



Great Lakes Times

The Voice of the 2007 NACAA Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference

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Michigan Association of Extension Agents

Monday, July 16, 2007



A New Meaning to 4-H Hogs

The lights go down, smoke starts to roll; the roar of a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle will fill your ears and the 4-H Talent Revue takes the stage in the DeVos Performance Hall. These kids have traveled far and wide, gone through grueling rehearsals and are ready to entertain. The audience will be wowed by the extraordinary talents of these 4-H members, entertained by the comical emcees and brought to your feet with the exciting grand finale.

This dynamic, fast-paced performance is one that you and your family will not want to miss! Guaranteed to be the hottest show the NACAA AMPIC has ever seen, the 4-H Talent Revue invites you to come along for the ride and see what it is like to "Live to Perform, Perform to Live". The Talent Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Monday night, so make sure to be in your seats early for the BADDEST opening the DeVos stage has ever seen!

President's Message

The key ingredient in the recipe that NACAA uses for professional improvement is the committees. While it seems complex and confusing at times, the committee system works and is responsible for so much of what happens at the AM/PIC. I encourage all members to take time on Monday afternoon to attend a committee workshop. Find out how you can become more involved in National committee work or pick up tips you can take home and implement. You are encouraged to pick up luncheon seminar tickets before they are gone!

There are numerous opportunities to hear other members with presentations on their award winning activities as well as university and commercial representatives talking about the latest research on the hottest topics! Finally, I hope everyone will attend the 4-H Talent Revue tonight. These 4-H members from across the North Central region will impress you! Have a great day!

Chuck Otte, NACAA President

Daily Quote...

Involved with Extension since she was a child, Ann Wilson used her 4-H sewing skills to add charm to the First Lady's Reception. Ann made 150 quilt blocks, all unique. This is her first visit to Michigan and she says, "Michigan is a beautiful state—I hope to see Lake Michigan" Ann is Chuck Otte's sister.



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Please Sign Up

Don't miss your chance to learn Blogging from A to Z on Wednesday, July 18 from 9 a.m.—noon. ***This session will not occur unless people register for it by Monday at noon.***

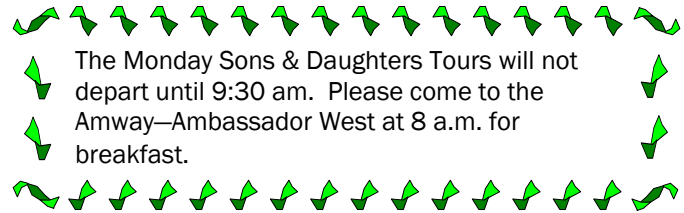
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Announcements

- **State Pictures**— Michigan will have their photograph taken last on Monday. For a complete listing see the Program Schedule.
- **States' Night Out**—Check out the details by picking up a list at registration, the Michigan headquarters or from your state president.
- **Spouse Workshop J**—The ticket should read 2-4 p.m. This workshop group will meet in the Ambassador West and walk to the Grand Rapids Public Museum as a group. The show starts at 3 p.m.
- **Tour Registration will end on Tuesday at 11 a.m.** If you have decided not to attend your tour, please return your ticket. We have waiting lists for many of the tours. If you would like to trade your tickets, see the tour chairman at registration between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday.
- **Extra Banquet ticket?** Come to “check-out” in the registration area (2nd floor Amway). Turning your ticket in by 5 p.m. Monday will enter you for a chance to win \$100 in cash.
- **University Jobs Fair** is open Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m., Amway, Vandenberg B. Check out position openings.
- **Prayer Breakfast**, Thursday, July 19. Purchase your tickets by noon today.
- **Educational Lunches**—stop at the registration table to get your free lunch ticket for an education session. Sessions are held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
- **Room Changes**

Event	Date	Time	New Location
Trade Talk: Bioenergy	Monday (7/16)	10:15 - 11:40 a.m.	DeVos River Overlook E & F
Great Lakes Shipwrecks	Tuesday (7/17)	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Amway Haldane
National Board Meeting	Thursday (7/19)	3:30 p.m.	Amway Vandenberg B
National Board Meeting	Friday (7/20)	8:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Pres. Chuck Otte's Suite
National Board Meeting	Saturday (7/21)	8:00 a.m.— noon	Amway Vandenberg B
- **Monday's Weather Forecast:** 60 percent chance of showers and 77° F. Remember it's Michigan; our weather changes every five minutes.

Sons & Daughters News...



The Monday Sons & Daughters Tours will not depart until 9:30 am. Please come to the Amway—Ambassador West at 8 a.m. for breakfast.

What Will Be in the Fields Tomorrow?

Thursday, July 19, 2007, Imperial Ballroom

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

What Will Be in the Fields Tomorrow? is a readers-theatre activity for informal groups. These readings can bring people together in a common experience.

Fields is entertainment; *Fields* is education, and at its best, *Fields* provides a starting point for continuing the conversation through facilitated dialogue and to programs on important issues. *Fields* shares the power of the voices and experiences of farmers.



“From the beginning, this project was imagined as a way to make the voices of farmers come alive and by doing this to stimulate discussion about the economic and ecological sustainability issues faced by contemporary agriculture.”

Barbara Carlisle, playwright

Fields was created from oral history interviews with farmers and ranchers across America. The script and guidance essays will be distributed to attendees and ways to use this in your communities will be explored. Take it home and try it!

The community cast from Old Town Playhouse (Traverse City) will present the piece followed by information from Voices Project principals Julie Avery and Cynthia Vagnetti. The Voices Project at Michigan State University Museum is developing resources to build greater understanding among people about farmers, farming and food. Curriculum modules about urban agriculture and food systems are in the works and both will be web-published in the fall for free use and access.

The Voices Project is funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Extension Development Seminar

Bio-Fuels, Farm Economics and Environmental Regulations Oh My!

Interested in learning more about how bio-fuel production will affect farm economics and environmental regulations?

Check out the public relations and agricultural issues committee seminars. Learn about bio-fuels and farm economics from Melvin Brees, market and policy specialist from the University of Missouri, Tuesday, July 17 at 8:30 a.m. in the DeVos Grand Gallery A. Then at 9:30 a.m. learn about potential environmental regulations connected to bio-fuel production from Robert Broz, Extension agricultural engineering, water quality program director from the University of Missouri.

Sunday Morning Prayer

Many members took the opportunity to attend the Sunday morning prayer service by Reverend Phil Seitz. A 1998 retiree from MSU Extension, Rev. Seitz was right at home delivering a sermon to his friends and colleagues.



"I worked with Phil for 20 years. He has always been a great speaker and he delivered a very good sermon" said Dick Curram.

Getting Acquainted



Wisconsin hospitality was running at full tilt Sunday evening at the "Get Acquainted Dinner" as conference goers enjoyed a meal of brats, sauerkraut and cheese curds.

Cheese Heads really know how to throw a party!

First Timers Luncheon

NACAA would like to extend an invitation to all first timers to attend the First Timers Luncheon on Monday July 16, 2007. The luncheon will be in the Imperial Ballroom in the Amway Grand at 11:45 am. The luncheon is sponsored by NASCO International. Short presentation will be made by Phillip Niemeyer, NASCO International. First Timers will also hear from Dr. Tom Coon, Director—MSU Extension, Duane Duncan, Hall of Fame Awardees, and Liz Felter, University of Florida Extension. NASCO International will also be supplying door prizes.

Blueberry Fun Fact

Research shows that blueberries are a key to the fountain of youth.

So don't forget to grab some before you leave the leading blueberry producing state!

Spouse Program News!

Today is tour day for the NACAA AM/PIC spouses. We will be visiting several of Michigan's natural features and landscapes along with some fun activities as well. Tours will include events such as dune rides, paddleboat rides on the Grand River, local area gardens, art galleries, bird watching, a fish hatchery, nature hiking and charter boat fishing. If you see a spouse later in the day today who looks very tired, they might have been on the charter boat fishing tour which left at 5 AM! Hopefully they don't still smell like fish. If you have any great digital photographs from your tours, please find Amy at the registration area and we can add them to this newsletter.

NASS Prize Drawings

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is holding a daily drawing for visitors to their booth. The Sunday winners are:

- Doug Wilson
- Bill Ellers, North Carolina
- Allen Hogan, Louisiana

Stop by booth 23 to pick-up your prize.



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Hosting the nation's Extension agents in 2007!

*We would love to hear from you,
e-mail me at:
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"The purposes of an Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference are to provide professional improvement opportunities to members as they strive to improve the effectiveness of their respective programs, to encourage high standards of professional performance, provide stimuli and incentives to help members to develop new methods, new approaches and new projects."

NACAA Policy Handbook, 2005

Send your announcements, articles,
stories and pictures for
Great Lakes Times to
thelen22@msu.edu

Or the GLT's Press Room, located in the Governors
Room.

Must be received by 5 p.m. to appear in next day's issue.

Quick Reference...

- Monday Registration, Amway Center Concourse, 8 am–5 pm
- Commercial & Education Exhibits, DeVos Place—Ballroom B,C,D, 8 am–6 pm
- Awards, Recognition & Educational Displays Poster Display, DeVos Place—Ballroom B, C, D, 8 am–6 pm
- Computer Lab, Vandenberg Rm. Sunday, 7am–7 pm
- MI Headquarters, Governors Room, 7 am–7 pm

NACAA Scuttle service from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport:

- Friday, July 20—FREE from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel shuttle service offered daily, every 30 minutes, 7 am to 9:30 pm outside of Gate B. Cost is \$15

Taxi—Metro Cab, call 616-827-6500

Michigan's 10 Cent Deposit Don't Throw Those Cans Away!

To reduce litter and encourage recycling, Michigan is one of only 11 states in the US with an existing "bottle bill." Eight other states have campaigns to implement deposits on carbonated beverages and other drinking containers but have not been successful in passing a law.

Within two years of implementation, the number of roadside litter items collected per mile in Michigan had been reduced by 48 percent. It is now estimated that there is 84 percent less litter per mile than when the bottle law began. Michigan leads the nation by recovering over 95 percent of the state's returnable bottles and cans which is a full 15 percent higher than the 10 other states with bottle deposits and double or triple the rates in states without a deposit law.

About 750 million non-carbonated beverages are sold in Michigan each year, or about 20 percent of all beverage sales. Many of the popular single-serve beverages today did not exist when the bottle bill was passed in 1976 and are now littering our roadsides and parks. Please do your part and recycle water bottles this week!

Michigan has a 10 cent bottle deposit on soda cans and bottles – Don't throw them away. Recycle in one of our bins for us to redeem or leave them on a table for someone else to collect – it's like leaving a tip.