

**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

## Nashville: Tennessee Hospitality

By Deb Pike, NFRBMEA Communications Director



**Tour of Hatcher Family Dairy, near Nashville.** To see more photos, go to [www.nfrbmea.org/2011\\_conference/photos/11photos.htm](http://www.nfrbmea.org/2011_conference/photos/11photos.htm). (Photo by Tom & Elaine Weygandt)

legislation's implications to farmers. Dale Nordquist, CFFM, spoke on Benchmarking.

A Precision Ag Panel included short presentations from Dr. Tim Stombaugh, UKY Ag Engineer; Robert Eckman, Capstan Ag Sales; Dr. Jordan Shockley, UKY Ag Economist; Joe Nichols, Kentucky farmer; and Jeff Nalley, Farm Director- Cromwell Ag Network.

Numerous breakout sessions were held, covering topics such as IRS and Labor Audits, Value-Added Farming, "Remote Access", and Immigration.

We were not held captive in the hotel all week, though. Many in our group attended a performance of the Grand Ole Opry one evening, and there were other opportunities to check out Nashville's Historic Downtown, with its many restaurants and music venues. Spouses toured historic Belle Meade Plantation on Monday, and the Tuesday tours offered a wide range of choices: a dairy farm, the Tennessee Ag Museum, historic Fort Negley, Nissan auto plant, a tobacco farm and Tennessee Farmer's Co-op.

Unfortunately, Wednesday evening's outing to Nashville Shores Waterpark was cancelled due to rain, but an impromptu pizza party with movie was held at the Sheraton instead.

Many families took advantage of the opportunity to visit other attractions and historic sites in the area before or after the conference.

If you were unable to attend this year's conference, you really missed something!

On Sunday evening we enjoyed listening to talented singer/songwriter Lisa Shaffer and her accompanist Stephen Mougin.

In addition to hearing presentations by Dr. Michael Boehlje of Purdue University, attendees were also able to attend presentations by Dr. Lynn Robbins, Rick Costin, and Craig Infanger, UKY. Attorney Vance Cook and CPA William Klump spoke about Estate Tax legislation, policy and planning. Tim Dodd, Tennessee Farm Bureau, talked about health care

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The IABME participants dined at the Hard Rock Cafe Monday night (Photo courtesy Rodney Armstrong)

## National Council for Agricultural Education Report

By Ira Beckman, NFRBMEA Rep to the National Council, 2011-13

Since early this summer, the Council has met via conference calls and the Fall Board meeting in Starkville, Mississippi. This is a quick summary of our activity and accomplishments.

The NCAE hired Tony Small to be the Managing Director of the Council. He will help plan projects and carry out Council programs. Donna Kemp was hired as the Executive Assistant who provides help to the managing director and Council members. The budget for these employees is \$50,000. Funds will come from the reduction in the number of Council members, increasing the membership fee of participating organizations and by shifting travel costs to Council member host organizations.



The USDA, National FFA Organization, and NCAE recently signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to assure international competitiveness and the sustainability of agriculture and related industries by securing a highly prepared work force. We formed a committee to secure funding that we hope will foster agricultural education from elementary school through the university level. We anticipate funding for federal and state leadership positions, increased research, teacher recruitment, mentoring, professional development and instruction.

A committee was established to examine the "Proposed Federal Labor Law Changes" by the U.S. Dept. of Labor because of a perceived negative effect on agricultural education students and for the farms that hire them. The Council felt that these changes, though well intentioned, will go too far. We hope to amend these changes or work to keep them from getting funded.

We discussed the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster. There needs to be a focus on the following four areas: Knowledge and Skills Statements; Common Core State Standards; Common Career Technical Core; and Green/Sustainability Statements.

The CASE project has been progressing very well. There are now at least 185 teachers trained to use this curriculum in 24 states.

We heard a report from the Experiential Learning Committee on how to improve SAE programs. It has been an on-going initiative of the Council to improve SAEs. The full 35 page report is available soon on the NCAE website.

If you would like more information about the NCAE, feel free to visit our website at <http://www.teamaged.org/council/>.

## Converge and Emerge - Our Legacy of Progress

By Wayne Pike, 2012 Conference Co-chair

This is the theme of our 2012 National Farm Business Management Conference scheduled for June 10 - 14. We will be at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport Hotel & Suites in Bloomington, Minnesota.

We will converge near the confluence of the mighty Mississippi and the Minnesota River, where the East meets the West, where ag meets industry, where city meets country and where work meets relaxation. We will emerge with new ideas and powerful knowledge as we continue our legacy of farm business management education and professional development.

At this time, your 2012 conference planning team, headed by Jim Kelm from Red Wing, Minnesota, is busy working on our program. We know that there is more to do than we will have time for and we are doing our best to make it a full and diverse conference.

Please visit our 2012 conference web site at [www.nfrbmea.org/2012\\_conference/](http://www.nfrbmea.org/2012_conference/) for the latest information, and start making your plans to converge and emerge in June of 2012.

## Annual Fall Board Meeting Held

By Deb Pike, NFRBMEA Communications Director

The NFRBMEA Board held their Fall Board Meeting September 26-27 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites in Bloomington, the location of our next conference. Our board conducted its meeting Monday morning, and the minutes will be available soon on our website.

Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, we met jointly with the NAFBAS Board and discussed the upcoming conference. Monday evening, the groups dined together which gave us all the opportunity to try out the Light Rail System, located adjacent to the Crowne Plaza. I think everyone would agree that it was fairly easy to use.



## Membership Notes

By Deb Pike, NFRBMEA Communications Director



Currently, our membership stands at 100, compared with 119 this time last year. So far, we have 91 Regular members, eight Affiliate members and one Honorary member. I should mention that seven are brand new members. Welcome to NFRBMEA!

If you have not yet renewed your 2011-12 membership, please take a moment to fill out a [membership form](#) and send it with your dues check to the address on the form.

Thanks for keeping me updated with contact information and email address changes. It sure helps make things easier.

## 2011 Distinguished Service Recipients

Among this year's Distinguished Service Award recipients were Norman Rohrbach, Missouri, and Greg Tullis, Minnesota. Tom Hanson, North Dakota, was not able to be present at the conference. He was presented his DSA at a later date by Al Graner. Deb Pike was awarded her "very own" DSA.



John Sponaugle, left, presents Norm Rohrbach his Distinguished Service Award.



Greg Tullis, left, was presented his Distinguished Service Award by Rick Morgan.



Deb Pike was presented her Distinguished Service Award by Ira Beckman.

## Windows Tip

From an article in *PC World* magazine

I read this tip for Vista and Windows 7 in the July 2011 issue of *PC World* magazine:

It is possible to hide any unwanted Windows updates In the list of updates, right-click the one you know you're not going to want to install, then select Hide Update. The unwanted update does not disappear immediately, but the next time you go into Windows Update it will no longer appear in the list.

To make them reappear, in the first Windows Update screen (the one that just tells you how many updates are available, but not which ones), click Restore Hidden Updates. This opens the list of hidden ones. Just check the ones you want visible again.

I found this really handy for hiding all those pesky language packs I'm probably not going to use.

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

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