



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

NFRBMEA INC.

NUTS & BOLTS REAL-TIME UPDATE

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March 1, 2009

Bremer Awards \$140,000 Grant to NFRBMEA for In-service Education Programs

(excerpted from a news article contributed by Jay M. Olson, Devils Lake, ND)

The Otto Bremer Foundation recently awarded a \$140,000 grant to be administered by NFRBMEA.

The three-year grant will fund several regional farm management education teacher in-service programs, mainly for early-experience farm management teachers.

This grant will directly benefit the 15 Farm Management programs in North Dakota, the 90 programs in Minnesota and the 60 programs in Wisconsin and will indirectly benefit all 400 farm management programs nationally.

The Lake Region Community College Foundation of Devils Lake, ND will serve as the fiscal agent for this grant.

Bremer Financial Corporation is a privately-held, \$7.5 billion regional financial services company jointly owned by its employees and the Otto Bremer Foundation. This unique ownership structure is the only one of its kind in the nation.

Founded in 1943 by Otto Bremer, the company, headquartered in St. Paul, MN, provides a comprehensive range of banking, investment, trust and insurance services to more than 100 locations in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Company profits are distributed in the form of charitable grants by the Otto Bremer Foundation to communities served by Bremer.



Left to right: Lake Region State College President Dr. Mike Bower; Jim Helgeson, president of Bremer Bank in Devils Lake; Jay Olson, Farm Business Management Coordinator; and Dr. Paul Gunderson, director of Dakota Center for Technology-Optimized Agriculture/grant writer

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What's an IABME?

IABME, or the Institute for Agricultural Business Management Education, is the new official name of the "National Institute". As you know, Tom Weygandt, Past President of NFRBMEA, has been hired as the Director of IABME. Tom has been working very hard with both the Institute Committee and the NFRBMEA Board to put together a curriculum for early-experience FBM instructors.

Institute members participate in three activities: a Weekly Webinar Series, the National Farm Management Conference, and the Institute Workshop. Membership in the Institute includes only the Weekly Webinar Series and the Institute Workshop. You must register separately for the National Farm Management Conference.

The Weekly Webinar Series will consist of 1-1¼ hour webinars to be held 8 consecutive weeks during April and May. Access to our Webex site requires an Internet connection to view the presenter's computer. Connect your audio with either VoIP (computer microphones and speakers) or via toll-free conference call. Recordings of the webinars will be available online for those who miss a session or who wish to review a session.



The Institute has no set agenda at the National Farm Management Conference. Members will attend sessions and activities of their choice. The conference offers great information, training and networking opportunities to anyone interested in farm business management. Go to www.nfrbmea.org/2009_Conference for complete information.

Membership in IABME includes registration for the Institute Workshop, which immediately follows the Conference. You will automatically be registered for it.

Fifteen \$1000.00 Bremer Foundation stipends will be awarded. Stipends will be paid upon completion of the Webinar Series, attendance at the National Farm Management Conference and the Institute Workshop. Selection of Stipend recipients is based on criteria in the following order:

1. Qualifying state (MN, ND, WI)
2. 0 - 5 years of teaching experience
3. Order of registration for The Institute

The IABME Director will let you know in advance if you will qualify for a stipend to help in your decision to join IABME. Registration forms for IABME are available at www.nfrbmea.org/IABME/docs/pdf/IABME_registration.pdf. Contact Tom Weygandt at tweyg@embarqmail.com, (330) 465-8019 or (330) 262-3485 for more information.

This year's subject is "Farm Financial Statements". *Financial Guidelines for Agricultural Producers* is the base reference source. It is available from www.ffsc.org/Order_Form.pdf.

Loel Nelson Receives Distinguished Service Award



Jay M. Olson presented Loel Nelson with a 2008 Distinguished Service Award at the NDAAE banquet in Bismarck last August. Loel's wife Alma and his son, Kevin, who is an ag teacher were also there for the presentation.

Just to remind you, the other recipients of the 2008 DSA- Member award were Lyle Hermance, Nebraska; Tim Holtquist, Minnesota; and Larry Klingbeil, Minnesota.

The recipient of the 2008 DSA-Friend award was CNH Capital/CaseIH Agriculture. Once again, congratulations!

President's Message

By Paul Gorman, 2008-09 NFRBMEA President

It seems like our 2009 national conference planning team just met in St. Louis and that was four months ago. It seems like our National Institute committee just met to start the Director selection process and that was almost seven months ago. We have made a lot of progress this year through the dedicated efforts of our committee and board members. Our adoption of Webex for holding meetings has improved communication and reduced costs. We have held meetings of the conference planners, the National Institute, and the board in recent months using this technology.

"The Sheraton City Center is now accepting room reservations for the conference. Visit the Conference Website for contact information!"



We have more or less finalized workshops, speakers, and tours for the June 14-18 conference in St. Louis. We will have our online web conference registration up and running at least three full months before the conference. Our goal is to be up and running by March 13. Our Webmaster has our preliminary agenda and related links on the conference website at www.nfrbmea.org/2009_Conference, where you can learn more about the conference, the hotel, and the St. Louis attractions. Our conference theme this year is "New Rules... New Tools", and given the changes and volatility in farming, agribusiness, and the global economy, I would have to say we have chosen a timely conference theme.

We had an Institute Committee meeting via Webex on February 9 with Institute Director Tom Weygandt. Tom is making great progress in identifying early career participants, developing online content for March-May, and assembling presenters and content for the First Institute, which will be held immediately following our conference on June 18-19.

I see evidence every day of the value of our work with our farmers. Most of us are in the middle of our busiest and most intense season of the year. Our challenge is to always remember, especially at this time of year, that we are educators and not service providers. Dennis Jackson, our departed NFRBMEA founding member and past president constantly reminded his teachers not to do analysis and planning FOR farmers but WITH them. Our goal should be to challenge our farmer students to move to the next level and to assume more control of their financials and their destiny. I am reminded of his comments and of that challenge as I work with (oops, teach) our students of varying experience and ability. We must remember the old oriental adage that "Fast is Slow & Slow is Fast" when working with students. One of the benefits of our profession or calling is the luxury to be able to adjust our delivery to their learning styles. Happy teaching, happy analysis season, and happy planning for St. Louis in June. I hope all of you can attend.

Upcoming Meetings

- 2009 Conference Planning Committee
4:30 PM CST Wednesday, March 4 (WEBEX)
- 2010 Conference Planning Committee
8 AM CDT Wednesday, March 25 (WEBEX)
- NFRBMEA Spring Board Meeting
9 AM—Noon CDT, Wednesday, April 14 (WEBEX)



2008-09 Officers

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