

NUTS & BOLTS

NFRBMEA INC.

National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association, Inc.

Bringing knowledge that works to farm and ranch families

Volume 39 Number 4

President's Message:

By Deron Erickson, 2025-26 NFRBMEA President

May 1, 2026

The Only Constant is Change!

Who doesn't enjoy the first warm day of spring? If you are in Minnesota, that first warm day of spring may be followed by a snow or two or three. As the old saying goes in Minnesota, if you don't like the weather, wait a minute and it will change!

In Farm Business Management, we are accustomed to change. Just when we are thinking we have a cashflow or analysis perfect, the situation changes with a new set of circumstances and we get to start over again. Change...some thrive on it and others loathe it. I myself tend to be more comfortable with the known and thus, better with small changes at a time.

NFRBMEA was notified last October that NAFBAS, the organization we have been collaborating with on the National Conference since 2006, wants to dissolve the MOU between our organizations as of National Conference 2027. In other words, we will have the 2026 and 2027 National Conferences together and then go our separate ways. That is a big change for NFRBMEA! The NFRBMEA Board has been working on this change and what comes next for our organization. We are working on possibilities of linking with other organizations or other possibilities to continue to bring you opportunities for national professional development. We are always open to suggestions from membership.

Change is a constant in farm management and professional development is a must for everyone in this profession! I am excited for the opportunity to go to Louisville to National Conference and learn more to increase my knowledge and foster relationships with other professionals. I wish I knew it all, but I realize I need to make time to do professional development. I farm, have a family, and like to



have fun, but at the end of the day, I realize my farm management job is what pays the bills. Consequently, I have to make time to do my job properly. Professional development is not a 'should do' or a

'could do', if I have time. It is a 'must do' and I have to make time for it. I just don't feel that I am a professional without it.

Change is not easy and the best way to get comfortable with change is to educate yourself. We ask our students to make changes to their operations to better their profitability. The same goes with farm management professional development to better understand your student numbers and be more relevant. As you know in farm management, when you think you're caught up to all your farms' issues, just wait a minute. The phone will ring and things will change! We hope you will join us at National Conference. We will be glad to see you!

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Transition & Leadership

By Brent Roiger, President Elect NFRBMEA



Transition is a huge buzzword in agriculture and has been for a while now. That

word can be scary for many, and for many reasons. If you're talking about the transition of a farming operation from one generation to the next it forces the older generation to confront their mortality and re-visit their hopes and dreams. Some of which may have been achieved and some not. From a bigger picture perspective, technological transition is happening at an incredible pace. Transition of the types of farms out there has happened (or is happening) right in front of our eyes and we may not always recognize it. Consolidation of operations, more rented acres, and more specialization due to the economics are happening somewhat organically. Talk to the "old-timers" and they'll speak of the days when everyone had pigs, cattle, chickens, big gardens, and every farm site within a 5-mile radius were neighbors that got together to play cards and visit nearly every weekend. In reality it really wasn't that long ago. Much of that occurred in the last 50 years.

NFRBMEA was formally organized in 1985 and has seen its share of change as well. We have entered another such time for our organization and are looking for individuals to step up and keep us relevant and hopefully vibrant for the years to come. If you haven't heard, the NAFBAS board has given us notice that they wish to dissolve our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and stop having summer conferences jointly. It's a 2-year notice so this June in Louisville, KY and next year in Minnesota will be our last two joint conferences with them. Deron has done an excellent job navigating the initial stages of this transition and I hope to continue it this coming year. We need you to join us in working towards the continuing of NFRBMEA as

a relevant organization in the years ahead.

We're looking for someone to step in to the President Elect role and possibly a person or two for the board. Our hope would be to get someone from outside of Minnesota to step up for a couple years to keep us at a national focus. We're open to anyone but are asking our non-Minnesotan membership base to really consider stepping into a leadership position. National membership has waned due to other states cutting funding for instructors and FBM programs. Minnesota is blessed to have the support we do and we are always willing to advocate for programs in other states before private industry steps in and completely fills the void.

If you have ever flirted with the idea even a little bit, now is the time to step up to the plate and take a swing. Please reach out to anyone on the board or to Deron or myself about taking a leadership position in NFRBMEA. Also, please register for our Annual Conference in Louisville. I hope to see many of you there where we can talk about next steps for the organization and get some new ideas coming forward.

NFRBMEA Reminders

- ✓ **Register for Conference; hotel booking ends May 18**
- ✓ **Early Career, first-timers can still apply for a scholarship!**
- ✓ **Renew NFRBMEA dues for 2026-2027**
- ✓ **Nominate yourself or a colleague for the NFRBMEA board**

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Conference Schedule

MONDAY
June 8

Board Meetings & Tours

8:30am Board Meetings,
1pm Tours - Shelbyville Farms, Churchill Downs
5pm Welcome Reception,
6pm Early Career Dinner

TUESDAY
June 9

Farm Wellness & Sustainability

7am Breakfast,
8am Welcome-NFRBMEA/NAFBAS, Louisville Tourism
8:30 am Laura Stevenson - Dean, UK College of Agriculture
9:45am Keynote Faith Parum-American Farm Bureau
11:15 am Life, Death, and Reality: The Power of a Handshake: Dale Dobson
12:45pm Tax/Breakout Tracks, 5:30pm Louisville Sluggers Game

WEDNESDAY
June 10

Farm Wellness & Sustainability

7am Breakfast, 8am Farm Credit Session, 9am Farmland Transition, 10:15am Agrilegacy, 12:45pm Breakouts, 3:15pm Business Meetings

THURSDAY
June 11

The Agricultural Economy

7am Breakfast, 8am Trade Policy Richard Fordyce USDA, 10am OBBBA Update, 11:30am Closing, 12pm Adjourn

Louisville, Kentucky | June 8-11 | All Times Eastern
Register today! Hotel conference rate ends May 18
<https://www.nfbm-conference.org/>

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Empathy Fatigue

By Denise Reeser, Farm Business Management Instructor, South Central College

This time of year is a transition for us as instructors and for our farmers. We are wrapping up our visits which involve setting goals and analyzing the data, as our farmers are anxiously awaiting spring field work. It feels good to see the accomplishments of our students as they meet or exceed the goals they have set for themselves. So much hard work has been accomplished during the past few months from completing balance sheets, analysis, and the cash flow completion as well as benchmarking their enterprise with others.

This year seemed to be much more challenging with cash flows not working out and many farmers having to refinance or have other tougher financial situations. It has also been an exhausting time for us as instructors too, as our students need us so much during this time. This is a well-documented concern for counselors and others in “high touch” professions that rely on their emotional connection to their clients to perform their jobs such as teachers, counselors, or coaches. We may feel tapped out emotionally and physically working with others.

This year has been very demanding to us in our profession. We know that many of our farmers are isolated in their daily jobs working on the farms and oftentimes we are the ones that serve as that listening ear whether it’s directly related to farming or oftentimes about personal issues that arise for our students. A few common ways to combat the feelings of empathy fatigue is to take care of yourself, practice mindfulness, take time off, ask for help, and try something fun.

As our farmers start spring fieldwork, I will make plans to do just that. I plan to spend more

time with my family and friends as well as get back to some of my personal interests and hobbies I have set aside for the past few months. It also gives me time to think about how great the benefits of NFRBMEA are to each of us. I am so grateful to have a network of professionals to interact with when I need it, as this job can be very isolating. I always have someone that I can lean on for advice or support.

I am also looking ahead to our annual National Farm Business Management Conference this June in Kentucky. It is a time I really look forward to network with other professionals, take time to relax and enjoy the beautiful area where our conference is held. You can’t go wrong being in a place where

horses are #1! I also look forward to some time to learn and expand my skillset and focus on my own professional development.

I always learn so much when I attend the conference whether it is meeting new people across the nation, during the tours, or the many workshops and speakers at the conference. Even though it can be tough to get away from your daily life, I challenge you to attend the conference this year and take time out for yourself, personally and professionally.

“We may feel tapped out emotionally and physically working with others.”



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.

Communications Corner
 By Kelly McAdam, NFRBMEA Communications Director

Happy Spring! With a new season also means a new membership year for NFRBMEA. June 1 is the beginning of our 2026-2027 membership year, and you will find a membership renewal form here in this issue of Nuts & Bolts. If you are attending the NFBM Conference in Louisville, you can easily pay your membership dues when you register for conference.

One of the highlights of membership is professional development, including our PowerUp Webinars. Webinars were well-received by the membership this year, with timely topics and critical issues facing our farmers. If there is a topic or need among your colleagues, please do reach out!

Be sure to check out the Careers page on the NFRBMEA website, as listings are updated frequently. We have had a variety of

opportunities posted in recent months. Likewise, if you have a job opening at your institution, share that with me and I will be sure to get it posted.

Enjoy conference, and the spring months ahead!



2025-26 Board of Directors

<i>President: Deron Erickson</i> deron.erickson@mnwest.edu	<i>President Elect: Brent Roiger</i> brent.roiger@southcentral.edu
<i>Past President: Ron Dvergsten</i> ron.dvergsten@northlandcollege.edu	<i>Treasurer: Jeff Schultz</i> jeff.schultz@southcentral.edu
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<i>National Council Rep: Jeremy Daberkow</i> jeremy.daberkow@mnwest.edu	<i>Conference Sponsorship Contact: Denise Reeser</i> denise.reeser@southcentral.edu

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Membership Form

Annual NFRBMEA dues for June 1, 2026 - May 31, 2027

First Name

Last Name

Address

City

State

ZIP/Postal Code

This is my:

Office address

Home address

Email

Office Phone

Opt. Ext.

Cell Phone

Membership type:

\$60 (USD) Active Dues

Current/former FBM instructors

\$30 (USD) Affiliate Dues

FBM education supporters

Clear Form



Print

NFRBMEA TAX ID #41-1829527

Send completed form with check, made payable to **NFRBMEA, Inc.** to:

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Gilmanton, NH 03237