



Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists

## 2015-2016 Annual Meeting and Report

**Wilderness at the Smokies**

*Sevierville, TN*

*May 18-20, 2016*



**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

 **TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
Cooperative Extension

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# Officers and Committee Chairs

## 2015-2016 State Officers

President	Sheldon Barker
President Elect	Adam Hopkins
First Vice President	Ranson Goodman
Second Vice President	Justin Stefanski
Third Vice President	Steven Huff
Secretary	Chris Hicks
Treasurer	David Bilderback
Past President	Troy Dugger
Life Member	J. W. McGuire

## 2015-2016 Regional Officers

Western Region Director	Greg Allen, Lake County
Western Secretary/Treasurer	Amanda Mathenia, Decatur/Perry
Central Region Director	Matt Horseman, Williamson
Central Secretary/Treasurer	Mitchell Mote, Rutherford
Eastern Region Director	Aaron Smith, Ag Econ
Eastern Secretary/Treasurer	Shannon Perrin, Union

## 2015-2016 Committee Chairs

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
<b>Professional Improvement Council</b>		
Agronomy and Pest Management	*Ed Burns, Franklin	Anthony Carver, Grainger
Ag. Econ & Community Development	*Kevin Ferguson, Rutherford	
Animal Science	*John Goddard, Loudon	Chris Hicks, VanBuren
Natural Resources/Aquaculture	*Bruce Steelman, Cannon	Heath Nokes, Warren
Horticulture & Turfgrass	*Justin Stefanski, Wilson	Karla Kean, Montgomery
Sustainable Agriculture	*Finis Stribling, Maury	
<b>Extension Development Council</b>		
Public Relations & Ag Issues	*Justin Rhinehart	
Early Career Development	*Rebekah Norman, Rutherford	Lindsay Griffin, Hardeman
Administrative Skills Development	*Martin Koon, Central Region	
Teaching & Educational Technologies	*David Yates	
<b>Professional Recognition Council</b>		
Communications	*Tonya Ashworth, Fayette	
Search for Excellence	*Jerri Lynn Sims, Humphreys	Jason Evitts, Trousdale
4-H & Youth	*Matt Webb, Giles	Matt Horseman, Williamson
Professional Excellence	*Megan Bruch, CPA	
Public Relations	*Mitchell Mote	
Recognition & Awards	*John Wilson, Blount	Ty Petty, Unicoi
Scholarship	*Timmy Mann, Robertson	
<b>Life Members</b>	*J. W. McGuire	

# President's Report

Sheldon Barker

2015 – 2016

There is a tag line in a credit card advertisement “membership has its privileges” and that is certainly true of being a member of the Tennessee Association of Agriculture Agents and Specialist. Yet as I think about my four years on the board I realize that it is an “active membership that has its privileges”. The opportunity for professional development at regional, state and national meetings is certainly one of the privileges. However, there is so much more, the opportunity to meet people across the country to see what other states and universities are doing, and to travel across the state and country to see and learn. To benefit from these opportunities you have to take an active part. Troy Dugger noted

It has been a great pleasure to serve as president of your TAAA&S Association this past year. As I began this role, I really did not know what was in front of me. But after working with this state board and the members across the state, I have found this year to be very rewarding for me and hope that we have been able to advance the cause of TAAA&S. This is a great organization in which to be a member. Not only a member, but an active member; one that gets involved in order to get the most that one can from this association.

We just recently learned that our Tennessee Association had the largest increase in members nationwide, up 18 members from 2014, to 168 members. We are the fourth largest association behind Texas, North Carolina and Georgia; just eight members away from third place. This is something the state board has been working on for several years; how to increase the membership. Thanks to all of you that have seen the need to join TAAA&S and have caused us to make this giant step in building our membership. Let us all strive to keep up this good work!

I hope you are enjoying this state conference. The Central Region folks have done a great deal of work preparing for this event and I trust we are gaining ideas and information from one another that will help us be even more valuable as agents in our counties. Later this summer, many of our membership will be attending the AM-PIC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, July 12 – 16. Next year, even more of the Tennessee Association will invade Little Rock, July 24 – 28, for the national meeting and then on to Salt Lake City, July 9 – 13, 2017. If you have not been able to attend a national meeting, let me encourage you to do so. Travel dollars are available and program fees generated in your county can be used to help defray costs to these meetings. You will be able to associate with other agents from across the United States and again have chances to learn things that can be brought back to Tennessee and help you in your county.

In 2018, July 29 – August 2, in Chattanooga, we will be hosting the AM-PIC. You will learn more about this event during this state meeting. Each member has a great opportunity in front of them. We need your help. Committees are formed and others are still in the process of forming. If you are not serving on a committee for the meeting and want to do so, please contact a member of the state board, or visit with Jeff Via and David Yates. These two gentlemen have agreed and are serving as co-chairs of our national meeting. They are off and running with a terrific start. But again we will need “all hands on deck.” This is a great opportunity for Tennessee to showcase our association, the state of Tennessee and our UT and TSU Extension Programs. I am excited that we have chosen to host the meeting and want to “THANK” our administration from both universities for allowing our association to be the host state in 2018.

Finally, I just want to thank the state board and all the members of TAAA&S for allowing me to serve as President of our association. It has been a great year and I look forward to what lies ahead for each of us. May we all enjoy the journey!

## 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

"STATE FUNDS"

Balance Sheet			
	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2015	April 21, 2016
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Checking	\$10,964.32	\$5,583.46	\$14,775.15
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Equity	<b>\$10,964.32</b>	<b>\$5,583.46</b>	<b>\$14,775.15</b>

Category	1/1/2015- 12/31/2015
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	9,040.00
Promotional Income (Caps & Shirts)	174.95
Refund	450.00
State Meeting Registration Fees	3,437.00
State Meeting Sponsorship	1,450.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>14,551.95</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Annual Meeting Expenses	7,643.90
Board Expenses	3,205.95
National Dues	8,550.00
Promotional Items (Caps & Shirts)	142.96
Registration Fees	390.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,932.81</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-5,380.86</b>

**NOTE:** TAAA&S sponsors two accounts in the UT System (technically, these are UT funds with no legal ties to TAAA&S). The first account is what many TAAA&S members refer to as the "B" account or "travel" account and its UT account number is R12-1040-048, account name "TAAA&S Travel Fund." The April 23, 2016 balance was \$2,412.37. This account is listed as a "public service" account. The second account is F12-0000-006 and is called "TAAA&S Endowment." This account is on the list for the UT family campaign and is set up as an endowment where the principal balance cannot be touched. The original value of this account was \$44,871.49 and the April 23, 2016 market value was \$67,318.67. Additional contributions can be made to the balance of this; the earnings of this account are placed into UT account R12-0140-005 from which the Hicks Award is paid. The April 23, 2016 balance is

## 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

### "FOUNDATION FUNDS"

Balance Sheet			
	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2015	Difference
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Checking	\$5,763.79	10,169.03	4,405.24
Total Raymond James	263,986.56	244,234.58	-19,751.98
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>269,750.35</b>	<b>254,393.61</b>	<b>-15,356.74</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Equity	<b>269,750.35</b>	<b>254,393.61</b>	<b>-15,356.74</b>

(\*\*) The 12/31/15 balance-of-funds in the Raymond James Investment Account is: Base: \$250,146.25, Operating: \$0.00

(Growth for 2015, therefore there is no base Increases and operating fund are not designated.)

	12/31/2012	12/31/2013	12/31/2014	12/31/2015
"State" Checking	\$13,226.85	\$11,437.70	\$5,763.79	\$5,583.46
"Foundation Checking"	7,049.92	4,782.92	10,964.32	10,169.03
<b>Total Discretionary Funds</b>	<b>20,276.77</b>	<b>16,220.62</b>	<b>16,728.11</b>	<b>15,752.49</b>
Raymond James Investment Account (Foundation BASE)	213,680.09	230,542.15	250,146.25	244,234.58
Raymond James Investment Account (Foundation Operating)	11,926.77	16,842.06	19,604.10	0
UT Account (R12-1040-048 TAAA&S Travel Fund)	1,007.97	1,007.97	958.79	2,412.37
UT Account (R12-0140-005 TAAA&S Endowment)	10,408.46	9,561.07	8,724.89	7,927.39
<b>Total Investment and UT Accounts</b>	<b>237,023.29</b>	<b>257,953.26</b>	<b>279,434.03</b>	<b>254,574.34</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$257,300.06</b>	<b>\$274,173.88</b>	<b>\$296,162.14</b>	<b>\$270,326.83</b>

Category	1/1/2015- 12/31/2015
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#### INCOME

Transfer	20,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>

#### EXPENSES

Awards	1,217.00
College Scholarship	1,000.00
National Meeting (city)	3,377.76
TO AIM-PIC 2018	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,594.76</b>

<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>4,405.24</b>
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# Western Region

Region Director	Greg Allen
Region Secretary/ Treasurer	Amanda Mathenia
Current Regular Members	39
New Life Members	1
New Members	4
Total Membership for 2015	44

## Western Region Meeting and Activities Summary

The WTAAA&S held its 46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on September 3, 2015 at Boyette's Dining Room in Tiptonville in Lake County. There were 18 members, one Life Member (Jerry Parker), and three special guests (Andy Holt, Clark Garland, and Betty Powell) in attendance. Jeff Lannom returned thanks for the meal. A delicious catfish, country ham, and fried chicken, with trimmings, lunch was enjoyed by all. Secretary Amanda Mathenia presided and thanked Greg Allen for hosting the meeting.

Amanda Mathenia gave the financial report along with the membership update.

Jeff Lannom (DSA) and Chris Cooper and Justin Hargrove (Early Career) were recognized for winning awards at the state meeting held at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Jeff Lannom was also recognized for being presented with the Hicks Award.

Regional awards were presented to:

- Amanda Mathenia - Outstanding Agent of the Year
- Laurie Mobley- Outstanding Young Agent of the Year
- Tennessee State Representative Andy Holt- Friend of Extension

Jeff Via gave a brief up-date on the 2018 National AM/PIC to be held in Chattanooga, TN. Ranson Goodman spoke to how TAAA&S members and the public can make donations to the TAAA&S AM/PIC fundraising committee.

Since Troy Dugger will be rotating off of the TAAA&S state board this year, it was our duty to elect another member to the state board. Chris Cooper was the agent nominated to serve on the TAAA&S state board to represent the Western Region along with Ranson Goodman.

Lindsay Griffin was selected as Vice-President Elect for the Western Region. Amanda Mathenia was selected to remain Secretary Treasurer. The meeting was then turned over to Greg Allen.

Greg Allen reported that there were nine people who took part in the migratory bird field demonstration. There were six hunters, three spectators. Although birds were scarce that morning, a good time was had by all in attendance.

Greg Allen thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked the following sponsors John Raines- Dupont/Pioneer, Lanny Warren- Warren Seed; Lucas Owens- Bayer Crop Science, Ricky Davis-Terral Seed Company, and Ty Parker- Monsanto/AsGrow/ DeKalb for their help in sponsorship of the regional meeting. Several door prizes of Yeti tumblers, UT Extension visors, and a UT Extension folding chair were given to present attendees. The meeting was then adjourned.

Following the business meeting Dr. Clark Garland Professor Emeritus gave a professional development presentation on Working with Farmers Facing Financial Stress.

# Central Region

Region Director: Matt Horsman  
Region Secretary: Darby Payne  
Region Treasurer: Mitchell Mote  
Region Director 2016: Finis Stribling  
Director Elect 2017: Matthew Deist

## **2015 Central Region TAAA&S Award Recipients:**

Adult Agent of the Year- Bruce Steelman  
Youth Agent of the Year- Matt Webb

## **Membership:**

Current Members-59  
New Members-5

## **Central Region Meeting and Activities Summary**

The Central Region TAAA&S meeting was held on October 26, 2015 at Tap Root Farm in Franklin, Tennessee. Prior to the meeting, two educational tours were offered. The first stop was Tennessee Equine Hospital, owner Dr. Monty McInturff, which serves as a Southern Region equine surgery center. The second tour stopped at Tap Root Farm and was hosted by the Ingraham family. Tap Root is a multifaceted, value-added agriculture venture with opportunities including: freezer beef, equine riding programs, wedding venue, mud run contests, summer camps, and event center.

Sponsorship for the breakfast and lunch portion of the day's activities was provided by The Center for Profitable Agriculture, Williamson County Farm Bureau, and Williamson County Cattlemen's Association.

After lunch, Tabetha Taylor, CPC (Elite Team Dynamics) provided a professional development workshop designed specifically for Extension covering leadership, time management, and teamwork. Following the workshop, Martin Koon encouraged members to attend the Livestock 991 meeting and to join the association. Sheldon Barker announced the location of the state meeting and encouraged members to apply for awards. In regards to the 2018 National Meeting, Kevin Rose spoke of the need to solicit sponsors of varying levels and Alan Galloway encouraged members to consider seeking a national chair position.

In new business, Matt Horsman encouraged members to attend the first "Ag Night with the Predators" which would bring farm animals to the downtown plaza in Nashville. Elections followed with Matthew Deist being elected as Regional Director for 2017-2018. The meeting was adjourned thereafter.



# **Eastern Region**

**Region Director:** Aaron Smith  
**Region Director-Elect:** Aaron Smith  
**Region Secretary/Treasurer:** Shannon DeWitt  
**Outstanding Young Agent:** Shannon DeWitt  
**Outstanding Young Specialist:** Aaron Smith

Membership: 67  
Current Members - 59

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

The Eastern Region TAAA&S held its fall annual meeting on December 3, 2015, hosted by John Goddard of UT Extension Loudon County, Aaron Smith Assistant Professor Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, and David Bilderback Area Farm Management Specialist. The group convened at the Wampler's Farm Sausage of Lenior City and enjoyed a reception and tour. The tour was led by Ted Wampler Jr., Wampler's Owner. Mr. Wampler spoke about Wampler's history of beginning in 1937 by Riley Wampler and discussed growth over the next 75 years into a modern facility powered entirely by sustainable energy. The tour started with live hogs, and followed through the production facility to packaged, frozen products ready for shipping all across the southeast. The tour ended with a tour of Wampler's proton energy production facility.

The business meeting was held at the Crossroad Christian Center with Dr. Aaron Smith presiding. Steven Huff made a motion to approve the 2015 Eastern Region TAAA&S meeting minutes. Anthony Carver seconded the motion. Motion passed. David Bilderback stated that Eastern Region TAAA&S due will remain at five dollars. No discussion. Dr. Aaron Smith stated he was willing to serve a second term as Eastern Region Director. Steven Huff made a motion that the nominations cease and we re-elect Dr. Smith by acclamation. Greg Upchurch seconded the motion. Motion passed. Current Secretary and Treasurer, Shannon DeWitt, stated she was willing to continue serving as Secretary and Treasurer. Jonathan Rhea made a motion that nominations cease and we re-elect Mrs. DeWitt by acclamation. Anthony Carver seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dr. Robert Burns gave an update on the transition of responsibility of Livestock Welfare as it was moving through the State of Tennessee Legislature. Eastern Region TAAA&S would like to thank Dr. Burns, Dr. DiPietro, Julius Johnson, Tennessee Farm Bureau, Legislators, and all the Extension Agents and Specialists who worked bravely and diligently to remove Tennessee Extension from Livestock Welfare.

Adam Hopkins promoted the TAAA&S State meeting May 18-20 at the Wilderness in the Smokies Resort in Sevierville, Tennessee. TAAA&S members are encouraged to bring their families. In addition more professional development will be included in 2016 with speakers in the morning and evening of Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Steven Huff announced there will be a Grain Inservice via Zoom on December 4, 2015 and encouraged Eastern Region Agents to attend. All Eastern Region TAAA&S members were encouraged to attend the Farm Bureau Luncheon in Franklin on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Chris Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrew Griffin seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Lunch was provided by the Loudon County Livestock Judging Team. After lunch, Todd Sutton, Presi-

# Committee Reports

The following committees had no report this year:

Agronomy & Pest Management

Natural Resources/Aquaculture

Sustainable Agriculture

Life Members

Administrative Skills Development

Ag. Econ & Community Development

Horticulture & Turfgrass

Public Relations & Ag Issues

Teaching & Educational Technologies

Search for Excellence-Extension Programs

## **Early Career Development (ECD) Committee**

Rebekah Norman, Chair

The Early Career Development (ECD) Committee is responsible for developing educational programs directed at NACAA members with five years or less tenure. Efforts are to develop programs, materials and partnerships to orient and assist Extension personnel early in their career. Many times these programs are relevant to all agents regardless of their tenure.

The objectives are:

- Solicit input from new members regarding their expectations and training needs.
- Develop means to encourage new and early career members to participate and continue involvement in NACAA and the AM/PIC.
- Improve communications with early career members.
- Provide opportunities for graduate, continuing education and other professional certification credits for professional improvement.

# Recognition and Awards Committee

John Wilson, Chair

The committee received three nominations for Achievement Award and three nominations for Distinguished Service Award this year. Our state, based upon membership, may recognize three AA's (beginning 2012) and three DSA's. Upon review and evaluation by committee, the below listed members were approved and will receive their national awards during the NACAA AM/PIC at Little Rock, AR, July 24-28, 2016.

## **Distinguished Service Award**

**Michael Barry** Michael has served as an Extension Agent in four different Tennessee counties over a 22 year career. His program areas have included 4-H youth development and Agriculture. His areas of emphasis in agriculture programs include beef cattle production and forage production. In DeKalb County, Michael was instrumental in assisting with the creation of the DeKalb County Cattlemen's Association, whose purpose is to educate the public and help improve beef cattle production and profits.



**Jerry Lamb** Jerry Lamb has been employed with the University of Tennessee since 1992. Lamb has coached over 750 youth on various judging teams which have competed at every level. He facilitates the Master Gardener Program and has conducted educational programs in commercial vegetable production, forestry production, horse management, cattle production and small ruminant production. He has been the driving force in development of the Rhea County Ag Center and fairgrounds.



**Jeremy West** Jeremy West has worked with the University of Tennessee in Scott County since 2002. During Jeremy's time, in Scott County, he has actively developed and offered new programming in the areas of Livestock, Forage, Fruit/ Vegetable Production and Community Economic Development. One highlighted program is Grow Scott. In the Grow Scott Program Jeremy has worked with community leaders in offering programming focusing on fruit/vegetable production and economic enrichment uses.



## **Achievement Award**

**Janie Becker** Janie has developed innovative programming in Rutherford County since 2010. Through a program she implemented at the Rutherford County Farmers Market, farms have seen an additional \$138,266 in sales, with market receipts over \$350,000 annually. She focuses on sustainable horticulture, coordinates 90 Master Gardener volunteers, and serves on two UT Leadership Teams as well as the board of the TN Association of Farmers Markets. In 2015, she received the Early Career Achievement Award from TAAA&S.



**Jason De Koff** Jason conducted and gave leadership to a mobile demonstration was used in 2015 to show farmers how to grow biodiesel crops and produce their own on-farm biodiesel. Evaluation of farmer workshop participants identified a significant increase in knowledge and awareness. The mobile demonstration was also featured in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's 2015 annual publication, a local Nashville news broadcast in August 2015, the Aug/Sept 2015 issue of Mother Earth News and the Market Day Report on RFD-TV in December 2015.



**Justin Rhinehart** Justin is a Beef Cattle Specialist who directs statewide educational efforts that have been completed by more than 14,000 beef cattle producers. He has written 52 popular press articles, 11 Extension publications, 2 mobile applications and has generated more than \$1.3 million dollars in funding. Justin is an active member of the TAAA&S having chaired the Public Relations & Ag Issues committee and previously winning the Early Career and Agriculture Agent of the Year awards.



## **Early Career Awards**

In recognizing agents and specialists by region for Early Career Awards, each region may nominate two county level members or two non-county level members or one of each to receive this recognition. TAAA&S member agents and specialists with less than 10 years of service are eligible to receive this award. The state association provides the award for presentation at our annual meeting.

The 2016 Early Career recipients are:

### **Western Region**

County Level Award – **Lindsay Griffin**, Hardeman

County Level Award – **Lee Sammons**, Hardeman

### **Central Region**

County Level Award – **Johnny Barnes**, DeKalb

Specialist – **Jason De Koff**, TSU Extension

### **Eastern Region**

County Level Award – **Shannon DeWitt**, Union

Specialist – **Aaron Smith**, Agriculture Economics

# 2016 Communications Awards Program

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## Melody Rose, Chair

A total of 20 members submitted 48 entries for the 2015 TAAA&S Communications Awards Program. A summary of entries, members participating and state winners by region is presented in the following table:

<i>Region</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Members Participating</i>	<i>State Winners</i>
Central	30	11	11
Eastern	10	4	0
Western	2	2	1
Totals	42	17	12

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

<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number of Entries in State</i>
1	Audio Recordings	2
2	Published Photo & Caption	3
3	Computer Generated Graphics Presentation	2
4	Program Promotional Piece	9
5	Personal Column	4
6	Feature Story	3
7	Newsletter, Individual	4
8	Newsletter, Team	1
9	Video Recordings	6
10	Fact Sheet	4
11	Publication	0
12	Web Site	3
13	Learning Module/Notebook	1
14	Bound Book	0
	<b>Total Entries in the State</b>	<b>42</b>

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

## 2016 Communications Awards State Placing By Class

First Name	Last Name	Team Members	County	Region	Category	Region Placing	State Placing
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	1	1	1
Jeremy	West		Scott	Eastern	1	1	2
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	2	1	1
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	2	3	3
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	2	2	2
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	3	1	1
Jeremy	West		Scott	Eastern	3	1	2
Michael	Barry		Davidson	Central	4	4	6
Janie	Becker		Rutherford	Central	4	1	1
Shannon	Dewitt		Union	Eastern	4	2	3
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	4	6	9
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	4	2	4
Blake	Ramsey		Hawkins	Eastern	4	1	2
Kevin	Rose		Giles	Central	4	5	7
Jeremy	West		Scott	Eastern	4	3	8
Lindsey	White		Coffee	Central	4	3	5
Janie	Becker		Rutherford	Central	5	3	3
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	5	1	1
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	5	2	2
Chris	Ramsey		Sullivan	Eastern	5	1	4
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	6	1	1
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	6	2	2
Matthew	Webb		Rutherford	Central	6	3	3
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	7	2	2
Kevin	Rose		Giles	Central	7	3	3
Matthew	Webb		Rutherford	Central	7	1	1
Jeremy	West		Scott	Eastern	7	1	4
Kevin	Rose		Giles	Central	8	1	1
Chris	Cooper		Shelby	Western	9	1	1
Shannon	Dewitt		Union	Eastern	9	1	4
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	9	3	5
Sierra	Knauss		Cheatham	Central	9	1	2
Booker T.	Leigh		Tipton	Western	9	2	6
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	9	2	3
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	10	1	1
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	10	3	3
Justin	Stefanski		Wilson	Central	10	2	2
Jeremy	We		Scott	Eastern	10	1	4
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	12	2	2
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	12	1	1
Jeremy	West		Scott	Eastern	12	1	3
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	13	1	1



First Name	Last Name	Team Members	County	Region	Category	Region Placing	State Placing	Award
Michael	Barry		Davidson	Central	4	4	6	\$0.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Janie	Becker		Rutherford	Central	4	1	1	\$40.00
					5	3	3	\$10.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Chris	Cooper		Shelby	Western	9	1	1	\$40.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Jason	De Koff		Specialist	Central	9	2	3	\$10.00
					10	1	1	\$40.00
					12	2	2	\$25.00
					13	1	1	\$40.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115.00</b>
Shannon	Dewitt		Union	Eastern	4	2	3	\$10.00
					9	1	4	\$0.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
Amy	Dismukes		Williamson	Central	2	1	1	\$40.00
					5	1	1	\$40.00
					6	1	1	\$40.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
Melissa	Henry		Putnam	Central	2	3	3	\$10.00
					3	1	1	\$40.00
					4	6	9	\$0.00
					9	3	5	\$0.00
					10	3	3	\$10.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
Chris	Hicks		Smith	Central	1	1	1	\$40.00
					2	2	2	\$25.00
					4	2	4	\$0.00
					5	2	2	\$25.00
					6	2	2	\$25.00
					7	2	2	\$25.00
					12	1	1	\$40.00
							Communicator of the Year	\$100.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$280.00</b>
Sierra	Knauss		Cheatham	Central	9	1	2	\$25.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
Booker T.	Leigh		Tipton	Western	9	2	6	\$0.00

						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Chris	Ramsey	Sullivan	Eastern	5	1	4	\$0.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Blake	Ramsey	Hawkins	Eastern	4	1	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
Kevin	Rose	Giles	Central	4	5	7	\$0.00
				7	3	3	\$10.00
				8	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Justin	Stefanski	Wilson	Central	10	2	2	\$25.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
Matthew	Webb	Rutherford	Central	6	3	3	\$10.00
				7	1	1	\$40.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Jeremy	West	Scott	Eastern	1	1	2	\$25.00
				3	1	2	\$25.00
				4	3	8	\$0.00
				7	1	4	\$0.00
				10	1	4	\$0.00
				12	1	3	\$10.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
Lindsey	White	Coffee	Central	4	3	5	\$0.00
							\$0.00
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$910.00</b>

## 2016 State Communications Awards Communicator of the Year

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

### *In Memoriam*

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

### **Finalists for the 2016 "Sweet Award"**

Jason De Koff

Melissa Henry

Chris Hicks

Jeremy West

*\*Members who had at least the minimum number of 2016 entries to qualify (4) but were ineligible due to having won in the past two years.*

### ***2016 Fletcher Sweet Communicator of the Year Award Winner***

**Chris Hicks**

### **Previous Winners:**

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

## 2016 State Communications Awards Procedures

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

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

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

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

Total number of entries.

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

State winners receive cash awards as follow:

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

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

### *2016 Expenditures for State Communication Awards*

State 1 <sup>st</sup> place \$40.00	X 12	\$480.00
State 2 <sup>nd</sup> place \$25.00	X 10	\$250.00
State 3 <sup>rd</sup> place \$10.00	X 8	\$80.00
Communicator of the Year \$100	X 1	\$100.00
"Sweet Award" Plaque \$30.00	X 1	\$30.00
Awards Total		\$940.00

# Professional Excellence

*Megan Bruch Leffew, Chair*

The Professional Excellence Committee is pleased to report seven proposals have been submitted for either posters or presentations at the 2016 NACAA AM/PIC in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Four TAAA&S members submitted abstracts for posters in the Extension Education category and will be displayed at the conference. Member and poster titles are as follows:

Michael Barry, Increasing Visibility: Marketing UT Extension

Adam Hopkins, East Tennessee Grain and Soybean Conference

Kevin Rose, Agriculture Impact Breakfast

Jeremy West, Grow Scott County

Members could choose to submit posters to be judged or for display only. Each state was instructed to select a state winner to send on to the national competition. Two members elected to have their posters entered for judging, Michael Barry and Jeremy West. Jeremy West's poster was selected as the state winner.

Three members submitted presentation proposals, and all were accepted for presentation as professional development sessions at the 2016 AM/PIC. Rebekah Norman submitted a presentation for Animal Science called "Matchmaking 101: Selecting the Right Bull for the Cowherd." Shannon DeWitt submitted a presentation for Excellence in 4-H Programming called "Impacts of a Hog Show Program on 4-H Youth." Megan Bruch Leffew proposed a presentation for Agricultural Economics and Community Development called

## **Scholarship Committee**

Ronnie Barron, Chair  
Timmy Mann, Vice-Chair

A committee of TAAA&S members was chosen to assist the Chair and Vice-Chair with the selection process for the 2016 college scholarships. The 2016 recipients are Austin Keith Barry, son of Michael Barry (Extension Agent, Davidson County) and Allison Marie Parker, daughter of Clint Parker (Extension Agent, Sumner County).

Congratulations to these two young people.

### **2016 Tennessee Assoc. of Agricultural Agents and Specialists Scholarship**

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

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

# Excellence in 4-H Programming

TAAA&S

Submitted by Matthew Webb, Chair

There were two entries in 2016 for Excellence in 4-H Programming. Joseph Griffy, County Director in Stewart County and Laurie Mobley, Extension Agent III in Houston County were our participants. Both of these individuals have strong programs working with 4-H youth. A committee was formed and Joseph Griffy was named our state winner. Below are summaries of each individual's submissions.

## Joseph Griffy

The State of Tennessee Board of Education standards identify learning experiences related to leadership and citizenship as a priority. The Stewart County 4-H Advisory Committee identified leadership and citizenship standards as an area where 4-H could supplement and enhance the school's curriculum. A three year Civic Minded Leadership educational program was implemented. The program was implemented through classroom lecture, field trips to government offices, leadership camps, service projects, and public speaking. These activities focused on teaching responsible citizenship, leadership, teamwork, and ethical decision making. Educational programs were evaluated during each of the three years beginning with short term evaluation in 2013 and ending with long term evaluations in 2015. Seventy-two percent of participants reported that the civic minded leadership program had improved their ability to work in a team and make better decisions in their schools, community, and personal lives. There are 510, 4-H members in Stewart County 6th – 12th grades. These are the grade levels where the Civic Minded Leadership educational program was implemented.

## Laurie Mobley

Although I was fortunate to find a solid beef project in place when I assumed my role as agent, the project numbers have shown a steady increase since that time. Not only do participants groom their steers for our county show, they also take their animals to compete in the Clarksville Area Steer Show, the largest steer show in the state. Under my leadership, Houston County Beef project members have won Rate of Gain Champion 5 times at the area show, and Reserve Champion Steer 2 times. Houston County participants have also won the top honor of County Group of Four during the 2012 and 2013 area shows. Houston County producers and community leaders also provided sponsorship monies to help support the youth in the beef show project. The unique quality of the beef project is that it doesn't end at the sale...carcass data is gathered. So not only do we have an economic impact, but also an impact on cattle genetics. Youth take this knowledge and apply it to other 4-H activities such as Livestock Judging and Meats ID. With increased education on this "hoof to rail" project, youth have earned numerous regional and state awards and have been invited to national contests in Phoenix and Harrisburg. The information the youth are gaining also helps in calf selection while producers are educated in genetics.

# Officers and Committee Chairs

## 2016-2017 State Officers

President	Adam Hopkins
President Elect	Ranson Goodman
First Vice President	Justin Stefanski
Second Vice President	Steven Huff
Third Vice President	Chris Cooper
Secretary	Chris Hicks
Treasurer	David Bilderback
Past President	Sheldon Barker
Life Member	J. W. McGuire

## 2016-2017 Regional Officers

Western Region Director	Greg Allen
Western Secretary/Treasurer	Amanda Mathenia
Central Region Director	Finis Stribling
Central Secretary/Treasurer	Mitchell Mote
Eastern Region Director	Aaron Smith
Eastern Secretary/Treasurer	Shannon Dewitt

## 2016-2017 Committee Chairs

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Professional Improvement Council</b>	
Agronomy and Pest Management	TBA
Ag. Econ & Community Development	TBA
Animal Science	TBA
Natural Resources/Aquaculture	TBA
Horticulture & Turfgrass	TBA
Sustainable Agriculture	TBA
<b>Extension Development Council</b>	
Public Relations & Ag Issues	TBA
Early Career Development	TBA
Administrative Skills Development	TBA
Teaching & Educational Technologies	TBA
<b>Professional Recognition Council</b>	
Communications	TBA
Search for Excellence	TBA
4-H & Youth	TBA
Professional Excellence	TBA
Public Relations	TBA
Recognition & Awards	TBA
Scholarship	TBA
<b>Life Members</b>	TBA



# TAAA&S/Hicks Award Recipients

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

## Membership History

YEAR	TOTAL	CHANGE	% CHANGE
2007	176	+1	+0.6
2008	173	-3	-1.7
2009	165	-8	-4.6
2010	157	-8	-4.8
2011	159	+2	+1.3
2012	158	-1	-0.60
2013	153	-5	-0.03
2014	155	+2	+0.01
2015	168	+18	+11
2016	171	+3	+0.5
<b>10 year Average</b>	<b>164</b>		

# Friends of Extension Award Recipients

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

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## 2017 TAAA&S State Meeting (Galaxy)

Dates TBA

Chattanooga, TN

## NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference Dates

Date	Meeting Location
July 24-28, 2016	Little Rock, AR
July 9-13, 2017	Salt Lake City, UT
July 29-August 2, 2018	Chattanooga, TN
September 8-12, 2019	Ft. Wayne, IN