



NFRBMEA INC.

National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association, Inc.
... Teachers delivering knowledge that works to North America's Farm and Ranch Families

NUTS & BOLTS REAL-TIME UPDATE

September 10, 2008

"Influencing Tomorrow's Agriculture" in Fresno

By Dan Hoffman, Nuts & Bolts Contributing Editor

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A great deal of work and effort goes into hosting a national conference, and our friends in California and others did a wonderful job. We were exposed to many learning opportunities in a beautiful and diverse agricultural area. Time was spent reconnecting with teaching colleagues, families and meeting new friends. My children mention Yosemite National Park and the University of California experiment station as their favorite parts of the conference. What is your favorite memory?

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Some highlights included learning about Fresno County agriculture from Liz Hudson, Public Relations Coordinator, Fresno County Farm Bureau; watching the National Parks Overview from the National Park Conservation Association; tours of the California State University-Fresno campus and research farm; tours of Sun Maid Raisins, a dairy farm, or a fruit packing facility; and participating in fun, competitive games at Holland Park by John Hobert.

NFRBMEA and NAFBAS jointly sponsored the conference and each held individual meetings to conduct their organization's business. The Piccadilly Inn-University in Fresno was a great place to stay and also to have meetings. We heard presentations on labor issues, air quality, producer issues, food safety, water planning and

immigration. Ironically while we were at the conference parts of the midwest were experiencing devastating floods and California was experiencing a drought and allocation of scarce water resources. Soon after we left California, parts of the state were ravaged by wild fires.

If you were at the NFRBMEA National Conference in Fresno, take a few moments to browse through your conference notebook and proceedings. I assure you it will be worth your time as the wonderful memories and things you learned and experienced come back to you. It will amaze you as you recall all that was packed into a few short days. Thank you to all who attended and those who made the Fresno conference an educational and memorable event.

If you were unable to attend the national conference, you missed a great learning opportunity. Make a commitment to participate in the June 14-18th, 2009 conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Mark your calendar today.

Quick Links:

[NFRBMEA Website](#)

[Resource Library](#)

[National Ag Ed Council Website](#)

President's Update

By Paul Gorman

Can it be over two months since our Fresno, California NFRBMEA conference? How many tasks have I overlooked in the leadership of the organization? How many members & supporters have I failed to thank for their efforts? How have my efforts at communication been received by others? Have I the vision to help the NFRBMEA grow and prosper? I imagine these are the concerns that keep many from volunteering to serve as an officer. These thoughts kept me from offering to serve the NFRBMEA as an officer for many years and these are some of the thoughts that pass through my mind as I look back on the past two months. I ask all of you for your feedback, suggestions and help as NFRBMEA moves forward in the year ahead. I promise you it will be heard and respected.

I commend and recognize our new officers & board members for volunteering to serve. These include:

President Elect:	Wayne Pike	MN
Secretary	Jay D. Olsen	UT
Membership Secretary	Virgil Dagman	ND
Historian and Nuts & Bolts Editor	Dan Hoffman	MN
National Council Representative	Jay M. Olson	ND
2009 Conference Planners	Jesse Schwanke	MO
	John Sponaugle	MO
2010 Conference Planners	Rick Morgan	MN
	Jay M. Olson	ND

Our membership, committees, and board never cease to amaze me with their energy, commitment, and professionalism. The National Institute committee met one afternoon in St. Cloud at the MN Association of Agricultural Educators conference. It dawned on me part way through the afternoon that the members were, on average, in the later stages of their careers. Yet this group spent all afternoon with intense enthusiasm working on a project to fund the recruitment, preparation, and retention of their replacements. How often, I wondered, would you find this effort and enthusiasm in other public sector employment? Our members are thinking more about the future of our profession and our younger members than of their own situations.

"Our mission is to promote and support farm and ranch management education. We accomplish our mission by providing in-service education to our members and by communicating and cooperating with others." OK, I have to admit I went to the NFRBMEA website, capably developed by Deb Pike, to read and paste in the mission statement. Steven Covey (The Seven Habits) reminds us often in his writing that "the main thing is the main thing is the main thing." He challenges organizations to review their mission statement and adjust their course as needed. We are on course. Our annual conferences contribute to the mission. Our new National Institute grant promotes and supports the future of farm & ranch management education. Our resource library provides high quality materials for use by our members. Our Nuts & Bolts newsletter and Real Time Updates help us communicate with ourselves and others. Our relationship with NAFBAS in conducting joint conferences has been professionally rewarding for both groups. Our activities are really a fantastic place for our members to grow and expand professionally.

I want to remind all of you to communicate and contribute to NFRBMEA when and where you can do so. Take advantage of our conferences and resources and consider serving when the time is right. We are privileged to be in a profession we love with farm/ranch students we respect and admire, and great colleagues as well. In closing, I ask you to take three actions:

1. Mark your calendars for June 14-18 2009 in St. Louis
2. Contribute questions and suggestions for the Oct. 6-7 board meeting
3. Visit (and perhaps contribute to) the Resource Library at nfrbmea.org

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Ukraine- "The Bread Basket of Europe"

By Greg Kalinoski, Northland College, Red Lake Falls, MN

This past July I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Ukraine as part of a study tour through the Top Producer Magazine and United Soybean Board. Our group of fourteen consisted of the editor of Farm Journal and Top Producer magazines along with crop producers from the Midwest, instructors and representatives from business and industry.

Our mission was to learn about the agriculture and economy of Ukraine as well as the challenges they face since gaining their independence in 1991. The second largest country in Europe, Ukraine is located on the Black Sea next to Russia. It's famous for its agricultural production and known as "The Breadbasket of Europe." Its moderate climate and deep, rich black soil have made the country one of the world's most productive farming regions. Winter wheat, rapeseed, sunflowers, soybeans, vegetables and sugar beets dominate the country side. Ukraine has a fast growing economy with exports of food and manufactured goods to Russia, the Mediterranean and surrounding countries.

Ukraine has a tremendous infrastructure because it was the former Soviet Union's most important republic - strategically, politically and economically. The country has excellent four and six lane highways, rail systems, massive irrigation canals in the southern area and state of the art seaports on the Black Sea. We were further surprised to see its massive shelterbelts, installed in the 1970's, to protect the valuable soil from wind erosion.

Our tour group first visited Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, and then traveled by bus to visit seven farms in the agricultural regions. We had the opportunity to visit with farm operators with assistance of a translator and to observe their harvest. We were also treated to a feast of Ukrainian dishes prepared for us by several farm families.

We observed Ukraine's good crop production this year but agreed they will need to improve their agronomic practices and timeliness to increase production in future years. For example, we were amazed at the amount of technology and size of equipment available to operators but were appalled by the lack of efficiency in their use of it. At one farm we visited, a large wheat field had eight new combines but four sat idle with full hoppers for two full hours while waiting for trucks to come and remove their grain. Farm managers continually stated that training workers and improving the work ethic is a major problem they're struggling with.

This tour allowed me to see firsthand the challenges faced by the people of Ukraine and the tremendous opportunity their farms have. There has been much progress in the last few years despite the many obstacles the country has faced since gaining their independence. It became obvious early in our tour that they're still trying to shed the mentality of communism while making great efforts to move forward. Some things are slow to change.

Welcome, New Board Members!

By Deb Pike

As President Paul mentioned in his article, we have a few new faces on our board this year. Their bios are, or soon will be, available on our website at www.nfrbmea.org/board_dirs.htm.

Virgil Dagman, an instructor at James Valley Career and Technology Center in Jamestown, ND, has graciously agreed to take on the position of Membership Secretary.

We have the rare distinction of having two Jay O.s on our board at the same time: Jay M. Olsen from Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, ND became our National Council representative earlier this year, and Jay D. Olsen, who is an instructor at Snow College, Richfield, UT, is our 2008-09 board Secretary.

Dan Hoffman, an instructor with Riverland Community College, Rochester, MN, gets to wear two hats. Dan has become our new Historian and Nuts & Bolts Editor.

Our 2009 Conference Planners are Jesse Schwanke, Leonard, MO, and John Sponaugle, Boonville, MO; planners for the 2010 Conference are Rick Morgan, Moorhead, MN and Jay M. Olsen.

Thank you to our outgoing board members for your dedication to our organization.

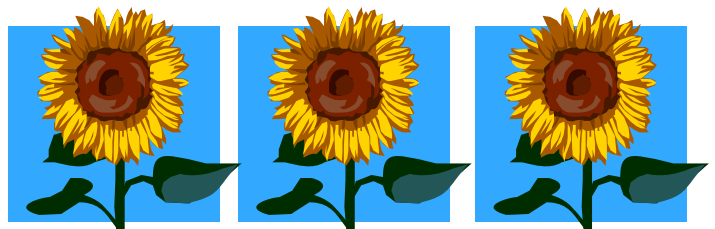
September Membership Update

By Virgil Dagman, NFRBMEA Membership Secretary

Members who had not renewed their memberships for 2008-09 at the 2008 Conference in Fresno received a letter at the end of July. I would like to report that the renewals have been coming in at a good rate. Thank you to all members who have sent in your dues to continue your membership in our organization.

If you have set aside the dues renewal letter, please, take time to send your check now. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (701) 952-4261. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Membership applications are available at www.nfrbmea.org/application.htm. Just complete the form, print it, and send it with your check, made payable to NFRBMEA, Inc. to:

Doug Wertish
NFRBMEA, Inc. Treasurer
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Distinguished Service Award Recipients

By Deb Pike

During our annual conference each year, the NFRBMEA membership takes time to recognize an individual or individuals by presenting the Distinguished Service Award (DSA). The Distinguished Service Award- Member is presented to a member of our organization for dedication and service to NFRBMEA, and the Distinguished Service Award- Friend recognizes an organization or individual who has been an avid supporter of the NFRBMEA.



John Hobert presents Tim Holtquist with his DSA.

This year's recipients of the DSA-Member are all Past Presidents of NFRBMEA. They are Lyle Hermance, Waverly, NE; Tim Holtquist, Ortonville, MN; Larry Klingbeil, Roseville, MN and Loel Nelson, Bismarck, ND.

Tim was able to be present in Fresno to receive his DSA in person. Nebraska member Lynn Schluckebier presented Lyle Hermance with his DSA at a Nebraska state meeting this summer; North Dakota member Loel Nelson's DSA was presented to him by Jay Olson; Minnesotan Larry Klingbeil also received his post-conference.

This year's recipient of the DSA-Friend is CNH Capital/CasellH Agriculture. Their tremendous support of our organization has included being a major sponsor of the National Farm Management Conference for the past two years. They will be receiving their award at a later date.

Congratulations recipients, and thank you for your involvement in and support of NFRBMEA!



L-R: CNH Capital & CasellH Reps Kirk Wesley and Scott Rasch visit with Wayne Pike. (Photo: Gary Goodwin, NAFBAS)

Board Plans Fall Meeting October 6 & 7

The NFRBMEA Board will meet October 6 and 7 at the Sheraton City Center in St. Louis, Missouri, our 2009 Conference destination. Our agenda includes a National Institute Committee/NFRBMEA work session and a meeting of the 2009 Conference Planning committee. The joint NFRBMEA & NAFBAS Boards will also be conducting meetings during these two days.

A Harvest of Resources

By Deb Pike

Harvest time is here, and it's a great time to submit items to the Resource Library. Simply go to www.nfrbmea.org/reslib/resource_library.htm, scroll down the page and click on "I Agree". The next page you see contains information on submission criteria and a link to a submission form.

The process is really easy. Just fill out the form with the file type, filename, author's or source name, description and date that the file was last updated and hit "Submit". This will open a new message window in your email program. Feel free to add any other comments in the message area, and attach the file that you are submitting (the Resource Record will already be attached). Hit "Send" and that's it!

You may contact any of the Resource Committee members if you have any questions regarding submission criteria, and if you're having problems sending your submission you may contact me. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

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