

Nothing Could Have Been finer.....

As the rains and high humidity gave way on Tuesday, drier and much more comfortable air settled in over the Raleigh/Durham area July 24th and stayed the rest of the week making the climate for the 2019 FFSC Annual Conference down right comfortable.

And those attending the event were up for it and filled committee meetings on Wednesday afternoon, enjoyed top-shelf Blue Grass music during that evening's reception and then settled into 2 days of networking, speakers, membership recognition, networking, ice cream, more speakers and networking, a baseball game with fire-works, a business meeting, more networking, and some fabulous local farm tours including tabacca (sic), a hog operation that is collecting methane gas and turning it into electricity, and even a presentation on growing and marketing hemp and CBD oil. And did we mention the networking?

Enjoy this sampling of photos from this year's event along with some comments from our Survey Monkey poll of those who attending the conference.

Mark your calendars for July 28 - 31 in Amarillo for the 2020 event. Among other things we can promise lots of possibilities for networking !!

New Leadership and Team Members

Keith Raynor, CPA, a partner with TRP CPAs, Dunn, NC, seated, is elected new president of the Farm Financial Standards Council. He is surrounded by the new leadership team at the Council. Standing, from left, are: **Brenda Duckworth**, CPA, FFSC Vice President; **Todd Doehring**, Immediate Past President; and **Bill Rutter**, Secretary/Treasurer. Duckworth is controller at AgriVision Farm Management in Hartley, TX. Doehring is a director at Centrec Consulting, Savoy, IL, and Rutter is senior vice president and Chief Credit Officer for MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Westminster, MD. The team was elected at the Council's annual meeting held in Raleigh, NC July 26.



With the change in leadership there have also been realignments in some committee chair activities:

Shane Eloe, Dickinson & Clark CPAs, moves into the co-chair position for the Marketing Committee, a position he will share with **David Olsen**, Compeer Financial.

Joe Kessie, Lake City Bank, is named co-chair of the Finance Committee, sharing responsibilities with **Mark Compton**, Compton Accounting. Kessie replaces Scotty Elston, AgTexas Farm Credit Services, who retires from the position after many years of service.

The Technical Committee will continue under the leadership of **Jeff Bushey**, Nietzke and Faupel, PC and **Alan Miller**, retired Purdue University professor. Responsibilities for the Membership Committee will continue to be shared by

Grace Richardson, Freed Maxick CPAs and **Thomas Groppe**, a farmer from Jerseyville, IL.

Pauline Van Nurden, Center for Farm Financial Management, St. Paul, MN is elected to a 3-year term as a Director with the Council. She replaces Bill Rutter. Rutter will continue as the Farm Credit System representative on the leadership team. **Angela Chesley**, Van Bruggen/Vande Vegte, PC, is elected to a second 3-year term as a Director.

Special Recognition to some Very Special People



Lifetime Emeritus Membership to Freddie Barnard

Dr. Freddie Barnard, at left, now retired from Purdue University and living in his home state of Kentucky, is presented with a special plaque by Todd Doehring, 2019 FFSC President. The plaque marks Barnard's being awarded Lifetime Emeritus Membership status with the Council.

Barnard was among the original group that organized the Farm Financial Standards Task Force in 1989 as they worked to develop standardized nationwide financial accounting and reporting procedures in agriculture. It was under Barnard's leadership that the very first FFSC Summer Technical Symposium was held in Chicago in 1993. The organization subsequently changed its name to the Farm Financial Standards Council.

In his comments to those assembled at the July 25 luncheon, Barnard noted that the Technical Symposiums contin-

ued for a number of years while the Council also hosted an annual business meeting, typically in different location. "We'd spend hours and hours at the Technical Symposium discussing, and sometimes arguing, about little matters that eventually became the *Guidelines* documents." He noted that this was prior to the advent of emails and internet communications. "Everything was done by telephone calls and sending lots of faxes." He has remained active in the industry and works at teaching ag banking schools across the country. He is also a standing speaker at the annual ABA Agricultural Bankers Conference where he always makes "a plug for the Council and what you have going."

Special Citations Awarded

Todd Doehring, at center, 2019 FFSC President, presented special Certificates of Appreciation to five Council members during the Recognition luncheon held July 25. He cited each of the individuals for their continued personal dedication and hours committed to the Council over many years of service. Receiving the plaques were, from left: **Kent Meister**, now retired from Illinois FBFM; **Alan Miller**, retired from Purdue University; **Ken Hilton**, Red Wing Software, and; **Jeff Bushey**, Nietzke and Faupel. A certificate was also mailed to **Scotty Elston**, AgTexas Farm Credit, who was unable to attend the conference.



A special WorkHorse award was presented in absentia to **Angela Chesley**, Van Bruggen/Vande Vegte, PC, for her "continued and extraordinary work on the *Financial Guidelines* document." She was unable to attend the event and the plaque was shipped to her office.

OPENING RECEPTION



Had more opportunities to interact one-on-one with some FFSC members I did not know well before.



THE MEETING



The amount of information delivered in a short time frame was impressive. Keith lined up a lot of very good producers and speakers.



(A bonus was) insight to data/technology services becoming available to producers that I wasn't very familiar with.



Good program.

Good networking.

Good action on committee agendas.

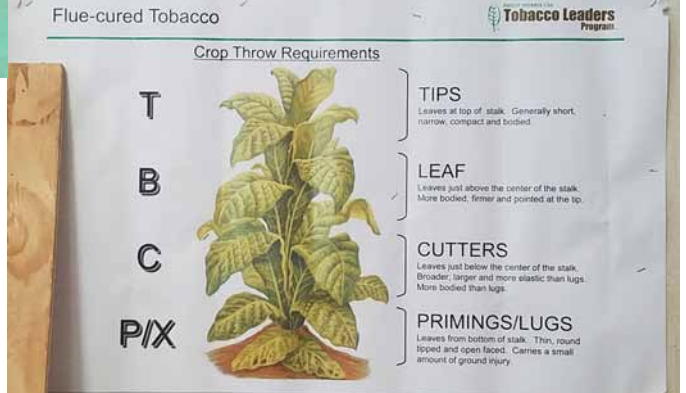


*TAKE ME OUT
TO THE BALLGAME*



THE TOURS

Clockwise from right: The tours began with lunch at the Indigo Room in Erwin, NC and included a presentation on the feasibility and challenges of producing CBD oil from hemp by Down South Hemp LLC (at far right in photo). Next came a hands-on experience with tabacca (sic) at Byrd Family Farms including information on the various stages of tobacco harvest. This was followed up by a visit to Butler Farms where the manure from their several thousand hogs is processed through a digester with the resulting methane gas fueling generators that put power back into the local electrical grid. Some were brave enough to take a walk on the thin (?) cover that separated them from the contents of the manure pit. NOTE: Wearing of stiletto heel shoes at this point of the tour was strongly discouraged.



I very much enjoyed the committee meetings and networking. The program the following day as well as the tours were great.

I like that FFSC moves this around the country and highlights regional ag in the area that is hosting the conference.

