



National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association, Inc.  
 ... Teachers delivering knowledge that works to North America's Farm and Ranch Families

# NUTS & BOLTS

## Adapting to Change

by Will Walter, 2015-16 President

May 13, 2016

Greetings, fellow Farm & Ranch Management Educators!

I hope you've all had a successful analysis season. As of this writing, many seeds are in the soil preparing to push up strong and become food, feed, fiber, and fuel. Through your efforts, each of the farmers & ranchers you work with are better prepared to make the growing season/life cycle of this crop or livestock group a profitable one. By having you initiate discussions about recordkeeping, financial analysis, risk management etc. you have planted a seed in their minds to utilize best management practices and take action on the things that have the most ability to provide a positive return.

After a run of years with high crop prices, many producers became a bit complacent with managing inputs, capital purchases, and marketing their product. There is a need for the analysis of past experiences, present education, and future planning strategies that we as FRBM instructors can provide our students. Just as our producers have utilized modern technology to enhance production and efficiency, we also have many tools to connect with them. One of these tools is having a network of fellow NFRBMEA instructors to share ideas and practices with. We have a massive "think tank" to be drawn from with many veteran educators that were involved in agriculture during the 1980's but also some young folks that have a high comfort level with technological advances in the way we can provide our services to the adult student/producer.



With the aforementioned statements in mind and also as conference committee chairperson, I'd like to personally invite you to the 2016 National Farm Business Management Conference in Sioux Falls, SD.

"Adapting to Change" is the theme for this year's conference, and this year the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee (NCFMC) will be joining NFRBMEA and NAFBAS for their triennial conference. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn City Centre.

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The Sioux Falls Holiday Inn City Centre will be the site for the 2016 National Farm Business Management Conference June 12-16. The NCFMC will also joining us for their triennial conference.

### NFRBMEA on Facebook & Twitter

 [www.facebook.com/nfrbmea](http://www.facebook.com/nfrbmea)

 [www.twitter.com/nfrbmea](http://www.twitter.com/nfrbmea)

## "Adapting to Change", continued—

There are many activities and entertainment within walking distance of the hotel and getting around the city to other sites of interest is easy. The conference website is [www.nfbm-conference.org/2016/](http://www.nfbm-conference.org/2016/). A link is also available from the NFRBMEA website at [www.nfrbmea.org](http://www.nfrbmea.org).



Our committee has an excellent line-up of presenters, panel discussions, concurrent sessions, fellowship events and a variety of tours giving you the ability to gain knowledge and practice things you've learned through networking with others at the conference. Two separate early career sessions are available to attend for instructors just entering (0-2 years of experience), or intermediate (3-5 years of experience). These are coordinated by NAFBAS and for more information on the content of the sessions contact: Tina Barrett at [tina@nfbm.net](mailto:tina@nfbm.net) for the beginning to 2-year group, and Mark Dikeman at [dikemanm@ksu.edu](mailto:dikemanm@ksu.edu) for the 3- to 5-year group.

Mark Holkup and his committee have coordinated the CHS scholarships for attendees who may be considering a career in Farm/Management. Look for his report in this issue.

Given the tight margins upon us, we must adapt to change. As we all know "Good Times don't last" but may I remind you that neither do the bad! There are millions of people to feed in our world and we can assist in that task. —Will

## National Council for Agricultural Education Update

by Josh Tjosaas, NFRBMEA Representative to NCAE

The vision of the National Council for Agricultural Education is to be the collective leadership voice for Agricultural education in the United States.

Since the last update we have met via several conference calls, and I attended our Spring NCAE Board meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana from March 22 - 24, 2016. Once again, we have decided to have our face to face meetings in Indianapolis if possible to save member organizations money. I will try to summarize the major activities of the Council, and those in particular that impact NFRBMEA members.

The financial position for the Council has not changed much since my last update. We have current assets of about \$218,626 as of March 1. This fiscal year we received \$76,233 in revenue and had \$123,099 in expenses. We planned on our expenses exceeding revenue as we had the money to spend on previously approved funds from Fiscal 15 for our program standards.



We are reevaluating the mission, goals and strategic plan for the next few years in July 2016, with I as President Elect serving as the chair of the committee tasked with creating a draft of our vision, goals and strategic plan for 2016-2019. Some of the highlights of the Council activities for 2015-2016 were: Teach Ag Campaign, CASE updates, Planning for Smith Hughes Anniversary, Completion of the National Quality Program Standards, Completion and Introduction of updated National AFNR Content Standards.

We have conference calls scheduled for the third Thursday of each month and our next face to face meeting will be in Indianapolis from Sept 13 - 15, 2016. I will be assuming the role of President of the Council on January 1, 2017. In December of 2017, my official term of representing NFRBMEA will be coming to an end, however I will continue on the Council for one additional year as Past President. I will be looking for a potential replacement for the NFRBMEA representative in 2017 to get acquainted with the position and responsibilities.

Remember to visit our website at [www.ffa.org/thecouncil/](http://www.ffa.org/thecouncil/).

## 2016 CHS Scholarship

by Mark Holkup, CHS/NFRBMEA Scholarship Committee Chair

In 2012 and 2013, discussions were started with CHS Foundation about developing a scholarship to bring people to our conference to become aware of what we do and encourage them to consider Farm Management as a career when they finish college. The first group we had attended the conference in Utah in 2014 and we have had some at every conference since.

While it is hard to determine the overall effects of this effort because some of the students who attended are just graduating from college, we have had at least four apply for positions in Farm Management since we began. CHS, as well as the NFRBMEA, has recognized the aging process taking place in many careers especially Farm Management Education. We shared the concern of who would replace us in the next generation. Last year we added people who are considering a career change to the list of potential scholarship recipients.

As of this writing, the CHS Scholarship for college students and/or people considering a career change to Farm Business Management has ten people who will be attending this year's conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The scholarship offers an opportunity to attend the National Farm Management Conference at little or no cost and to learn about a career in this area. If you know anyone interested keep this in mind for next year as we hope to be able to continue this scholarship with CHS. Also, if you know anyone affiliated with CHS, make sure to let them know how much we appreciate this scholarship.

## Register for the 2016 NFBM Conference Now! Registration Rate Increases May 21

Visit the conference website at [www.nfbm-conference.org/2016/](http://www.nfbm-conference.org/2016/) to find out more about it, as well as to register. Don't delay— register **TODAY!**

### Conference Registration Rates

Attendee Registration to 5/20	\$375
Attendee Registration after 5/20	\$450
Spouse & Child > 21	\$ 85
Children (7-21)	\$ 25
Children 6 & under	\$ 0
Extra Breakfast Mon, Tue, Thu	\$ 15
Extra Lunch Mon & Tue	\$ 18

### Hotel Rates

\$ 99	Single/Double/Quad Room
\$104	Two-Room Suite
\$ 5	Daily Ramp Parking fee (some free surface parking also available)
Free	Shuttle

## Membership Update

by Deb Pike, NFRBMEA Communications Director

Currently, our membership stands at 87 Regular, 8 Affiliate and 1 Honorary member, for a total of 96 members. This compares with 83 Regular, 33 Affiliate and 1 Honorary member, for a total of 117 members this time last year.



If you've renewed your membership for 2015-16, thank you for your continued support of NFRBMEA.

If you would still like to renew for 2015-16, it's not too late! The current membership year ends May 31, 2016. A membership form is available at [www.nfrbmea.org/application.htm](http://www.nfrbmea.org/application.htm).

## Calling All Lanyards!

If your lanyard & nametag, particularly a red one, happened to follow you home from a past conference, bring it along and we'll make sure that it finds its way back to the herd, flock, gaggle or whatever you call a group of lanyards. Thanks!



To UNSUBSCRIBE, [click here](#).

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

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