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by Larry A. Quinn

Arkansas Tornado Update

A tornado touched down last Sunday night, April 27, in north central Arkansas. **Gary DiGiuseppe** (Arkansas Radio Network, Little Rock, AR) said, "Among the hardest hit communities were Vilonia and Mayflower in Faulkner County, north of Little Rock. The county recorded 10 fatalities. It was three years and one day after another tornado had struck Vilonia." Gary reports that University of Arkansas Extension staff chair for Faulkner County Hank Cheney told him, "A lot of people who had damage, had just finished rebuilding and were getting their lives back." He says one cattle producer may have lost as many as 80 head, and another suffered extensive loss of farm structures. [Read More about Arkansas Damage Reports](#)



Storm damage in Plantation, AR.

Michigan Farmer Features Farm Broadcaster

Michigan Farm Radio Network broadcaster, Nicole (Schaendorf) Heslip was featured in the March issue of *Michigan Farmer* as part of their Women in Agriculture series. She was the youngest to be featured. Nicole graduated with a degree in Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications at Michigan State University

(MSU) in 2010. After graduation, she had the opportunity to work at Michigan Farm Radio Network. "My love for Michigan agriculture, public speaking and food was a great fit for the role as the Agri-News Reporter," she said.

[Read More about Heslip](#)



Nicole Heslip and her MSU Roaming Gnomes.

Hillman Joins AgNet West

The newest addition to the AgNet West (Fresno, CA) team is Taylor Hillman, Assistant Farm News Director. Hillman is a news professional from Clovis, CA, where he was an award-winning technical director and assignment manager for the area CBS affiliate. He earned a Best Newscast award from the NorCal Radio and Television News Directors Association and received an AP Best Newscast award.

[More on Hillman and AgNet West](#)



Taylor Hillman

Three inducted into Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction

Service to Forestry and Farming was recognized recently as three were inducted into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction at a banquet held at White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge. Dennis R. Aucion Sr. of Clinton, Clarence Berken of Lake Arthur and the late Ellis S. Martin of Alexandria, were inducted into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction honoring leaders in the agriculture industry. [Click Here for More](#)



L to R: Don Molino, Louisiana Radio Network Farm Director, Dennis Aucion Sr., Clarence Berken, Jonathon Martin, and Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner Agriculture and Forestry.

Tractor Drive From New Jersey to California

A former Pennsylvania farmer left Manasquan, NJ, last Saturday, April 26, to begin his cross country trek driving a 1948 John Deere , Johnny Popper, all the way to Crescent City, CA. **C. Ivan Stoltzfus** is an auctioneer and real estate broker, as well as a retired farmer. His goal is to raise a million dollars for the Wounded Warriors Project.

[Read More about the Cross-Country Tractor Drive](#)



Retired farmer to drive 1948 John Deere to raise funds for the Wounded Warriors Project.

Former Farm Broadcaster Joins Osborn Barr

The Osborn Barr mission is to be agriculture and rural America's greatest advocate, but today, there is a growing societal pressure facing agriculture. One way Osborn Barr (O+B) is growing is by adding Josh

St. Peters, an award-winning broadcaster, strategist and communicator, as its director of public relations.

[Read More about Josh](#)



Josh St. Peters

May 2014 Reflections

Mike Orso (Director of News & Communications, RFD Radio Network, Bloomington, IL) offered his reflections on the recent passing of Jack Crouner (NAFB Past President, Louisville, KY).

Mike said, "I recall a photo NAFB published, sometime within the last five years or so, of Jack still working in his studio, complete with open reel recorders, cart machines and a manual or electric typewriter, among other things. It was like a 1970s/early 80s radio studio frozen in time! I thought, 'Wow, that ought to be preserved somewhere as an example of the tools used for farm radio in the late 20th Century.'" Mike added, "I remember when I worked for the American Farm Bureau, and we provided video services at the AFBF Convention for Jack and other farm broadcasters who wanted some video for TV back home. The videographer and grip set up and asked Jack for a mic check. His response with that big, booming voice: 'You don't have to worry about MY audio levels!'"

EDITOR'S NOTE: My first memory of Jack was as President of NAFB in 1970 when I attended the final NAFB Convention held in Chicago, IL.

Let Us Hear From You.

We'd like to hear your stories and receive your photos to share your experiences when *Airing on the Side of Agriculture*. Contact me at larryaquinn@verizon.net or call me at 703-819-6532.



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