



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

## Spring 2012 President's Message

April 18, 2012

As this issue of the "Real Time Update" arrives in your inbox I hope your winter and year-end closeouts have been successful. Here in the west we are well below normal for our winter snow pack, which means a short water supply for crops this summer is highly likely. I hope the water outlook is better for all of you.



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Challenges continue to come to the forefront in agriculture as well as in Farm Business Management Education— hang in there. Much like the agriculture producers we work with who persevere through challenges and find ways to do more and do more productive things, we can and should be doing the same in FBM education.

## Our Advertisers

Last fall, the Board asked you to complete survey of your farm management program and students. Thank you to those who responded to the survey that went out as a link in last fall's RTU. To date, I have received surveys from about 15% of NFRBMEA registered members. I would like to receive many more responses. The objective of the survey is to compile a set of good data that can be used to promote FBM programs supported by evidence of the impact the programs have on agriculture. The results will be available for your use through future RTU newsletters and a link on the NFRBMEA website. For those that haven't responded, please consider taking the 30 minutes to accumulate the information and email it to me at [jay.olsen@snow.edu](mailto:jay.olsen@snow.edu). Find the survey at [www.nfrbmea.org/survey/2011-NFRBMEA-Survey.docx](http://www.nfrbmea.org/survey/2011-NFRBMEA-Survey.docx).

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The conference planning chairs for this year's National Farm Business Management Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota, reported at the Board's Spring meeting that the conference agenda is getting closer to being finalized and just a few loose ends need to be tied up to be ready for us to join them June 10 - 14. I hope that each of you are planning to attend. Conference information is available on the conference website at [www.nfrbmea.org/2012\\_conference/](http://www.nfrbmea.org/2012_conference/), and the registration website will be available online soon.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve with the current board and committee people. Keep up the great work you are all doing in helping farmers and ranchers be more successful. I look forward to seeing all of you in Bloomington.

Jay D. Olsen  
NFRBMEA President



[Center for Farm Financial Management](#)

## Converge & Emerge - Education, Industry, Agriculture

by Wayne Pike, 2012 National Farm Business Management Conference Planner

This is our theme for the 2012 National Farm Business Management Conference scheduled for June 10 - 14 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis - International Airport (Three Appletree Square).



Go to the Conference website at [www.nfrbmea.org/2012\\_conference/](http://www.nfrbmea.org/2012_conference/) for hotel information, our agenda and everything you need to know about the conference. The Twin Cities is the ideal place for us to converge. It is a hub for education, industry and agriculture and we are preparing to take advantage of this. It is an opportunity for us to emerge with some outstanding learning.

From Sunday afternoon's opening reception to Thursday's closing sessions, we will have a conference full of educational opportunities, networking, organizational activities and fun.

There is a lot to do in the Twin Cities for the families as well, so be sure to go to the Conference web page [www.nfrbmea.org/2012\\_conference/see-do.htm](http://www.nfrbmea.org/2012_conference/see-do.htm) which will help you make your plans.

The registration web site will be up and running soon. The Early-Bird date is May 18 and we would appreciate your earliest possible registration to help us plan.

See you in Bloomington in June.

## National Council for Agricultural Education Update

by Ira Beckman, NFRBMEA Representative to NCAE

Since my last update, we have met via several conference calls, and our Spring NCAE Board meeting in Arlington, VA (near Washington D.C.) on March 7 - 8 2012. I will try to summarize the major activities of the Council, and those that impact NFRBMEA members.

There was considerable discussion for the 2013 National Agricultural Education Summit. Tony Small was selected to be the Chairman of the committee that is also composed of several NCAE members. The proposed dates are January 30 - February 1, 2013. The location will probably be Louisville, KY as we feel there will be a possibility of reduced expenses at that location. Louisville will also be the host site for the 2013 National FFA Convention, and this will give attendees an opportunity to see the many changes that have taken place since the convention was last held there in 2007. The suggested theme is "Marketing for Sustainability of Agricultural Education". Some of the focus areas will include:

- A solid measurable advocacy plan to ensure we are making an impact
- Consistent and effective messaging
- Implementation planning to ensure accountability for success of the time and dollars spent
- Support and marketing of the "Three Circle Model"

A report with recommendations was given to the Council by the SAE Renewal Committee on how to improve and enhance SAE programs. The results were the result of the February task force meeting. It has been an on-going initiative of the Council to improve SAEs.

There was a special presentation by Ellen Thompson the National Teach Ag Ed Campaign Coordinator on the "National Teach Ag" campaign that will occur on March 15, 2012. This will be an annual event occurring on March 15.

The NCAE is strongly considering submitting a competitive grant proposal under President Obama's program, to obtain funding for council initiatives. (President Obama has proposed a \$1 billion investment in career academies in his FY 13 budget.)

The balance of March 7 was utilized for other committee reports and appointments for the upcoming year. I will be

## NCAE Update, continued—

serving on the Advocacy and Finance committees, as well as some other appointments during the year. The Advocacy committee has been focused primarily on the proposed federal labor law changes. The Finance committee reviewed all financial statements. As of February 29, 2012 there is a total equity of \$138,799. The income and expenses for the year appear to be right on or slightly better than our budget.

There was considerable discussion on National Standards, and the Common Core Standards. We were also discussing assessments for Agricultural Education. We are looking into what states are currently doing as well as what data is currently being collected. Future plans are for the NCAE to assist in the standards and assessment process. There were strong feelings that if we had stronger consistent standards as well as measurable assessment processes that would help in securing future funding for our projects. We need more useable data.

The last major in-depth topic was the Council CASE Program (training, funding campaign, and next steps) There was also a CASE Special committee report. The NAAE is currently taking care of the day to day operations of the CASE project. There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done, but so far this program appears to be a huge success. The Case program began in 2009 with 36 teachers in 35 programs in 9 states. By the fall of 2011, there were 185 teachers in 168 programs in 24 states utilizing this amazing curriculum.

There is a substantial amount of information about these and other Council initiatives on their website. If you would like more information about the NCAE, feel free to visit their new website at [www.teamaged.org](http://www.teamaged.org). Please check it out. It will keep you informed of what we are doing and possibly help you to decide if we want to be a continuing presence.

## 2011 Results Are In!

by Wayne Pike, FBM Instructor, Riverland College

A heads-up for our non-Minnesota (and selected other states) friends about the 2011 FBM database. Every year, the Center for Farm Financial Management builds the database for thousands of farm businesses enrolled in the FBM programs.

This database is called FINBIN and is accessible by the public. Go to [www.cffm.umn.edu](http://www.cffm.umn.edu), scroll down the page and click on "FINBIN" under "CFFM Initiatives". Click the [finbin.umn.edu](http://finbin.umn.edu) link on the right. Then you will be guided to build a report according to your own specifications. Give it a try when you have a few minutes available for browsing.

## Moorhead Area 2011 Farm Business Management Average Information Available

by Rick Morgan, FBM Instructor, Northland College, Moorhead, MN

The following link will lead you to our 2011 Averages on our webpage: [www.northlandfbm-moorhead.com/reports.htm](http://www.northlandfbm-moorhead.com/reports.htm).

The top part is our local average information and further down the page, after the archive links, is the 2011 Red River Valley average information. The Northwest/Central Minnesota averages are not quite ready yet, but will be online when we receive them.

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

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