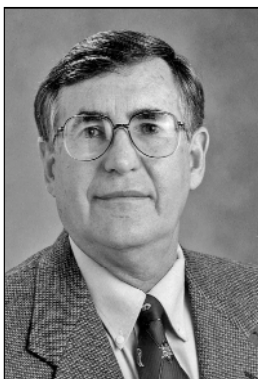


American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists

Louisiana Division Annual Meeting

Baton Rouge, LA

Excerpts from the President's Message Freddie Martin



As the entire coastal area of Louisiana began the process of recovery in 2006; so did the Louisiana sugarcane industry. After drought conditions followed by hurricanes took their toll on the 2005 crop, relatively warm dry weather during January, February, March and April resulted in a good start for the 2006 crop. The dry weather lasted long enough to promote good tillering, which is fundamental for a heavy crop. The threat of another rust outbreak which seemed imminent in mid April and early May dissipated as growth promoting rains fell in June and July. With dependable rains the crop and the prospects of a decent 2006 crop continued to grow. Rains continuing through August and into September promoted cane growth, impeded cane planting and delayed the beginning of the harvest season. The first mill started on September 27th; the last started on October 16th. Just about everyone was pleasantly surprised

with the yield and sugar content of the early harvested stubble fields. Optimism continued as exceptional yields were reported in many plant cane fields. Although the prospects of an exceptional crop were tempered with the freezing temperatures of December 4-5 and 8-9 followed by heavy rains for the remainder of the harvest season, the overall 2006 crop was respectable. The first factory to complete processing did so on December 24th. At the time of this writing it is estimated that the last will complete on January 13th. Of the 433,577 total acres of sugarcane grown in 2006; 400,308 were harvested for sugar with an average yield of 31.1 tons per acre. The industry will have processed just under 12,431,000 tons of sugarcane and produced over 1,261,000 tons of 96 pol sugar. The average recovery of sugar was approximately 203 pounds (96 pol) per ton. As always we are hoping that new varieties, and new technologies will yield greater profits for our growers and processors in coming years.

I am also pleased to report on this past year's activities and accomplishments of your ASSCT executive committee. At our first meeting in March, 2006, plans for the 2006 joint meeting at the Tradewinds Resort in St. Petersburg and the 2007 Louisiana Division at the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge were reviewed and approved. Your executive committee agreed to nominate four of our members for honorary membership: Charles Melancon, Jackie Theriot and Harold

Birkett would be nominated for honorary membership of the Louisiana Division and Benjamin Legendre would be nominated for honorary membership of the Joint ASSCT. .

Denver Loupe was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the Louisiana Division.

After some deliberation it was decided that the site for the 2008 Joint Meeting will be the Sheraton World in Orlando. The resort is undergoing major renovation and will be renamed the International Plaza & Resort Spa. The 2007 Joint meeting will be held June 13 – 17 at the New Orleans Sheraton.

The XVI Congress of the ISSCT will be held July 29 – August 2, 2007 in Durban, South Africa. Tere Johnson from the Florida Division is serving as the ASSCT councilor; and I am a member of the ISSCT executive. Pre-congress tours in South Africa or adjacent countries and a post-congress tour to Mauritius will also be available. See the congress website through 'ISSCT.com' for details.

The agricultural section chairman, John Gay, and the manufacturing section chairman, Greg Brown have put together an excellent program for the 2007 Louisiana Division meeting. The executive committee hopes that this meeting is both educational and enjoyable. I conclude this report with a sincere thank you for allowing me to serve as your president during this past year. It has been an honor and pleasure.

SJ

ASSCT Louisiana Annual Meeting Program

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Business Meeting:

Executive Committee Report – **Freddie Martin**

Secretary-Treasurer Report – **Denver T. Loupe**

Nominating Committee Report – **Greg Nolan**

Election of 2006 – 2007 LA Division Officers – **Freddie Martin**

Farm Bill Update – **Jim Simon**

Measuring Cane Quality and Payment Formulas

– **Harold Birkett**

TRS-40 or TRS-60: What do Formulas Accomplish?

– **Mike Salassi**

Manufacturing Session – **Gregory Brown**, Chairman

Advances in Fluorescence Detection of Sugar in Condensate Water – **W.B. Kitchen**

The Final Molasses Survey Report: More than Target Purity Difference – **B.E. White**

Delivery of Trash by Different Sugarcane Varieties and More Discussions on Starch at the Factory

– **Eggleston, Grisham and Tew**

Current Technologies to Optimize Boiler Efficiencies at Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers

– **R.A. Montgomery and M. Nittler**

Agricultural Session – **John Gay**, Chairman

Economic Considerations of Ethanol Production from Sugarcane – **Dr. Mike Salassi**

Cultural Practices to Optimize Yields, Maximize Profits, and Reduce Risks for Newly Released Varieties – **Dr. Ryan Viator**
To be decided: Ripeners or Impact of Freeze on the 2006 Crop
 – **Dr. Ben Legendre**

Controlling Dextran in the Field, A New Approach– **Jim Huff**

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Agriculture Session – **John Gay**, Chairman

Monitoring Yield in Rust Infected Commercial Varieties

– **Dr. Mike Grisham**

2006 Yield Performance in New Varieties

– **Dr. Ken Gravios & Windell Jackson**

Bio-Feed Stocks for a Green Energy Industry in Louisiana

– **Dr. Ed Richard**

Manufacturing Session – **Greg Brown**, Chairman

Working a Cane Defusser in South Louisiana (M.A. Patout)

– **F. Jamison**

Bagasse to Ethanol – Pretreatment Options

– **D. F. Day, B. Stradi, G. DeQueiroz and C. Chung**

Energy Self-Sufficiency and Milling in Louisiana Cane Sugar Factories – **H. S. Birkett and J. Stein**

Softening of Clarified Juice with Ion Exchange Resins

– **W. Kochergin and J. F. Alvarez**

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