



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

November 7, 2017

Sad News



It saddens me to let you know that Vic Richardson, retired FBM Program Manager and long-time NFRBMEA member, passed away Wednesday, November 1. To read more about Vic or leave a message of condolence, please visit www.michaelsonfuneral.com/obit.html?id=5112.

PEP Group Meets in Alexandria MN

by Betsy Jensen, Northland Community College



Twenty-four farm business management faculty met for two days at Alexandria, MN Technical College. The Professional Excellence Program, PEP, is designed for faculty in their first three years of teaching. The group in Alexandria included instructors from Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The focus of this training was tax and succession planning, and a deep dive into the Finpack closeout manual. Instructors were asked to tackle a section of the closeout manual, and explain how to enter the confusing and difficult situations often encountered during closeout season.

With 24 instructors, there was plenty of discussion and discovery on best practices to use during the busy closeout season. The 82 page closeout manual can be a little dry and boring to read so instructors were encouraged to be creative with their presentations. Interactive surveys, bingo, and “A Reading from the Gospel of Ira Beckman” kept everyone entertained and educated. Instructors now have tips and tricks such as the livestock inventory spreadsheet and how to enter CRP revenue on the enterprise analysis.

Also joining our session was Ron Woltjer, a tax and succession planner from Little Falls, MN. Ron works with many farmers in the farm business management program, and shared his tips on entity structure, succession planning, and social security for farmers. Ron shared many stories of great planning, and a few horror stories of what can go wrong without planning.

PEP instructors learn from the speakers, and also from each other. It's reassuring to know that you're not the only instructor with questions and problems. Placing beginning instructors in the same sessions as veteran instructors can be intimidating. PEP helps allow instructors to learn from step one, instead of being thrown in the fire. The group meets four times a year. Two of the events coincide with state conferences and the other two meetings are stand-alone.

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