



National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association, Inc.
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NUTS & BOLTS REAL-TIME UPDATE

May 4, 2009

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Have You Registered Yet?

By Deb Pike, NUTS & BOLTS Co-editor

It's hard to believe it's almost been a year since we descended on Fresno for the 2008 Farm Management Conference. California was a wonderful experience! I am still amazed by the diversity of the crops produced, Yosemite National Park, the Redwoods, and the Pacific Coast. We were surprised by the temperature variation from the Fresno area to San Francisco (brrr!). And you've gotta love those Palm Trees! I wanted to bring one home with me. Alas, they are too big to take on a plane, so Wayne surprised me with the gift of a small stuffed palm tree which sported sunglasses and a goofy grin!



This June you may not be seeing palm trees, hugging giant Redwoods, or viewing towering rock formations, but this year promises to be just as exciting. Our 2009 Conference Planners have been working diligently on this year's conference, "*New Rules ... New Tools*". You will have the opportunity to hear presentations by Ron Plain, Professor of Ag Economics and Extension Economist at the University of Missouri, and Pat Westhoff, the Program Director of FAPRI, who is also from

the University of Missouri. Other presenters include Dr. Jon Hagler, the Missouri Director of Agriculture; Roger McEowen, Iowa State University; Julie Maschhoff, attorney David Oldfield, Dan Manternach from Doane's, Rick Tolman, CEO, National Corn Growers Association, and Dale Nordquist of the Center for Farm Financial Management.

Sunday evening's activities begin with a Pizza Reception/Mixer at the Sheraton, followed by a Welcome to St. Louis and "Songs from the Farm" entertainment by Bruce Blakemore, an Ag Instructor from Walnut Grove, Missouri.

Wednesday is Tour Day, and outstanding tours to Monsanto, the Warren Stemme farm, ADM, and Lange-Stegeman Fertilizer have been planned for you. You will also have the choice of touring Anheuser-Busch or the Melvin Price Lock and Dam.

Storytellers— start polishing up your tales for the Denny Jackson Storytelling Breakfast Thursday morning. Thursday afternoon, following the conclusion of the conference, IABME (the Institute for Agricultural Business Management Education) will hold its first workshop.

So, have *YOU* registered yet? June 14 will be here before you know it. Early Bird Registration ends **May 18**; after that, the registration cost increases by \$50. Don't delay— [register today!](#)

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Family Activities Abound in St. Louis!

By Deb Pike, NUTS & BOLTS Co-editor



On Monday spouses and kids can spend the day at St. Louis' Forest Park, site of the 1904 World's Fair. Forest Park is now the home of the Saint Louis Zoo, the St. Louis Science Center, the Muny, the Missouri Historical Museum, the Jewel Box, and many other attractions.

There are plenty of things for families to see and do in the St. Louis area during or after the conference. Some are within walking distance of the Sheraton or you can hop on the city's Metrolink system, which has a station right across the street from the hotel.

Check out the view from the top of the Gateway Arch and explore the Museum of Westward Expansion. If you've never been up in the Arch, you're really missing something! I must admit that I did not know what to expect when traveling to the top. I found that the tram we rode in reminded me of what it might be like to sitting in a clothes dryer, except it seats 5 and does not tumble! The tram travels about 4 mph, so it doesn't take long at all to get to the top.

The St. Louis Cardinals are in town during the week of our conference, so think about taking in a baseball game.

Please visit our [Visitor Info](#) and [Family Program](#) pages on the Conference Website for a few ideas, links and other information on area attractions.

Prepare for the 2009 Exchange of Ideas Event

By Wayne Pike, NFRBMEA President-Elect

Do you have an idea to share with your colleagues? It could be worth \$100 if you submit it for the NFRBMEA Exchange of Ideas event at the 2009 National Farm Management Conference in St. Louis.

Your Idea can be almost anything usable in a farm business management teaching situation. Over the years we have had a number of spreadsheets, Powerpoints, one-page handouts and much more submitted and presented. It doesn't matter what it is, as long as it is professional in nature and has educational value.

Please look through your computer and pick out something that you would like to submit for our Exchange of Ideas. Pick up an Exchange of Ideas fill-in form at www.nfrbmea.org/2009_Conference/docs/2009Exch_Ideas.pdf and send it back to me at wcpike@myclearwave.net or you can send it via postal mail. Feel free to share this link with your colleagues.

Thank you for your participation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Keep These Dates in Mind!

- **May 18** Early Bird registration deadline. Registration fee is \$260; after this date registration goes up to \$310.
- **May 18** Exchange of Ideas submission deadline. [Get an application here.](#)
- **May 26** Sheraton City Center room block cutoff. Please visit www.nfrbmea.org/2009_Conference/09visitor_info.htm#HotelInfo for further registration information
- **June 14 - 18** National Farm Management Conference, St. Louis
- **June 18 - 19** IABME Workshop



President's Message

By Paul Gorman, 2008-09 NFRBMEA President

I have said it before and I must say it again. Our membership, committees, and board never cease to amaze me with their energy, commitment, and professionalism. Allow me to quote our mission statement once again: *"Our mission is to promote and support farm and ranch management education. We accomplish our mission by providing in-service education to our members and by communicating and cooperating with others."*

I am proud to say we are on course. Our IABME (Institute for Agricultural Business Management Education) is up and running. The IABME committee and Tom Weygandt have developed the institute with Bremer Foundation funding. The first "cohort" of early career instructors are attending Tom's weekly webinars on financial statements and are signed up to attend the first IABME workshop immediately following our National Farm Management Conference in St. Louis. IABME will be developing mentoring programs in North Dakota & Wisconsin in the year ahead.

Our theme of "New Tools: New Rules" for the June 14-18 conference supports our mission with a tremendous list of keynote, general, and breakout sessions. Where else could you get five days of highly regarded agricultural professionals like Ron Plain, Pat Westhoff, Roger McEowen, David Oldfield, Dan Manternach, Dale Nordquist, Richard Joerger, Nathan Fields, and Mike Adams as well as sharing/breakout sessions conducted by many of our own highly skilled members for a \$260 registration fee? In addition, we will have a day of tours to companies that, in some cases, offer unique perspectives on agriculture and seldom offer opportunities for tours. We must thank our conference planning committee members Jesse Schwanke, John Sponaule, and Norman Rohrbach, and our Industry Relations committee, headed up by John Hobert and Gary Thome, for the great agenda and for the industry sponsorship funding that keeps this conference affordable.

One of our challenges is to bring to our students the wealth of knowledge and insight that we gain from attendance at our conferences. I made it a point last year to share short emails and some farm instruction time with my FBM students after the Fresno conference. We are making an extra effort this year to make sure our presenters submit their presentations for inclusion in the conference notebooks. The "New Rules: New Tools" theme has such relevance to our farmer business people. I don't think any of us realized how much the rules would change when we selected our theme well over a year ago. I am sure you will find "new tools" to take to your students. In closing, I ask you to take action:

- Mark your calendars for June 14-18 2009 in St. Louis
- Go to the 2009 Conference website at www.nfrbmea.org/2009_Conference/ where you will find links to the Conference Registration site and information on hotel reservations. Register and make hotel reservations early. The *Early Bird Deadline is May 18*. Help us bring you the premier event of the year and save yourself some money.
- Visit www.nfrbmea.org regularly and explore the site. Deb Pike has created a great site with more content and links to the IABME Website.

See You In St. Louis!

IABME Update

By Tom Weygandt, IABME Director

Our IABME is well underway for 2009. Nine early career FBM instructors from three states joined the Institute. Members have been attending the webinar series on the subject of financial statements that I am teaching.

The Institute Workshop is scheduled to start Thursday, June 18th immediately following the Conference. Todd Doehring, Centrec Consulting Group, LLC, will speak on [Financial Statement Analysis and Interpretation](#). This



should be a great conclusion to the webinars allowing our Institute members to tie it altogether. The workshop will conclude Friday morning, June 19th with a panel of experienced instructors sharing their successful practices.

We invite all interested FBM instructors to register for the Workshop. It is an add-on to the conference. Information can be found on the conference registration page as well as at: www.nfrbmea.org/IABME/this_year2.htm.



Minutes of the Spring Board meeting are now available on www.nfrbmea.org/minutes.htm

National Council for Agricultural Education Update

By Jay M. Olson, NFRBMEA Representative on National Council

It has been a pleasure and privilege for me to serve this past year as the Adult Level Instructor representative on the National Council for Agricultural Education, NCAE. This position on the 19 person board is appointed by NFRBMEA for a 3 year term. The NCAE typically meets twice per year at varied locations around the US with frequent communication throughout the year to resolve areas of need. This past year meetings were held in Columbus, Ohio and Washington D.C. As Vice President of the board, I serve on the executive committee and act as chairperson of designated committees.

The NCAE represents and provides advocacy for stake holders from all areas of agricultural education in the United States and three U.S. territories. The NCAE strives to identify current and emerging issues of national concern and attempts to provide innovative solutions to these issues thereby strengthening programs and promoting success for students and instructors of agricultural education.

While many of the activities of The Council are more directed toward secondary Ag Ed and the FFA, a number of NCAE projects have major impact on Farm Management Education.

A major effort of The Council is to sponsor the National Agricultural Leaders Summit that was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in February with 281 participants from across the U.S. The Summit brings together leaders of Agricultural Education to provide in-service and direction for future areas of development.

The Council has commissioned AgrowKnowledge (<http://www.agrowknow.org/>) to establish a national Post Secondary and Adult database of institutions and instructors to better access and coordinate these entities. This database should be a major benefit to NFRBMEA to be able to provide an exchange of Farm Management information and expertise to a greater number of states and institutions. This effort helps to support the NCAE goal of expanding the scope of quality Ag Ed programs.

While at our meeting in Washington D.C. in March I became aware of a grant program established by the 2008 Farm Bill that is included in the CSREES for a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. This program has appropriated \$19 million dollars each year of the farm program for grants of up to \$300,000 per year to support and establish training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers and ranchers. This program appears to be exactly what we do in Farm Management Education. If you have ideas or areas of interest that might address this program, I would encourage anyone to pursue this opportunity. Check out the web site at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmerandrancher.cfm>

Please feel free to contact me anytime or visit the NCAE web site at: <http://www.teamaged.org/councilindex.cfm>.

Spring Crop Report

By Deb Pike, NUTS & BOLTS Co-editor



Spring appears to be here... at last! It has dried out again here in our area. The farmer who rents the farmland around our place is going great guns, so the tractors have been parading past the window off and on over the last few days.

Wayne predicts that most of the corn will be planted by Wednesday (May 6) and then they will go straight to soybeans. I think that was before we heard the weather forecast this morning. Now they are talking a chance of showers beginning this evening and continuing through to Sunday. North of the Twin Cities he has heard reports that the soils are wet. NW Minnesota reports that they may be weeks away from field work due to their floods. Wayne talked to his brother, the crop consultant in Champaign, Illinois last week who said it has been very wet there.

Tom Ackerman of Wilmington, Ohio reports that they have been below average on rain/snow since the first of the year. However, about a week ago they began to make up that deficit, and for the past three days they have been dry, with only a sprinkle once in a while, but nothing more. While out on farm visits last week, he found that in the southern parts of the counties just below his (Clinton county), they have the type of soils where if it rains a little, it's too wet to plant. Tom states that they have a saying about those operations: "When we are storing our planters and grain drills, those farmers are just getting a good start on planting." However, he says, they still get very good yields (150 bu corn) in most years. You can't argue with those yields when planted mid-to-late May.

I mowed the lawn for the first time on Saturday. Honestly, I wasn't ready to have the mowing season start since I mowed so late into the fall last year, but it was nice to be out in the fresh air and sunshine. In a few areas it was hard to tell where I'd been with the mower, but other in places the grass was quite long. Tulips are and the bleeding heart is blooming, and it's good to see that most of the perennials seem to have survived the long cold winter. Wayne and his 90 year-old dad both got some potatoes planted on Good Friday. Within the last couple of weeks the tiller has been getting a workout and the two gardeners have been busy putting seeds in the ground. By the way, Wayne's dad has a garden down at his place too. He plants his overflow garden at our place!

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