



From your friends at Savage Equipment

On the Calendar

July 12-15

Texas Pecan Growers Assn Conf.; San Marcos, TX; Go to www.tpga.org for info.

July 29:

Board meetings for APPB and APC; San Marcos, TX; Info at www.tpga.org

August 19-20:

University of Georgia Pecan Workshop; Athens, GA

August 27-28

Arizona Pecan Growers Assn Conf.; Double Tree Reid Park in Tucson, AZ

September 2-4

Dia del Nogalero; Delicias, Chih. MX
Go to DiaDelNogalero.mx for more info.

Oklahoma Pecan Growers enjoy Savage Equipment hospitality.

During the first week of June, the folks at Savage Equipment helped celebrate the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association's 100th Anniversary by hosting their annual gathering. The Savage team converted their showroom into vendor space and a reception venue. They also transformed a section of the Savage Equipment parts warehouse into an auditorium and banquet hall. Offices became food show staging areas and conference rooms. It all worked pretty well judging by the positive comments coming from many OPGA members.

Highlights of the gathering include the kickoff clay-shoot tournament and the extravagantly catered opening reception. Chef Justin Germany and his crew from Chef's Kitchen Catering, laid out a feast that was a joy for both the palate and the eyes. Of course pecans were a significant feature of many of the unique dishes presented. There was nothing but high praise from those fortunate enough to partake.



The catering team prepares for the opening reception and lots of hungry pecan folks.

Besides being the 100th anniversary, other milestones were marked during the conference. For one example, it was the final such conference for Becky Carroll, who announced her coming retirement. Becky has been a trusted advisor and friend of the Oklahoma pecan-growing community for decades, serving in research and agricultural extension programs. She most recently served

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Savage adds Turbo-mist Sprayers to the lineup.

Savage Equipment is proud to announce that they have seized a great new opportunity to offer Turbo-mist orchard sprayers to their friends and neighbors in pecan country. Turbo-mist has been building and perfecting agricultural sprayers even longer than Savage has been building and perfecting pecan equipment. In fact, the first Turbo-mist sprayer was built in 1948, and the company

has been innovating and improving their sprayer designs in all the decades since.

One of Turbo-mist's brilliant innovations saves spray product costs (up to 40%), and it reduces drift and overspray. They call it **Orchard IQ**. It relies on LiDAR technology to detect



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OPGA (Continued)

as Senior Extension Specialist for Fruit and Pecans.

The annual conference is always a great opportunity to recognize folks doing exceptional work in pecan growing. This year's Grower of the Year for Oklahoma was Louis Allen Morton of J&L Pecans, and the Herman Hinrichs Pecan Citation Award went to Kenneth Watkins. Orchard of the Year Award went to Knight Pecan Farms.



Professional bass fisherman and pecan grower, Edwin Evers addresses the field-day crowd.



Basil Savage & Jesse Diaz welcome the Costa-Franzen family from Brazil to the conference.



Shooters waiting to test their skill against those elusive clay pigeons.

The winning team for the Clay Shooting Tournament was none other than the Basil Savage, Jr Team. Rumor has it they got in quite a few rounds of early practice.

If you're curious about the results of the Field Day's Savage Limb Rake drawing, it DID NOT go to anyone named Savage. The fortunate pecan grower was Scott Mills of Okmulgee County. Congratulations, Scott!

The 2026 conference was one that many will be talking about for a while. The OPGA board and the Savage family were delighted to see more than 200 folks attend the event, which was a significant increase over recent years. The field day saw over a hundred in attendance despite the wet weather. It was positive experience for the attendees, and the Savage Equipment folks were honored to host the conference on this historic anniversary.

Turbo-mist sprayers (continued)

where the foliage is and where it is not. LiDAR is short for Light Detection and Ranging and uses laser pulses to detect and measure distances to objects with exceptional accuracy. The Orchard IQ system has 6-zone or individual nozzle control, adjusting independently for different tree sizes and shapes. Its 9-axis sensor ensures accurate spray targeting even in sloped or uneven terrain. Seems like a great way to lower your input costs.

Turbo-mist offers a range of tank sizes (up to 1000 gallons) and a variety of turbine sizes. PTO requirements are from 35 to 95 HP. Their optional Turbosteer hitch allows for exceptional maneuvering ability in tight spaces. It allows for 90-degree turns with the PTO fully engaged.

You can contact any of the Savage locations—Madill, OK; Baconton, GA or Mesquite, NM—to learn more about these exceptional PTO sprayers.





News you can use!

Here's a sampling of pecan-related news we found on the internet, in our favorite pecan publications and from our own sources and experience.

USDA Invests up to \$310 Million in Partnership Projects to Boost Farm Operations and Conserve Natural Resources

On June 23, 2026 the U.S. Department of Agriculture posted their plan to put "Farmers First by investing up to \$310 million to expand producer conservation activities across the nation through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)." The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals for funding now through August 24, 2026.

"This significant investment through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program will further enable us to leverage our partnerships as force multipliers in supporting America's farmers," said NRCS Chief Colton L. Buckley. "We're looking forward to seeing the results on the ground while we also work to keep working lands in working hands."

The NRCS ranks proposals for this program based on how they address the following priorities:

- Addressing soil health, water quality, or wildlife habitat with an aim to improve land health, enhance resource management, and promote sustainable agriculture and long-term protection of agricultural, grassland, and forestland viability.
- Soil health projects using practices that focus on minimizing soil disturbance, maximizing soil cover, increasing natural vitality, and maintaining living roots throughout the year.
- Leveraging precision agriculture technologies to target conservation efforts based on specific field conditions, potentially reducing costs and improving resource efficiency.
- Focusing on Farmers First projects, especially those that provide technical and financial assistance via contributions for planning and practice designs to support producer contracts.
- Supporting projects led by Indian Tribes.

If you would like to learn more about this project and how you can submit a proposal, visit [USDA.gov](https://www.usda.gov) and type RCPP into the search block.

Bats in the orchard?

In the April, 2026 edition of *Pecan South*, you'll find an article entitled *Beneficial Spotlight: Bats*, written by Kyle Slusher and Troy Swift.

This fascinating article delves into various research studies investigating bats' role in agriculture and whether they might be useful in helping to control insect pests. The studies suggest that, of the bats studied, the Eastern Red Bat, appears to be the most prolific at consuming certain pecan pests such as the pecan nut casebearer. The studies thus far seem inconclusive, but the work goes on to see if bats can be employed in the fight against pests.

Don't miss the 105th TPGA Conference & Trade Show.

Texas pecan growers will gather July 12th through the 15th to "Learn, Grow and Connect" in San Marcos, Texas. The Texas conference is always one of the biggest and best on the pecan calendar, and this year's show promises to be exceptional. The Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center has been a great venue for many years and that area of Texas is full of opportunities for adventure.

Below are just some of the events on the schedule.

- Pecan cooking and grafting demonstrations
- Friendly competitions with fun prizes
- A behind-the-scenes Amazon Fulfillment Center tour
- The Pecan Cluster family event
- One-on-one Q&A sessions with USDA – FSA & NRCS Representatives
- A unique "Branch Out with Bats" night in the orchard at Swift River Pecans
- You also won't want to miss the lively Casino Night and the Wednesday orchard tour at Comal Pecan Farm, including an IPM field day.

The Savage Equipment team is proud to be an Orchard Title Sponsor for this event. Of course Savage will be in San Marcos with lots of machines to see, touch and ask questions about. If you'd like to know more about it, go to [tpga.org](https://www.tpga.org) and click on the conference link near the top of the page.

The National Pecan Federation serves as a voice for the industry in DC.

In May, a group of pecan folks flew north to our

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National Pecan Federation (continued)

nation's capital to engage with legislators and their staffs concerning all things pecan. You can read more about the trip and see lots of photos in June's, *Pecan South Magazine*. Industry representatives on the trip were Larry Womack, Robert Stevens, Robert Redding, Chris Harrell, Trent Mason, Arren Moses, Justin Jones, Garrett Salopek, Marianne Brown, Scott Hudson, Steve Zaffarano, Mary Bruorton, Blair Krebs, Mark Hamilton, Jeff Worn, Lynnae Glover, JJ Glover and Lucas Schmidt. Savage's own Kenton Stanley was also in this illustrious delegation.

National Pecan Federation, who organized the visit, is the lobbying organization for the pecan industry.

APC is delivering value.



Savage Director of Sales, Kenton Stanley

Toward the back of your June issues of *Pecan South* and *The Pecan Grower*, you'll find an article by the American Pecan Council about how they are delivering in their efforts to drive demand for American pecans. The piece focuses on the two-front battle to increase demand and equip "the industry with the insights needed to make informed decisions."

In the category of building demand, they point to steps to amplify pecans' nutritional profile in order to change consumer perceptions of pecans. The article highlights an APC-funded study at Penn State University which examined "the relationship between pecans, cholesterol levels and diet quality.

The results gained widespread media attention,

generating 3.5 billion potential impressions across major outlets.

This type of exposure plays a critical role in shifting consumer behavior and positioning pecans as a health-forward, everyday snack. For growers, that shift supports stronger, more consistent demand and improved long-term value.

The article also sites successes in generating more pecan consumption abroad, partly aided by a \$1.3 million federal grant.

Three areas of success are noted.

- **India:** Among the retailers APC partnered with in 2025, the average sales lift for pecans both at physical and online retail outlets was over 100%.
- **United Kingdom:** Promotions across thousands of stores increased baseline sales by 64%, with spikes up to 130% during actual promotional periods.
- **Germany:** Efforts to establish APC's retail footprint in Germany saw partnerships with more than 600 stores and an average sales lift of 71% in promotional locations.

Lastly, the story turns to describing how the APC has converted their required handler reporting data "into practical tools, including monthly Industry Position Reports, dynamic data dashboards, and independent economic analysis," that can help growers and handlers make more informed decisions.

A message from the new pecan generation

Many of our readers will be delighted to read an article in the July issue of *Pecan South* written by third-generation pecan farmer, Dotty Nichols. She's the teen granddaughter of Texas pecan farmer Tim Montz, a longtime friend and customer of the Savage Equipment clan. The piece is not likely to help you grow or process pecans any better, but it just might help convince you that this emerging generation has a lot more potential than they're typically given credit for.

Ms Nichols describes her recent journey through high school agriculture programs and her evolution toward embracing her family's pecan growing heritage. She also describes how her generation's "digital fluency" has real potential for positively impacting pecan farming and retailing. Her fluency with written communication is also pretty impressive. Check it out.

Featured Equipment

Savage Grayline Cleaning Plants

It's a reputation for value and durability that Savage Equipment is proud to compare with others in the nut-cleaning machine business. The Savage team has designed and built plants for small and large-volume cleaning operations throughout the U.S. pecan belt and in many areas across the globe. Savage builds all the machines shown below and much more, then integrates them into a cohesive, efficient operation. The Savage team considers it a privilege to help folks build world-class cleaning plants that are ideally suited to their situation and requirements. If you would like to get started, call or email us today.



Sizer/Cleaner



Dehuller



Stick Remover



Bucket Elevator & Holding Bin



Drying Bins & Hoppers



Super-Sack Elevator 1312



Stone Remover



Aspirator



Portion of the *Barker Produce/Pure Nuts* Cleaning Plant in Las Cruces, New Mexico



What's so great about America?

There seems to be a great divide in the United States these days—even over whether or not 250 years of American independence is really worth celebrating. We'd like to try and make the case that it truly is worth celebrating.

We can begin at the beginning. Our fledgling nation, launched its uncertain attempt at independence with no military, but built one rapidly. In a few years, these freedom-loving upstarts defeated the richest, most powerful nation on earth. American leaders then struggled through the summer of 1787 to produce a constitution. It was unlike any ever devised. Its affirmation that government exists to serve "We the People...", its unique system of checks and balances to curb the corruptive nature of power, and its focus on limited government and the rights of citizens were without precedent on the earth. These features became a model for constitutions created in dozens of other countries ever since that time. The U.S. constitution is by far the oldest in the world. Its endurance through massive population growth (4 million to almost 350 million), geographic expansion and countless national and international upheavals, are a testament to the wisdom of its authors.

And what has this nation and its inventive, empowered citizens accomplished in its first quarter of a millennium?

- Laid the first trans-oceanic cable (1858)
- First to establish a national park system (1872)
- First to achieve manned flight (1903)
- First to make mass-produced automobiles affordable for the average family (1908)
- Built the Panama Canal (1914) Then gave it away (1999)
- Built the first nuclear reactor (1942)
- First supersonic flight (1947)
- Invented the modern submarine (1900), air conditioning (1902), polio vaccine (1955), the cell phone (1973), the internet (1985)
- Put men on the moon and got them back home (1969) Then did it six more times. More than five decades later, Americans are still the only ones to accomplish this feat.

Worth celebrating.



Classic Chicken Salad with Pecans

This dish comes from the folks at eatpecans.com (aka the APPB). It can be made even easier by using leftover chicken or one of those rotisserie birds. Serve it on a bed of greens or try a croissant sandwich.

Ingredients

- 6 cups water or low sodium vegetable broth
- 3 large celery stalks, divided
- 1 onion, peeled and cut into 4 pieces
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper, plus additional to taste
- 1 1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast (see recipe notes)
- 3/4 cup toasted pecans pieces
- 3/4 cup red grapes, cut in half
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill (optional)
- 1/3 cup light or regular mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, or to taste

Process

- Add water or broth to a medium pot. Cut 2 celery stalks into 4 pieces and add to pot along with onion pieces and fresh pepper, to taste. Add the chicken breasts and bring water or broth to a boil. Turn heat down and simmer for about 20 minutes or until chicken is cooked and no longer pink inside. Once cooked, remove chicken to a plate and chill in the refrigerator while making the rest of the salad.
- Chop remaining two stalks of celery into small pieces and add to a large bowl. Add pecans, grapes and dill. Add mayonnaise and mustard.
- Remove the chilled chicken from the refrigerator and shred into small pieces, adding it to the rest of the ingredients in the bowl.
- Mix until well combined. Add salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Salad tastes even better when it has time to sit in the refrigerator for a few hours or overnight.