



TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL AGENTS & SPECIALISTS

**2024 - 2025
Annual Meeting Report**

**Oak Ridge, TN
April 23rd - 25th**

Respectfully submitted by:
Matthew Deist | TAAA&S Secretary

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- 2024/2025 Officers & Committee Chairs -

State Officers	President	Jason de Koff
	President Elect	Seth Whitehouse
	First Vice President	Lindsay Stephenson
	Second Vice President	VACANT
	Third Vice President	Shannon DeWitt
	Secretary	Matthew Deist
	Treasurer	Les Humpal
	Past President	Laurie Rollins
	Historian	Amanda Mathenia
	Life Member Director	John Campbell
Regional Officers		
	Western Region Director	Terrell Davis
	Western Region Secretary / Treasurer	Jerri Lynn Sims
	Central Region Director	Jonathan Johns
	Central Region Secretary	Taylor Reeder
	Central Region Treasurer	Eryn Bell
	Eastern Region Director	Evangelon James
	Eastern Region Secretary /Treasurer	Ty Wolaver
Committee Chairs	Professional Improvement Council Committees	
	4-H & Youth Programming	Jonathan Johns
	Ag. Econ & Community Development	Rachel Painter
	Agronomy & Pest Management	Ranson Goodman
	Animal Science	John Goddard
	Horticulture & Turfgrass	Celeste Scott
	Natural Resource / Aquaculture	Bruce Steelman
	Sustainable Agriculture	Haley Treadway
	Extension Development Council Leadership	
	Agricultural Issues	Jake Mallard
	Early Career Development	Lee Rumble
	Leadership & Administrative Skills	Martin Koon
	Teaching & Educational Strategies	David Yates
	Program Recognition Council Leadership	
	Communications	Anna Duncan
	Professional Excellence	Lindsay Stephenson
	Public Relations & Ag. Awareness	Hannah Wright
	Recognition & Awards	Shannon DeWitt
	Scholarship	Timmy Mann
	Search for Excellence	Jerri Lynn Sims
	Other Committees Leadership	
	Journal of NACAA	Jason de Koff
	Life Member	John Campbell

- A word from the TAAA&S President -

Welcome to the 2025 TAAA&S state meeting in Oak Ridge, TN. I look forward to our state annual meetings every year as a way for us to welcome new members, reconnect with old friends, and engage in fellowship across the Association. This year is no different, and I am especially grateful to Seth Whitehouse and his team for their hard work and dedication in the planning and organization of this meeting. I have enjoyed working with Seth over the last year and believe that his “can do” attitude, which is backed up by his “did do, got done” follow through will make him an outstanding TAAA&S President.

I have enjoyed serving in my role as your President this past year and appreciate all of the dedication and hard work of our Tennessee ANR agents and specialists. Our farmers have faced many challenges this past year and I am proud to be a part of an organization that truly gives back, creates solutions, and looks out for their fellow community members. As both a specialist and Program Leader, I have the unique perspective to see how important you are to our stakeholders, our respective Universities, and our state. Without you and your passion for Extension, we would not have the rich, vibrant connections and impacts that we do today.

In closing, I would like to recognize our TAAA&S Board members, regional officers, and committee chairs for their continued support and efforts. Your service to our Association helps us to continue our important traditions and establish new opportunities that will benefit our membership for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jason P. de Koff, Ph.D.

- Treasurer Report (Cont.) -

State Funds – Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet					
	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
ASSETS					
Checking	261,321.12	251,855.19	250,289.64	243,075.78	235,935.68
TOTAL ASSETS	261,321.12	251,855.19	250,289.64	243,075.78	235,935.68
LIABILITIES					
LIABILITIES	0	0	0	0	0
EQUITY					
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	261,321.12	251,855.19	250,289.64	243,075.78	235,935.68

Banking Summary – 2024

1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024

Category

State

INCOME	
Dues	4557.15
JCEP Reimbursement	450.00
TOTAL INCOME	5,007.15

Banking Summary -2025

1/1/2025 through 3/31/2025

Category

State

INCOME	
Dues	12,000.00
JCEP Reimbursement	450
State Meeting Registration Fees	2,521.04
State Meeting Sponsorship	2,150.00
Transfer	8,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$17,121.04

EXPENSES	
Donation	50.00
Annual meeting Expenses	4,400.58
Awards	51.50
Board Expenses	2,874.42
National Dues	9,150.00
NSF Returned Item	32.75
Postage	68.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	16,627.25
OVERALL TOTAL	11,620.10

EXPENSES	
Annual Meeting Expenses	1,200.00
Board Expenses	3,728.32
National Dues	8,450.00
Postage	10.10
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,388.42
OVERALL TOTAL	\$3,732.62

- Treasurer Report -

Foundation Funds – Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet				
ASSETS	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
Checking	248,412.00	238,742.00	233,217.00	231,114.56
Raymond James	661,564.00	544,867.39	587,818.44	591,306.93
TOTAL ASSETS	413,152.00	306,125.39	354,460.44	360,192.37
Liabilities				
Liabilities	0	0	0	0
Equity				
Total Liabilities & Equity	413,152.00	306,125.39	354,460.44	360,192.37

Banking Summary – 2024

1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024

Category Foundation

INCOME	
Transfer	24,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	24,500.00

EXPENSES	
Awards	16,360.00
College Scholarships	3,000.00
State Hay Contest	1,1500.00
National Meeting TX	1,537.56
Total Expenses	\$22,397.56
OVERALL TOTAL	\$2,102.44

Banking Summary -2025

1/1/2025 through 3/31/2025

Category Foundation

INCOME	
Transfer	8,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8500.00
EXPENSES	
College Scholarship	1,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,500.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$7000.00

	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
State Checking	251,855.19	250,289.64	243,075.78	235,935.68
Foundation Checking	248,412.00	238,742.00	233,217.00	231,114.56
Total Discretionary Funds	3,443.19	11,547.74	9,858.78	4,821.12
Raymond James Investment Account (Base)	589,676.00	589,676.00	566,342.92	591,306.93
Raymond James Investment Account (Operating)	71,887.64	22,404.49	21,475.52	24,964.01
UT Account (R12-1040-048 TAAA&S Travel Fund)	1,404.16	1,371.31	2,483.56	?
UT Account (R12-1040-005 TAAA&S Endowment)	5,138.30	5,231.67	46,393.33	?
Total Investment and UT Accounts	668,106.46	573,874.00	636,695.33	
TOTAL	671,549.65	585,422.23	646,554.11	

- Western Region Report -

WRTAAA&S Annual Meeting Century Farm Winery, Jackson, TN August 21, 2024

The meeting was open by President Terrell Davis

Minutes from our last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was given and approved. Checking account balance was \$9,536.10.

Laurie Rollins gave a report on the Galaxy conference that was held in May.

- TAAA&S was the hospitality room sponsor
- \$10,000 was approved to be sent to the TEEP association for their national meeting that is being hosted in TN in 2024.
- When money is requested for a trip or tour, the trip must be open to the entire state membership and will have a maximum dollar amount that can be requested.
- Galaxy did not receive good reviews and the future remains unclear

Members discussed not wanting to participate in future Galaxy conferences due to few ag related sessions, low participation, and the amount of gifting requested from TAAA&S.

The 2025 state meeting will be in Oak Ridge on April 23-25. Seth Whitehouse is the coordinator/planner. Jason de Koff is serving as State President.

AM/PIC was in Dallas, TX. Tracey Sullivan and Joe Seago had attended and stated that the networking across the country was great and it was very family friendly and they enjoyed the states night out. The next will be in Billings, Montana – June 29-July 2

Old business: A reminder of the alignment to state wide awards that passed in 2022. There is no longer a agent/specialist/county director designation. The only criteria for the awards is the number of years employed/served.

Awards were presented by Vice President Jared Strickland.

- Early Career- Bronson Bass
- Excellence in Ag- Joe Griffy
- Friend of Extension – Chad Hayes, Tennessee Dept of Ag

Mr. Hayes was present and addressed the membership. He stated he was appreciative our diligence to offer education programming for recertification and other pesticide certifications.

- Central Region Report -

**November 4th, 2024 Central Region TAAA&S Meeting
Marshall County Farm Bureau
1425 New Columbia Hwy, Lewisburg, TN 37091**

Agenda

9:30 a.m.

Coffee, conversation, and light snacks

10:00 a.m.

Welcome – Marshall County Mayor & Farm Bureau – Mike Keny & Chris Moon

- Mike Keny - Welcome, thanks to UT and Marshall County Extension, Agrotourism is thriving here
- Rising Glory Farms (tour stop): Elizabeth Tinnan (?) #1 mounted archer in the U.S.
- September 19-21, 2025 Host - International Horseback Archery Alliance : Championship (55 countries attending)
- Woodfeather Farms (tour stop): Winery
- Chris Moon - Lewisburg Farm Bureau - Agency Manager

10:15 a.m.

United Farmers Coop Update – Brian Ladd (Meal Sponsor)

10:30 a.m.

TN Beef Heifer Development Program Update – Hugh Moorehead

- Lewisburg Ag Research Center History: Station started in 1929 (415 acres). Dairy producers (Jersey breeders) upset that no research was available for feeding dairy cows. 1948 UT joined in and helped buy 200 more acres and hire staff. Mastitis testing and research; cloning; and great research. 1984 the federal left and it was given to UT
- Home to the Beef Heifer Development Program (2015)
- 9th year. Started with 100 and it's growing every year. 2024 – 419 heifers. 35 producers in fall group; 19 in spring. July – May; October – August. Heifers get full round of vaccinations; dewormed, etc. Emphasis on using forage as much as possible. Provide AI services (2 chances per heifer)
- Requirements: Registered sire. Can't be crazy (pocket hunters). Any breed is welcome
- 1st Heifer sale in June. Sold 73 (of 200 in program) head avg. \$3,400. Hand-picked; cream of the crop. 2025 Sale. May 23rd. Make it so that producers are able to use TAEP money.
- Future home of the Bull Test. 75 acres dedicated to the program. Give them more space. More forage-based. Potentially June 2025
- Current Research: Smart feeders; green feeders & Bull research

Matthew Deist: Agents Luncheon at Farm Bureau is December 9th. Deadline to register Friday November 8th. It will be held at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, TN.

Eryn Bell: Membership Drive. \$90 – cash or check. New member waived dues. Retiring members will be life. Deadline December 13th. Fill out google form & pay. Can invoice counties that pay for membership

11:00: TAAA&S Business Meeting and Awards - Johnathan Johns

- Minutes approval– motion Katie Bell. Second Matthew Deist
- New Business:
 - No director elect at the moment. Johnathan will stay on as director for 2025. Director elect: Nomination for Wheeler McCullough. Motion to close. Approved
 - Vice President. Nomination for Will Thomas (withdrawal). Nomination Matthew Deist. Will motion. Close. Approved
- Treasurer – Eryn Bell: Balance on hand as reported on October 24 2022 - \$3716.81. Our current balance as of November 6, 2023 = \$4,472 (without new dues). Motion to approve Craig and seconded Madison.
- Secretary - Taylor Reeder will stay on as secretary for 2025. 2024 Award winners!
 - Adult Agent/Specialist – Taylor Reeder
 - Youth Agent/Specialist – Wheeler McCullough
 - Specialist of the Year – Les Humpal
 - Friend of Extension – Rodanda Rose

NOTE: If you wrote a check to send out to East TN (for storm relief) let Les know. Motion to adjourn by Bruce Steelman. Chris Hicks seconded. End of minutes!

- Eastern Region Report -

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 23rd at Payne Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. The meeting followed an Eastern Region Agriculture Extension Tour event. There were 25 members in attendance. The event included a tour of Beardsley Farm and a tour of Payne Avenue Community Garden. Lunch was catered by Anderson Farm's Catering. The meeting was called to order by Evangelon James, President. Secretary/Treasurer report was prepared by Ty Wolaver. David Bilderback made a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes. Seconded by Adam Hopkins. Motion passed. A motion was made by Adam Hopkins to accept the minutes and financial report. David Bilderback seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ty Wolaver brought to the floor the idea of raising regional dues from \$5 to \$20 which would increase total dues paid by each member from \$85 to \$100. Discussion was had. Ty Petty pointed out we could lower dues in the future if it was too high. Adam Hopkins had the idea that any surplus funds could be used for member awards and recognition. David Bilderback made the motion to increase regional dues from \$5 to \$20. Seth Whitehouse seconded the motion. The motion passed. Shannon DeWitt came forward to present awards. Lee Rumble won the new agent award. Happy Birthday was sung to Lee Rumble. Katie Mason, not in attendance, won the new specialist of the year. Shannon DeWitt mentioned that Haley Treadway won the state communications award and will be presenting it at the 2024 National NACAA meeting in Dallas, Texas. Gregg Upchurch's "Welcome Home" paper is also going to the National NACAA competition. This paper was submitted by Seth Whitehouse in conjunction with other members. Seth Whitehouse talked about the 2025 state meeting which will be held in Anderson County probably April 23 through April 25 2025. There was some general discussion of the state meeting. Evangelon James mentioned that since State TAAA&S meeting will be in east TN, there will be no regional meeting in 2025. Alyssa Large talked about state fair hay entries and handed out bags for agents to submit farmers' entries. Evangelon James made a thanks to the TAAA&S committee, the farm managers that gave us the tours, and to the Knox County agents who set up the tour. A special thanks was made to Rylan Thompson who coordinated to set up most of the tours. Ty Petty and Shannon DeWitt made mention of the 2025 NACAA meeting in Billings, Montana. A motion was made to adjourn by Gregg Upchurch. The motion was seconded by Shannon DeWitt. The motion passed. The meeting was followed by ice cream provided by TAAA&S at the UT Creamery. The manager of the creamery talked to the group.

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 -

Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee

Rachel Painter, Chair

NACAA Meeting in Montana:

Agricultural Economics and Community Development Pre-Tour Information:
Cost \$75; min 12 people/max 30 people; Lunch Not Included (unless sponsorship is brought in)

Pre-Tour Itinerary

Drange Apiary Inc.
Mule Train Alpaca Ranch
Agri-Organics
Lunch
John H. Dover Memorial Park
Scheels

NACAA AM/PIC Oral Presentations:

We have 12 awesome presentations lined up. Our committee will host the oral sessions at DT Skybridge 2 (50 theater) on Monday from 8:30 -11:30 and again on Tuesday.

Scholarship Committee

Timmy Mann, Chair

Ronnie Barron, Vice-Chair-2024

Andrew Elrod, Vice-Chair- 2025, 2026 Chair

A committee of TAAA&S members was chosen to assist the Chair and Vice-Chair with the selection process for the 2025 college scholarship. The 2025 recipient(s) will be determined after May 1, 2025. **The 2024 recipient was Abigail Berny, daughter of Doug Berny (Extension Agent, Williamson County).** Congratulations to Abigail!

2025 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.

Professional Excellence Committee

Lindsay Stephenson, chair

2025 NACAA AM/PIC accepted posters

Name	Title	Category
Sarah Orr*	<i>Ladies Raising Livestock</i>	Extension Education
Celeste Scott*	<i>Rooted in Collaboration: Advancing Horticulture Across Tennessee</i>	Extension Education
Jessica Wilkinson Smith*	<i>Horticulture Lunch and Learn Series</i>	Extension Education
Lindsay Stephenson STATE WINNER	<i>County Standardized Testing of Cotton Cultivars in TN</i>	Applied Research

**Non-Judged Entry. Presentation information for the 2025 NACAA AM/PIC was not available at the time of report submission.*

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Search for Excellence Committee

Jerri Lynn Sims, Chair

We have 3 state winning applications in the Search for Excellence for 2025:

Consumer or Commercial Horticulture – Natalie Bumgarner and team for their submission Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Collaborative Intern Training

Crop Production – Terrell Davis for Dyer Co. Grain Bin Education

Livestock Production – Harold “Tim” Woods for McMinn County Beef Educational and Marketing Program

The state winners will be attending the NACAA AM/PIC SFE luncheon at the AM/PIC for the category in which they applied. They will receive \$50 and certificate from NACAA as a state winner. We also had an excellent application submitted by Lindsay Stephenson and team for the West TN Grain & Soybean Producers Conference in the Crop Production category. Congratulations to each of you and thank you for taking the time to apply and represent TN Extension on a national level.

Animal Science Committee

John Goddard, Chair

Animal Science Inservice trainings we had in 2024:

Engineering Elements: Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Manure Management

2024 Livestock and Crop Marketing Outlook

Using Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Extension Programming

2024 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Symposium

Pasture management for quality, quantity, and soil health

Engineering Elements: Biosolids as an Alternative Fertilizer for Fescue, Corn, Soybean, and Wheat

Engineering Elements: UTIA Precision Livestock Farming Research and Demonstration Facility Update

We taught Master Beef, Dairy, Horse, Small Ruminant & Backyard Poultry Courses across the state in 2024.

Other Animal Science events held in TN in 2024 were:

The SDBII Northeast Experiential Learning Course was led by UT for September 2-7, 2024

UTIA's Center for Dairy Advancement and Sustainability established to be Hub for Information 2024.

UT Institute of Agriculture Invests in Premier Poultry Research Facility 2024

UT Beef and Forage Center Launches Live.Stock Podcast 2024

UT Extension to Conduct Southeast TN Beef Summit in April 2024

Three Horse Management Field Days conducted in February 2024

Ag Day 2024 held on September 14

4-H Youth Animal Science Events held in TN in 2024 were:

State 4-H Market Hog Show, Breeding Gilts & Showmanship | TN Tech Univ. January 2024 plus 3 regional shows

Block and Bridle Roundup Livestock Judging | Sat, Mar 2, 12:00 AM Knoxville, TN

Agribition Livestock Judging | Sat, Mar 9, 12:00 AM Lebanon, TN

Knoxville Spring Junior Cattle Exposition | Friday, April 19, 2024, & Saturday, April 20, 2024 in Gray, TN

State 4-H Livestock/Meats Judging Contests | Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in Knoxville, TN plus 3 regional contests.

State 4-H Horse Show | Monday, June 17, 2024 & Friday, June 21, 2024 plus 3 regional shows

State Beef Expo | Saturday, July 27, 2024 in Lebanon, TN plus 3 regional shows

State Goat Show | Saturday, August 17, 2024

State Jr Dairy Show | Friday, October 11, 2024 & Saturday, October 12, 2024 in Lebanon, TN plus 3 regional shows

State 4-H Sheep Expo | Friday, October 25, 2024 & Saturday, October 26, 2024 plus 3 regional shows

Youth Livestock All-Star Banquet | Saturday, December 21, 2024 in Knoxville, TN

Continued on next page...

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Animal Science Committee Cont.

John Goddard, Chair

NACAA Animal Science Pre-Tour Itinerary

Thursday, June 26

Fly into Billings Stay at the headquarters hotels (Northern & Doubletree Hotel)

Friday, June 27

- 7:30 a.m. Board the bus and travel to Big Timber (80 minutes travel time)
- 9:15 a.m. Wool Warehouse (https://www.facebook.com/THEWOOLMILL/posts/i-finally-got-to-tour-the-wool-house-in-big-timber-lots-of-wool-history-in-this-/1246184562583071/?locale=ms_MY)
- 10:00 a.m. Board Bus and travel west of Melville to American Fork Ranch
- 10:40 a.m. American Fork Ranch - (<https://www.environmentalstewardship.org/winner-gallery/inductees/american-fork-ranch>) with catered lunch from Café 191 (<https://www.cafe191melville.com/>)
- 1:00 p.m. Load bus and drive to Martinsdale
- 2:00 p.m. Bair Ranch & Museum (<https://montanahistoriclandscape.com/2015/04/28/the-bair-ranch-of-martinsdale-montana/>)
- 4:00 p.m. Load bus to drive to Great Falls (2 hours & 30 minutes from Martinsdale MT to Great Falls, MT)
- 6:30 p.m. Arrive in Great Falls check into Motel
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner at the CM Russel Museum or Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
- 8:30 p.m. Back to motel.

Saturday, June 28

- 8:30 a.m. Big Sky Bison Ranch (<https://www.bigskybison.com/>)
- 10:00 a.m. Jacobsen Ranch (<http://jacobsenlivestock.com/contact>)
- 11:00 a.m. The Birdtail Ranch (<https://www.birdtailranch.com/>)
- Noon Big Sky Deli (<https://www.facebook.com/bigskydeli>)
- 3:00 p.m. Judith Basin Feedyard (<https://www.facebook.com/p/Judith-Basin-County-Farms-100082093804144/>)
- 4:00 p.m. Board bus to Lewistown (35 minutes)
- 4:35 p.m. Lewistown Livestock (Lewistown) (<https://www.lewistownlivestock.com/>)
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner Lewistown Livestock - Catered by Brooks Market (<https://brooksmarket.com/menus/lunch>)
- 7:00 p.m. Load bus to Billings Montana (1 hour 40 minutes)
- 9:00 p.m. Arrive in Billings

Recognition & Awards Committee

Shana DeLozier-Los, Chair

This year, the committee received three nominations for the Achievement Award and three nominations for the Distinguished Service Award. Our state, based on membership, may recognize four AAs and four DSAs. After the committee reviewed and evaluated the nominations, the members listed below were approved and will receive their national awards during the NACAA AM/PIC.

2025 Achievement Award Recipients

Shown on next page...

2025 Distinguished Service Awards Recipients

Shown on next page...

NACAA Hall of Fame Award

Shown on page 14 & 15

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Recognition & Awards Committee Cont.

Shana DeLozier-Los, Chair

2025 Achievement Award Recipients

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



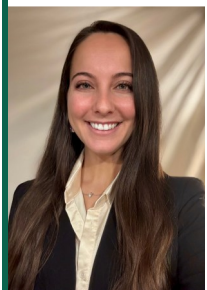
Ryan Brown

Ryan Brown has served as an ANR Agent in Jefferson County, where beef cattle and forage production are the cornerstones of the agricultural community in Jefferson County, TN. Since 2020, 129 producers have completed their Master Beef Certification to become eligible for the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program. Other events, such as field days and on-farm demonstrations, have helped producers adopt new broadleaf weed management strategies and utilize warm-season annual forages to enhance summer grazing. Local beef and forage programs have an economic impact of over \$250,000 annually.



Amy Dunlap

Amy Dunlap serves as an ANR Agent for Davidson County, with a focus on horticulture. Her programming efforts empower new audiences to farm and garden in urban spaces. She partnered on a national project to engage urban residents in container gardening trials. Additionally, she co-authored a statewide publication series on small space food production. While serving as a Master Gardener coordinator, both volunteer retention and engagement increased. Volunteer financial value equated to \$165,581.65.



Haley Treadway

Haley serves as the agriculture agent providing programming in the areas of horticulture and agriculture. By meeting the needs of urban and rural stakeholders, she offers diversified opportunities with statewide programs like Master Gardener and Master Beef, while providing county-based programs such as the Chattanooga Landscape Short Course and Backyard Poultry Workshop. Haley co-authored, 'Welcome Home, Tennessee' winning a UTIA publication award. She is a national winner of the NACAA Communications Award for online content.

2025 Distinguished Service Awards Recipients

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.



Shannon DeWitt

Shannon has worked for University of Tennessee as an Extension Agent educating adults and 4-H Youth in agriculture for 15 years. She conducts educational programs in beef cattle, forages, poultry, gardening, fruit trees, small ruminant, and swine. Shannon wrote grants and played a major role in the creation of the Union County Farmers Market. In partnership with Tractor Supply, she led efforts to raise over \$50,000 for youth attending 4-H camp.

Continued on next page...

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Recognition & Awards Committee Cont.

Shana DeLozier-Los, Chair

2025 Distinguished Service Awards Recipients Cont.

Blake Ramsey

Blake has served as the Extension Agent and County Director in Hawkins County the past 10 years. He has served over 16 years total, with 6 years in 4-H Youth Dev. His programming focus is livestock and forages. During the past 5 years, there has been an economic impact of approximately \$3,500,000 to producers who have participated in his programs.

Celeste Scott

Celeste is a horticulture specialist in West Tennessee with ten years of experience as a county agent. She teaches over 50 classes yearly on topics ranging from IPM and plant selection to sustainable landscapes. She has collaborated on statewide programming for home food production, beginner gardeners, TN Smart Yards, and the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener program. Celeste has authored five publications on landscape plant selection and has contributed to others through co-writing and reviewing.

NACAA Hall of Fame Award

The purpose of the NACAA Hall of Fame Award is to recognize NACAA individuals for demonstrated commitment, dedication and effective leadership in job performance as an outstanding educator, consideration for association involvement at both the state and national level, and outstanding humanitarian service. This award recognizes NACAA members with sustained and distinguished careers.



Alan Galloway

With the initials of AG it seems Alan Galloway was destined to spend his career working in the field of agriculture. Alan received a BS in Agribusiness from Tennessee Technological University in 1979 and MS in Agricultural Economics from Clemson University in 1981. After 5 years working for Southern State Coop, he became one of the original twelve farm management specialists hired by the University of Tennessee Extension in 1986 with the creation of the MANAGE program. (Continued on next page)

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Recognition & Awards Committee Cont.

Shana DeLozier-Los, Chair

NACAA Hall of Fame Award - Alan Galloway Cont.

In the midst of a tough financial time for agriculture, Alan and the other farm management specialists worked one-on-one with farm families, developing farm financial plans and assisting them in making better business decisions. During his 37-year career, he participated in numerous successful educational programs beyond financial planning. Alan researched and created the annual planning budgets for multiple types of tobacco production and, in recent years, coordinated with the University of Kentucky Extension to develop one set of budgets for both states. Alan was part of the team developing the Tennessee Farmland Legacy program. This program created a 200-plus page manual covering many aspects of how to pass the farm down. Alan's contribution included the estate planning chapter. In 2005, Alan became an instructor for the state-wide income tax schools. These schools provide continuing education to CPAs and other tax preparers. Alan currently serves as the income tax school program coordinator. After obtaining a grant, Alan led the development of the Tennessee Christmas Tree Production Manual and conducted workshops across the state for potential growers. With the challenges caused by COVID, Alan and the MANAGE team created the Master Farm Manager online program. The program included eight sessions on various farm management topics, with Alan conducting the highly rated session on farm income taxes. The effort expanded into the Farming Fundamentals program, providing beginning farmers with the basics of farm management.

Alan became an association member in 1987, and his involvement in the Tennessee association (TAAA&S) evolved from District IV treasurer to secretary for the 1996 NACAA AM/PIC planning committee and TAAA&S president in 2001. At the national level, he has served as chair of the County Agent Editorial Advisory board, regional vice chair and national chair of the NACAA recognitions and award committee, and southern region vice director and director. In 2012, he was elected NACAA Treasurer, where Alan worked to improve the record-keeping processes and the AM/PIC planning spreadsheet to assist states hosting a future AM/PIC. Alan was elected NACAA Vice President in 2015 and served as NACAA President in 2018. At the local level Alan served as a solicitor, auctioneer, and warehouse coordinator for the WCTE public TV station's annual fund-raising auction for over 30 years. The on-air auction was a family event with Alan's wife, Mary, and two sons assisting behind the auction scenes. For numerous years, he served on the Anne Cameron American Cancer Golf Tournament planning committee. He assisted with the layout and printing of the tournament advertising brochures and flyers, and with many details during the tournaments.

2025 Regional Award Recipients

Eastern Region

Early Career Award Agent - Ryan Brown, Jefferson County

Early Career Award Specialist - Ty Wolaver, The Center of Farm Management

Central Region

Agriculture Agent of the Year - Taylor Reeder, Williamson County

Specialist of the Year - Lester Humpal, Agricultural and Resource Economics Specialist

Youth Agent of the Year - Wheeler McCulloch, Giles County

Western Region

Outstanding Agent of the Year - Joe Griffy, Stewart County

Early Career Award - Bronson Bass, Weakley County

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Communications Awards Program

Anna Duncan, Chair

24 members submitted 49 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:

Region	Entries	Members Participating	State Winners
Western	16	8	5
Central	21	10	7
Eastern	12	6	1
Totals	49	24	13

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

Class #	Category	Number of Entries in TN
1	Audio Recording	2
2	Published Photo	4
3	Computer Generated Presentation with Script	6
4	Event Promotional Package	8
5	Personal Column	2
6	Feature Story	3
7	Newsletter	4
8	Educational Video Recording	4
9	Factsheet	8
10	Publication	3
11	Website	2
12	Learning Module/ Notebook	1
13	Bound Book/ EBook	2
	Total Entries in TN	49

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

Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Audio Recording	Tracey Sullivan, Et al.	Katie Mason Et al.	
Published Photo	Jessica Young	Justin Stefanski	Ryan Brown
Computer-Generated Pres. w/Script	Rachel Painter*	Jason de Koff	Celeste Scott
Program Promotional Package	Kari Beth Neville Et al.*	Haley Treadway Et al.	Amy Dunlap
Personal Column	Justin Stefanski	Bruno Pedreira	
Feature Story	Christopher Cooper	Celeste Scott	Alaina Boyd
Newsletter	Celeste Scott Et al.*	Ryan Brown Et al.	Bruno Pedreira Et. al
Educational Video Recording	Celeste Scott Et al.	Joe Seago Et al.	Pramir Maharjan
Factsheet	Jason de Koff	Kari Beth Neville	Anthony Carver
Publication	Alaina Boyd Et al.*	Celeste Scott, Et al.	Pramir Maharjan
Website/ Online Content	Justin Stefanski Et. al*	Bruno Pedreira Et. al	
Learning Module/ Notebook	Haley Treadway Et. al*		
Bound Book/ EBook	Alaina Boyd	Michael Barry	

*Southern Region Winner | **-National Finalist | Et al.- Team Submission

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Communications Awards Program Cont.

Anna Duncan, Chair

2025 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 2025 "Sweet Award"

- Celeste Scott & Alaina Boyd -

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

2025 Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winner:

- Celeste Scott -

Previous Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winners

Alaina Boyd, 2024	Melissa Henry, 2011
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

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Communications Awards Program Cont.

Anna Duncan, Chair

2025 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 regional 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 \$150 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

2025 State Communication Awards Expenditures

State 1st Place	\$50	x 13	\$650.00
State 2nd Place	\$35	x 12	\$420.00
State 3rd Place	\$20	x8	\$160.00
Communicator of the Year	\$150	x 1	\$150.00
“Sweet Award” Plaque	\$30	x 1	\$30.00
Total Budget			\$1,410.00

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES HAD NO REPORT FOR 2024

4-H & Youth Programming Jonathan Johns	Leadership & Administrative Skills Martin Koon
Agronomy & Pest Management Ranson Goodman	Teaching & Educational Strategies David Yates
Natural Resources/Aquaculture Bruce Steelman	Public Relations & Ag. Issues Hannah Wright
Sustainable Agriculture Haley Treadway	Life Member John Campbell
Agricultural Issues Jake Mallard	Horticulture & Turfgrass Celeste Scott
Early Career Development Lee Rumble	

- Active 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	177	+7	6.47%
2025	166	-11	-6.21%

- TAAA&S Hicks Award of Excellence 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	Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County
	Joseph Griffy, Stuart County		Creig Kimbro, Grundy County
	Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County		Lindsay Stephenson, Haywood County
2010	Ricky Thomason, Johnson County	2025	
	Jerry Lamb, Rhea County		
	Clyde Lane, Animal Science		

- Friend 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. "Cotton" 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 - Rhedona Rose TN Farm Bureau
2025 -