



National Association of Institutional Agribusiness

The National Association of Institutional Agribusiness (NAIA) strives to meet the educational, networking, and professional growth needs of its membership, which is comprised of correctional and other institutional agribusiness professionals employed by federal, state and local institutions.

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Agribusiness and Corrections Employees,

I would like to extend a big thank you to Fred Hayes and his staff at UNICOR for hosting a great conference in California this past fall. The tours, training, and vendor show were fantastic. I would also like to extend thanks to the outgoing board of directors for their dedication to NAIA.

If you were not able to attend, you missed some good training and a great tour of the UNICOR agribusiness operations in Lompoc, California. I would like to thank all of the vendors and their constant support of NAIA. I would also like to thank the Executive Board for electing me to be President of this great organization. I am honored to represent such a great organization.

My primary focus will be to keep membership strong and growing in number. I would like to encourage each NAIA member to take the opportunity to tell their co-workers, leadership, and elected representatives about the NAIA. I have been a member since 2013 and have the opportunity to meet and get to know some incredible people that work in our field. At every conference I have attended, I have found new ideas from other NAIA members to bring back and incorporate into our program to help better prepare offenders to re-enter society and find meaningful employment. Please reach out to fellow NAIA members, there is a wealth of knowledge in this organization that is only a phone call or email away.

If you have questions, feel free to call me or any of the Board members and hopefully we will be able to help. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Thank you,

Phillip Sykes, NAIA President





BILLY MAX MOORE RECIPIENT

2019



Billy Max Moore

The Billy Max Moore Award is designed to focus attention on the degree to which excellence exists in our profession and to recognize outstanding performance. This award was named in honor of Billy Max Moore, who was an employee of the Texas Department of Correction from 1968 to 1981. Mr. Moore was the farm manager of the Ellis Unit, and an active member of the NAIA. Mr. Moore lost his life in the line of duty on April 4, 1981. It is in recognition of his supreme sacrifice, commemoration to the Texas Department of Corrections and institutional agribusiness, the NAIA Board of Directors dedicate this award.

The 2019 Billy Max Moore Award recipient is Mr. Jeff Vaughn from Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Jeff began his career with the Department of Corrections 22 years ago as an Institutional Farms Manager II managing the Agri-Services dairy. Through the years, he has utilized his skills and leadership abilities to set unprecedented examples for his peer and inmate workers. Jeff is an excellent choice for the Billy Max Moore Award. Reasons abound, but no greater example exists than his resourcefulness, dedication, and courage shown as he braved rampant flooding, submerged fencing and other obstacles to ensure hundreds of Agri-Services cattle got the feed they needed. Due to his perseverance and uncompromising effort, 150 head of cattle survived the flood. Without Mr. Vaughn's dedication and persistence to keep the cattle alive, all of them would have undoubtedly perished and the end result would not have been positive.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

One main focus of NAIA is the continual advancement of our profession. We value the importance of individuals seeking careers in agribusiness. We look for ways to recognize those individuals by offering opportunities to provide scholarships to applicants that meet the established criteria.

Scholarships are awarded to individuals sponsored by NAIA members and are either a part time or full time student pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree.

This year, the NAIA Board of Directors proudly awarded one \$1,000 scholarship and two \$500 scholarships. The recipients are: Connor Hayes, Payson Ramirez and Carling Vanier.



CONNOR HAYES

Connor is a Sophomore attending Reedley College in California in the fall, and from there transferring to Fresno State University. Connor's future goals include receiving a double major in Plant Science as well as Agribusiness with a minor in Animal Science.

PAYSON RAMIREZ (NOT PICTURED)

Payson is a Rising Freshman at the University of Oklahoma pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Payson says "I am very blessed to be impacted by agriculture in so many positive ways. It provides for my family, drives my community, has taught me so many lessons, and has given me so much valuable experience that will be useful for years to come."

CARLING VANIER

Carling is a graduate student Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine major. Carling says "Growing up I saw firsthand how integral our veterinarian was in maintaining our livelihood. He not only saved several individuals in our herd over the years, but he also helped us make tough decisions and advocated for those that couldn't. I hope one day I will be able to gain a similar level of respect from my community..."



NAIA still has strong participation from its retired members.

They continue to share their expertise and wealth of knowledge in agricultural industries. They remain committed to the goals and objectives of the association.



(l-r) Harry Redd (VA), Jeff Ropp (OK), Richard Shaver (TX), Curtis McCarthy (MT), Ray Escobedo (UNICOR), Don Troyer (BOP) and Lin Paul (IN). (*Not pictured*) Stanley Brooks (MS) and Mark McCown (SC)

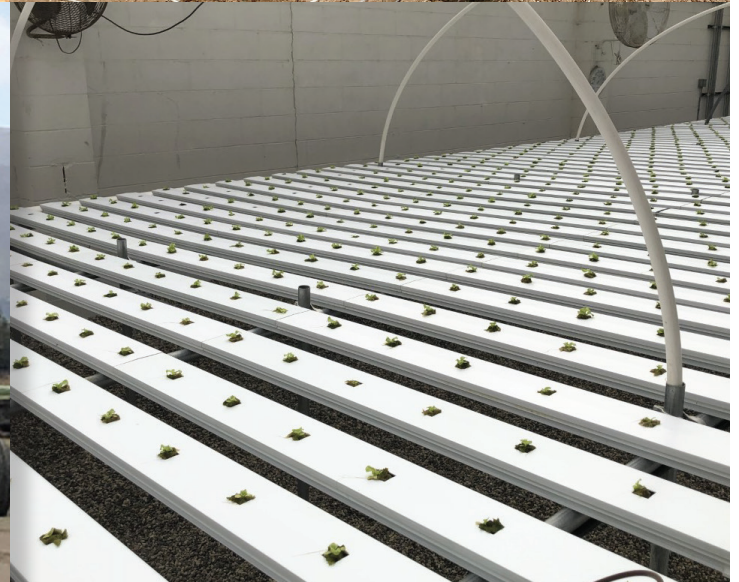


2019 NAIA Conference Highlights: Lompoc, CA

The National Association of Institutional Agribusiness (NAIA) hosted its 2019 conference on October 7 - 11 in Lompoc, California. There were 20 states represented with 78 members and companions present, and 19 vendors (including Canada) that participated at the vendor show.

During the conference, attendees were able to meet agribusiness decision makers from across the country. Top professionals in the agricultural and food industry business were able to network and gain knowledge on emerging trends in the industry. The conference included a vendor trade show, training sessions and a tour of the Dairy and Dairy Processing Plant. Attendees received valuable training networking opportunities, exposing them to new technology available and possible operational changes that they could implement within agriculture programs.







VADOC DONATES 150 PUMPKINS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF RICHMOND

*Submitted by John (Kenny) Raiford
Agribusiness Operations Director
Virginia Department of Corrections*



The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) - Agribusiness Unit donated 150 pumpkins to the Children's Hospital of Richmond, Virginia. The pumpkins were used in activities for the children. Some of the pumpkins were also painted for the hospital patients by offenders at Virginia Correctional Center for Women. VADOC Farm Manager, Keith Schinabeck, is pictured with hospital



GEORGIA CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES HOSTS ANNUAL YOUTH DOVE HUNT

*Submitted by James Rogers
Deputy Director of Agribusiness
Georgia Correctional Industries*

Georgia Correctional Industries' (GCI) Agribusiness division hosted its annual Dove Hunt on September 14, and had around 25 youth in attendance at Joe Kennedy Farm. GCI has hosted the annual Youth Dove Hunt since 2012. The hunt promotes hunting to the youth and allows them to spend time outdoors with their parents.

GCI and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) work together each year to organize the event. Evans County Wildlife Club provided hamburgers, chips and drinks for the attendees.





Montana Correctional Enterprises is ready for the Entry-Level Driver Training rule change effective 2020

*Submitted by Ross Wagner
Montana Correctional Enterprises*

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration published the entry-level driving training rule that will be effective February 7, 2020. To meet this rule an entry-level driver must complete a prescribed program of theory and behind-the-wheel instruction. The instruction consists of four areas or topics: driver qualification, hours of service, driver wellness, and OSHA's whistle-blower protection regulations.

Troy McQueary, the MCE Training and Safety Manager, is gearing up and is ready to instruct curriculum that meets the theory (knowledge) instruction to the inmates that are eligible and qualify for a Montana CDL. The five areas of instruction include Basic Operation, Safe Operating Procedures, Advanced Operating Practices, Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions and Non-Driving Activities. An assessment will be used to determine the inmate's proficiency for each unit of instruction. The inmate must achieve an overall minimum score or 80% on the assessment.

To assist the inmate to understand and make the connection of what the theory instruction means, MCE purchased a Driving Simulator. The driving simulator is a customizable, peripheral view driving simulator which means the instructor can configure the setup to meet the beginner commercial driver's educational need. The driving simulator will boost driving practice sessions for a tractor trailer automatic transmission; manual transmission with double clutching; 8, 10, 13 and 18 speed shifting; straight truck and trailer; tractor and double trailer combination; coupling double trailer with converter dolly; tanker truck roll over; and a coach or school bus. The driving simulator has several different maps of varying sizes which covers different terrain. You can change the weather conditions to be applied to whatever map you have selected. A report is created automatically during each exercise so the instructor will be able to evaluate the inmate's performance after each exercise.

The behind-the-wheel instruction will include Range and Public Road. The training must be completed in a vehicle of the same group or type that the inmate will use for the CDL skills test. The instructor and the inmate will engage in an active two-way communication during all active behind-the-wheel road training sessions. The instructor will assess the inmate's performance of the required elements of behind-the wheel training. Proficient completion of behind-the wheel training will be based on the instructor's professional judgment. The instructor will require the inmate to perform successful repetition of the curricula elements and document the inmate's proficiency. The instructor will document the total number of clock hours each inmate spends to complete the behind-the-wheel curriculum. All documentation will be filed in our training records management system.

We believe the driving simulator will better prepare the inmate for the classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction so he will successfully complete and pass the written and skills test for a Commercial Driver's License.





NORTH CAROLINA INCORPORATES BEES IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

*Submitted by Phillip Sykes
Director of Food Products
North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Correction Enterprises*



North Carolina Correction Enterprises started a bee program at Caledonia Prison Farm in 2015. We decided to try our hand at beekeeping to help pollinate our many vegetable crops and produce honey that we could sell at our farm office and our head office in Raleigh. We started off small in 2015, buying a few bee boxes and bee packages to get up and running. A bee package includes around 15,000 bees and a queen. These packages are placed in a hive box to start the colony. Once established, the bees start to reproduce and the number of bees will grow to between 60,000 and 100,000 bees per hive. When the hives have expanded, the bees begin making honey to store as food. Honey is typically collected twice a year in the spring and fall from the hives.



Currently, North Carolina Correction Enterprises Farm has 12 hives. We have had as many as 25 hives in the past few years, however, we found that having 20 or more hives takes a lot of time to manage. We have lost hives due to cold weather and the hive swarming and leaving, so the number of hives always fluctuates. We have seven offenders that work in our bee operation. Two offenders check the hives daily for pests like varroa mites and feed the hives a sugar and water mixture in the winter when the bees cannot forage naturally on blooming plants. The remaining five offenders help in the honey harvest and packaging.

From the 12-15 hives we have each year, we collect 75-100 gallons of honey. We purchased a honey extractor to make the harvesting and bottling of the honey fast and efficient. We bottle our honey in 12oz containers and produce 750-1000 containers a year to sell.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The board of directors are (l-r) Jeff Ropp (OK), Angela Bryant (VA), Jeff Vaughn (OK), Ross Wagner (MT), Kenny Raiford (VA), Phillip Sykes (NC), Fred Hayes (CA), Brent Galloway (GA), Todd Swift (TX) and Amy Pataluna (GA) (not pictured).

NAIA Purpose:

“To promote the pooling and sharing of meaningful information; to preserve the integrity of institutional agribusiness; and to provide the resources for personal development of agribusiness professionals.”

*Want to be more involved?
Reach out to any Board Member for information.
We look forward to hearing from you!*



NOW OFFERING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

OUR GOAL IS TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS
AS MUCH ACCESS AS POSSIBLE.

INDIVIDUALS - \$20.00/YEAR

10 MEMBERS - \$195.00/YEAR

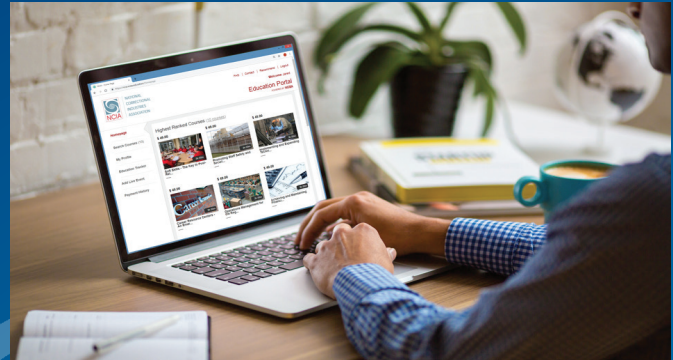
15 MEMBERS - \$290.00/YEAR

20 MEMBERS - \$385.00/YEAR

25 MEMBERS - \$480.00/YEAR

30 MEMBERS - \$575.00/YEAR

Learn Online With NCIA!



NCIA's new **E-Learning Program** is an online professional development platform tailored to the needs of Correctional Industries professionals like you. Developed by subject matter experts in the field of CI, our online courses will help you strengthen your skills, learn new ones, and discover new ways of thinking about CI in disciplines including:

- Dynamic Sales Teams
- Soft Skills
- Certified Technical Skills/
Apprenticeships
- Career Resource Centers
- Safety & Security
- Situational Awareness
- Operations Management
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