



Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents & Specialists



TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL AGENTS & SPECIALISTS

2025 - 2026
Annual Meeting Report

Pickwick Landing State Park
June 3rd - 5th

Respectfully submitted by:
Ty Wolaver | TAAA&S Secretary

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- 2025/2026 Officers & Committee Chairs -

State Officers	President	Seth Whitehouse
	President Elect	Lindsay Stephenson
	First Vice President	Matthew Deist
	Second Vice President	Shannon DeWitt
	Third Vice President	Jake Mallard
	Secretary	Ty Wolaver
	Treasurer	Les Humpal
	Past President	Jason de Koff
	Historian	Amanda Mathenia
	Life Member Director	John Campbell
Regional Officers		
	Western Region Director	Jared Strickland
	Western Region Director Elect	Bronson Bass
	Western Region Secretary / Treasurer	Jerri Lynn Sims
	Central Region Director	Jonathan Johns
	Central Region Director Elect	Wheeler McCulloch
	Central Region Secretary	Taylor Reeder
	Central Region Treasurer	Eryn Bell
	Eastern Region Director	Haley Treadway
Eastern Region Secretary /Treasurer	Alyssa Large	
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	Shana DeLozier
	Scholarship	Andrew Elrod
	Search for Excellence	Jerri Lynn Sims
	Other Committees Leadership	
	Journal of NACAA	Laurie Rollins
	Life Member	John Campbell

- A word from the TAAA&S President -

TAAA&S Members and Life Members,

Welcome to the 2026 TAAA&S Annual Meeting at Pickwick Landing State Park! This year's meeting is one of the most well-attended gatherings in recent years, and I am grateful for the many individuals who have worked hard to make it a success. I would especially like to recognize Lindsay Stephenson for her outstanding leadership, organization, and dedication in planning this meeting. We are fortunate to have her as our next President, and I know her passion for the Association and commitment to creating a meaningful experience for our members and their families will continue to move us forward.

It has been an honor to serve as your President this past year. Tennessee continues to be well represented within NACAA, ranking among the top states in overall membership and participation. That level of involvement reflects the professionalism, commitment, and excellence of our members across the state. I encourage each of you to take the next steps in becoming more involved by planning ahead for communication awards, encouraging your coworkers to engage, and stepping up to serve in leadership roles. Whether you are a newer agent or a seasoned specialist, your unique perspective adds value to our Association and contributes to our shared success.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our board members, regional officers, and committee chairs. Your willingness to serve beyond your everyday responsibilities as Extension professionals helps keep this Association strong and moving forward. Much like our work in Extension, the success of TAAA&S depends on collaboration, shared leadership, and a commitment to supporting one another. Through this role, I have built relationships across Tennessee that I would not have made otherwise, and those connections have positively influenced both my professional growth and my local impact.

Thank you, TAAA&S, for your service to Tennessee agriculture, your commitment to Extension, and your engagement in the Association. I hope you will continue to support this Association throughout your career and consider the many ways you can help lead it into the future.

Sincerely,

Seth Whitehouse

- Treasurer Report -

Foundation Funds – Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet					
	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	5/27/2026
ASSETS					
Checking	238,742.00	233,217.00	231,114.56	219,692.16	212,692.16
Raymond James	544,867.39	587,818.44	591,306.93	632,497.82	666,863.44
Total Assets	306,125.39	354,460.44	360,192.37	412,805.66	454,171.28
EQUITY					
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	306,125.39	354,460.44	360,192.37	412,805.66	454,171.28

Banking Summary – 2025

1/1/2025 through 12/31/2025

Category	Foundation
INCOME	
Transfer	25,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	25,500.00

Banking Summary -2026

1/1/2026 through 5/27/2026

Category	Foundation
INCOME	
Transfer	8500.00
TOTAL INCOME	8500.00

EXPENSES	
Awards	3580.00
College Scholarships	4500.00
State Hay Contest	1500.00
National Meeting Montana	4497.60
Total Expenses	14,077.60
OVERALL TOTAL	11,422.40

EXPENSES	
National Meeting Sponsorship Denver	1500.00
Total Expenses	1500.00
OVERALL TOTAL	7000.00

- Treasurer Report (Cont.) -

State Funds – Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet					
	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	5/27/2026
ASSETS					
Checking	250,289.64	243,075.78	235,935.68	221,527.70	227,576.98
TOTAL ASSETS	250,289.64	243,075.78	235,935.68	221,527.70	227,576.98
LIABILITIES					
LIABILITIES	0	0	0	0	0
EQUITY					
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	250,289.64	243,075.78	235,935.68	221,527.70	227,576.98

Banking Summary – 2025

1/1/2025 through 12/31/2025

Category	State
INCOME	
Dues	11,980.00
JCEP Reimbursement	450.00
State Meeting Registration Fees	3818.80
State Meeting Sponsorship	3400.00
TOTAL INCOME	19,648.80

Banking Summary -2026

1/1/2026 through 5/27/2026

Category	State
INCOME	
Dues	10,500.00
JCEP Reimbursement	450.00
State Meeting Sponsorship	2550.00
State Meeting Reg. Fees	7637.05
TOTAL INCOME	21,137.05

EXPENSES	
Donation	3,941.54
Annual meeting Expenses	15,723.72
Awards	962.55
Board Expenses	4864.82
National Dues	8,450.00
Fees	29.05
Postage	10.10
State Meeting Refund	75.00
Total Expenses	34,056.78
OVERALL TOTAL	14,407.98

EXPENSES	
Transfer to Dash Account	4500.00
Annual meeting Expenses	1240.72
Awards	962.55
Board Expenses	1059.05
National Dues	8210.00
Postage	78.00
Total Expenses	15,087.77
OVERALL TOTAL	6049.28

- Western Region Report -

WRTAAA&S Annual Meeting Century Farm Winery, Jackson, TN August 21, 2025

Meeting was opened by President Jared Stricklin.

Minutes from our last meeting were read and approved.

Checking account balance was \$9929.58.

Amanda Mathenia reported that there has been a change on the National level that states will be assessed a \$10 fine for paying dues after Jan. 1. Every one should be looking for email from Jerri Lynn by early October to begin paying dues. If you need an invoice for your county, she will provide one. Please get them paid in a timely manner.

Discussion followed by Laurie Rollins in should we increase our dues? No action was taken following discussion.

The National meeting (AMPIC) will be in Denver July 8-12.

The 2026 state meeting will be at Pickwick June 3-5.

Early Career – Kari Beth Neville – Weakley Co.

Excellence in Ag – Celeste Scott – Specialist

Friend of Extension – Andy Holt – TDA (to be given in Dec at the Farm Bureau meeting)

Old business : Alignment to state wide awards was done. Took out the agent/specialist/county director designation. Only criteria are years employed. Early Career 0-9 years, Excellence in Ag 10 & up.

Motion was made by Brian White that the 2nd highest vote would be the Friend of Extension for 2026. 2nd was made by Jake Mallard. Motion passed so Mr. Jimmy Tosh will be recognized with the Friend of Extension award in 2026 at the June state meeting.

Recap of the new officer structure in that the President would serve a two-year term. A vice president election would need to be held. Amanda Mathenia nominated Bronson Bass and he was elected by acclamation.

The meeting for 2026 will be held in Jackson and Bronson will host the meeting in 2027.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

- Central Region Report -

November 3rd, 2025 Central Region TAAA&S Meeting
Ingram Angus
2880 Happy Hill Rd, Lynnville, TN 38472

Introductions and Updates (Wheeler McCulloch) –

- **David Cagle management partner Ingram Angus (Jason Upchurch management partner):**
 - February 2016 Started Ingram Angus (Owner Orrin Ingram)
 - 1000+ acres here in Lynnville, TN. Hour north of here 1100 acres (some of it wooded).
 - First sale in 2019. Sell all the way up into Canada and across the U.S.
 - Go across the country to find the best genetics.
 - Fed a high roughage diet. The slower you bring up the weight the slower they are to lose it. All are fed the same based on age/size.
 - They guarantee all bulls through a breeding season (6 months). Give one of similar value or give credit at next bull sale.
 - September 1 to November 1 fall calving
 - January 15 to March 15 spring calving
 - Friday the 7th of November, 2025 - Fall Production sale
 - Beef Academy launched in 2023: If you are young or new to the beef industry, it gives you information all the way up to a registered breeder., 500+ teachers started and now over 900 teachers use it as a teaching aid for youth (across the U.S.), Teaches youth where their beef comes from.
- **Kevin Posey (TN Cattleman's Association Board Member)**
 - Hiring a new Executive Director: 16 applicants (highly qualified), Oct. 9th committee met and narrowed it down to 7 for interviews, Oct. 23rd 7 candidates interviewed , New director has been voted on and selected and now are in the process of background checks, etc., Should be appointed officially by the end of November 2025.
 - New Executive Director: One of the top initiatives will be recruitment (get out and talk to people), What's in it for producers to join the state association? How can they help?:
 - >Promoting discounts and district meetings better. Focus on incentives for joining.
 - >Counties need bylaws and more order (some are going defunct).
 - >How to reach homesteaders and hobby farmers (work to bring big commercial and small farms together and not battle each other).
 - >Embrace the fact you are the last organized Ag Association for most counties.
 - >Don't be too inclusive; market towards all livestock producers.
 - Less than 5,000 members in the state association for TN.: KY – 11, 000 members, AL – 10,000 members, 37,000 producers across the state of TN.
 - Gary (?) and Nick Patterson (chair elect) those two over the next 3 years
- **Ronnie Barron**
 - Hispanic Educational Programs
 - H2A workers: Department of Labor changing the wage rate. \$3 - \$4 hour reduction in wage rates. Could be as low as \$11/hr. in some areas, Trying to even it out with prevailing wage rate (?)
- **Matthew Deist**
 - SARE
 - Field Day – KY (Mechanical Weed Control): Demonstrated a lot of equipment, Big focus on organic production

11:00 am- TAAA&S Business Meeting (Jonathan Johns)

Taylor Reeder

Read minutes

Approved

Eryn Bell (maternity leave)

We will send out treasurer information at a later date

East TN Raised dues to \$100

Our current dues \$90

\$30 goes to state

\$50 goes to national

\$10 we keep

No need to raise dues decided

Director Elect

Nomination for Will Thomas (Justin S.)

Seconded and Approved (Nick and someone else)

Amy Prince made motion to close

Seconded by Johnny Barnes

Approved

- Central Region Report, cont. -

State TAAA&S Meeting (2026 in West TN at Pickwick Landing)

2027 Central Region will host

Possibly going to Robertson County (Wheeler and Johnathan discussed)

Last State Meeting in the Central Region was in Columbia, TN

Committees will be set up for planning

New Business

Farm Bureau meeting at Cool Springs (Matthew Deist)

New and veteran agents introduced

Join the Private Applicator update meeting on November 11th (Martin)

Shaina Awards information (?)

There is no longer a 5-year minimum for achievement awards (10 years and under)

2025 Awards

Adult Ag Agent of the Year

Johnathan Johns

Youth Agent of the Year

Sarah Keenan

Specialist of the Year

Michael Berry

Friend of Extension

Chad Hayes – TDA

Secretary Position (currently Taylor Reeder)

Nomination – Madison O’Ferrel (Wheeler M.)

Second – Taylor Reeder

3rd Vice President

Nomination Johnathan Johns (Justin S.)

Motion Wheeler M

Second Matt Horsman

Approved

Motion to Adjourn

Will Thomas made motion

Johnny Barnes second

Approved

- Eastern Region Report -

Eastern Region

Region President/Director: Haley Treadway
 Region Secretary/Treasurer: Alyssa Large
 Outstanding Young Agent: Haley Treadway, Hamilton County
 Outstanding Young Specialist: Virginia Sykes, Plant Sciences

Membership Paid 2026: 53
 Current Members: 60
 New Life Members: 1
 New Members: 6

REGION MEETING AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

The Eastern Region TAAA&S held its annual meeting for 2026 on May 1st at the Hickory Corner Farms store in Claiborne County, TN. There were 35 members present. The event included a morning tour stop at Clear Creek Mill in Hancock County, lunch and tour at Hickory Corner Farms, and final tour stop at Hometown Produce. Lunch was catered by Hickory Corner Farms. The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by Haley Treadway, Region President/Director. Haley Treadway and Seth Whitehouse held open discussion about the 2026 State and National Meetings. Secretary/Treasurer report was prepared by Alyssa Large. Alyssa Large read the current membership and financial report. Tom Rison made a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes. Seconded by David Bilderback. Motion passed. A motion was made by Jack Price to accept the minutes and financial report. David Bilderback seconded the motion. The motion passed. Shannon DeWitt provided an update to members regarding awards. She recognized Lee Rumble, Ty Wolaver, Ryan Brown, and Katie Mason as previous winners among our members. The 2026 selections for Early Career Awards were agent Haley Treadway and specialist Virginia Sykes, who will be recognized at the State Meeting in 2027. During open discussion, Billy Ward shared information about the SARE program. Discussion was held on who would be nominated for Eastern Region President when Haley Treadway's term ends in June 2027. David Bilderback made a motion to nominate Jake Watts for Region President/Director following the end of Haley Treadway's term. Peter Bimmel seconded. No debate, motion passed. Melody Rose made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Goddard seconded. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Beginning Balance (04/22/2025)		\$4,093.39
Income – 2025 Dues		
2025 Dues Collected	\$700.00	
State TAAA&S Donation in Memory of Jenni Goodrich	\$750.00	
Agent Donations in Memory of Jenni Goodrich	\$2,102.50	
2026 Dues Collected	\$5,100.00	
Total Income	\$8,652.50	\$12,745.89
Expenses		
Reimbursement to David Bilderback during New Agents Training 2025	\$143.09	
2026 Dues Paid to The State	\$4,080.00	
Total Expenses	\$4,223.09	\$8,522.80
Ending Balance (4/30/2026)		\$8,522.80

- Committee Reports -

Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee

Rachel Painter, Chair

The Agricultural Economics and Community Development team within the University of Tennessee Extension continues to strengthen collaboration between Extension agents and specialists to deliver farm management education and assistance to producers across Tennessee. In 2025, the MANAGE team delivered 225 presentations, published 12 Extension publications, and conducted 773 farm visits and group meetings, reaching 11,564 farmers statewide. The team also provided comprehensive farm management assistance to 301 farms through partnerships with county agents.

The Tennessee Master Farm Manager program, offered online and through in-person programs across the state with county agents, had 1,106 producers complete the course in 2025. Participants reported an estimated \$14.3 million in value gained through educational knowledge and potential operational changes. The UT Farming Fundamentals program had 135 producers complete the course in 2025, with participants reporting an estimated \$1.95 million in educational value and potential operational improvements.

Agents are encouraged to attend the annual AREC regional in-service trainings covering topics such as row crops, cattle, green industry, trade, community economic development, and farm management. Meetings will be held November 2 in Maryville at the Blount County Extension Office, November 3 in Murfreesboro at the Rutherford County Extension Community Center Building, and November 4 in Jackson at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center.

Scholarship Committee 2025

Timmy Mann, Chair

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) were determined after May 1, 2025, so they were not announced in 2025. The 2025 recipients were Jace Rains, son of J.C. Rains (Extension Agent, Bledsoe County) and Hayden Rhea son of Jonathan Rhea (Extension Agent, Monroe County)

Scholarship Committee, 2026

Andrew Elrod, Chair

Kelsey Condra, Vice-Chair – 2026

A committee of TAAA&S members was chosen to assist the Chair and Vice-Chair with the selection process for the 2026 college scholarship. The 2026 recipient is Jadrian Rains, daughter of J.C. Rains (Extension Agent, Bledsoe County)

2025 & 2026 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.

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Search for Excellence Committee

Jerri Lynn Sims, Chair

Tennessee had 3 deserving applicants for program recognition this year. Thank you to each of them for taking the time to submit an application.

The state winners were:

Crop Production

Terrell Davis + 19 others
West TN Grain and Soybean Conference

Consumer & Commercial Horticulture

Anna Duncan + 14 others
UT Extension Certified Lawn Care Professional Course

Livestock Production

James Harlan
Master Beef and Forage Field Day

Early Career Development Committee

Lee Rumble

- In 2026, nine ANR Extension Agents participated in the Eastern Region New Agent Training quarterly meetings.
- In 2025, thirty-three ANR Extension Agents participated in the New and Reassigned ANR Extension Agent Training (NRAAT) in Knoxville including 11 from the Eastern Region.
- In 2026, eight ANR Extension Agents from the Eastern Region participated in the New Extension Employee Conference.

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 three AAs and three 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.

2026 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.

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Recognition & Awards Committee Cont.

Shana DeLozier-Los, Chair

2026 Achievement Award Recipients



Anna Duncan:

Anna Duncan began her Extension career as a county agent serving both youth and adult audiences. Duncan now serves as a state specialist in the Digital Certification and Training Program Coordinator role. In this role, Duncan serves as the instructional designer, videographer, curriculum designer, marketer, and facilitator of several online Extension programs. She also leads agent professional development efforts and collaborates on several grant projects.



Emily Richards:

Emily serves as the horticulture agent for Sumner County. Emily's passion for volunteer empowerment and leadership education has led to increased local volunteer engagement and to a statewide Master Gardener leadership/outreach program that trained 130 volunteers in its flagship year. Emily received a 3-year IRA grant for \$168,466 in 2024 for urban forestry projects benefitting disadvantaged communities in Sumner County. Grant projects include free youth camps, tree board formation, human health improvement programs, and tree planting.



Joe Seago:

Joseph serves as an ANR Agent in Shelby County, focusing on commercial horticulture and turfgrass management. He develops and delivers educational programs like the Commercial Horticulture Expo and Turfgrass Field Day, reaching over 250 professionals with best practices for productivity and sustainability. Joseph partners with the Memphis and Shelby County Community Redevelopment Agency for landscaping educational demonstrations and contributes to the TN Smart Yard program through the Sustainable Landscape Workgroup.

2026 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.



Jason Evitts :

Jason has served as Agriculture Agent and County Director since 2009. Fifteen of those years, he served as a 4-H Youth Development and Agriculture Agent. His programming focuses on livestock & forages. In the past 5 years, there has been an economic impact of approximately \$1.5 million on his county as a result of his programs. He has also delivered livestock and forage programs in 12 different counties to over 1000 producers.

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Recognition & Awards Committee Cont.

Shana DeLozier-Los, Chair



Lindsay Stephenson:

Lindsay Stephenson has served as an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent since 2014 and was appointed County Director in 2022. Her primary focus is row-crop production across more than 200,000 certified acres of cotton, corn, soybeans, and wheat in Haywood County. Through research-based education, producer-focused programming, and on-farm trials, her Extension efforts generate an average annual

economic impact exceeding \$18 million and reflect a sustained commitment to producer profitability, innovation, and agricultural excellence.



Jeff Via:

Jeff Via oversees the adult agriculture program in Fayette County. His responsibilities include row crop and livestock production; forestry, wildlife, and fisheries, with row crops and livestock being his major areas of focus. Via is also a regional fisheries first responder covering 15 counties. In the areas of row crops and livestock, the total economic impact of these programs was estimated at just under 9 million in increased revenue and savings.

2026 Regional Award Recipients

Eastern Region

Outstanding Young Agent - Haley Treadway, Hamilton County

Outstanding Young Specialist - Virginia Sykes, Plant Sciences

Central Region

Specialist of the Year – Michael Barry, Central Region Office

Adult Ag Agent – Johnathan Johns, Marshall County

Youth Ag Agent – Sarah Keenan, Maury County

Western Region

Early Career – Kari Beth Neville, Weakley County

Excellence in Ag – Celeste Scott, Plant Sciences

Friend of Extension – Jimmy Tosh, Tosh Farms, Henry County

NACAA Hall of Fame Award Recipient

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.

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Recognition & Awards Committee Cont.

Shana DeLozier-Los, Chair

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 an 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. 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.

Years of CES Service: 40

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Communications Awards Program

Anna Duncan, Chair

16 members submitted 35 entries for the 2026 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	10	6	1
Central	14	6	5
Eastern	11	4	5
Totals	35	16	11

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	0
2	Published Photo	3
3	Computer Generated Presentation with Script	4
4	Event Promotional Package	4
5	Personal Column	2
6	Feature Story	4
7	Newsletter	3
8	Educational Video Recording	7
9	Factsheet	3
10	Publication	1
11	Website	3
12	Learning Module/ Notebook	0
13	Bound Book/ EBook	1
	Total Entries in Tennessee	35

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Communications Awards Program Cont.

Anna Duncan, Chair

2026 State TAAA&S Communications Awards 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			
Published Photo	Jessica Young	Alaina Boyd	Shannon DeWitt
Computer-Generated Presentation with Script	Seth Whitehouse	Anthony Carter	Jason de Koff
Program Promotional Package	Haley Treadway	Joe Seago	Shannon DeWitt
Personal Column	Chris Cooper	Jessica Young	
Feature Story	Jessica Young*	Terrell Davis	Kari Beth Neville
Newsletter	Haley Treadway**	James Harlan	Terrell Davis
Educational Video Recording	Haley Treadway**	Joe Seago	Alaina Boyd
Factsheet	Justin Stefanski**	Jason de Koff	Anthony Carver
Publication	James Harlan		
Website/ Online Content	Shannon DeWitt	Terrell Davis	Jessica Young
Learning Module/ Notebook			
Bound Book/ EBook	Alaina Boyd		

*-Southern Region Winner

**-National Finalist

Et al.- Team Submission

2026 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.

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Communications Awards Program Cont.

Anna Duncan, Chair

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 2026 “Sweet Award”

Jessica Young

Terrell Davis

Shannon DeWitt

*Members who had at least the minimum number of 2026 entries to qualify (4) but were ineligible due to having won in the past two years.

2026 Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winner:

Jessica Young

Previous Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winners

Celeste Scott, 2025	Melissa Henry, 2011
Alaina Boyd, 2024	Tonya K Ashworth, 2010
Seth Whitehouse, 2023	Book T. Leigh, 2009
Rachel Painter, 2022	Thomas Stebbins, 2008
Jason de Koff, 2021	Ronald L. Barron, 2007
Thomas Stebbins, 2020	Creig C. Kimbro, 2006
Justin Stefanski, 2019	Karla Keen, 2004
Amy Dismukes, 2018	Kevin L. Rose, 2003
Jason de Koff, 2017	Glen E. Wolfenbarger, 2002
Chris Hicks, 2016	Joseph Donaldson, 2001
Megan Leffew, 2015	John Campbell, 2000
Melissa Henry, 2014	Gary Kirchhofer, 1999
Tonya K. Ashworth, 2013	David A. Yates, 1998
Thomas Stebbins, 2012	

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Communications Awards Program Cont.

Anna Duncan, Chair

2026 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:

Number of state winning entries.

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

Number of regional first place entries.

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

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 11	\$550.00
State 2nd Place	\$35	x 9	\$315.00
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			\$1,205.00

- Committee Reports Cont. -

Teaching and Education Strategies Committee

David Yates

The Teaching and Educational Technologies committee strives to provide members with new and innovative ways of using technologies and tools in teaching/reaching our Extension audiences.

The TET committee hosted 12-member presentations during the 2025 AMPIC that covered a range of technology use within Extension programs.

The Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee would like to invite you to view our oral presentations on Friday and Saturday morning, July 10 and 11, at the AMPIC. The committee is also looking forward to hosting a Super Seminar on the afternoon of July 11. “Sound Advice: How to Start and Grow an Extension Podcast” will feature a panel of Extension Professionals who have launched successful agricultural podcasts, reaching thousands of listeners with applied research and real-world stories from the field.

Professional Excellence Committee

Lindsay Stephenson, chair

2026 NACAA AM/PIC accepted posters and presentations

POSTERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>
Anna Duncan STATE WINNER	<i>State Curriculum, Local Delivery: Facilitating Extension Master Gardener Training in Tennessee</i>	Extension Education
Shana DeLozier	<i>Davidson and Sumner County Farm Fundamentals</i>	Extension Education
Shana Los	<i>Horticulture Lunch and Learn Series</i>	Extension Education
Lindsay Stephen- son REGIONAL WINNER	<i>Tennessee 2025 County Standardized Cotton Cultivar Testing</i>	Applied Research

**Non-Judged Entry*

PRESENTATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>
Emily Richards	<i>Leveraging Leadership: Empowering Local Leadership in Volunteer Organizations</i>	Leadership & Ad- ministrative Skills
Seth Whitehouse	<i>Welcome Home: Growing New Audiences</i>	Horticulture & Turfgrass
Jason de Koff	<i>Sharing Your Work Through the Journal of Exten- sion</i>	Early Career Devel- opment

- Committee Reports Cont. -

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES HAD NO REPORT FOR 2026

4-H & Youth Programming Jonathan Johns	Leadership & Administrative Skills Martin Koon
Agronomy & Pest Management Ranson Goodman	Journal of NACAA Laurie Rollins
Natural Resources/Aquaculture Bruce Steelman	Public Relations & Ag. Issues Hannah Wright
Sustainable Agriculture Haley Treadway	Life Member John Campbell
Agricultural Issues Jake Mallard	Animal Science John Goddard
Horticulture & Turfgrass Celeste Scott	

- TAAA&S Hicks Award of Excellence Recipients -

1997	James D. Taylor, Giles County	2014	Jeff Via, Fayette County
	Harry Bryan, Knox County		Becky Muller, Tipton County
	Dean Northcutt, Coffee County		Lena Beth Charmichael Reynolds, Area Specialist
1998	Bob Whitworth, Tipton County	2015	Jeff Lannom, Weakley County
	Kevin Rose, Giles County		Jeremy West, Scott County
	David Perrin, Smoky Mountain District		Michael Barry, Davidson County
1999	Jerry Parker, Lauderdale County	2016	Rebekah Norman, Montgomery County
	David Qualls, Lincoln County		Alan Bruhin, Sevier County
	Kevin Ferguson, Central District		Melody Rose, Greene County
2000	Chuck Danehower, Lauderdale County	2017	Jason De Koff, Specialist
	Mike Gordon, Haywood County		Troy Dugger, Hickman County
	John Teague, Bedford County	2018	David Bilderback, Specialist
2001	Tim Campbell, Dyer County		Matt Webb, Marshall County
	Scott Chadwell, Putnam County	2019	Shannon DeWitt, Union County
	Steve Glass, Decatur County		John Goddard, Loudon County
2002	Warren Gill, Specialist, Animal Science		Laurie Mobley, Houston County
	Rob Holland, Center for Profitable Ag	2020	Adam Hopkins, Jefferson County
	Ron Johnson, Overton County		Justin Hargrove, Benton County
2003	John Campbell, Maury County		Heath Nokes, Warren County
	Dewayne Perry, Williamson County	2021	Blake Ramsey, Hawkins County
	David Yates, Loudon County		Dallas Manning, Area Specialist
2004	Marcus McLemore, Hardin County	2022	Ryan Blair, Area Specialist
	Rick Skillington, Marshall County		Bruce Steelman, Lincoln County
2005	Larry Moorehead, Moore County		Jason Garrett, Overton County
	John Wilson, Marion County	2023	Anthony Carver, Grainger County
	Michael Smith, Williamson County		Lucas Holman, Wilson County
2006	Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County		Virginia Sykes, Plant Sciences
	Alan Galloway, Putnam County	2024	Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County
	Jim Neel Specialist, Animal Science		Creig Kimbro, Grundy County
2007	Ronnie Barron, Cheatham County		Lindsay Stephenson, Haywood County
	Tim Woods, McMinn County	2025	Amanda Mathenia, Perry County
2008	Tammy McKinley, Agricultural Economics		Tim Woods, McMinn County
	Alice Rhea, Blount County		Rachel Painter, AREC Extension Specialist
	Cynthia Zeitz, Jackson County	2026	
2009	Megan Bruch, Mary County		
	Joseph Griffy, Stuart County		
	Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County		
2010	Ricky Thomason, Johnson County		
	Jerry Lamb, Rhea County		
	Clyde Lane, Animal Science		
2011	Kevin Rose, Giles County		
	Ron Blair, Henderson County		
	John Ferrell, Franklin County		
2012	Philip Shelby, Gibson County		
2013	Jonathan Rhea, Monroe County		
	Creig Kimbro, Grundy County		
	Mike Buschermohle, Specialist		

- 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 - Andy Holt | TN Department of Agriculture

2026 - Jimmy Tosh | Tosh Farms