

## APRES Ad-Hoc Survey Results (Survey Conducted November – December 2009)

**Question 1: Please rate the acceptability of the following times during the calendar year for scheduling of the APRES annual meeting.**

	Best (1)	Acceptable (2)	Inconvenient (3)	Worst Time (4)
Historic Time	36	21	6	0
Early July	5	24	13	14
Later July	11	25	14	6
Late June	10	16	13	18
A different date	13	10	7	9

**Respondents' suggested meeting date:**

1. February
2. March
3. Feb - Mar
4. August
5. mid or late February
6. Depends on Partner
7. Early December
8. present schedule
9. Feb or March
10. November
11. Jan, Feb
12. November/December
13. February
14. February or March
15. Same
16. Late January to mid-Feb
17. SAME FORMAT AND TIME
18. December
19. January or February
20. keep as is

**Comments for Question 1**

1. Current Time is fine and preferred
2. Be flexible so that we can meet at the same time with other groups.
3. I have three other meetings that I regularly try to attend that take place the last two weeks of July. Traveling up to three consecutive weeks most years can not be sustained.
4. Conflicts with NACAA meeting for some County Agents
5. We have a hard time getting membership to attend when they are already

- present for the meeting. I do not think that scheduling the meeting at a separate time where members will have to travel again will promote attendance.
6. I believe that we should consider trying to schedule a meeting in conjunction with another scientific society(s).
  7. Need to account for planting and harvesting seasons.
  8. Meeting is mid season and data generated was from previous year. To maximize meeting benefit, schedule during trial work planning phase to incorporate latest information into current year testing
  9. need to avoid conflict with Southern Peanut Growers Mtg. - They meet on 2nd Sunday after July 4th
  10. I like the current schedule of meeting the first full week following the week of July 4. We need to consider placing a full week between the week of July 4 and the meeting when July 4 falls on a Thursday - Sunday.
  11. Choose a meeting time that is easier to predict than what we currently use. The current formula is confusing and difficult to predict. APRES needs to announce and publish future meeting dates several years in advance.
  12. If moved back 1 wk would never conflict with SPG meeting in PC Beach
  13. The ASABE annual meetings are usually in the last week of June. Having APRES a week later would give us a little more breathing time.
  14. I always have APRES meeting on its current schedule. My research covers peanut, corn, soybean, cotton and wheat which also involve meetings. Changes may result in conflicts.
  15. Week earlier could conflict with Southern Peanut Growers and the international Annual Meeting of the ASABE (Ag. Engineers)
  16. Eliminate conflicts with the grower meeting held in Florida

**Question 2: APRES rotates the location of annual meeting among the three peanut producing regions, with each state in a region hosting the meeting on a rotating basis. Which statement reflects your opinion of the current system of choosing a location of the annual meeting?**

	Existing formula	Regional rotation, but not linked to each state in a region	Competitive proposals submitted by potential hosts	One Location
	23	33	9	1

**Comments for Question 2**

1. I realize states are getting short of help, but that's life. Otherwise, we will be working on hosting a meeting every 3 years instead of every 7 years. Put NM and SC in the rotation as well.
2. We need to meet at cheaper locations; USDA for one does not pay above per diem! Consider University sites.
3. I like visiting different locations, but understand the value of getting deals with a consistent location every third year, so I like both of the top two options
4. Unfortunately, not every state is equally appreciated by the membership

and their families. This combined with budget constraints reduces conference attendance numbers when locations are less appealing at some states.

5. The APRES at-large should set guidelines for the local committee to function but be in control of what is expected.
6. Have the region host the meeting (i.e.) the VC (VA, NC, SC), the Southeast (GA, FL, AL, MS) the West (TX, OK, and any others)
7. committee membership should not depend on hosting state or region
8. I like the option of rotating among the three regions but having 1-2 cities in each region as rotational host cities. For example, rotate between Oklahoma City and San Antonio when we go to SW region. Each city would host every 6 years.
9. Local Arrangements needs to be chosen from the society at-large. Some states are short-handed and cannot adequately staff Local Arrangements if they are hosting the annual meeting.
10. Select top 3 most well-attended locations/venues over past few years and simply rotate among those.
11. This could allow sight selection to have more options and secure the better price.
12. Having a host state and the members from that host state is important because it keeps members working and involved.

**Question 3: Should APRES consider periodic combined meetings with similar groups of common interest? (An example, but not limited to: the Southern Peanut Growers Conference)**

	Consider combined meetings as opportunities exist that are mutually beneficial.	Keep the APRES annual meeting independent of other organizations.	Not sure or no opinion
	55	6	5

**Comments for Question 3**

1. Southern Conservation Agricultural Systems Conference takes place in late July usually and has a similar rotation schedule - may consider combining with this group on occasion (which would help travel and attendance of both for those involved)
2. The APRES needs to expand its valuable resources and expertise of its member scientists to other peanut groups. The collaborations and info is important to strengthening the entire peanut industry, farm to fork.
3. only if mid-summer meeting time can be maintained
4. Combine with other meetings only if convenient for APRES, i.e., location of meeting. The model of the cotton group could be beneficial were we could combine the APRES and Amer. Peanut Council meetings. We need to address industry issues.
5. If it would help to reduce hotel, registration and other costs but also

- attract more attendees, then it could be considered
6. Only occasionally
  7. The SPGC will probably always continue to meet at Panama City Beach, FL so we may want to consider meeting with SPGC once every 6 years.
  8. Try this on a trial basis and see how it works.
  9. In light of this question, my answers to question 1 may be different.  
Combining meetings and reducing travel is a definite plus
  10. This would be a great idea.
  11. Combining may increase the attendance or decrease necessary travel for some members, but we should not let a combined meeting reduce the scientific impact of APRES.
  12. I think we should always meet with the Southern Peanut Growers and for the most part "only them".

Question 4: What options should APRES consider for Society operations?				
	Continue to employ an Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant.	Have one salaried position that combines duties of Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant.	Create voluntary elected Secretary and/or Treasurer positions, and employ a management business for APRES operations.	None of the above.
	17	21	21	5

Comments for Question 4

1. Or go back to the volunteer system.
2. Employment of an ES and/or AA should depend on the number of members. If membership costs continue to rise; then membership will most likely drop like a rock.
3. Not really familiar enough with current needs to make a suggestion.
4. look for the most cost effective way to do a good job
5. Cutting costs seems to be what everyone is doing. However, there is a need to be sure the operation of the society is defined and strong. The business management concept is my preference with elected officials for all other positions.
6. Only if more economical than current operations. If Secretary/Treasurer elected, do not limit number of terms, he/she can serve.
7. I feel that the current Exec. Sec. salary is in excess of responsibilities expected/performed.
8. It is hard to say since the duties are not spelled out here. Could a service be used to better manage dues, meetings, etc. and reduce cost and/or better organize APRES? If so, then consider a management service.
9. What about a relationship with Crop Science like the Journal of Env. Qual. Vadose Zone, and Plant Genome.
10. Not sure how much this would save (\$), but we need to staff this appropriately. Consider increasing dues if we need to employ both or

- hiring 3rd party to do the work.
11. The elected officers and Board of Directors need to be more active in managing the APRES affairs, year-round, rather than solely at the annual meeting. This will be particularly important if we hire a management business.
  12. Many functions do need to be brought up to current times and technologies,
  13. Management services should include financial and daily business transactions, incl. collecting dues, journal subscriptions, and maintaining membership/subscriber databases. Voluntary secretary would take minutes of BOD and business meeting, etc.
  14. I think this system works fine and it gives some flexibility to each to do other things because our jobs are not full time jobs. By no means should we hire another fire to do everything for us.
  15. Not sure I know enough of administrative needs to comment.

**Question 5: Suggestions or ideas for the Ad-Hoc Committee that will benefit APRES.**

1. Small is OK. Let's break away from grower groups such as NPB. If we meet with the southern peanut federation, I will quit.
2. n/a
3. Combine the APRES meetings with other society meetings to save money and time like American Society of Agronomy, Weed Science Society, Plant Pathology Society
4. None
5. Needs to communicate with the members on all developments and needs of the society. Also, solicit input on any questions and concerns of the society as is being done via this e-mail. The e-mail route should be used more often for continued communication.
6. There needs to be more emphasis put on graduate students. Is there anyway to promote graduate education, via undergraduate competition for graduate student awards? It seems the area of genetics breeding are very well promoted, but overall production, soil fertility, pest management, and other agronomic areas are not emphasized.
7. Proposal for APRES meeting program (Tuesday Thursday concept) Monday This could be the arrival day for those serving on committees or those wanting to arrive early. It could also be used for the golf tournament in the PM or pre-arranged field or lab tours Tuesday 9:00 Noon Committee Meetings 1:00 3:00 Committee Meetings and/or other group meetings (Peanut Quality, etc) 4:00 6:30 Board of Directors 7:00 Ice Cream Social Wednesday 8:00 10:00 General Session One option is to present all awards except Graduate Student Competition (family members could attend if a member of their family is receiving an award). The awards could be saved for the latter part of the General Session, i.e., the last 30 minutes 10:30 Noon Graduate Student Competition Noon 2:00 Sponsored Lunch - APRES Business meeting (announcement of award winners to be

saved for supper that evening) 2:00 5:00 Concurrent Sessions 6:30 Sponsored Awards Supper another option is to present awards at this supper instead of presenting awards in General Session. There should still be a large crowd for the awards at this time, plus it allows time for the Graduate Student Competition judges to determine the winners Thursday 8:00 Noon Concurrent Sessions Noon 1:30 Lunch on your own (opportunity for company reps to treat members to lunch in small groups). Another option is to switch this lunch with Wednesdays lunch and put the business meeting here 1:30 until Concurrent Sessions the concern here is that there will be a mass exodus after lunch this day and there will be very few participants in the Thursday afternoon sessions, which could lead to folks dreading being assigned to a Thursday afternoon session. There needs to be a hook to keep as many folks as possible around till Thursday afternoon. One would be to wait and have the Awards Supper on Thursday night. Another possible hook for Thursday afternoon would be for another General Session that focused on scientific papers that cut across all disciplines. This could be a session with topics of interest for all that 6:30 Supper could be the Awards Supper or own your own. I would vote for having the Awards Supper on Wednesday night because of the potential of a larger crowd. Friday Departure The problem with my proposed schedule above is that those of us on committees would still have to arrive on Monday. Hopefully, most folks would wait and depart on Friday, regardless if they arrive on Monday or Tuesday. As always, there would be those that would leave on Thursday afternoon. At least in the proposal above we conduct all of the society's business between Tuesday and Thursday, which saves on paying for the Friday morning session, which is also typically poorly attended. At least the major activities (business meeting and awards) of APRES would occur on Wednesday, with the option of Thursday lunch and supper.

8. no
9. Why not biennial meetings?
10. A compressed meeting format will be used in 2010 and 2011, with the conference ending Thursday p.m. and no Friday a.m. business meeting/awards breakfast. This should be policy for all meetings. In recent years, APRES has been too drawn out with a bunch of dead time in the meeting.
11. The peanut industry is small compared with other crops, but splintered into far too many groups (APRES, South Peanut Growers, NPB, Peanut Inst, Peanut Foundation, state commissions, etc... ad nauseum). APRES should take the lead in bringing everyone to the table in a more cohesive group. Seems as though each has a separate agenda currently and does not support the activities of the others. No more \$\$ than we have, we need to pool our resources to have better success whether under the umbrella of APRES or some newly created organization.
12. No
13. Ad-Hoc committee needs to communicate their findings to the membership prior to the annual meeting, and their recommendation presented to the membership for discussion at annual meeting.
14. none
15. I think that the best solution is to hire a management firm to provide all

- business management services including membership/journal subscriptions, send invoices for page charges, receive payments for page charges, bookkeeping, and financial reports. That contractor should provide at least quarterly financial reports to the BOD, annual financial reports at the annual meeting. An Executive Secretary becomes a voluntary position and acts as a liaison between the business management services and the society. The Executive Secretary would also be the taker/holder of BOD and business meeting minutes, and committee reports. The business management firm would also handle the business end of the annual meeting (receive money/pay bills, handle registration). Would require considerable coordination with volunteers of the Program Committee.
16. I think that APRES should be continued "as is". It is a building community of RESEARCH members that work for the good of the entire organization. You need and must have industry involved to keep applied research in the spotlight. Both your executive secretary and Administrative Assistant must be dedicated to their positions. If they are not, interest in the Association will waiver.
17. none

**Question 6: Any suggestions for services that APRES might provide to be more attractive to potential members and address needs of the peanut industry nationwide.**

1. Small is OK.
2. n/a
3. none
4. Would it be worthwhile to try to provide continuing education points for any meeting attendees and expand meeting attendance to more than APRES members?
5. Recruit more presentations on peanut molecular biology & physiology to get wider audience
6. Include input from the agricultural community. Also, develop an international connection. The peanut industry is not just U.S., but influenced internationally.
7. There needs to be more communication to the members from the APRES officers. Only communicating for the annual meeting falls short of helping the society to grow. Be active toward getting out information about the organization. What about a quarterly report to all the members in the form of report from each state about that years crop, pest issues, agronomic issues, research directions, new cultivars, new genetic developments, etc.
8. I would like to propose that APRES consider setting up a program of 1/2 day during the annual meeting where the Board of Directors of each of the peanut producing states' producer organizations are invited for selected presentations from each of the sessions. For example, there could be 3-4 presentations from Breeding and Genetics, Plant Pathology, Production Technology, Ag Economics, etc. to these producers so they could get an

- idea of the type research presentations at our meeting. It could also be a time when each of the 9-10 producer boards come together for a single meeting in conjunction with APRES. It could also include the NPB Board as well.
9. no
  10. Actively recruit guest speakers and do not rely solely on volunteered papers. This is particularly important to the 'newer' peanut producing states like MS, SC, and LA.
  11. may want to consider more food safety topics and research
  12. Create a tabletop display for APRES that could be exhibited at the various regional tradeshows to promote APRES - this would be especially beneficial to co agents and/or consultants.
  13. APRES should further improve the interaction between the education and the industry. This would help in improved funding to support education and research.
  14. The matter of services should also be discussed at the next annual meeting.
  15. none
  16. On-line membership applications/dues payment, on-line (limited access) member roster, timely posting of proceedings/abstracts.
  17. I think the mission is to continue GOOD AND APPLIED RESEARCH and do NOT get involved in other facets of anything.
  18. none

**Total number of responses: 67**