I hope many of you are getting ready for a trip to South Dakota in July. Specialists from Missouri have done a great job of showing the national attendees what type of programs we conduct on the state level. Prepare and submit your award applications by March 15 so that you can represent our state in Sioux Falls.

Presentations will be submitted as usual but there is a big change in the way posters will be handled.

ENTRIES - Members can choose to enter as display only or the judging proportion of the poster session at the AM/PIC.

If you choose not to participate in the poster judging competition but do want your poster displayed at the AM/PIC please make sure to check the appropriate box during the poster abstract submission process.

When entering the poster judging contest make sure to choose the appropriate selection when submitting your poster if you wish for your poster to be displayed at AM/PIC if not the state winner.

Just as in the past, complete the online application process found at http://www.nacaa.com/posters/poster.php. You will need your login and password to do so. No hard copy applications will be accepted. All submissions must be completed by March 15.

Abstract and poster guidelines and requirements can be found at: http://www.nacaa.com/posters/guidelines.php.

JUDGING - Starting in 2015 only the state winner for each category (Applied Research and Extension Education) will be judged at the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC).

The NACAA Professional Excellence Committee regional chair must be notified by May 1 who the state poster contest winner is for each category.

Poster judging will be based on the following criteria:

- 60% Scientific/educational merit
- 30% Poster presentation
- 10% Follow instructions for presentation/mounting

Hello from the President

For those of you who don’t know me I am a Horticulture Specialist serving in the southeastern region of Missouri. My background includes ten years of college instruction and five years working in the industry as a landscaper and later for a wholesale tree nursery with nearly 5000 acres under production.

I was raised on the family farm that has supported 7 generations. I have been blessed to live near, work in and be a part of agriculture in some way my entire life. Although shy when I was young, being an educator forced me to get over that as standing in front of a crowd to get the message out is part of the job. Education is what I enjoy most about working for extension.

While our membership is officially down in 2015 we have 58 active members eligible to attend the AM/PIC in Sioux Falls. This list can be viewed at the MAEP webpage at http://extension.missouri.edu/maep under the “Members” tab. I expect that we will have great attendance at the National AM/PIC and encourage anyone who has not yet attended to make this a part of 2015.

See you in Sioux Falls!

http://extension.missouri.edu/maep

State Roster for Sioux Falls

If you are planning to attend the AM/PIC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota please send a message to Joni Harper and Brent Carpenter so that they can prepare our state roster and have a count for states night out. Email them with your name, the number going with you and your contact number. If going alone and you need a roommate, give them that information as well.

Don’t forget that the University of Missouri provides financial support for specialists to participate in professional development with $750 per year or $1000 if you only use it every two years.

http://www.nacaa.com
I’ve now been in place as your National Association of County Agricultural Agents secretary for about six months. It has been an interesting role so far and I have learned much about the organization. My first step in the job was the post Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AMPIC) board meeting that was held Friday after the meetings. For each meeting I record minutes that are then approved by the board before being posted to the NACAA website. I attended the winter board meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota November 6-7 where we focused much of our efforts in the details of the 2015 AMPIC. In late March I will attend the spring board meeting in San Diego, California. The board holds monthly teleconference calls in addition to the winter and spring board meetings.

Two things I would like to bring to your attention include changes in the poster session judging and an opportunity to serve as the editor for the Journal of the NACAA. First, the judging for the poster contest will be changing in 2015. Only state winners in each of the two categories (applied research and extension education) will be judged at the AMPIC. The Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals will have to find some method to choose state winners in these categories to then be judged in Sioux Falls. The second item is an opportunity to serve as the editor of the Journal of the NACAA. Stephen Brown is currently serving as editor of the journal and doing a great job. His term will expire at the 2016 AMPIC in Little Rock, Arkansas, but the NACAA board would like to find a replacement at the Spring Board meetings in late March/early April who can then begin training with Stephen. If you would be interested in applying for this position you can find an application on the NACAA website. Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2015 and should be directed to me. If you have questions about this opportunity, please let me know.

I really appreciate the support that MAEP provided me in my bid for the secretary role. If you have questions I can answer, please let me know.
Keep your eyes open and be on the lookout for

Explore Missouri

Jim Crawford, past president, will host Explore Missouri in northwest Missouri this year. This is an annual tour and professional development opportunity for the membership. Come learn about and explore agriculture related enterprises throughout Missouri.