



National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association, Inc.

... Teachers delivering knowledge that works to North America's Farm and Ranch Families

# NUTS & BOLTS

## President's Message

By Pauline Van Nurden, 2020-21 NFRBMEA Co-President

July 22, 2020



Change is ever-present in our lives, especially in these times. In a matter of days, our lives shifted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us have moved quickly to a virtual work world and now have jam-packed "Zoom" days. Typically, summer is a busy travel time for me, attending conferences, like the National Farm Business Management Conference, and assisting with several trainings. This year that isn't the case. I haven't turned in an expense report since February and my car sits in the garage more often than not. This abrupt change was hard, but change can also be refreshing.

I personally have tried to see the positives in the situation, more time with family, and a slower general pace to life. Additionally, I've learned virtual events are possible and can be quite successful. The virtual National Farm Business Management Conference was unprecedented. Many of us look forward to attending the conference each year for networking and professional development. While we couldn't network as easily in 2020, I feel we offered some great professional development speakers. (Thanks to Myron for planning this!) The conference had a larger attendance in 2020 and good reviews. So virtual offerings provide opportunities for us all.

What positives have you found in today's situation? How will your approach to work (and maybe even life) change as a result of all the experiences we've had so far in 2020? Take time to reflect and take care of your needs now more than ever. We live in a time of change. How can you embrace this and positively impact yourself and those around you as a result?

— Pauline

## Welcome, New Officers!

By Pauline Van Nurden

The 2020 NFRBMEA Annual Meeting was held at the conclusion of the virtual National Farm Business Management Conference. Thank you to all that attended, shared reports, and helped make a successful meeting. In total, there were 43 people that attended this meeting. Election of officers is a component of each annual meeting.

Congratulations to the following individuals on their newly elected roles:

Myron Oftedahl (MN) - President-Elect  
Kara Wulfekuhle (ND) - Treasurer

Thank you to Myron for his service as Treasurer over the last number of years. Myron has graciously agreed to help Kara transition into her new role as Treasurer. As a reminder, due to the lack of a President Elect last year, Brad Sirianni and I have agreed to serve as Co-Presidents for the coming year. Thank you as well to the others expressing interest in holding office for the organization. We look forward to your service in the future.

*Editor's Note: You can read more about Treasurer Kara on page 3 of this issue.*

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## Our First Virtual Conference!

By Myron Oftedahl, 2020 Conference Planner

Although the initial plans were to meet in Fort Collins in June, the Covid-19 pandemic caused us to change all of the plans and create the first National Farm Business Management Conference as a virtual event. A huge load was taken off my shoulders on the afternoon of June 18<sup>th</sup>. The webinar-based Conference was a success! We had over 180 people registered for the two days, which was fantastic. The evaluation comments were positive and while I am still waiting for a couple of checks, financially it was also a success.

I really want to thank everyone that pitched in and helped to make the switch to a virtual conference, I couldn't have done it without their help. Pauline and Curtis from CFFM, Judy from AgCentric, Deb with the multiple changes on the website, Jim with registration, Tina with recruiting sponsors, along with everyone else that offered support and sometimes just a nudge to get going.

Were there improvements that could have been made? I am sure that there were, but looking back is easy compared to being in the thick of it and hoping that it was going to turn out. And it did turn out, even better than I had hoped. As I said during the Conference, this was a case where the planning was more important than the plan. Just like a good plan for spring planting, it often gets adjusted and readjusted before planting is done, which is exactly what happened this year for the Conference, with the final result looking nothing like the original plan.

One of the guiding statements when planning the Conference was to challenge attendees and send them home with ideas that they can put to use in the next

year, I think that we did that. For those of you that attended, I hope that you agree. I think that we delivered some very good information that we all can use with the farms that we work with. I know that I am planning to use Dr. Kohl's Management IQ sheet this summer with my farms.

A huge thank you to all of you that were brave to attend our first virtual conference!

Planning is in place for the 2021 Conference which is scheduled to be in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Break out your shorts and join us on the beach.

In 2022 we are planning to be in Fort Collins, Colorado and can enjoy the view of the mountains.



Presenter Jackson Takach, Conference Planner Myron Oftedahl, and President Pauline Van Nurden during the Virtual Conference Webinar in June. Photo: Deb Pike

## Appreciation of the Finer Things

By Tina LeBrun, Conference Sponsorship Coordinator, NFRBMEA

Who would have thought a year ago that we would be coming off a virtual National Farm Business Management Conference? I think we have all learned a lot over the past few months and maybe have a new appreciation of day to day life. As a member of NFRBMEA and an FBM educator, I was especially thrilled to receive 2 days of

great material to support my profession and work with farmers in southern Minnesota this year.

I also appreciate our valued sponsors continued support this year. They stepped up to adjust to the new platform our conference became and participated with a business as usual mantra. If you haven't yet, please take a minute to reach out to our sponsors and thank them for their devoted sponsorship. Working together has been a continued theme throughout 2020 and it surely didn't stop short of our conference as our vendors demonstrated with this event. You can find the list of sponsors and their contact info on our website at: [www.nfbm-conference.org/2020/sponsors20.html](http://www.nfbm-conference.org/2020/sponsors20.html).

Also, please take a minute to consider what you would have missed if you had not joined us June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. I walked away from the planning and participation of this conference feeling grateful for the wonderful people who make up our association.

I challenge you to get involved and participate in NFRBMEA at a new level. Leadership and creativity are required in a crisis when normal is not possible, this group did exactly that to provide a need for our members. I am most certainly appreciative and proud to be a part of that this year and the years to come.



South Central College FBM instructor Tina LeBrun attended this year's 2-day Virtual Farm Business Management Conference Webinar. Photo: Tina LeBrun

## Change!

By Lori Tonak, SDCFRM Instructor

Change is good, right? As I turned another year older this last month, I have been questioning this. I am one that does not like change and need to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into a new thing. You can ask my colleagues about that!

As I reflected on change and the whole Covid situation, I have found that I am working towards changing. One of my colleagues wanted to start meeting with students virtually, and Mitchell Tech brought us Microsoft Teams to accomplish that. This was in the fall before the proverbial sh## hit the fan. I was dragging my feet, as usual, and had only tried it with one student. I found it worked well with this older, technology challenged student, and it saved me 2-1/2 hours of drive time one way. Still, I was not totally sold on the idea! Sorry, Tina LeBrun and Blaine Carey, you had not totally converted me yet.

Then came the pandemic! I was forced to use this technology and found it really wasn't so bad. I was not

wasting so much time trying to get everyone in an area to schedule on a certain day, and I could handle someone's problems at a drop of a hat. In less than five minutes, I could be online with the student, see their books, and assist them with whatever they needed. I only have one area where the Internet is very challenging, so we made it work the best we could. Technology has kept me in touch with my students although our school had banned us to travel. Sometimes, God works in mysterious ways to get a hard-headed woman to change her ways.

So, what is my point? For those of you, like me, that do not want to change, try to embrace the new technology our younger colleagues and members bring to the table. It is not as bad as we think! I did miss seeing my students face to face but we are now back on the road, and I am STILL meeting with people virtually. Old dogs can learn new tricks!



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

## NFBM Conference Update

By Pauline Van Nurden, NFRBMEA Co-President

The 2020 virtual National Farm Business Management Conference was unique for us all. Instead of gathering in Fort Collins as planned, we all joined Zoom from our office chairs. Yet, there was a great group of over 175 farm management professionals in attendance from across the country. If you weren't able to attend and would like access to the recordings, they are still available. You can register for access to the speaker presentations with Jim McCabe at [jim.mccabe@fbfm.org](mailto:jim.mccabe@fbfm.org) or 815-433-1635. The cost is \$50. Once paid, you will be given the web address and passcode for access to the recordings and presenter handouts. Learn more about the speakers and their presentations on the [2020 NFBM Conference website](#).

Planning for the 2021 conference is well underway. Next year's conference will be held in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. As you begin planning and submitting requests for professional development funds, the [2021 NFBM Conference website](#) has basic costs for your use. The Nebraska Farm Business staff is planning for a great conference. A draft agenda will be available soon so watch your email for more details and continue to check the conference website.

In 2022 we will convene in Fort Collins, Colorado. This will be a triennial conference, held with NAFBAS and the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee. Continue to watch for details and provide ideas and feedback as planning gets started.

## Meet Kara!



Kara Wulfekuhle is a Farm Business Management Instructor at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, ND. She has been an instructor since the fall of 2017.

Kara grew up on a farm in Western North Dakota where her family raised registered Red Angus cattle. She grew up actively involved in 4-H and showing cattle with her older sister. She graduated high school in 2011 and continued her education at North Dakota State

University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. She went on to work for First International Bank and Trust in their credit department before taking her current position with NDFBM. Kara is passionate about agriculture and helping farmers achieve their goals. She enjoys developing relationships within the farming community and helping producers understand their operations.

Kara and her husband, Tyler, live near Wolverton, MN. They raise corn, soybeans, wheat, and sugar beets in both North Dakota and Minnesota. They also manage a small herd of show cattle. Tyler and Kara welcomed their first child into the world in June of 2020. When they're not working on the farm, Kara and Tyler enjoy going to cattle shows and catching up with friends.

## 2021 NFBM Conference Hotel Now Accepting Room Reservations

By Jim McCabe, 2021 NFBM Conference Planner



Photo: [Beach House Resort](#) website

Make plans to attend the 2021 NFBM Conference in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina June 14-17, 2021.

Beach House Resort is located right on Coligny Beach, allowing easy access to the Atlantic Ocean. The resort has a pool, volleyball courts, firepits, outdoor movies by the pool, and live music in order to keep you entertained for your entire visit. You will find the live music at Beach House Resort's bar, the Tiki Hut, which is the only bar on the beach on Hilton Head Island.

The room block for this conference is now open. To make your reservation, go to <https://www.beachhousehi.com/group-blocks/> or call (855) 474-1441. Use **GROUP CODE: NFB** in when making your reservation. You will be charged a \$21 resort fee at the time of booking. *This fee will be waived on your final bill.*

Here are a few details about our room block:

- ★ 100 rooms are available for the dates of our conference at a cost of \$139/night, compared to the current resort rate of \$295/week night and \$336/weekend night.
- ★ Five of these rooms can be upgraded to family suites at no additional cost. The resort offers two types of family suites: the Kids Suite which sleeps four, and the Junior Suite which sleeps five. Please see the resort's website in order to see the sleeping arrangements for these rooms. If you would like to reserve a family suite, please contact Kylie Abbenhaus at [kylie@nfbi.net](mailto:kylie@nfbi.net).
- ★ Many of the standard rooms are conjoined, so if you have a larger family, reserving two of these may be a better option than the family suites. To ensure your rooms are conjoining, please call the resort to make your reservation.
- ★ If you decide that you would like to enjoy the resort longer, there are also rooms available for the two nights prior to the conference (June 11 & 12) and the three nights following our conference (June 17-19). **The cost for these additional nights is \$169/night.**

## Membership Feedback

By Pauline Van Nurden, NFRBMEA President

As a member of NFRBMEA, I ask you to consider what other professional development or resources the organization could (should) provide to you and what you can share with others. Are there materials you use in your program that you could share to assist others? Is there a resource you've been looking for, but haven't located?

The National Farm Business Management Conference is our largest professional development event annually. It is a great event, full of relevant, timely information for your work as a farm management professional. The collaboration with NAFBAS and the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee is great and allows us to put on a quality event each year. Additionally, Real-Time Updates (RTUs) are shared with members during the year as an additional source of information.

As the board plans for the coming year, I ask the membership to provide feedback on what can be enhanced or added to the organization. One such consideration is a fall professional development offering, where a single speaker would give a presentation to membership on a timely topic. Reach out to any of the board members to discuss your ideas further - we would appreciate the feedback

## Membership Wrap-up

By Deb Pike, NFRBMEA Communications Director

We ended our membership year (June 1, 2019–May 31, 2020) with 73 Regular members and 9 Affiliates, for a total increase of 16 members from the previous year.

I have received several memberships in the mail, and I'll be starting to send out membership cards for 2020-21 and updating the membership pages on our website as soon as I get the final conference attendance list from our treasurer.

To join NFRBMEA or renew your membership, go to [www.nfrbmea.org/application.htm](http://www.nfrbmea.org/application.htm) today!

**Save the Date: IFMA23 in Copenhagen, June 27-July 2, 2021**  
Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University Extension

It's been several years since I've had an opportunity to participate in joint meetings with the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee. I serve on the International Farm Management Association's Council as the U.S. Vice President so am responsible for helping get the word out about an event to which we can all look forward: the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Farm Management Congress. I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have. Contact me at [damona.doye@okstate.edu](mailto:damona.doye@okstate.edu) or (405) 744-5398 for more information.

Brian Jacobsen, Chairman of the local organizing committee IFMA23, writes:

*"We are progressing with the planning of the next IFMA congress, 'Strategic Farming in Scandinavia', to be held in Copenhagen next year. These are challenging times with Covid-19 affecting the whole world. It has been a hard time for many, but we hope that many can begin to get back a more normal life very soon. Denmark have now re-opened for most activities and travel has been allowed to and from many countries. Measures are in place to ensure that it is safe to stay in Denmark and in order to keep the number of new cases at a very low level as they are now.*

*In the planning committee, we have worked towards providing a very interesting and inspiring conference in Copenhagen starting on the 27th of June 2021 showing the best of Scandinavian Farming. The key themes will be discussed throughout the congress and they will be key issues at the field-trips. A delightful accompanying person program has been laid out. We also hope to follow the success of the next Generation program in Tasmania attracting the younger farm sector people to the congress.*

*We already have a detailed outline for the pre- and post-congress tours on the homepage. On the tours, you will see the variation in farming and management approaches in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, but also explore the nature and attractions. At the field trips during the congress, we will give you a further insight to the strengths of Danish and Swedish farming, but also reflect on management challenges of today. As a number of other events have been postponed to 2021 we do encourage you to book in good time.*

*See more and remember to subscribe to the newsletter on [www.ifma23.org](http://www.ifma23.org)."*



Photo: "Nyhavn - Copenhagen, Denmark" by Dougtone is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

**NFRBMEA INC.**  
**2019-20 Annual Report**



National Farm and Ranch Business Management Education Association, Inc.

**The 2019-20 NFRBMEA  
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for download at:**

[www.nfrbmea.org/pdf/annual\\_reports/1920AnnualReport.pdf](http://www.nfrbmea.org/pdf/annual_reports/1920AnnualReport.pdf)

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

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## 2019-20 Board of Directors

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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.

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