

National Association of **Institutional Agribusiness**

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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 2022



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LETTER FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

First and foremost, I would like to take a moment to thank outgoing President Swick and the Board of Directors for their commitment and dedication to ensure the perpetuation and continued growth of our very important association. Each of us owes them a huge debt of gratitude for successfully navigating our membership through the lasting effects of the pandemic and the resulting economic constraints each of our home operations continues to endure.

I am humbled, honored and excited to have the opportunity to continue to serve NAIA as your next president. Although my affiliation with our association only dates back to the 2017 annual meeting in Montana, I have developed a huge respect for the networking opportunities providing vast experience and vision that our membership provides. An educator once told me that "associating with the right kind of people would make my rolodex my most valuable asset." The group of people and their diverse skill sets that make up our organization are the perfect illustration of how profound a statement this was.

It is my belief that as we move forward it is imperative that we continue to encourage inactive members to reengage, while emphasizing the importance of recruiting new participation from all aspects of agribusiness. Rest assured that your Board of Directors and standing committee members are committed to this philosophy and value your input or concerns at any time.

In closing, I would like to leave each of you with a challenge. Ever mindful that no one can tell our story better than we can. Please commit to supporting our publications with documentation highlighting the success stories and value of your operations to the citizens you serve.

Sincerely,

Richard A. "Rick" Doran, Jr., NAIA President Agriculture Division Director South Carolina Department of Corrections



VIRGINIA DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS





Reentry Success

"Because of the support and dedication of everyone involved, the CDL Reentry program has been a true life changing second chance."

In April 2016, while incarcerated at Greensville Correctional Work Center, Eugene Mills was accepted into the VADOC CDL Re-Entry Program located at the DOC Farmer's Market in Jarratt, VA.

In Mr. Mills' own words: "The CDL program trained me in the proper techniques of preparation, concept, minor troubleshooting, maintenance, and operation of commercial vehicles. It also showed me the operation of warehouse management, distribution of goods, scheduling, proper record keeping, and provided OSHA certification in powered pallet jack and forklift operation. Over the next 2 years, I obtained a Virginia Commercial Driver's License with tanker endorsement. I gained "real world" experience delivering to various institutions throughout the state. Upon my release in June 2018, I was quickly hired for a position operating a dry goods tanker, hauling and off-loading limestone. In October 2021, the opportunity arose for me to apply for a Tractor Trailer Driver position with the DOC Agribusiness at the Farmer's Market. Fortunately, I was selected and began my career with VADOC on March 10, 2022. In June 2022, I became listed on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Training Provider Portal. Because of the support and dedication of everyone involved, the CDL Re-Entry program has been a true life changing second chance."



2022 BILLY MAX MOORE AWARD RECIPIENT: **MR. ROBERT BUCHANEK**



(L - R): Billy Max Moore Award recipient, Robert "Robby" Buchanek", Arthur Judd, Leroy Hinton and Todd Swick

Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics Division (TDCJ-MAL) nominates Mr. Robert Buchanek for the National Association of Institutional Agribusiness' Billy Max Moore Award. Mr. Buchanek began his dedicated career with TDCJ as entry level Correctional Officer at Stringfellow Unit in 2006. Soon after he promoted within the garden operations at the Ramsey Unit. As he often comments, when you are growing crops, you will learn something every day. Appears he learned very well, as Mr. Buchanek was promoted to Farm Manager of the Ramsey Unit in 2012.



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.

Billy Max Moore

As the Ramsey Farm Manager, Mr. Buchanek oversees the any dry location takes a strong individual. Combine that 16,400-acre Ramsey Unit. This includes 7,750 acres for the with watching all your hard work, crops, etc. all wash away is devastating. However, standing strong alongside your beef cow-calf operation of over 1,300 head. He has 860 acres dedicated to spring and fall edible crops that contributes TEAM, riding the storm out, praying together for each primarily to the agency's Cannery located on the property other and your families slowly leads to the sunrise on a clear as well. Field crops consisting of corn, milo and/or cotton morning. This is the new day and allowed for Mr. Buchanek require a commitment of 5,900 acres. The swine finishing to rebuild a farm office, rebuild fences, repair roads, and operation has a capacity of over 1,100 head, and we cannot grow closer together as his TEAM! He had to do this twice omit the 40+ head of horses that are required to support in three years, building from the ground up. The quote "Sometimes good things fall apart, so BETTER things can the beef cattle operation and security/field force. These numbers can be overwhelming but more impressive is Mr. come together" is very appropriate and Mr. Buchanek has Buchanek's 10 years of production oversight since becoming made things BETTER! Farm Manager in 2012! Ten years equals to approximately 12,000 weaned calves, approximately 10 million pounds As Mr. Buchanek promoted within the Agribusiness portion of fresh vegetables, 78 million pounds of corn, 5 million of his career, he has continually accepted challenges and was pounds of milo, 11,000 bales of cotton, and roughly 35,000 quick to gain the support and respect of co-workers and a very diverse team. With a persistent drive, Mr. Buchanek round bales of hay!

while ensuring his staff succeeds. It is also important to Many challenges will impact a manager of any operation; however, Mr. Buchanek has experienced some unique opportunities that most want to avoid. The Ramey Unit is Mr. Buchanek and his team's day-to-day operations dramatlocated on the Brazos River in Brazoria County, south of ically impacts TDCJ while maximizing the resources avail-Houston, Texas. The Brazos River is a main river in Texable to proudly support and serve the taxpayers of Texas. as and empties into the Gulf of Mexico just south of the Ramsey Unit. Besides having mosquitoes the size of small As Mr. Buchanek remains committed to serving the agency, helicopters, Ramsey can have major floods and hurricanes. he remains focused on making his operations better every The "Memorial Day Flood of 2016" resulted in 15,000+ day, and his team stronger. These traits are a direct reflecacres flooding and almost 2 feet of water in the main farm tion of his desire as a leader. Rebuilding an operation is office. Hurricane Harvey in 2017 dropped over 55" of rain, tough, twice is almost insane, but remaining a leader of the over 34" of water in the main farm office and almost every TEAM to see success return in an awesome trait that cannot acre was under water. To handle the stress of shipping all be faked; it's deep within, often quiet, but never lost. Thank pigs out as fast as you can, moving cattle to the few acres you for considering him for this honor. of high ground and pushing the rest on neighbors that will allow and moving every piece of equipment you can get to

BILLY MAX MOORE AWARD

strongly believes in completing every mission and task know that he truly credits the staff for all the success as well.



"WHY I WORK IN AGRIBUSINESS"



Sarah Diacont, FARM MANAGER Virginia Department of Corrections

I began my career with the Virginia Department of Corrections in 2012, working in the Treatment Department of a major institution. I was fortunate to be selected in the Fall 2019 to transfer to a Work Center site as a member of the Executive Team for the institution. This site provides inmate workforce to State Farm Agribusiness and was transitioning from male inmate workforce to females. In the Spring of 2021, I accepted a position as a Farm Manager with State Farm Agribusiness, overseeing the Beef Cattle Operation as well as the Equipment Department. Over the last year and a half, I have been afforded with a multitude of opportunities to not only increase my knowledge in the agricultural field but also gain a stronger sense of purpose when supporting the reentry initiatives our agency prioritizes as one of the most important departmental practices.

Keith Schinabeck, FARM MANAGER, SR. Virginia Department of Corrections

I began my career with the Virginia Department of Corrections in 2012, working in the Treatment Department of a major institution. I was fortunate to be selected in the Fall 2019 to transfer to a Work Center site as a member of the Executive Team for the institution. This site provides inmate workforce to State Farm Agribusiness and was transitioning from a male inmate workforce to females. In the Spring of 2021, I accepted a position as a Farm Manager with State Farm Agribusiness, overseeing the Beef Cattle Operation as well as the Equipment Department. Over the last year and a half, I have been afforded with a multitude of opportunities to not only increase my knowledge in the agricultural field but also gain a stronger sense of purpose when supporting the reentry initiatives our agency prioritizes as one of the most important departmental practices.

"I have been afforded with a multitude of opportunities to not only increase my knowledge in the agricultural field but also gain a stronger sense of purpose when supporting the reentry initiatives ..."

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 who 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 two \$1,000 scholarships to first time recipients, Maci Mitchell and Josie Swick; and two \$500 scholarships to second time recipients, Corbin Hayes and Gracen Hayes.

MACI MITCHELL from Oklahoma



Maci graduated from Indianola High School. She currently attends Eastern Oklahoma State College majoring in Animal Science.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

JOSIE SWICK from Texas



Josie graduated from Bresmond High School. She currently attends Tarletson State University majoring in Animal Science.

CORBIN & GRACEN HAYES from California

Corbin graduated from Lompoc High School. He currently attends Bakersfield Community College majoring in Agriculture Business.

Gracen also graduated from Lompoc High School. He too currently attends Bakersfield Community College majoring in Agriculture Business.

2022 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Come and find out why Texas is called the "Friendship State"



Billy Max Moore Memorial Service

The Vendor Trade show



Members gather during the tour of Texas Department of Criminal Justice Agribusiness, Land and Minerals Operations Tours



Jeff Vaughn (center) Winner of the Purina beef grading experience



The National Association of Institutional Agribusiness (NAIA) hosted its 2022 conference on October 17 - 21 in College Station, Texas. There were 12 states and 71 members present. 30 vendors participated at the vendor show and there were numerous conference sponsors.

During the conference, attendees toured the Texas Department of Justice, Agribusiness, Land & Mineral Operations. The tour included the Cotton Gin Processing Facility, Equine Program, Field Crop Operations, with a video of the cannery and meat plant operations. In addition to the tours, there were educational sessions, vendor presentations, training and networking opportunities.

The NAIA National Conference is a perfect way to:

- Grow your business
- Meet with agribusiness decision makers across the country
- Network with professionals in the agricultural and food industry
- Gain knowledge on emerging trends

"It was a very well planned and organized conference. All of the speakers were very knowledgeable of the subjects that they were presenting."



"The conference was very knowledgeable and welcoming. I really enjoyed the experience and personally felt like [I] gained a lot of knowledge from the tour itself."



Rescued Helena Valley horses find purpose at Montana State Prison Ranch and Farm

Submitted by Ross Wagner Agriculture Director Montana Correctional Enterprises Written by Megan Michelotti, Lee Newspaper



Pickle keeps yawning, tired from her short, morning ride and a longer ride the day before. She's 3 years old, and David Toman, Montana State Prison inmate and member of the cowboy crew for three years, is by her side. She keeps nudging Toman, her caretaker, with her head as if to say "Are we done yet? Can I rest now?"

"She stole my heart. We went for a small ride, and she's already tired," said Toman as Pickle yawned a third time. Pickle was among the 58 horses rescued from a horse breeding ranch in the Helena Valley in 2021. In April of 2022, the Montana Correctional Enterprises' (MCE) cowboy crew at the Montana State Prison Farm and Ranch received six fillies and eight studs for cattle herding, while other horses went to the Bella Dae Rescue Foundation in Great Falls. In 2018, an animal control officer responded to a call of a horse caught in a barbed wire fence. While at the ranch, the officer spotted barren pastures, debris on the ground, and sections of wire that hadn't been upkept. The officer continued to monitor the situation until a search warrant for the Helena ranch was granted on June 1, 2021. The 58 horses were then seized and transported to the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds, where they were cared for, according to prior Independent Record reporting.

"When they arrived, they were malnourished, and you wouldn't recognize them. I'm sitting here (looking at the rescues today), and I don't recognize them. They're healthy. Their hooves are trimmed. They've been vaccinated. You would have never got this close to them (when they were rescued)," said Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton. "What I'm most happy about is that we changed (the horses' lives) initially, and now they're changing everyone else's lives."

Veterinarian examination found horses that were underweight, had overgrown hooves, and had lice and abdominal hernias.

MONTANA DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

The Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office filed a felony "They've got 10 to 12 rides on (the horses) already. We'll get aggravated animal cruelty charge against each of the three 25 to 30 rides on them and then we'll put them up for the men who ran the horse breeding operation. One of the fall and use them again next spring," said Wagner. "We do men pleaded guilty, one was found guilty by a jury, and one the vaccinations, but (the inmates) are in charge of shoeing, entered into a deferred prosecution agreement. training, and more. Each one of these guys is in charge of Larry and Sam Hegh of Helena took care of the rescued four to six horses to give them a little self worth and make horses for over a year. Before the 2021 winter, the horses sure they're accountable for their horses... Very few (on the were moved from one end of the Lewis and Clark County cowboy crew) have prior experience (with horses)." Fairgrounds to the other when pens were built in the barn area. There were about five or six to a pen, and the Heghs Wagner stated that the cowboy crew program has been had to get up around 6 a.m. to go and feed them, going around for about 40 years. The director before him was there for 30 years, and he's been there for the past 10 years. through 10-12 round bales of hay a week.

"To see where they have come from, including the older horses that were in such bad shape, they're all just fat, shiny and happy," said Sam. "They get brushed, they get fed and they get all the things that they need, so that's what is really nice, seeing them happy, healthy and doing something. Horses need to have a job, and to see how these horses are going to work (with the cowboy crew). They're young enough that they will last them a long, long time."

Before retiring, Larry worked as the special operations officer at the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office. He was working on a radio project with the sheriff's department when he was approached about taking care of the horses. He did this up until his retirement in May of this year, and then he continued volunteering with the horses.

"Look what we got going on (with the cowboy crew and the rescued horses). It's the best thing I've ever seen," said Larry. "There was a picture Ross (the MCE's agriculture director) sent me a couple weeks ago, and these horses were tied up on the fence line here. 'Outstanding.' That's the one thing I sent back to him."



Wagner stated that the cowboy crew program has been around for about 40 years. The director before him was there for 30 years, and he's been there for the past 10 years. Four other fillies are saddled up next to their caretakers in front of the backdrop of the Flint Creek Mountain Range. Pepper is another 3-year-old with speckles of brown, white and black mixed into her coat. Bill Bracha, inmate and member of the cowboy crew since November, is her caretaker. He says she's only tried bucking him off twice, once in the round pen and once out on a ride.

"(Cowboy crew) has brought me back to realizing what I want to do with the rest of my future. I grew up in a small town and did a lot of odd jobs and ranching jobs and worked at a big ranch over in eastern Montana. I guess I lost track of where my priorities were," said Bracha. "It's very rewarding having a horse, just the progress you see in them. They saved me as much as we saved them."

Continued on page 12



"We get up, get them grained and saddled. We started with small rides, but pretty soon, we just get hours and miles (on the horses), very gentle, but they were wild when we got them. I had to rope her to catch her, but then we got her halter broke and broke the lead. It's been leaps and bounds since then," said Lloyd. "I'm pretty attached to Fox. I baby her pretty hard, and she's spoiled."

Dave Paroehl and Evan Eggebrecht are two of the staff who supervise and work with the cowboy crew. When inmates are first assigned to their division, they show them the ropes on how to take care of horses, riding and more. Paroehl rides the filly named Friday and Eggebrecht rides Trinity, both among the rescued Helena horses.

"There's about 12-13 guys (on cow-

boy crew) right now. We usually have three main cowboys (highly trained ranching inmates) and a couple of guys trained up in reserve in case one of them leaves," said Paroehl.

"There's no typical day," Eggebrecht said, and Paroehl agreed. "You may come to work one day with a game plan but might have four or five guys in for mental health or something like that, so you have to change your game plan. Lots of on-the-fly stuff."

Paroehl said the rescued horses were nervous about cattle herding because none of them had ever seen a cow before coming to the Montana State Prison Ranch and Farm. Eggebrecht added that not only had they never seen a cow, nobody had ever ridden the horses before they arrived at the prison either.

"(The cowboy crew) thought it was all pretty cool when we told them they were the first people to get on the back of these (rescued horses)," said Eggebrecht. The three members of the cowboy crew and the two staff supervisors hopped on their five rescued fillies. The sixth rescued horse was tied to the fence, neighing every now and then in the early morning sun. Not one horse bucked, a testament to good training.

One horse, Friday, was excited because she believed the riders in saddles meant that they were going to herd cattle soon. The other horses walked around at their own pace, waiting for the horse treats promised at the end. "You guys come across any more horses, send them our way," joked Lloyd from Fox's saddle.

At the 2022 Fall Conference, special recognition was given to two Texas Department of Criminal Justice- Agribusiness, Land and Minerals Department (TDCJ-ALM) employees for their commitment and overall dedication to service. The "Agribusiness Lifetime Star Award" was present to Mr. Arthur Judd and Mr. Leroy Hinton in recognition of their outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to Agribusiness for over 50 years and the lives they have touched along the way.

Mr. Judd's award was presented by Mr. Buchanek, who is currently Mr. Judd's Farm Manager (supervisor), however Mr. Judd helped train Mr. Buchanek year's ago. Mr. Hinton's award was present by Ms. Dean who currently the ALM's Budget Manager and the two have been truly supporting each other for many years as co-workers and friends.

One important point to mention is that Mr. Judd has over 50 years of CONSECUTIVE service with TDCJ! Each Award had this special quote at the bottom:



Joe Kennedy Farm participated in the Annual Youth Dove Hunt in Lyons, GA



LIFETIME STAR AWARD



(L - R): Robert "Robby" Buchanek, Arthur Judd, Laura Dean and Leroy Hinton

"Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others." - H. Jackson Brown Jr.



GCI's Joe Kennedy Farm and the Department of Natural Resources work together each year to host this hunt on the second Saturday every September. This year, we had a tremendous turn out with over 40 youth and parents arriving for the hunt. The event started at the JKF guesthouse where the Tattnall-Evans Limbhangers prepared our meal.

After the meal, DNR representatives presented a safety talk to the entire group regarding hunting safety regulations and firearm safety to all participating in the hunt. Once the meal and safety talk were concluded, the youth and their parents headed for the field to begin their hunt. The hunt was concluded at 6:30 p.m. There were plenty of dove and everyone had a great time. It is always good to see young people enjoy the outdoors and especially with their family.

8 TIPS FOR WINTER GRAZING

It's hard to think about winter feeding on hot summer days, but now is the time to begin that planning process.

High feed costs coupled with high fuel costs makes extended grazing options important to consider. Many cattlemen in northern Iowa tell me winter grazing isn't an option, but with a little planning now extending grazing a month or more can be done anywhere. Here are a few options to consider.

1. Stockpiling pastures is one option, provided you have adequate pasture acres to set aside from August first and graze after a killing freeze. Fescue is the best stockpile option for cool seasons since it tends to stand upright after a freeze. Other cool season grasses should be grazed soon after a freeze since they don't maintain their upright stance well. Most producers don't have extra pasture, but hay fields can be an option too. With the high price of fuel, consider letting the last cutting of hay grow and graze it in the fall. Alfalfa hay should be grazed with 7-10 days after a killing frost to ensure that the risk of bloat potential subsides but leaf loss doesn't impact quality.

2. Summer annuals like sudangrass, sorghumXsudangrass, or millets stockpile well and maintain their upright stance following a killing freeze. Again, allow it to grow from about August 1 until freeze for adequate forage. Sudangrass and sorghumXsudan do have the potential for prussic acid poisoning so stay off it from the first frost until about a week after a full killing freeze (below 28° F. for 3 or more hours). For best use of the forage, strip graze with electric fence and move the fence every couple of days. Iowa research shows we can grow 3-5 tons of dry matter per acre from summer annuals which should provide about 80-130 cow grazing days per acre at 50% use rate.

3. Swath grazing is a common method

used in Canada, and an ISU study on swath grazing sorghumXsudangrass shows it works in Iowa as well. The second cutting of sorghumXsudangrass was stockpiled, mowed and windrowed about a week prior to late December grazing, and provided about 115 cow grazing days per acre. Cows stayed on the swaths through mid-February with no negative consequences from snow or ice. Strip grazing the swaths resulted in 70% use of the forage available so very little residue was left in the field for the next crop year and no additional tillage was needed to remove the residue.

4. Seed winter annuals or cover crops for winter and early spring grazing. For maximum forage growth, drill winter annuals following corn silage or early soybean harvest. Oats, triticale and brassicas result in the most fall grazing growth while winter cereal rye and triticale provide the most growth and earliest available spring grazing.







AGRICULTURE.COM

5. Grazing standing corn is an option, although more difficult to justify with high grain prices. Some grain needs to be harvested to set up the strip fencing and reduce the total grain left in the field to get a better ratio of grain to forage. This must be strip grazed to reduce acidosis risk.

6. Bale grazing is a method of winter grazing where bales are distributed throughout a field and temporary fencing is used to allocate adequate forage for a day or two. Cows spread manure across the field instead of in one location, and the need to start a tractor daily is reduced.

7. Cornstalk grazing has been a major feed source across Iowa for early winter feed, but we only use less than a quarter of the stalks available in the state. The nutrition in stalks is highest in the ears, leaves and husks, and once they are consumed or deteriorated by weather, the feed value drops rapidly. In continuous grazed corn fields cows will select the ears, leaves and husks quickly, so any type of strip or rotational grazing increases the grazing days from corn fields. For larger herds, consider putting all cattle in one group, start grazing in the first fields harvested or the farthest from home, and move cows to a new field when the leaves and husks are consumed. For smaller herds, consider strip grazing with electric fences and sizing your strips, so cows move every week or two to a new area.

8. Cornstalk swath grazing isn't for the faint of heart, but for those willing to try something 'outside the box' this might be an option for a few acres close to the winter feeding area. Shut off the chaff spreader on your combine to create a swath of leaves and husks following grain harvest, then strip graze those in January where you can supplement with additional feed if needed. Just be sure your grazing density on the strips is intense enough to utilize all the forage in the windrow and not leave too much behind for spring planting season.

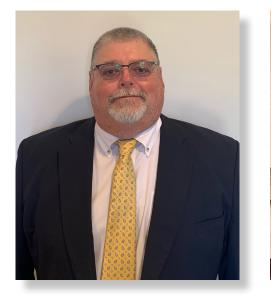
These are just a several options to extend the grazing season and reduce stored feed costs. Remember for every week we keep cows grazing offsets \$13 per cow in feed at \$100 per ton hay plus the price of diesel used to deliver that hay. For many operations, that's about a 2% reduction in total cow costs for every week grazing is extended. If you need additional help in calculating winter grazing needs, contact your regional beef specialist.

https://www.agriculture.com/livestock/cattle/9-drought-cop-ing-tips-from-ranchers-who-have-been-there

MEMBER UPDATES

Congratulations to our Incoming President, Rick Doran, and NAIA Board Members

Please join us in thanking the outgoing Board for their hard work and dedication to NAIA and in welcoming the incoming Board members to their new role with the Association.



Rick Doran Incoming NAIA President



Incoming Board Members (L - R): Ross Wagner (MT), Kenny Raiford (VA), Fred Hayes (CA), Amy Pataluna (GA), Brent Galloway (GA), Jeff Vaughn (OK), Davey Farabough (AK), (not pictured) - Rick Doran (SC) and Angela Bryant (VA)

NOW OFFERING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS!

Our goal is to allow individuals and organizations to receive as much access as possible.

- Individuals \$20/year
- 10 Members \$195/year
- 15 Members \$290/year
- 20 Members \$385/year
- 25 Members \$480/year
- 30 Members \$575/year

Member benefits include:

- 1. Quarterly newsletters (electronic and printed)
- 2. Member email communications
- 3. Networking opportunities within the organization
- 4. Training opportunities within NAIA and NCIA

Having a livestock sale? Looking for a piece of equipment?

LET US KNOW! We can send out an email blast or add it to the newsletter!

"NAIA strives to meet the educational, networking, and professional growth needs of its membership ... "





WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOUR ARTICLE IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Have an interesting story to share or a topic you would like to see featured in the newsletter?

We would love to hear from you!

For article submissions, please email Amy Pataluna: aepataluna@gci-ga.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS









SAVE THE DATE NCIA 2023 National Training Conference

Shaping the Reentry Landscape

April 24–27 Hyatt Regency Bellevue Eastside of Seattle - Bellevue, Washington Bellevue



INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

eLearning

nationalcia.org/e-learning

A platform tailored to the needs of Correctional Industries professionals, and developed by subject matter experts in the field of CI. Our online courses aim to help you strengthen your skills, learn new ones, and discover new ways of thinking about Cl.



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LETTER FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT



Todd Swick and his team at Texas Department of Justice, Agribusiness, Land & Minerals

Howdy!

Like most of you, the NAIA has a very special place in my heart! I have been blessed and provided many opportunities in my life to meet people and share my true passion for AGRICULTURE. I have tried to instill this desire for agriculture in many friends, family members, the youth of today and co-workers throughout my day-to-day life. It takes a special person to accept the often-thankless tasks of working in agriculture, and this doesn't appeal to everyone. But once this is in your bones, you cannot quit loving to see a seed grow, a newborn calf nurse, the smell of fresh cut hay, producing the food we eat and even helping a neighbor in need. It's the latter part of the previous sentence that makes me smile inside.

Being part of NAIA makes us all part of something bigger. NAIA has allowed me to forge a relationship with very smart people, experienced in agriculture and corrections, and always willing to help the "neighbor in need!" This is an amazing association and I encourage everyone to get more involved. I had to stand up and shake the hand of a stranger many years ago at a NAIA conference, get involved, volunteer, etc. Please take that same initiative to get involved, and by the way getting back to that handshake... Well they are all now my dear friends of the NAIA and they can be yours as well!

I would like to close by thanking everyone along the way for helping me on the 2022 Conference. I have so many people that made a difference that I cannot name them all. The Texas TEAM, the Board Members, fellow NAIA members, and the gracious vendors all made the event a success! It's amazing how fast the last year has sped by! It seems as if I was only starting to coordinate the conference a few months ago and now it's just a mere memory!

Thanks for allowing me the honor of being your NAIA President.

May HE Bless each of you, and thanks for the friendship and memories!

Todd Swick

P.S. - I could not have done this without the support of my family: Annie, Josie, Jolie, and Charlie.



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