



Association Updates

June 2020

2021 Annual Meeting

For the first time, we have not entered into a contract for our next Annual Meeting. Once in a contract, the financial liability would be over \$100,000 if we are not able to meet our obligations. We are monitoring the COVID-19 issues to see if an alternative meeting itinerary may be needed. In addition, budget constraints may play a part in participants' abilities to travel for the upcoming budget year. It is our goal to protect our members, partners, Association and fulfill our responsibilities in conducting the business of the Association.

2020 SE NACD Meeting

The 2020 SE NACD meeting scheduled to be held in Gulf Shores, Alabama in August has been cancelled. Alabama and NACD are working to get the existing contract moved to 2021.

Association Programs

All of our programs have either been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19. Programs such as the Envirothon and RCW have been cancelled and Hall of Fame, Conservation Farm Family, awards and the Leadership Training Initiative have been postponed. Once restrictions are eased, new deadlines and dates will be announced.

2020 Legislative Actions

The Legislature returned to session on April 28th. Their focus has been on COVID relief. NC Forever has adopted additional CCAP funding as one of our legislative priorities this year. We are being mindful of the impacts the virus is having on many. It doesn't appear that many other funding items will be considered at this time. The Farm Act, which includes the Job Approval Authority provision through the Commission, match of state District records to national 1619 requirements and digester clarification has been approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor. Additional information will be distributed by the Division.

Mutual Aid Agreements

The Mutual Aid Agreement for Districts to share personnel resources for training and heavy workloads during such as disaster events has been distributed to Districts. We are hopeful that Districts will participate in this agreement to the extent they can so additional conservation workloads can be accommodated.

NACD Spring Fly-in

The Fly-in was cancelled. We did send a list of our needs to our Senators and Congress(wo)men. Just as with our state, we feel their priorities will center around the COVID impacts on our nation.

USDA/NRCS Urban Ag and Innovation Production Grants

USDA/NRCS announced the first Urban Ag Grant program to promote assistance to areas of food access concerns. A webinar was held on June 3, which was recorded, and can be viewed at <https://www.farmers.gov/> for additional information about the grant and application process.