

Area Crop Report 11/25 – 11/29

Trump Nominates Rollins for New USDA Secretary

After weeks of intense fighting and discussions, Donald Trump has keyed Brooke Rollins to become the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture and the first female to be sworn in since Ann Veneman comprised the role from 2001 to 2005. President-elect Trump made the announcement Saturday, November 23rd, touching on Rollins “commitment to support the American farmer, the defense of American food self-sufficiency and the restoration of agriculture-dependent American small towns is second to none.” During the first Trump administration, Rollins served as director of the Office of American Innovation and acting director of the Domestic Policy Council. Since her first stint in the White House, she has co-founded and is the current president of the America First Policy Institute think tank, which played an influential role in the transition and has been referred to as Trump’s White House in waiting.

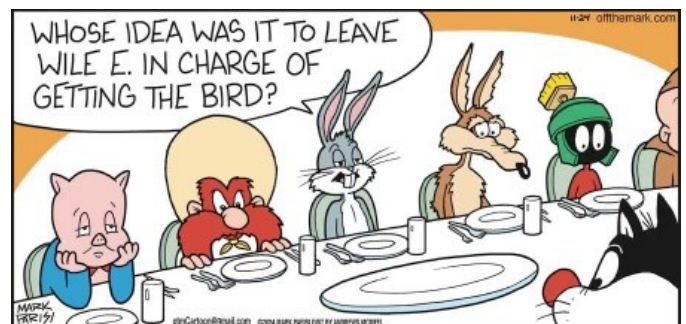
Hailing from a small town southwest of Dallas, Glen Rose, Texas, Rollins grew up on a family farm as her educational credentials compliment her practical experience. She holds a degree in agricultural development from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law. Graduating cum laude with her undergraduate degree in 1994, she was also the first female student body president in College Station. In her new role, she is expected to focus on several key areas such as: Support for American farmers, Trade policies, and Rural development. Her nomination reflects Trump’s broader strategy of appointing loyalists with deep ties to his administration as he seeks to advance his economic agenda in a second term.



“It will be the honor of my life to fight for America’s farmers and our Nation’s agricultural communities. This is big stuff for a small-town ag girl from Glen Rose, TX – truly the American Dream at its greatest” – Brooke Rollins

Glufosinate Resistance on the Horizon?

Whether it was Liberty 2.34SL, Interline, or Surmise, the vast majority of local soybean acres utilized a glufosinate-resistant cropping system. The fear, however, is a potential over-utilization of glufosinate herbicides due to a low price point per acre, in-crop label flexibility, and Dicamba labels being outlawed for over-the-top in-season applications by the EPA. So why are weed scientists concerned? The ag chemical world has not seen a new herbicide mode of action marketed in more than 30 years, with no novel herbicide options on the immediate horizon. Glufosinate is not a new herbicide either. It was discovered and developed in the 1970’s, first marketed in 1984 as “Ignite.” In fact, LibertyLink soybeans have been around since 1999, but the market was dominated by Roundup Ready varieties. Over time glyphosate-resistant weeds have increased dramatically, 17 major weed species having confirmed resistance in the U.S. and 60 resistant species worldwide today, which has why we are seeing such a spike in glufosinate herbicides used. While the herbicides listed above are great tools to have in our weaponry, we must use them effectively to keep weed resistance at bay.



“I fear not death, but I fear doing nothing”

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at PCA!

John Paul Jones