deist (State TAAA&S representative), and Martin Koon together and collaborate to get a consistent idea of new awards that reflect Regional and State awards. Start in 2024.
- 2022 meeting minutes are approved good to go.
- The motion to move our annual meeting to first Monday in November was made in 2022. Everyone was still good with that time frame.
- **Treasurer** - Les Humpal Treasurers Report
 - Balance on hand as reported on October 24 2022 - **\$3716.81**.
 - A check for \$311.57 was written for the Williamson County meeting.
 - TAAA&S Awards = **\$70**.
 - Three deposits were made for membership dues.
 - 2022 = 59 members - **\$4610**
 - 2023 = 71 members - Total deposits equated to **\$6520.00**
 - Our current balance as of November 6, 2023 = **\$5245**
 - Doug Berny made a motion to approve the report. Johnathan Johns seconded. All approved.
 - Les Humpal is moving on to state level treasurer – Eryn Bell is nominee for replacement. A motion was made by John Teague to accept the nominee (he also gave a "bless your heart!"). It was seconded by Johnathan Johns.
- **Secretary** - Taylor Reeder will stay on as secretary for 2024.
- **Director** – Jacob Boone is the current director elect, but will be serving on state TAAA&S board. Doug Berny made the nomination for Johnathan Johns to take over as Director. A motion was made to accept by Matt Horsman and was seconded Johnny Barnes.
- **Director Elect** – Jacob Boone will be followed by Kristen Reich. A motion was made to accept by John Teague and was seconded by Rachel Painter.
- John Ferrell had question about scholarship amounts. It was mentioned that the information is on the national website. Justin Stefanski said to fill out Google Form.
- Matt Deist discussed the Hick's Award and the Farm Bureau Lunch (limited seats are available).
- Rebekah Norman discussed that if you are working on your Promotion Dossier then you should apply for awards at the same time. You will already have the information from your dossier and that Should make the process easier.
- Doug opened registration for midnight tonight (SUPER), so make sure to register for the meeting.
- **2023 Award winners! (Congratulations)**
 - Adult Agent/Specialist – Creig Kimbro
 - Youth Agent/Specialist – Johnathan Johns
- Motion to adjourn Mitchell Mote and seconded Justin Stefanski.
- There was a reminder that there is no AG responsibility required to be member of TAAA&S. Also, TN is the 3rd or 4th largest membership in the country (go us!)
- Reminder: Galaxy Conference - May 7th – 9th in Franklin, TN

Eastern Region Report - 08/15/22

Eastern Region

Region Director: Evangelon James
Region Secretary/Treasurer: Ty Wolaver
Outstanding Young Agent: Lee Rumble, Knox County
Outstanding Young Specialist: Katie Mason, Animal Science

Membership Paid 2024: 65
Current Members: 63
New Life Members: 2
New Members: 7

REGION MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

The Eastern Region TAAA&S held its annual meeting on May 25th at UT AgResearch Plateau Research & Education Center. The meeting followed an Eastern Region Agriculture Extension Tour event. There were 37 members in attendance. The event included a tour of Westel Greenhouse and a tour of Sunrise Dairy and Creamery where many members bought ice cream. Ice cream was also purchased for the business meeting and lunch. Lunch was catered by Forte's. Lunch was partially provided by the Eastern Region Extension Office. The meeting was called to order by Seth Whitehouse, President. Secretary/Treasurer report was presented by Ty Wolaver. Adam Hopkins made motion to accept minutes and treasurer report as read and seconded by Lee Rumble. Motion was passed unanimously. Shannon DeWitt discussed TAAA&S and NACAA Awards as members were recognized. Seth Whitehouse discussed the upcoming NACAA Meeting and the 2023 State TAAA&S Meeting held in the Western Region. Feedback was provided on our next regional tour/meeting. Seth Whitehouse introduced Evangelon James who would be taking over as president June 1, 2023.

Gregg Upchurch made motion to adjourn meeting. Adam Hopkins seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Following the business meeting, members were invited on a tour of the UT AgResearch Plateau Research and Education Center's Gardens.

Beginning Balance (04/19/2023)		\$5,192.29
Income - 2024 Dues		
2023 Dues Collected	\$4,760.00	
		\$9,952.29
Expenses		
Sunrise Dairy Ice Cream for 2023 Regional Meeting	\$56.00	
Forte's Restaurant catering for 2023 Regional Meeting	\$1,234.70	
2024 Dues Paid to The State	\$4,480.00	
		\$5,770.70
Ending Balance (05/23/2024)		\$4,181.59

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES HAD NO REPORT FOR 2024

4-H Youth , Jonathan Johns	Life Members , John Campbell
Administrative Skills Development , Martin Koon	Natural Resource/Aquaculture , Bruce Steelman
Ag. Econ & Community Development , Rachel Painter	Public Relations & Ag. Issues , Hannah Wright
Agronomy & Pest Management , Ranson Goodman	Public Relations , Jake Mallard
Animal Science , John Goddard	Scholarship , Justin Hargrove
Early Career Development , Lee Rumble	Search for Excellence , Jerri Lynn Sims
Horticulture & Turfgrass , Celeste Scott	Sustainable Agriculture , Haley Treadway

TAAA&S 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 2024 college scholarships. The 2024 recipient is Abigail Berny, daughter of Doug Berny (Extension Agent, Williamson County). Congratulations to Abigail!

2024 TAAA&S Scholarship Selection Criteria

- Two \$1,500 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.
- 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.
- Recipient can be of any major with preference given to agriculture, family and consumer science, and other sciences (in descending order).
- Recipient can attend any university with preference given to attendance in the University of Tennessee System, TSU and the Tennessee Board of Regents system.
- Preference given to year in college: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior (in descending order).
- Selection committee should use other information on the scholarship application if needed to select recipient. Examples: leadership activities, grade average, etc.
- A recipient can receive the scholarship only one time.

Teaching and Educational Strategies Committee

David Yates State, Southern Region and National Chair

During the 2023 AMPIC in Des Moines, Iowa the TET committee presented a super seminar titled “How to Document Impact of Video and Social Media Content Beyond View Counts”.

On May 22 join the TET committee in the NACAA 365 Webinar series. The topic will be, “Maximize PowerPoint for Presentations”. This will be led by TET committee members Kelly McGowan and David Yates. Look for registration information to sign up.

New for this year will be virtual committee meetings that will take place before the AMPIC. Look for these meetings to be held between June 24-July 10. These meetings will be held for all NACAA committee and all members are encouraged to participate in all that they have in interest in. These meetings are the basis for creating the plan of work for the upcoming year.

Professional Excellence Committee

Lindsay Stephenson, chair

2024 NACAA AM/PIC accepted posters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>
Terrell Davis STATE WINNER	<i>Using UAS to Collect Plot Data</i>	Extension Education
Anthony Carver	<i>County Vegetable Education Using State Cost-Share Grants</i>	Extension Education

No presentation proposals were submitted for the 2024 AM/PIC

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Horticulture & Turfgrass Committee

Submitted by Celeste Scott, Chair

Participation in the 2023 NACAA AM/PIC Conference/Awards

Southern Regional Winners

Joanne Waterman, Distinguished Service Award
Evangelon James, Learning Module/Notebook

State Winners

Mitchell Mote, Audio Recording
Taylor Reeder, Computer Generated Presentation with Script
Seth Whitehouse, Educational Video Recordings, Feature Story, Newsletter
Evangelon James, Website/Online Content

Presenters

None

Statewide Programming:

Office Hours

This statewide program is a collaborative effort between horticulture agents and specialists across the state. It is a live question/answer session via zoom to address the timeliest garden issues. Questions and pictures can be submitted in advance by agents and gardeners via the Hort Question Portal. Pictures are shared when each question is reviewed and we spend time in these four general categories each week- fruit, vegetables, turf, ornamentals. Questions, pictures, and answers are all stored in an interactive geo referenced map, which helps to show trends in issues as they arise across the state. Office Hours is held on the first Friday of each month during the growing season.

Welcome Home: Gardening in TN

This statewide program is a collaborative effort between horticulture agent and specialists across the state. It provides education and resources targeted to gardeners who are new to the state, as well as first time gardeners. It is delivered in person at the county level and includes support resources.

TN Turf Tuesdays

This statewide/regional program provides a pathway for turfgrass managers and professionals to attain continuing education credits for a number of professional associations, accreditations and certifications:

- Cold Course Superintendents Association of America
- Sports Turf Managers Association
- American Sports Builders Association
- Pesticide Recertification: TN, KY, AL, MI, NJ, GA, PA, MS, TX, WV, NV, SC

In-Service Opportunities 2023

- Quarterly Hort Hot Topic Zoom
- Office Hours question/answer- 6 sessions
- Consumer Horticulture Inservice (joint ornamental and fruits & veggies), 1 in each region
- TN Extension Master Gardener Coordinator In-service, 1 in East TN and 1 in West TN

Statewide Field Days

Fall Gardeners Festival, Crossville
Summer Celebration, Jackson
Green Industry Field Day, Knoxville
Fruits of the Backyard, Spring Hill

Regional Green Industry Professional Trainings

Green Express, Chattanooga
Landscape Short Course, Middle TN
Landscape Management Short Course, Knoxville
West TN Landscape Review, Jackson

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Horticulture & Turfgrass Committee (cont...)

Submitted by Celeste Scott, Chair

State Impacts 2023

Residential & Consumer Horticulture and TN Extension Master Gardener - Summary of Impact Statement by Natalie Bumgarner

In the Home and Garden knowledge area personnel and volunteers delivered 3,122 group meetings reaching 144,533 contacts along with 5,798 onsite visits (10,724 contacts), and 39,367 occurrences of personal communication (520,923 contacts). There were also 17,607,990 contacts reached by digital outreach events and 24,104,083 contacts reached by mass outreach. These efforts give a snapshot of the cumulative impact of Tennessee Extension agents, state and area specialists and TEMG volunteers in the area of residential and consumer horticulture in 2023.

Extension Master Gardener volunteers serve through education and outreach in county programs for many years after training. The average personally reported value of the survey participants in our EMG training was \$1,687, so \$986,603 in value was derived just from that initial yearly training program. Additionally, volunteer service in the community also has a reported value Independent Sector, 2022 data). In 2023, 2,862 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener volunteers reporting 200,319 hours of service in consumer horticulture education in Tennessee that is valued at \$5,632,970.28.

Commercial Fruits & Vegetables - Summary of Impact Statement by *Annette Wszelaki*

Not available at this time

Nursery Production - Summary of Impact Statement by *Amy Fulcher*

Tennessee nursery crop sales are ranked 7th in the nation (USDA Census of Horticultural Specialties, 2014). The Green Industry is a major component of not just the nation's, but also Tennessee's economy where it directly contributed \$830,900,000 in economic activity in 2020, and the total impact was projected at \$1,546,100,000 (Jensen et al., 2020). Keeping the Tennessee Green Industry up-to-date on applied research, new insects and diseases of concern, nursery irrigation, container substrate alternatives, turf care, worker safety, consumer behavior and other pressing issues are a priority for the statewide Extension nursery crops specialist and other specialists. The Tennessee Green Industry Day is a joint educational program of the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association. At the Tennessee Green Industry Day, we feature the latest research being conducted at UT through hands-on demonstrations, guided plant diagnostic walks at the UT Gardens, and indoor classroom-style sessions. Growers, landscapers, arborists, and retailers in attendance estimated saving or increasing their revenue by \$216,000 due to information presented at the program.

Commercial Turf Weed Management - Summary of Impact Statement by *Jim Brosnan*

Overall, the integrated weed management strategies program offers a substantial positive impact on the Tennessee economy. Previous research highlighted that every \$1.00 spent on turfgrass management in Tennessee yields a \$1.66 positive return. Given that the industry is valued at \$5.8 billion, even if only 1% of end-users are impacted by this program, the economic yield is over \$50 million. Programs include, TN Turf Tuesday, Mobile Weed Manual, Certified Lawn Care Professional program, and TN Weed Diagnostic Center.

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Communications

Report Submitted by: *Anna Duncan, Chair*

20 members submitted 40 entries for the 2024 TAAA&S Communications Awards Program. 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>
Western	5	2	1
Central	24	12	9
Eastern	11	6	3
Totals	40	20	13

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

<i>Class #</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of Entries in TN</i>
1	Audio Recording	2
2	Published Photo	4
3	Computer Generated Graphics Presentation	5
4	Program Promotional Package	3
5	Personal Column	5
6	Feature Story	1
7	Newsletter	3
8	Educational Video Recording	4
9	Factsheet	2
10	Publication	6
11	Website	3
12	Learning Module/ Notebook	1
13	Bound Book/ EBook	1
	Total Entries in Tennessee	40

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Communications (continued)

Report Submitted by: *Anna Duncan, chair*

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place state winners for each category are outlined in the following table:

<i>Category</i>	<i>1st Place</i>	<i>2nd Place</i>	<i>3rd Place</i>
Audio Recording	<u>Mitchell Mote</u>	<u>Katie Martin</u>	
Published Photo	<u>Rachel Painter</u>	<u>Kevin Rose</u>	<u>Alaina Boyd</u>
Computer Generated Graphics Presentation	<u>Behnaz Molaei</u> *	<u>Seth Whitehouse</u>	<u>Rebekah Norman</u>
Program Promotional Package	<u>Alaina Boyd</u>	<u>Amy Dunlap</u>	<u>Haley Treadway</u>
Personal Column	<u>Mitchell Mote</u> *	<u>Christopher Cooper</u>	<u>Bill Ward</u>
Feature Story	<u>Christopher Cooper</u>		
Newsletter	<u>Alaina Boyd</u> *	<u>Haley Treadway</u>	<u>Terrell Davis</u>
Educational Video Recording	<u>Seth Whitehouse</u> *	<u>Taylor Reeder</u>	<u>Pramir Maharjan</u>
Factsheet	<u>Pramir Maharjan</u>	<u>Anthony Carver</u>	
Publication	<u>Seth Whitehouse</u> * et al.	<u>Rachel Painter</u>	<u>Virginia Sykes</u>
Website/ Online Content	<u>Haley Treadway</u> *	<u>Alaina Boyd</u>	<u>Terrell Davis</u>
Learning Module/ Notebook	<u>Anna Duncan</u> * et al.		
Bound Book/ EBook	<u>Alaina Boyd</u>		

*-Southern Region Winner

** -National Finalist

Et al.- Team Submission

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

2024 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.

The "Sweet Award" honors Mr. Fletcher Sweet, a 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 2024 "Sweet Award"

- Alaina Boyd

*Members who had at least the minimum number of 2024 entries to qualify (4) but were ineligible due to having won in the past two years.

2024 Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winner:

Alaina Boyd

Previous Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winners

Seth Whitehouse, 2023	Tonya K Ashworth, 2010
Rachel Painter, 2022	Book T. Leigh, 2009
Jason de Koff, 2021	Thomas Stebbins, 2008
Thomas Stebbins, 2020	Ronald L. Barron, 2007
Justin Stefanski, 2019	Creig C. Kimbro, 2006
Amy Dismukes, 2018	Karla Keen, 2004
Jason de Koff, 2017	Kevin L. Rose, 2003
Chris Hicks, 2016	Glen E. Wolfenbarger, 2002
Megan Leffew, 2015	Joseph Donaldson, 2001
Melissa Henry, 2014	John Campbell, 2000
Tonya K. Ashworth, 2013	Gary Kirchhofer, 1999
Thomas Stebbins, 2012	David A. Yates, 1998
Melissa Henry, 2011	

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

2024 State Communications Awards Procedures

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

State Placing 1st = 6 points 2nd = 5 points 3rd = 4 points

Regional Placing 1st = 3 points 2nd = 2 points 3rd = 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:

1. Number of state winning entries.
2. Number of entries in the state (includes 1st, 2nd and 3rd place state entries).
3. Number of region first place entries.
4. Number of entries placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the region.
5. Total number of entries.

The Sweet Award winner receives a plaque and a \$100 cash award. State winners receive cash awards as follows:

1st = \$50 2nd = \$35 3rd = \$20

Budget for State Communication Awards

State 1st Place	\$50	x 13	\$650.00
State 2nd Place	\$35	x 13	\$455.00
State 3rd Place	\$20	x 13	\$260.00
Communicator of the Year	\$150	x 1	\$150.00
“Sweet Award” Plaque	\$30	x 1	\$30.00
Total Budget			\$1,545.00

2024 State Communication Awards Expenditures

State 1st Place	\$50	x 13	\$650.00
State 2nd Place	\$35	x 10	\$350.00
State 3rd Place	\$20	x 8	\$160.00
Communicator of the Year	\$150	x 1	\$150.00
“Sweet Award” Plaque	\$30	x 1	\$30.00
Total Budget			\$1,340.00

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Recognition & Awards

Report Submitted by: *Shannon DeWitt, Chair*

The members listed below were approved and will receive their national awards during the NACAA AM/PIC

2024 Tennessee Award Recipients

2024 Distinguished Service Award Winner

The purpose of the Distinguished Service Award Program is to encourage and recognize excellence in the field of professional Extension for members with more than ten years of service.



Anthony Carver

Extension Agent III & County Director
UT Extension - Grainger County

Mr. Anthony Carver has spent 23 years in service to UT Extension. Based in Grainger County, he has conducted classes in small ruminant, beef, forages, vegetable production, food safety, worker protection, and grant writing. Anthony has been a speaker on all levels: county, regional, state and national programs. He has help bring in over \$5 million directly to farmers through grant writing. His heart is to help the farmer.

2024 Regional Award Recipients

Central Region

Youth Agent of the Year - Jonathan Johns, Marshall County
Adult Ag. Agent of the Year - Creig Kimbro, Grundy County

Eastern Region

Early Career Award - Lee Rumble, Knox County
Early Career Specialist - Dr. Katie Mason, Dept. of Animal Science

Western Region

Excellence in Ag. Award - Jake Mallard, Gibson County
Early Career Award - Tori Griffin, Dept. of Ag. & Resource Econ.

- MEMBERSHIP HISTORY -

YEAR	TOTAL	CHANGE	% CHANGE from year prior
2005	187	0	0.00%
2006	175	-12	-6.42%
2007	176	+1	0.57%
2008	173	-3	-1.70%
2009	165	-8	-4.62%
2010	157	-8	-4.85%
2011	159	+2	1.27%
2012	158	-1	-0.63%
2013	153	-5	-3.16%
2014	155	+2	1.31%
2015	168	+18	8.39%
2016	171	+3	1.79%
2017	162	-9	-5.26%
2018	173	+11	6.79%
2019	184	+11	6.36%
2020	162	-22	-11.96%
2021	179	+17	10.49%
2022	178	-1	-0.56%
2023	170	-8	-4.49%
2024	181	+11	6.47%

- TAAA&S HICKS AWARD RECIPIENTS -

1997	James D. Taylor, Giles County	2011	Kevin Rose, Giles County
	Harry Bryan, Knox County		Ron Blair, Henderson County
	Dean Northcutt, Coffee County		John Ferrell, Franklin County
1998	Bob Whitworth, Tipton County	2012	Philip Shelby, Gibson County
	Kevin Rose, Giles County	2013	Jonathan Rhea, Monroe County
	David Perrin, Smoky Mountain District		Creig Kimbro, Grundy County
1999	Jerry Parker, Lauderdale County		Mike Buschermohle, Specialist
	David Qualls, Lincoln County	2014	Jeff Via, Fayette County
	Kevin Ferguson, Central District		Becky Muller, Tipton County
2000	Chuck Danehower, Lauderdale County		Lena Beth Charmichael Reynolds, Area Specialist
	Mike Gordon, Haywood County	2015	Jeff Lannom, Weakley County
	John Teague, Bedford County		Jeremy West, Scott County
2001	Tim Campbell, Dyer County		Michael Barry, Davidson County
	Scott Chadwell, Putnam County	2016	Rebekah Norman, Montgomery County
	Steve Glass, Decatur County		Alan Bruhin, Sevier County
2002	Warren Gill, Specialist, Animal Science		Melody Rose, Greene County
	Rob Holland, Center for Profitable Ag	2017	Jason De Koff, Specialist
	Ron Johnson, Overton County		Troy Dugger, Hickman County
2003	John Campbell, Maury County	2018	David Bilderback, Specialist
	Dewayne Perry, Williamson County		Matt Webb, Marshall County
	David Yates, Loudon County	2019	Shannon DeWitt, Union County
2004	Marcus McLemore, Hardin County		John Goddard, Loudon County
	Rick Skillington, Marshall County		Laurie Mobley, Houston County
2005	Larry Moorehead, Moore County	2020	Adam Hopkins, Jefferson County
	John Wilson, Marion County		Justin Hargrove, Benton County
	Michael Smith, Williamson County		Heath Nokes, Warren County
2006	Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County	2021	Blake Ramsey, Hawkins County
	Alan Galloway, Putnam County		Dallas Manning, Area Specialist
	Jim Neel Specialist, Animal Science	2022	Ryan Blair, Area Specialist
2007	Ronnie Barron, Cheatham County		Bruce Steelman, Lincoln County
	Tim Woods, McMinn County		Jason Garrett, Overton County
2008	Tammy McKinley, Agricultural Economics	2023	Anthony Carver, Grainger County
	Alice Rhea, Blount County		Lucas Holman, Wilson County
	Cynthia Zeitz, Jackson County		Virginia Sykes, Plant Sciences
2009	Megan Bruch, Mary County	2024	
	Joseph Griffy, Stuart County		
	Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County		
2010	Ricky Thomason, Johnson County		
	Jerry Lamb, Rhea County		
	Clyde Lane, Animal Science		

- 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 Producers
2006 - Don Fowlkes
2007 - Joe Gaines
2008 - NRCS Area Biologist Team: Mike Hansbrough , Chris Wolkonowski, and Robin Mayberry
2009 - Ken Givens
2010 - Julius Johnson TN Farm Bureau
2011 - Dr. Jim Byford University of Tennessee Martin
2012 - Kevin Thomson MTREC Director
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
2018 - Keith Harrison TN Department of Agriculture
2019 - Dr. Bob Coley
2020 - Anthony Haynes
2022 - Dr. Tim Cross UT Extension / Lee Maddox TN Farm Bureau
2023 - Stefan Maupin TN Farm Bureau
2024 - TBD by Central Region (HOST)