



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

## Fall 2012 President's Message by Doug Wertish, 2012-13 President

Greetings to all of you from the most blessed area of the country's heartland this year. Southern Minnesota fared the drought of 2012 probably better than any other place in the country. Yields in our corn and soybean area are for the most part outstanding. Our harvest is a bit slower than the rest of the country because we have had healthy and green plants pretty much up to our recent frosty nights of the last week. We have not had that "killing" frost yet but last week the frost has at least dried out the top half of the crops. The warm weather this week is doing the drying now. It would be nice if we in the local FBM world could take credit for "outstanding" instruction in getting the bumper crops but I am afraid there was luck and a higher calling that was in charge of the yields.

I would like to pass on my thanks to Jim Kelm and Wayne Pike who planned the successful conference we completed in Bloomington, MN this past June. Conference planning takes a lot of time and work and we sometimes take for granted the inner workings and worrying that happen in the background while the majority of us are enjoying the conference. Our annual conferences have been getting better each year so our expectations keep rising as we look forward to next year. The conference is by far the best professional development activity that I attend each year. As one first time attendee told me this year - "The conference is all about us (FBM) and each day of the conference has more information that is practical and useful or our every day's work".

The major speakers at this year's conference— Michael Swanson, Tom Gillaspay, Charlie Arnot and Scott Miller— received great reviews from the evaluations filled out by the attendees. All of the speakers had similar comments that included "great presentation", "could we get him again next year", and "the speaker should have had more time to talk." And I agree with all of those sentiments for all of the speakers. The breakout sessions were also valuable to me and from the evaluations, and the participants thought so too. I find it refreshing to be able to network with all of the attendees at the conference. They have become very good friends and part of my extended FBM family. My spouse looks forward to each conference not only to visit another city but she also has become very close to the other spouses that have been attending. The conferences have been very "family friendly" which is another reason I know that I will be at next year's event in Overland Park, KS, a suburb of Kansas City, on June 9 through the 13<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see all of you there.

The NFRBMEA board met in Overland Park for our fall meeting on September 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> to plan out this year's activities. I welcome Mark Holkup from Bismarck, ND to the board as your President Elect. The board has familiar faces in the other positions. Jay D. Olsen moves to the Past President position, Jim McCuistion continues as the Secretary, and Myron Oftedahl continues as Treasurer. Ira Beckman serves as a member as he was appointed to be the NFRBMEA representative on the National Council for a three year term and Deb Pike is our Communications Director and has to keep the rest of us in line (the toughest job of all). Jay D. Olsen and I also

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## President's Message, continued—

serve as the 2013 conference planners which are mostly a liaison position this year as the NAFBAS group is in charge of planning the 2013 conference. Jay will be the conference planner for the 2014 conference though, as we move to his home territory in Salt Lake City, UT. The Board has already heard of some of the experiences that we will encounter there from Jay and all of you will not want to miss it, so start planning now for the Utah experience.

I would like to thank Al Graner for his service to NFRBMEA. He completed his three year term as President in June. Al had been an officer of the organization before, so we thank him for stepping back up to the plate and being a valuable team member. Myron Oftedahl also took on the additional responsibilities of being the treasurer of the combined conference. Thank you, Myron.

The major activity the board is working on now is to see if there is a way of continuing the activities of the IABME committee that was working with the newer FBM instructors in getting themselves established with their new positions of teaching Farm Business Management. We all know those first few years of teaching FBM education to farmers who have been farming for 25-30 years can be a daunting task. I would have given my first-born child for some help back then. (The good news at that time was I didn't yet have a first-born so it is an easy thing to say I would have given up. I couldn't give her up after having her.) The grant the committee had from the Bremer Foundation required that they work only with instructors in the Bremer area which was North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Our current wishes are to continue the program of working with the newer instructors of NFRBMEA and specialists of the NAFBAS organization in all of the different states that we work in. Our push is to find some funding that will allow us to build the program guidelines and find the program directors as the program crosses into different states or groups of states. There are ideas floating but we have nothing in concrete as of now. If any of you have some ideas either in building the proposal or finding funding sources, or any other activity you would like us to achieve as a national group, please let any member of the board know.

Keep up the good work you do. You may not always feel appreciated especially in January when you are trying to keep up with your analyses and you need some info from about 2 or 3 or 5 different farms to complete their analysis. But your work is important and gratitude from unexpected stakeholders comes out all of the time when you least expect it. Stay safe!

*Doug*

## Membership Numbers

by Deb Pike, NFRBMEA Communications Director

If you've visited [www.nfrbmea.org](http://www.nfrbmea.org) lately, you've noticed that our membership lists have been updated fairly frequently. Toward the end of August, a letter was sent to members who had belonged to NFRBMEA in one or both of the previous two years inviting them to renew their membership. Thank you to those of you who have responded and sent in your dues, along with updates and corrections to your contact information.

Our membership numbers are up 66% from last year at this time. As of October 10, our membership stands as follows: 96 Active members, 19 Affiliate members and one Honorary member, a total of 116 members. This compares with 70 total members at this time last year.

If you have not already renewed your membership and are receiving this RTU as a complimentary issue, please take a few minutes to do so. Just click the "Join Now" button on the splash screen preceding this newsletter or go to [www.nfrbmea.org/application.htm](http://www.nfrbmea.org/application.htm) for a membership form. We look forward to you joining us!

## National Council for Agricultural Education Update

by Ira Beckman, NFRBMEA Representative to NCAE

Since my last update we have met via a few conference calls, and our Fall NCAE Board meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana from September 26 - 28. I will try to summarize the major activities of the Council, and those that impact NFRBMEA members. We have decided to have our face to face meetings from now on in Indianapolis to save money for the member organizations. The cost of travel to there is less for most members, the meetings can be held for free at the National FFA Center, and the FFA has worked out some fantastic deals with some of the local hotels there. I estimate this will save our organization \$500 or more per year.

The statement of financial position for the NCAE at the close of our fiscal year on June 30, 2012 showed current assets of \$142,046. That includes \$58,616 in checking, \$22,266 and \$83,430 in pooled investments with the National FFA Foundation. This past year our income exceeded expenses by \$20,317. We passed an updated budget for the current fiscal year that includes income and expense of \$128,025.

The main report from the meeting included the new progress and plans for our teacher recruitment campaign. Ellen Thompson is heading up that NCAE initiative and was present to report. The NCAE will host a Summit on January 30 - 31, 2013 at Indianapolis, with the sole topic being "Recruitment and Retention of Teachers for school-based Agricultural Education".

There were also reports from the SAE renewal initiative and the progress occurring there as well as a report from the career pathways collaborative. The career pathways collaborative report was given by Cameron Clyne from the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation. They are working on a nationwide assessment plan.

The balance of our meeting was set aside for NCAE strategic planning for the next three years. This session was facilitated by Dr. Ed Osborne from Florida. Briefly, we decided not to change our Vision. It will continue to be *"The vision of the National Council for Agricultural Education is to be the collective leadership voice for Agricultural education in the United States"*.

We decided to change the mission statement to: *"The mission of the National Council for Agricultural Education is to support high quality agricultural education programs in America's schools by stimulating:*



- *The preparation, retention, and advancement of high quality agricultural educators;*
- *The development of programs that prepare students for academic and career success;*
- *Program innovation and adaptability in response to changing student and industry needs;*
- *The use of research-based practices in agricultural education programs at all levels; and*
- *Expand opportunities for students to experience high quality educational programs in agriculture."*

The four main goals we set to work on for the next three years are:

1. To develop an action plan to ensure the development and retention of teachers.
2. To support the collection of data needed to demonstrate local program relevance and drive program improvement.
3. To review and revise the national curriculum and program standards.
4. To continue to support efforts to renew SAE.

We have conference calls scheduled for each third Tuesday of the month and our next face to face meeting will be in Indianapolis in March. Remember to visit our website at <https://www.ffa.org/thecouncil/>.

## Conference 2012: A View From Inside

by Wayne Pike, 2012 National Farm Business Management Conference Co-planner

I thought that rather than just tell you about what we did and saw at the National Conference that was held this past June in Bloomington, MN, it might interest you to know what it was like from a conference planner's point of view. I will tell you up front that the evaluations that came back from those who attended were generally favorable with only a few minor glitches mentioned. As planners, we expect that we cannot please everybody all the time because there are many things that we do at any conference that are being done for the first time. The results of every experiment are not always entirely predictable or ultimately satisfying to everybody.

I also have to give most of the credit for the success of the Bloomington conference to our chief planner, Jim Kelm. Jim has planned a lot of these conferences for us and for other groups over the course of his career. That experience really shows and I judge that as a very important part of the overall success of the conference. For example, we started planning about a year and a half prior to the start of the conference in June 2012. One of the first things we had to determine was what kind of money we had to work with and that is determined by how many people were going to register for the conference. Jim, working with historic information gathered by Bob Rhea, guessed that we would have about 130 registrants. Guess what? We got about 130 registrants. How did he know that? Experience. Almost equally important was an estimate of the amount of support that we were going to receive from our sponsors. Again, his estimate came out very close to where we ended up.

It seems odd, but one of the greatest concerns in conference planning is what we are going to eat. So many things can go right or wrong in the food department. Among my colleagues, as we recall conferences from years gone by, we all have vivid memories of outstanding eating events, both good and bad. This probably says something about human nature, but sometimes food might be all we remember about a conference. Just as a personal note, I remember a conference that I attended in 1975 where the caterer attempted to feed several hundred farmers a Caesar salad with anchovies. Several hundred salads came to the tables and several hundred salads were returned untouched to the dumpsters. Our stomachs have long memories. The maxim is, "If the food is good, the conference will be relatively successful. If the food is bad, you have a lot to overcome to make it right." In general, the food was right in Bloomington.

After the food, tours might be the second hardest part of a conference to plan. Often, we tour places and businesses where tours are not a part of the daily schedule. We are on their turf. They are not being paid. We are taking up their valuable time. That said, some tours turn out better than could be expected while others may not quite meet expectations. A good guide on a good day with plenty of time can make almost any site worthwhile. However, an inexperienced guide on a "not-so-good" day who is under pressure to be doing something else may leave us wanting. I think we were fortunate at this conference to have some very good tours.

About the only thing complicated about getting speakers is finding out who is popular, who has something important to say, who can say it well, who can get to the conference when we need them and who we can afford. Once they are scheduled, all you have to worry about is that they show up and you never know for sure what they are going to say. Of course, the more you pay them the less you have to worry about what they will say. I think our speakers at this year's conference all lived up to the expectations we had of them.

Maybe the biggest overall headache is scheduling where we are all supposed to be at any particular time and how we are going to get there. All those people in all those sessions and in all those rooms. This is where the hotel staff is such a help. They pretty much know what works and for whom. This is also where experience counts in that most of us have been to conferences before and we know that if we can just be patient, somebody will tell us where we are supposed to be. So, thanks to all you for that.

Other than that, I am sure that there were a hundred little details and tasks that were handled by our colleagues without us planners even knowing about it. There is not time in a day for one or two people to be able to manage everything without such willing and able help. Whenever we needed something, it seemed that there was someone nearby to lend a hand to keep things moving. We appreciated that more than we can say.

Thank you to everybody who helped make the 2012 National Farm Business Management Conference in Bloomington a success. We are looking forward to 2013 in Overland Park.



## IABME Report

by Tom Weygandt, Program Director



IABME has four years of experience in being a catalyst of early career FBM instructor training. Acquiring the technical knowledge required of the FBM instructor is of equal importance to learning the day-to-day operation of a FBM program. We've found that the new instructor craves personal networking with others in our profession, both new and experienced. IABME has used the National Farm Management Conference as a major conduit of training as well as various regional meetings. We've decided to focus our future efforts in supporting local/regional programs such as Minnesota's PEP as the primary way to bring new instructors up to speed. IABME can help by paying for speakers, travel expenses of participants, providing experts, etc...

For four years, IABME has used a grant from the Bremer Foundation to support early career FBM instructors. That grant money is about gone and so we are looking for additional funding to continue. The Institute Committee is currently considering a grant proposal that Dr. Dick Joerger has put together addressing many of these issues.



## 2012 National Farm Business Management Conference Presentations & Photos Available

All presentation materials shared by our conference presenters are available on the 2012 NFBM Conference website at [www.nfrbmea.org/2012\\_conference/presentations.htm](http://www.nfrbmea.org/2012_conference/presentations.htm).

All photos have also been uploaded to the site at [www.nfrbmea.org/2012\\_conference/photos/2012-photos.htm](http://www.nfrbmea.org/2012_conference/photos/2012-photos.htm). We only have photos from one of the tours. If you have tour photos or other photos of conference activities you are willing to share, please send them to the [Communications Director](#), and please include a caption.

## Proposed By-laws Changes for 2013

Presented by Jim McCuistion, NFRBMEA Secretary

**Dues at the 2012 Annual Meeting were raised to \$40** which required a change in the By-laws To avoid the changing of the By-laws every time there is a raise in dues, the Board is going to propose to the membership at the next Annual Meeting to change the By-laws to read that "Dues will be set by a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting".

### ***Present By-laws:***

#### Article VI. Dues

##### Section 1. Active Membership

Shall be \$40 per year

##### Section 2. Affiliate Membership

Shall be \$10 per year

##### Section 3. Fiscal Year

Shall be from April 1 through March 31

### ***Proposed Changes to the By-laws:***

#### Article VI. Dues

##### Section 1. Active Membership

Dues will be set by a vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting

##### Section 2. Affiliate Membership

Dues will be set by a vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting

##### Section 3. Fiscal Year

Shall be from April 1 through March 31

## Publicity Notice:

NFRBMEA occasionally publishes pictures of its events on the Internet, via newsletter or other public and social medias. Please let the [Communications Director](#) know if you do NOT want your picture to be published online.

To UNSUBSCRIBE, [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [comments@nfrbmea.org](mailto:comments@nfrbmea.org)

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