



National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association, Inc.  
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## NUTS & BOLTS REAL-TIME UPDATE

August 2007

### Welcome to the NUTS & BOLTS Real-Time Update

This update is sponsored by [Red Wing Business Systems](#)



Everything changes. We are going to try something new with NFRBMEA communications. In addition to our traditional three-times-per-year NUTS & BOLTS publication, we are going to try occasional Real-Time Updates. This is more in keeping current with what is happening in the world.

You will get a "sound-byte" of what is going on within our organization with the opportunity to learn more by going to our website, [www.nfrbmea.org](http://www.nfrbmea.org).

Let us know how you like this approach. We are going to limit these communications to no more than six total Real-Time Updates per year. We don't want to be spamming you, but at the same time, we want you to be as up-to-date as possible. Look for the RTUs about every two months and when there is breaking news from NFRBMEA.

### 2007 National Farm Management Conference

By almost unanimous consent, our recent conference in Rochester was a success. The program went without a hitch. The tours were interesting. The educational opportunities were intense and diverse. Social and professional interaction were abundant. And, we had a perfect night for baseball.

For your information, we had NFRBMEA and NAFBAS members, plus Extension personnel from 30 states.

There were 240 registrants.

We want to remind everyone of your ability to download many of the conference presentations from the Center for Farm Financial Management's [Risk Management website](#). Select Ag Risk Library and then Conferences.

We hope everyone that attended has thanked our sponsors for their generosity. They helped in a big way to make this conference the success it was. [More Details...](#)



Conference participants got a look at the shiny red tractors before the ballgame.



The Rochester Honkers mascot, Slider, and the "Dizzy-Bat" Contestants.



## Distinguished Service Awards

Congratulations to this year's NFRBMEA Distinguished Service Award recipients. This award is given to recognize those who have served the NFRBMEA and farm business management education above and beyond the call of duty.

The NFRBMEA Board of Directors will accept nominations from the membership for the DSAs. There is no application form required. An email identifying who you think should get an award and a brief explanation why they should receive it is adequate. This year's Distinguished Service Award recipients are:



Wayne Pike, left, presents a Distinguished Service Award to Ron VanNurden.

Ron VanNurden, farm business management instructor from Owatonna, Minnesota. Ron has served on the NFRBMEA Resource Committee and has contributed to NFRBMEA over the decades.

Rich Baumann, farm business instructor from New Ulm, Minnesota. Rich is our current representative to the National Ag Ed Council and has served on the NFRBMEA Board of Directors for many years.



Rich Baumann, right, receives his Distinguished Service Award from Gary Thome.



Jim Kelm, left, presents a Distinguished Service Award to Doug Wertish.

Doug Wertish, farm business management instructor from Faribault, Minnesota. Doug is the current NFRBMEA treasurer and was one of the conference planners for the Owatonna conference in 2002. [Past DSA Recipients](#)

## National Council Representative

As we have mentioned before, Rich Baumann's term as National Council representative is coming to an end on December 31, 2007. We would like to be able to name his replacement at the next NFRBMEA Board meeting.

If you are interested in this position, you can go to our web site for the qualifying criteria and application procedure. You may also contact Rich Baumann for more information about what is involved. His [contact information](#) is on the web site. The deadline for application is September 15, 2007.

## Dates of NFRBMEA Interest:

- Conference Planners Meet in Fresno - September 13-15
- NFRBMEA Fall Board Meeting - St. Paul - October 12 and 13

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## 8/7/07 President's Update— John Hobert

As I sat down to write my first President's Update for the current fiscal year, I thought back to the 2007 National Farm Management Conference held in Rochester on June 10-14. Has it really been that long since Rochester? I can hardly believe it is nearly two months later already and it is August! Where has the summer gone? With my normal work schedule, family activities, my son's wedding, umpiring softball, and representing you in NFRBMEA activities, time has certainly flown by.

First of all, I want compliment Wayne and Deb Pike on creating something new for NFRBMEA members in a 'Nuts and Bolts Update' to bring the membership up to date on issues within our professional organization. According to Wayne and Deb, the plan would be to do a page 'Nuts and Bolts Update' every couple of months or more often as the need arises. This should go a long way in keeping our membership current with current NFRBMEA issues, projects, and conference planning; among other things.

Since Rochester, I would like to bring you up to date on what your officer team, committees, and conference planners have been doing on behalf of NFRBMEA. A great deal has been occurring since Rochester as you will soon find.

Personally, I have been involved with many activities as you would guess. One of my goals during my year as your President is to get more involvement in the organization through committee functions and from our membership nation wide. With this in mind, I have reorganized some of our committees as far as individuals involved to utilize more individuals and not burden down any one in particular. I have asked Paul Gorman, NFRBMEA President Elect, to follow up committee functions throughout the current fiscal year. This should give Paul an excellent background of our committees and their functions as well as encourage our committees to be functioning throughout the year. I have asked certain members to chair or co-chair our committees for the current fiscal year. They include Gary Thome, Industry Relations/Alliances Committee; Paul Gorman, National Institute Committee; Ron VanNurden, Resources Committee; Laurie Morris and Pat Harrington, 2008 Conference Planning Committee; and John Sponaugle and Jesse Schwanke, 2009 Conference Planning Committee. Keith Torgerson will assist Gary Thome as Assistant Chair of the Industry Relations/Alliance Committee and Tim Holtquist will assist Paul Gorman as Assistant Chair of the National Institute Committee. All of these individuals have objectives of moving our organization forward through their committee involvement. Congratulations to all of these individuals for stepping up to the plate for NFRBMEA. Committee members will still be accepted for any of our major committees. If you have an interest to serve, please contact our committee chairpersons or contact me to become involved.

**Now for a brief update on NFRBMEA committee functions to date.** The Industry Relations/Alliances Committee has been challenged to continue and expand our NFRBMEA sponsors. With the successes achieved through the Rochester conference, our objective is to maintain and expand our list of sponsors for NFRBMEA and NAFBAS members. All sponsors who supported our 2008 National Farm Management Conference have been appropriately thanked for their support and informed of our 2008 National Farm Management Conference in Fresno, California. The response from our past sponsors has been very positive which should lead to their commitment toward our Fresno Conference. Meanwhile, we would like to expand our sponsor list for 2007-2008. If you have sponsor suggestions, please contact Gary Thome. Please provide contact individuals for the Industry Relations/Alliances Committee to follow up.

**The National Institute Committee** has also been active through the leadership of Dr. Clark Hanson, retired, South Dakota State University. As you will recall, Dr. Hanson has been secured by NFRBMEA to submit grant proposals on our behalf. Paul Gorman and Tim Holtquist will be assisting Dr. Hanson on our grant writing proposals to be submitted to fund our National Institute objective. Currently, a grant proposal is nearly complete to submit to the Bremer Bank Foundation. As the Bremer Bank territory includes parts of Wisconsin, we have contacted Dr. Jim Gibson relative to working with us where needed. More details on

## President's Update, continued—

this grant proposal will be released as more information is secured. Other National Institute Committee members will be assisting with this project as needed.

**The Resources Committee** will be continuing to build our NFRBMEA Resource Library through the leadership of Ron VanNurden. Ron reports that, "to make this Resource Library successful, we need each of you to submit materials to the library." These materials could be ideas, handouts, Excel templates, or other such materials. **I challenge each of you to submit one or two materials to share with our membership nationwide.** Each of us has materials we are proud of and could share with our peers. Take time to share these materials with instructors such as yourself. All presentations of our 2007 Exchange of Ideas presenters at Rochester have been posted to the library. The procedure to submit your materials is included in our NFRBMEA website. The Resources Committee is also exploring how we might package data from throughout the country relative to selected enterprises or financial information. Ron will be making a report on this possible project at our Fall Board Meeting to be held in Minneapolis October 10-12.

**Our 2008 Conference Planning Committee** has been very busy since Rochester with conference calls, personal calls and working on their own in the development of the Fresno Conference with NAFBAS representatives. Laurie Morris, Pat Harrington and I will be headed to Fresno on a 'scouting trip' September 13-15 with NAFBAS members to evaluate hotel facilities, possible tour sights, and other activities to be involved with the 2008 Fresno Conference. Thanks to Laurie and Pat for their dedicated work in the development of this conference. We have been working with Bob Rhea, NAFBAS Director in the development of eventual agenda. The agenda for the conference will be further developed while our scouting teams are in California.

**Our 2009 Conference Planning Committee** kicked off their campaign today (August 7<sup>th</sup>) with a conference call with selected NAFBAS membership. I would evaluate today's conference very valuable as members of NFRBMEA and NAFBAS had an opportunity to introduce themselves, discuss committee responsibilities, discuss activities to include in the St. Louis agenda, become aware of hotels bidding for our joint conference, approve dates for the conference, and identify planning timelines to work within. As I noted prior, NFRBMEA committee members include Paul Gorman, John Sponaugle, Jesse Schwanke, and Norman Rohrbach. NAFBAS committee members include Michael Schmitz, Kent Ruppert, Rob Holcom, Jody Welsh, and Bob Rhea. This committee plans to meet in St. Louis September 25-27 to visit hotels and begin a preliminary agenda.

**Our 2007 NFRBMEA Fall Board Meeting** will be held in Minneapolis October 10-12 tentatively at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus. This meeting will be held jointly with the NAFBAS Board of Directors as part of our overall agenda. I have been working with Brad Greiman, University of Minnesota Agriculture Education Department, in developing a site for our meeting. I spoke with Bob Rhea, NAFBAS Director, today (August 7<sup>th</sup>) in regard to his needs and the development of the overall agenda. If the membership has agenda items to present to the Board, please send your agenda items to Rick Morgan by September 10<sup>th</sup> to be included on the Fall board agenda.

In closing, I have discussed how many members of NFRBMEA are currently involved in NFRBMEA functions. What have you done since Rochester to further our organization and its goals and objectives? I would encourage you to become more active through our standing committees or volunteering in some manner. Contact those committee chairpersons who are leading these committees to offer your expertise and time. If you are not sure what committee you would like to be a part of, call and we discuss where you can benefit NFRBMEA. Meanwhile, continue the excellent work you do with your farm business management students!