



On the Calendar

Feb 10-11, 2023:

California Pecan Growers Conf.;
Colusa, CA

Feb 24-25:

Southeastern Pecan Growers Conf.;
Sandestin Resort, FL; Info at sepga.com

Mar 5-7:

Western Pecan Growers Conf.;
Convention Center; Las Cruces, NM

Mar 28-30:

Georgia Pecan Growers Conf.; Georgia
National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

From your friends at Savage Equipment

A good year for U.S. pecan growers? It depends.

We have arrived at that season when educated guesses give way to actual data and the big picture of this year's pecan crop gets a bit clearer. As is often the case, it looks like a pretty good year for many growers and a really awful year for others. The good news? If most of the predictions hold true, the 2022 U.S. crop looks like a substantial improvement over last year's rather dismal showing.

On the positive side of the weather perspective, the southeastern U.S. pecan harvest is going full bore with no more hurricanes on the radar (for now). Although hurricane Ian caused some damage across southeastern Georgia and the Carolinas, it appears that the pecan crop will remain mostly intact. Ian looked like it might be another huge disaster for Georgia pecan growers but the storm's path shifted eastward over the Atlantic and spared them.

Unfortunately, a severe and persistent drought has hampered pecan growing in much of the U.S., especially Texas and the central region. Most of Oklahoma and Kansas have suffered under "extreme" or "exceptional" drought conditions for many months. The same is true for significant portions of the Texas pecan-growing region. It has really been tough on native growers and others that rely on rainfall to keep their trees healthy. It appears that some may not even bother to harvest their native groves this year. Besides the drought, there was a very early freeze that hurt many growers in northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas.

While drought also persists in the western pecan-growing states, there was enough rain and irrigation in much of

New Mexico and Arizona to produce a crop. We wouldn't call it a great crop, but in most areas of these western states, it has not been too painful.

The national pecan crop projections have remained fairly consistent throughout this year at a little over 300 million pounds, which would make it better than the average for the past few years. The USDA put last year's utilized production at 255.3 million pounds, so it's a strong increase from there.

It's still a bit early to have much clarity on pricing, although most of the discussion is optimistic.

We're hoping for a better harvest than anticipated for everyone out there in *Pecan Country*. And, perhaps 2023 will be the year the drought ends and the southeast can avoid any major hurricanes (or even minor ones). After all, pecan farmers are the eternal optimists, right?



With help from abundant irrigation, the pecan crop at the Savage family's Hauani Creek Farm in southern Oklahoma, is looking good so far.

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Meet the new guy in New Mexico.

This summer, we added a new member to our team at the Savage Southwest facility in Mesquite, New Mexico. Miquel Landaverde was born in Roswell and spent his early childhood there. As a youngster working on his uncle's cattle ranch in nearby Dexter, he learned valuable lessons about farm life and hard work.

In his teens, Miguel moved with his family to Las Cruces and graduated from high school there in 2013. Prior to joining the Savage team, he worked at Home Depot, the county detention center and as a carpenter in

a cabinet shop. In his spare time, Miguel enjoys the outdoor life, fishing and camping in the southwestern wilderness.

The crew in Mesquite is thrilled to have Miguel's positive attitude and energetic help with parts orders, loading and unloading trucks, delivering and anything else that needs doing.



Hazelnut harvest update

In the summer edition of *Pecan Country News* we introduced our readers to hazelnut farmers Ross and Alison Mackenzie of Ontario (the one in Canada). Now that their hazelnut harvest is complete, the Mackenzie's were kind enough to send some pictures and let us know how things worked out. This was their first season using their new Savage 8042 Harvester to pick up the hazelnuts. The Mackenzie's reported that the harvester worked very well for them. They gathered about 3000 pounds of hazelnuts on the first go-around and another couple



thousand after that. As with pecans, the varieties mature at different points throughout the harvest season.

They were able to engineer their own collection system by attaching a shortened draw bar to their three-point fork attachment. With this rig the harvester dumps directly into standard "apple bins" which can hold about 800 lbs of nuts each. This allows the Mackenzie's to keep the nuts in one container throughout the drying and shipping process and minimize the amount of handling required. Pretty clever.



An icon of the agricultural equipment business passes.

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the August 26th passing of Donald Mayo. He was a larger-than-life character who was a true innovator and leader in

this business. Don served at the helm of Orchard Machinery Corporation (OMC) for many years and built it into a world-class business. He was always a welcome face at pecan conferences, and Don was friendly with many here at Savage Equipment. He will be greatly missed by folks in the pecan world and many others.



News you can use!

Here's a sampling of pecan-related news available on the internet and some of our favorite pecan publications.

Help wanted in Georgia.

Our Savage of Georgia facility in Baconton is looking for the right person to help provide technical and mechanical support to Savage customers throughout Georgia and beyond. Who is that right person? Someone with knowledge of agricultural and/or industrial equipment would be ideal.



Maybe you know of someone who is ready to leave the hassles of the big city and settle into a simpler life near rural Baconton, Georgia. If you're interested or know someone who might be, reach out to Billy Brown or Nancy Pinson at our Savage of Georgia office: 229-787-5115. You might also fire off a quick email to npinson@savageequipment.com or go to our website www.savageequipment.com and fill out the application on the "careers" page.

Understanding the APC and the APPB

The September issue of Pecan South Magazine and the October issue of The Pecan Grower offer an article that brings some clarity to the unique relationship between the American Pecan Council and the more recently formed American Pecan Promotion Board. Both organizations are regulated by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the USDA and both use assessments from the pecan industry to support marketing and research to help grow sales and consumption.

Pecan is the only tree nut to have two USDA-mandated programs. Between them, the industry can:

- Assess pecans coming into the United States
- Implement mandatory grades and standards

- If mandated, enforce grades and standards on incoming pecans from other countries
- Audit handlers to ensure they are in compliance with the marketing order
- Apply for grant funding Foreign Ag Service for international marketing
- Provide detailed data on shipments, imports, exports and inventory
- Invest industry dollars into various marketing campaigns to increase pecan awareness and consumption;
- Invest industry dollars to ensure members of both programs clearly understand how pecan dollars are invested to increase consumption.

The APPB came about as a way to address the unfairness of U.S. growers paying assessments to provide funds for pecan research and promotion which benefited pecan businesses that import into the U.S. and do not pay the assessments for those imports. The APPB now shares the load when it comes to marketing and research dollars.

For instance, with marketing, the APC invests in social media influencing, nutritional relations and international marketing. The APPB invests in domestic public relations and omni-channel advertising.

The APPB is also putting money into marketing pecans and growing demand for pecans within Mexico.

"And, what has the APC ever done for me?"

Anytime you're involved in a system that takes a percentage of your money in return for providing a benefit to the group of contributors, it's natural to wonder, "Is it worth it?" It's true whether you're talking about taxes, dues or assessments.

Maybe you've been wondering if the money you've sent to the American Pecan Council is just a drain on your profits with no real advantage coming back to you.

If you ARE pondering that important question, it

Continued on page 4





might be helpful to read one of our industry's informative magazines, Pecan South (based in Texas) and/or The Pecan Grower (based in Georgia). There have been numerous articles over the past couple of years, spelling out in quite specific terms how much the APC has been doing to increase awareness of pecans and trumpeting their great taste, culinary versatility and many health and nutrition benefits. There is new information on these topics in almost every issue. The power that comes with investing millions in marketing campaigns and focused research is significant, and the effect on prices is tangible.

The other great place to learn about what your contributions are accomplishing is the APC website. There you'll find pages like...

Pecan Powerhouses Network, where health professionals can join the group of knowledgeable experts that are better able to articulate the value of the Original Supernut™!

Marketing Toolkit, where you'll find a wealth of information and resources to help you market pecans in a variety of ways. It also has overviews of the many marketing campaigns that APC has waged over the past few years.

The Proof for Pecans, lists medical studies that have demonstrated the positive impacts that pecans have on human health.

Pecan Industry Newsletter, which provides downloadable editions of the APC publication, "In a Nutshell". In these newsletters you'll discover many of the ways APC dollars are paying off.

There are many more pages that provide useful information for pecan folks. Sprinkled throughout the site are an abundance of recipes for every kind of pecan dish imaginable. The mouth-watering photos are impressive.

Maybe next time you have to sit down and write that darn assessment check, it'll be a little less painful if you know how the money is being used to make pecans more profitable for you and pecan folks across the country.

The mysteries of genome sequencing bring new possibilities to pecan breeding

An extensive and enlightening article about the USDA pecan breeding program is available in the October issue of Pecan South (Three Genetics Tools to Improve Pecan Breeding at the USDA, by Warren Chatwin).

Chatwin's piece begins by acknowledging the difficulty



A season of new growth in the pecan orchard

of communicating complex scientific processes to folks that aren't familiar with the "descriptive language" commonly used between scientists. He also acknowledges the important progress that has already been made by the retiring generation of pecan-breeding scientists, including Dr. L.J. Grauke and Dr. Tommy Thompson. Thanks to them, we now have "pecan cultivars with larger nuts, earlier harvest, and increased tolerance for scab disease."

The biggest limiting factor in pecan breeding is the time it takes for a new seedling to mature and produce nuts. The "Holy Grail" of pecan breeding would be the ability to predict desirable mature traits (like nut size, shape, quality, or disease susceptibility) on young seedlings and discard trees that do not have the potential to be future cultivars. The techniques to do so have existed (and have been thoroughly tested) for over a decade in annual crop systems, but until recently, pecan didn't have the essential tools in our genetic toolbox to use them.

This changed with the recent conclusion of a USDA-funded study called "Coordinated Development of Genetic Tools for Pecan" led by Dr. Jennifer Randall at New Mexico State University. The research team mapped the genome sequences of Pawnee, Lakota, Elliott and a Mexican native pecan and developed some helpful breeding tools along the way.

Three types of tools let us associate observable traits with genetics: Family Mapping, Population Mapping, and Genomic Selection. Each tool is at different implementation stages in our Pecan Breeding Program. However, a core component of all three is that they take advantage of the natural genetic shuffling of chromosomes that occurs in each parent as they form the reproductive cells that will become the pollen and female flowers. After pollinating the female flower, an embryo is formed that contains one shuffled set of chromosomes from each parent that will develop into a seed. This genet-

Featured Equipment

Savage offers sprayers to meet the demands of every orchard.

If your orchard production (and profits) have been suffering due to insects, fungus, mineral deficiencies (or maybe all of these), it may be time to invest in a new orchard sprayer. A Savage or Nelson sprayer deploying a well designed spraying regimen can transform a marginally performing orchard into one that thrives.

Savage Equipment offers economical sprayers in several fan sizes and two tank sizes. There's one to suit almost any size of nut-growing operation. Growers with various tree sizes and spacing will



really appreciate the control they get with a Savage sprayer. From the tractor cab you can control sprayer on/off function (without turning off the agitator), and a full 160 degrees of volute movement. Spraying to either side and at various heights is easily accomplished.

Perhaps you need the awesome power of an engine-driven sprayer. Savage offers Nelson sprayers to meet that need. The impressive Super-80 and Super-92 ("The Beast") can spray both sides of the row at the same time and reach into the tops of the tallest pecan trees.

Give Savage Equipment a call or send an email, and we'll be glad to help you find the right sprayer for your orchard.

Keep that Savage orchard sprayer operating for years to come.

Savage orchard sprayers are built to stand the test of time. To keep your sprayer working like it should, you'll want to perform a few basic tasks as you go through the season and when you wrap things up for the year.

The main drive (fan) V-belt can stretch slightly and start to slip. It can be tightened by moving the bottom shaft down. Be sure to move both ends of the shaft the same amount to keep shaft, pulleys, and belts properly aligned. Ideal tension is the lowest tension at which the belt will not slip under peak load. Check tension frequently during the first 24-48 hours of run-in operation and inspect the V-drive on a periodic basis. Only increase tension if the belt is slipping, as over-tensioning will shorten the belt and bearing life. Keep belts free from grease or other material that may cause slippage. Pulleys (sheaves) will get hot if belts are slipping.

The V-belt driving the pump (or two pumps on the 5740 Sprayer) can be adjusted by loosening the mounting

bolts and moving the pump assembly left or right.

Wash all chemicals from lines, tank and external components after each use. Some agricultural chemicals are highly corrosive. Follow label directions on all chemicals.

Drain ALL fluid from the tank, lines, and pump when storing or when freezing temperatures are expected.

The sprayer has several sealed bearings. Although these bearings are equipped with grease zerks, they may never require added grease. The sprayer has two bearings that are not sealed and should be greased daily (along with the drive-line U-joints). The forward bearing on the main drive shaft (where the PTO connects to the sprayer) and the forward bearing of the fan shaft are the two unsealed bearings that require regular greasing.

Grease the drive-line U-joints daily. The area where the two halves of the drive-line connect can be lubricated with a dry type lubricant. If oil-based lubricant is used, it may accumulate dirt/sand. Clean and lubricate as needed to maintain free telescoping movement between the two sections of the drive-line.



Genome Sequencing (continued)

ic shuffling is why some siblings (who share the same parents) are very similar while others are very different.

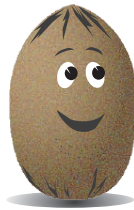
Mr. Chatwin proceeds to break down each of the three types of tools that the researchers are now employing to develop pecan trees with desired traits.

The author is “incredibly excited and optimistic about the future of pecan breeding.” Pecan breeding will now enjoy using “tools that were only available to the most

well-provisioned and widely grown crops.” He further states that these new tools will not replace traditional practices, but will be used alongside them. This will lead to “greater accuracy, faster genetic improvement and increased efficiency.”

This summary cannot do justice to the article available in October’s Pecan South magazine, so if you have interest in this subject, you should probably get a copy.

Looks so yummy, I can almost taste fall and family gatherings around the table. You can find this one and a whole bunch more yummy recipes on the American Pecan Council's website, www.americanpecan.com



Ingredients

For the Sweet Potato Casserole

- 4 pounds sweet potatoes (approx. 5 large potatoes)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup melted, unsalted butter
- 2 large eggs, slightly beaten

For The Bourbon Pecan Crumble

- 1 cup chopped raw pecan pieces
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/3 cup melted, unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon bourbon (optional)

Method

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Butter a 9-inch by 9-inch casserole dish (or similar)
2. Peel and chop the sweet potatoes into 2-inch cubes. Rinse the potatoes and then add them to a large pot. Fill the pot with enough water to cover the potatoes by 1-inch. Bring the potatoes to a boil and allow them to cook until fork tender (20 min.).



Sweet Potato Casserole with Bourbon Pecan Crumble

3. While the potatoes cook, make the crumble by adding the pecans, old-fashioned oats, flour, brown sugar, and salt to a large bowl. Toss to combine. Add the melted butter and bourbon (if using) and fold to evenly coat the pecan mixture. Set aside.
4. Drain and rinse the potatoes, and then add them back to the pot. Using a potato masher or fork, mash until smooth and creamy. Stir in the sugar, salt, vanilla extract, and melted butter. Gently fold in the eggs. Transfer the sweet potato mixture to the prepared casserole dish. Sprinkle the crumble mixture evenly over the sweet potato mixture. Bake for 30 minutes, or until the crumble is golden brown in color. Serve immediately.

*Recipe notes:

1. This recipe can be made gluten-free by substituting certified gluten-free old-fashioned oats and all-purpose gluten-free flour.
2. You can make the sweet potato mixture up to 3 days in advance and store it in an airtight container in the refrigerator until you’re ready to bake. Add on an extra 15 minutes to the baking time to allow for the sweet potatoes to cook all the way through. The crumble is best made the same day you’re going to bake the casserole.

If you’ve got a pecan story, a good, clean joke or a pecan recipe you’d like to share, send it along to pecancountry@savageequipment.com. We love to hear from our Pecan Country neighbors.