


NUTS & BOLTS REAL-TIME UPDATE

December 2007

President's Update— John Hobert

Time continues to speed by this year for me with the many activities NFRBMEA has to offer its membership. I will attempt to bring you all up to date on these activities in this update.

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2008 National Farm Management Conference

Hotel contracts have been approved by the joint planning committee and finalized for our 2008 National Farm Management Conference. Our chosen conference hotel is the Piccadilly Inn - University located at 4961 North Cedar Avenue, Fresno, California 93726. You can get a panoramic view of the hotel at www.piccadillyinn.com if you want to see what the facility looks like. It is of suitable size to handle our needs at our conference and has an excellent location in regard to other venues being utilized. Toll-free reservations can be made at 800-468-3587. Room rates have been set at \$102.00 per night, which includes taxes. We are attempting to hold the conference registrations at or near last year's cost. At this time, we are exploring discount car rental rates available at the Fresno Airport. Our joint planning committee will be discussing conference planning next on Tuesday, December 11th. Further details will be posted on the NFRBMEA website as they occur.

During January or sooner, we will be asking each of you to complete an attendance survey to assist us in planning your 2008 National Farm Management Conference. This survey is being prepared by Tina Barrett, NAFBAS President. It will be sent to all active NAFBAS, NFRBMEA, and Extension Educators by email through their individual websites.

PLEASE take time to fill out this survey when you receive it and send it back ASAP to assist us in our joint planning for the conference. This information is extremely pertinent to conference planning. Questions will include the following and more:

- 1) Are you definitely attending, maybe attending or not attending?
- 2) What is the number attending from your family and ages?
- 3) Are you planning to come early or stay late?
- 4) Are you flying or driving?
- 5) Are you staying at the conference hotel or an alternative hotel?
- 6) Are you interested in family/spouse events?

Wisconsin FBM Faculty Development Conference

On October 8th, I had the opportunity to represent you at the Wisconsin Farm Business and Production Management Faculty Fall Professional Development Workshop, which was held at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College at Rice Lake, Wisconsin. I addressed the Wisconsin FBM Faculty on the subject of "Organizing & Marketing Your FBM Program." I also had the opportunity to discuss NFRBMEA membership benefits and our current initiatives for a few minutes. Many thanks to Jim Gibson and the Wisconsin FBM staff for their hospitality that day. I am available to speak at other similar functions in the surrounding states if invited.

To request removal of your name from our mailing list, [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at editors@nfrbmea.org or call 507-251-1937



2007 NFRBMEA Fall Board Meeting

Our Fall NFRBMEA Board Meeting was held in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus and the Joint NFRBMEA/NAFBAS Board Meeting was held at AFSA (the Academy for Science and Agriculture), a Science and Agriculture Charter School established through the efforts of the Minnesota Agriculture Education Leadership Council. Both board meetings were deemed successful by board members attending.

Visit the [NFRBMEA website](#) for the Secretary's report for both of these meetings. Thanks to Dale Nordquist, the Center for Farm Financial Management; Dr. Richard Joerger, State Director of Management Education, MnSCU; Julie Tesch, Director, Minnesota Agriculture Leadership Council; and Brad Greiman, Professor, University of Minnesota Ag Education Department; for their help in making our board meetings successful. Our current board of directors did an excellent job of representing you at both meetings.



L-R: Tom Thaden, Jim Kurtz, Deb Pike, Rich Baumann, Paul Gorman and John Hobert. Standing: Mark Jewell, an instructor at the Academy for Science and Agriculture.

National Institute Progress

Dr. Clark Hanson continues to lead the charge for NFRBMEA in the development of a National Institute for Farm Business Management. President Elect Paul Gorman, representing NFRBMEA in working with Dr. Hanson on grant writing, chaired a special committee meeting at our Fall Board Meeting in Minneapolis. At this special committee meeting, three primary objectives were developed for the National Institute. Those objectives were:

- 1) to develop a 2-3 day Real-Time event through potential grant monies,
- 2) to develop an induction/mentor program through a member state, and
- 3) to develop an in-service education program to be utilized across the country.

Dr. Hanson has recently submitted a grant proposal to fund these initiatives through the Bremer Foundation. He is also working on other subsequent grant applications through the USDA and other potential foundations. Thanks to the National Institute Committee members who were able to attend the special committee meeting in Minneapolis. These members included Paul Gorman, Chairperson, Jay Olson, Rich Baumann, Ira Beckman, Jim Kelm, Laurie Morris, and me. Special thanks also go out to Dr. Richard Joerger, Director of Farm Business Management Programs, MnSCU for his interest in assisting with the development of the National Institute. We will continue to push this initiative forward in the future as grant monies become available.

NFRBMEA Industry Relations/Alliances Committee

Gary Thome and the other members of the NFRBMEA Industry Relations/Alliances Committee (Fund Raising) will be busy soon as we begin our 2007-2008 fund raising effort. I would encourage all committee members along with all of you to assist in this effort. Gary will be spearheading this effort along with Keith Torgerson and me. Our plan is for Gary and Keith to concentrate on new national sponsors and exhibitors while I will concentrate on last year's sponsors and exhibitors. If you have potential national sponsors or contacts in mind, please contact Gary in this regard.

NFRBMEA Resource Committee

Our resources library is growing slowly due to the lack of input from the membership. Ron VanNurden, Committee Chairperson, encourages you submit some of your instructional aids to the library for publication. Refer to our national website for the information relative to the submission of useful instructional aids. I would challenge everyone to submit something to the resources library soon. I know how we can all 'cop out' by being so busy with our individual jobs but how long does it truly take to submit a few instructional aids for the benefit of instructors across the country.

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Meeting the Challenges of NFRBMEA

Last summer, when I accepted the opportunity to be your President, I outlined eleven challenges I felt NFRBMEA members should work toward during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Those challenges included the following:

- ◆ Addressing instructor retirements and replacing these positions with capable individuals.
- ◆ Mentoring new instructors through out State Associations as they come into the profession.
- ◆ Continuing to plan for a National Institute to support instructors across the country and secure the grant money necessary to complete this objective.
- ◆ Continuing to develop our NFRBMEA Resource Library during 2007-2008.
- ◆ Continuing our alliances with our partners in FBM including NAFBAS and the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee and their related groups.
- ◆ Strengthening our committee activities in NFRBMEA.
- ◆ Becoming a stronger 'advocacy' organization as far as working with our legislators to improve farm business management programs across the country.
- ◆ Encouraging the membership to participate actively through NFRBMEA committees and leadership positions.
- ◆ Continuing to strengthen our joint conference program and working with our partners in achieving this objective.
- ◆ Supporting the 'Team AgEd' theme through our organization.
- ◆ Recruiting new members into our organization. Can we grow 10% over last year's final membership number? You are challenged to find one new NFRBMEA member this year!

I feel that your NFRBMEA Board of Directors is working hard to meet these challenges during 2007-2008. It is a privilege to work with such a group of professionals. However, we cannot meet these challenges without your personal support during the next few months. How have you participated this year? Have you found that 'new' member to join NFRBMEA? Have you volunteered to serve on a committee function? Have you attempted to get involved? Have you thought of a leadership position? Are you planning to attend the 2008 National Farm Management Conference in Fresno?

I look forward to your 'volunteerism' showing forth in the next six months to strengthen NFRBMEA as an elite professional organization. I hope to hear from you in regard to how you can assist in taking NFRBMEA to the next level! If you secure a new NFRBMEA member, please notify me of your success and I will respond to you and your new member personally.



As I end this update, I would like to send Season's Greetings from my family to yours in celebration of Christmas. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you during this festive time!

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