ASA Agronomic Production Systems Section
2014 Annual Report
(Compiled by Drs. Patrick Carr and Chengci Chen)

2014 Leadership
Section Chair – Patrick Carr
Vice Chair – Chengci Chen
Incoming Vice Chair – Wade Thomason
Board Representative – Drew Lyon

2014 Business Meeting – Long Beach, CA
Monday, 03 November, 5:15 to 6:15 PM, Hyatt Regency Shoreline B

Meeting Agenda
1. Welcome and introductions
2. Nomination & Selection of 2015 incoming vice-chair and board representative candidates
3. Solicitation of section-wide symposia/symposium ideas – are there any? (5:40-5:43 PM)
4. Explanation of Program Enhancement Funds (5:43 – 5:45 PM)
5. Other Section Business
6. Message from the ASA President
7. Adjourn

Minutes
Pat Carr welcomed attendees to the meeting. Past, current and incoming section officers were introduced, as well as the section representative on the board of directors. Pat thanked section members for making this an excellent meeting, noting that the section members presented over 330 papers in 27 volunteered paper sessions, four symposia, and one, two-day conference at the meeting.

Drew Lyon indicated that candidates were needed for the incoming vice-chair as well as section representative to the board of directors. Bill Anderson and Mark Zarnstorff were nominated as candidates for incoming vice-chair; Pat Carr and Alan Schlegel were nominated as candidates for section representative on the board of directors.

Pat Carr solicited ideas from attendees for a section-wide symposium at the 2015 annual meeting. He indicated that the section does have funds for a section-wide symposium. The ASA, CSSA, and SSSA will be partnering with the Entomological Society of America at the annual meeting in Minneapolis, so a symposium with crop-insect themes might be particularly appropriate. The theme of the annual meeting is Synergy in Science: Partnering for Solutions. Some possible topics of a section-wide symposium were identified: (1) Ecosystem Diversity; (2) Cropping System Effects on Beneficial Insects; (3) IPM practices in the context of cropping systems; and (4) Pollinator and/or Parasitoid Diversity Impacts of Contrasting Cropping Systems. Brief discussion also revolved around the concept of data stewardship in the context of symposia topics. Diane Lowland (UF) did volunteer to reach out to entomologists about a joint symposium, if there is any interest. No decision was made on whether or not to pursue a section-wide symposium in 2015.
Pat Carr gave a brief overview of funds available for symposia and community activities, noting that in addition to community funds there also are section funds that are available. He did offer the caveat that these funds are limited. In addition to section funds, Program Enhancement Funds from outside the section also are available. Proposals will be solicited in a general call in 2015.

Those in attendance were then invited to bring up topics of concern or interest to be discussed by section members. Dr. Carr asked how section members felt about using the APS listserv as a venue for position announcements, as it had been used to some extent in 2014 until he made a decision to discontinue that practice. Supporters (of the practice) felt it was a good way to announce positions/jobs to a group of professionals who might be interested in the position, or know others who might be. Sending a position announcement over the listserv can make some aware of a position that is available when they otherwise might not be. Those concerned about using the listserv to announce positions indicated that it may detract from using the ASA Career Center as a vehicle for placing position announcements and, among other things, reduce the revenue stream coming into the society. There was a suggestion that perhaps the section Listserv could be used to make members aware and guide them to positions announced through the ASA Career Center.

Dave Mengel, ASA president, assumed the floor. Dr. Mengel thanked Dr. Carr and presented him with a certificate for his service as section chair. He introduced Sharon Clay, past ASA president who was in attendance. He reported that current ASA membership is just under 8000 (7907); membership is up slightly because of new student members. He indicated that an increase in society member numbers partially reflects the several years of good commodity prices.

Dr. Mengel provided an update on the society’s finances. The society continues to operate with a budget deficit – it has in 7 of the last 10 years – but that is deceptive since investment funds are not included in the balance sheet. When investment income is considered, the financial health of the society is good although the financial situation of the society must continually be scrutinized to ensure that it remains on solid footing.

Historically, one of the primary sources of income for the society has been generated by page charges and publications. The tri-society journals eliminated most page charges a couple of years ago and Library journal subscriptions have been declining for several years so a digital library has been created in response. Subscriptions are up, but revenues are still well behind what they were prior to the elimination of page charges. There continues to be a big push for new books published by the society, with 16 currently under development.

In January, 2015, Applied Turfgrass Science, Crop Management, and Forage & Grazinglands will be merged to form one journal with three co-editors, each representing the subject areas of the three former journals. This move will streamline some processes. Manuscripts published in the new journal (Crop, Forage, & Turfgrass Management) will continue to have the same foci as those formerly published in the three journals.

The Greenfield Scholars program is up and running, as are several new communities within the section with a membership focus on practicing professional agronomists and similar agricultural professionals. One hope of these efforts is that agricultural professional who traditionally have not been members of the society will be motivated to become members.
Dr. Mengel alerted business meeting attendees to the Reinvest ASA Program. The goal of this program is to fund ASA and other activities that further the society's value to members and to agronomy. Proposals are solicited annually, with awards of up to $25,000.

**APS Section Community Reports**

**Adoptive Nutrient Management**
(No report provided)

**Applied Soybean Research**
(Report provided by Laura Lindsey)

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 11:45 AM, Long Beach Convention Center, Room 102C

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Report of 2014 activities
3. Symposium topics for next meeting/Discuss continuation of grad student competition for 2015
4. Grad student oral competition winners- MS and PhD
5. Nominations for Vice Chair Elect
6. Passing of gavel to Chair Elect – Nathan Mueller, UNL Extension

**Minutes**

1. Welcome by Laura Lindsey and Introductions
2. Report of 2014 activities
   a. Co-sponsor (along with C03) of symposium- Does Soybean Require Additional N to Maximize Yield? Helped fund travel for Dr. Fernando Salvagiotti.
   b. First year for graduate student oral competition
3. Symposium topics for next meeting
   a. Maximum yield studies? Look into cosponsoring with a C03 to avoid time conflicts.
   b. E-mail any other potential topics to Nathan Mueller (nathan.mueller@unl.edu)
4. Discussion of continuation of grad student competition for 2015
   a. Strong agreement that competition should be continued in 2015.
   b. Will pursue funding from industry.
5. Future soybean community activities
   a. Pros and cons of on-farm trials were discussed.
   b. Working toward coordinating some on-farm trial efforts with support from the United Soybean Board.
6. Grad student oral competition winners
   a. M.S. First Place- Grace Bluck, Second Place- Joshua Nasielski, Third Place- Bryson Haerkamp
b. Ph.D. First Place- Eric Wilson, Second Place- David Marburger, Third Place- Mariola Klepadlo

c. Thank you to competition judges- Sandeep Kumar, Jim Dunphy, Todd Higgins, Juan Pablo Burzaco, Nathan Mueller, Tim Boring, Anne Dorrance, Gary Feng, Darlene Florence, Ignacio Ciampitti, and Peter Thomison

7. Nominations for Vice Chair Elect- Shaun Casteel was nominated. With no other nominations accepted, Shaun was elected to vice chair elect position.


**Bioenergy Systems**
(No report provided)

**Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management**
(Report provided by David Brauer)

The meeting was called to order at 1535h on November 4, 2014 in Long Beach CA by Louis Baumhardt. Louis announced to the 10 members present that Leader David Brauer was unable to attend the Agronomy meetings and that he would preside in Dave’s absence. Community membership reflects growth from last year’s inaugural ~150 members from several countries to a current membership in excess of 500 persons. The ASA Irrigation Strategy and Management community account was $400 for this meeting and will increase again for the next meeting. No funds were used at the 2014 meeting.

Comments from members noted the ASA program development funds of $1600-$2000 that could be used to leverage our funds to host a stellar symposium. Louis deferred the future symposium development to incoming leadership.

Jeff Baker, ARS Lubbock-Big Spring, Texas was nominated by Jourdan Bell (vice-leader) to be the vice leader in 2015. The nomination was seconded by Chuck West. After no further nominations were offered, Louis asked the floor to accept Jeff Baker as Vice Leader by “General Acclamation.” A point of order was made to clarify that another nominee was not required and that the election could be finalized at this meeting. Both points answered in the affirmative.

Community discussion returned to possible symposium topics for 2015 including: Irrigation with Cover Crops, Plant Physiology Sensors, Big Data, Value Added, as well as coordinating symposium papers to appeal/utilize input from American Entomological Society. Past symposiums were reviewed and a consensus to avoid duplication and overlap with other communities was noted.

Louis recognized the incoming leader for comments and passed the gavel to Jourdan Bell (Jourdan.Bell@Ag.tamu.edu).

The meeting was adjourned at 1630h.

**Crop Management Professionals**
(No report Provided)

**Integrated Pest Management Professionals**
Nutrient Management Professionals
(No report provided)

Organic Management Systems
(Report provided by Erin Silva)

November 4, 2014, meeting chaired by Ellen Mallory, minutes recorded by Erin Silva

Welcome to group provided by Ellen Mallory

Ellen asked for of additional Agenda Items

Ellen provided an OECD Conference Report of the Special Symposium–Pre-Conference “Innovations in Organic Food Systems for Sustainable Production and Enhanced Ecosystem Services”

* 18 speakers from 12 countries
* 100 attendees
* Co-hosted by the ASA-OMS Community, International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems, and USDA-NIFA.
* Sponsored by The Co-operative Research Programme on Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and by the USDA-NIFA Organic Research and Extension Initiative program.

Update on other OMS activities at the 2014 meeting:

Oral Presentations
23 presentations, 8 of which were selected by the ASA Certifications Dept. to be presented in a separate session that will be live-streamed for certified professionals.

Organic Management Systems II: Poster Presentations
26 posters, 11 of which were entrants in the OMS Graduate Student Presentation Competition. Winners included Erin Roche (University of Maine), Kendall Kahl (University of Idaho), and Stephen Johnson (Montana State University). The total number of OMS program titles was 67, up from 34 in 2013!

Symposium ideas for 2015 and beyond

2015 Tour
There was considerable interest in another organic farm tour for 2015. Erin will plan a pre-conference tour, in partnership with others from the upper Midwest.

The 2015 meetings will be held in Minneapolis, MN - Nov. 15-18, 2015
- In conjunction with the Entomological Society of America
- The theme is “Synergy in Science: Partnering for Solutions”

Symposium ideas for 2015 included:
- biofunctionality of organic production systems (This would allow for the integration of pollinator/pest management/beneficial insect expertise from the entomology society, as well as incorporation of water issues, soil health, and other broader aspects of organic agriculture)
- water management in organic agriculture
- integrating organic livestock and crop production
- coexistence
- agroecology vs. organic
- education and extension
- role of women in organic ag leadership, education, and extension
- farmscaping
- value of new soil health tests for organic agriculture

Carry-over of ideas from 2013 business meeting:
- Soil fertility in organic systems – Given the interest from ASA-SSSA-CSSA for a book on this topic, a symposium could be a good way to initiate a book project
- Dryland organic cover cropping
- Farming at multiple scales
- Breeding for organic: Crops and cover crops
- Organic effects on crop quality - This would focus on animal feed and forage since the 2012 OMS symposium was on organic food.
- Organic lawn care – Do as joint symposium with Turfgrass Division.
- Boundaries: How do we protect organic integrity – To include contamination and food safety issues - pesticides, antibiotics/pharmaceuticals, and GMOs.
- Collaborative session with horticultural society - There was considerable interest in doing a joint session with the Horticulture Society, both for regional meetings and for the next time the meetings will be held in California (in 3-4 years).
- Communicating your work effectively (or “How to make your point”) – This idea stemmed from a conversation among OMS members about the different tools people are using with peers and stakeholder audiences to communicate their ideas and findings. Presenters could highlight their particular use of video, websites, innovative graphs/diagrams, ... at the same time as conveying the research findings that make up the content.

Upcoming Leadership
- Erin Silva, Univ. of Wisconsin, will be Chair for 2015
- Chris Reberg-Horton, North Carolina State Univ., was chosen at 2013 meetings to be Vice-Chair in 2015, and Chair in 2016.

An email vote will be conducted for the 2016 vice-leader, who will become community leader in 2017. Charlie White (Penn State) and Gladis Zinati (Rodale Institute) were nominated and accepted their nominations. Further nominations will be solicited via email.

Committee on Sustainable Agriculture (COSA) – a discussion occurred as to the future of COSA. It was agreed to put this decision as to the future of COSA on hold at this time.

OMS Achievement Award
This award recognizes lifetime achievement in organic agriculture and is the only such award in the tri-societies. The 2014 OMS Achievement Award is presented to Dr. John P. Reganold.
Precision Agriculture Systems
(Report provided by Brenda Ortiz)

Precision Agriculture Systems Community
Minutes – November 25, 2014
Participants: John Shanahan, Brenda V. Ortiz
Meeting goal: Discussion on the suggested topics by the members of our community for the 2015 year and development of an action plan.

Topics suggested by the meeting participants at the business meeting in Long Beach, CA:

1. Symposium – “Grand challenges for Precision Ag”. What are the big challenges, identify who is doing cutting edge Prec. Ag (in EU, Asia, Latin America, US), people that can bring new ideas.
2. Session on Digital soil mapping (suggestion). Do we want to proceed with that?
3. Joint session with the Entomological society focused on site-specific insect pest management.
4. Another idea for a session: Going from Big Data to Decision – What are the priorities/gaps we should consider.
5. Idea for workshop (target audience will be consultants and students): What kind of Tools are out there. Training on platforms like: Field Connect/Encirca, FieldNet, CPS’s Prec Ag technology solutions, WindField solutions, etc.

Overall discussion:
- Because not all the members of the community attended the business meeting, it will be important to get their feedback on the topics for the sessions in 2015. Therefore, a survey will be sent to the members asking for their feedback on topics for sessions/symposiums/workshops in 2015. Once the members of our community have identified those topics, we should contact other communities about their interest and willingness to co-sponsor some activities.
- We have received from the ASA 2015 President, Paul Fixen, a document that describes the theme for the 2015 meetings: “Synergy in Science: Partnering for Solutions” which will have an emphasis on “Data Stewardship for Evidence-based Management”. We encourage all the members to check this document before completing the survey about the sessions/symposia our community or in collaboration with other communities will organize in 2015. We can get a lot of ideas from this document.
- Brent Myers sent us a follow-up email about organizing a joint session on “Digital Soil Mapping”. It seem the SSSA S5 Division is also willing to co-sponsor this topic as a Symposium. John and I feel our community should co-sponsor this symposium/session. This item has been included in the survey.
- We have initiated some conversations with some members of the Entomological Society to explore their interest (and to identify the key partners) on the idea of a joint session/symposium related to “Site-specific pest management”. I have been copied on an email the CSSA Div. C-3 Crop Ecology, Management, and Quality community sent to the members. They are also considering to co-sponsor a joint session with this group and/or other communities.

Professional Applied Agronomists
(No report provided)
Semi-Arid Dryland Cropping Systems
(Report provided by Perry Miller)

Business meeting Monday 4:15 Nov 3, 2013

About 30-35 people in attendance. Alan Schlegel presiding.

1. Reviewed membership demographics. 610 members from 42 countries and 43 states. To most everyone’s surprise FL was in top-10!

2. Alan reported on live ASA webinar on cover crops that was added to a session this summer to represent semiarid Great Plains.

3. Alan reminded those in attendance of the remaining oral sessions on Tuesday afternoon (live stream with presenters from central Great Plains) and Wednesday morning and poster session Wednesday afternoon. This community has gotten the Wednesday poster session two years in a row. Alan suggested Perry Miller (incoming Leader) remind planners of that next year.

4. Was a lengthy discussion of potential symposium topics. We were reminded that theme for 2015 in Minneapolis (Nov 15-18) was something along lines of “Data Stewardship” and “Science Partnering” and that meeting will be co-hosted with the Entomological Society of America ... a similarly large group. The following topics were suggested:

a. On-farm experimentation (Perry Miller noted the contrast in popularity between the ‘Big Data’ session on this topic (sro) and the ‘Mining Long-term Studies’ session – not well attended). Intent was to think about producer participatory research and data collection via yield monitors.

b. Review of crop modeling with emphasis on semiarid regions.

c. A focused session (eg. soils attributes) on long-term crop rotation studies. Potential value of increasing exposure of these rigorous data sets to other disciplines was discussed. Eg. meta-analysis related to climate studies. It was discussed that long-term data could be linked to modeling for a presentation. Chengci Chen stressed the importance of DSS models over crop growth models ... John Kirkegaard stated desire to be at system level, including entire cropping system if possible.

d. Ecosystem services was mentioned as a logical tie-in with the co-hosted ESA meeting.

e. the challenge of cover crops in semiarid regions was mentioned and Mark Liebig expressed interest in an integrated forages topic that could relate to land cover.

f. The possibility of internationally focused papers was discussed with John Ryan and Bill Payne suggested as possible contacts to explore ideas. Perry Miller mentioned a paper in Agron J that focused on climate issues in Southern Africa.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 just prior to general APS business meeting.
Sensor-Based Nutrient Management
(Report provided by Jeffrey Vetsch)

Minutes from Sensor Based Nutrient Management Community Business meeting at the ASA/SSSA/CSSA annual meetings in Long Beach, CA on Tuesday, November 4.

1) The first item on the agenda was to recognize Tom Mueller and Brenda Ortiz from the Precision Ag Community and Tom Morris of the Adaptive Nutrient Management Community. They co-sponsored the oral graduate student session with our community.

2) Session topics for 2015 meetings in Minneapolis: A general oral and poster session will likely be offered, if insufficient numbers of papers are submitted for the oral session it may be combined or moved to another session. At the Precision Ag community business meeting, a session or symposia was proposed that would focus on a future vision of precision ag including current challenges faced (exact title not determined at this time). The Sensor Based community discussed collaborating with Precision Ag community on this session. Having a joint business meeting with Precision Ag was mentioned at the meeting and others discussed this with chair and vice chair after the meeting. It would be advantageous to have a joint business meeting as long as it could be completed in an hour.

3) Vice-leader nominations: We have one nominee (Dr. Ariel Zaidband, see bio below). Nominations will stay open until November 21, at which time they will close and we will hold an online election of a new vice leader for 2015. [Dr. Ariel Zaidband is currently employed as an agronomist working with Blue River Technology, a startup company based in Sunnyvale, CA. Blue River uses computer vision and machine learning to develop agricultural implements. Currently they have 6 commercial thinning machines working in lettuce fields in CA and AZ, and a high-throughput phenotyping machine that uses an array of sensors to collect data for plant breeders. Ariel received his bachelors degree in Agronomy from the University of Buenos Aires in 2007, and PhD working on nutrient management in diversified farming systems in NE Argentina. Ariel is new to the community, but would love to collaborate and serve as a vice leader in 2015.]


5) Finalize date and details for NUE Workshop in 2015: The workshop will be hosted by Auburn University - Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department in Auburn, Alabama and held on August 3, 4 and 5 in 2015. For those traveling by air Auburn is about 1.5 hours from Atlanta,
Georgia and one hour from Montgomery, Alabama. For more information see the NUE workshop page on the Oklahoma State NUE website.

6) Discussion on collaboration and a potential merger of the Sensor Based Nutrient Management Community with the Precision Agricultural Systems Community: Generally, the group agreed collaboration on sessions and a joint business meeting would benefit both communities. However, merging into one community would result in Sensor Based Nutrient Management losing some of their identity. Newell discussed the importance of a communities name in recruiting and maintaining members and interest. The Sensor Based Nutrient Management Community is very specific discipline of precision agriculture and therefore compliments the general nature of the Agronomic Production Systems Section and larger Precision Ag community.

Soil and Water Management Professionals  
(No report provided)

Solar Corridor Crop System  
(No report provided)

Weedy and Invasive Plant Species  
(No report provided)