



Spring 2015

Summer Tour to Focus on Activities in Lincoln and Surrounding Areas

“We’re planning a summer tour that will give all our members a glimpse at agriculture in this part of the state,” says Rob Woodrow, AFM Farmland Solutions, LLC, Sherman, and chair of this year’s ISPFMRA Summer Tour Committee. “And by that I mean more than just corn and beans. We want to take a look at ag that is sometimes more in the background.”

All will happen on July 16 and 17 in the Lincoln area. A roster of currently planned activities include:

- **Weaver Popcorn Company, Forest City** -- The majority of the product going out of this processing plant goes to China where they can eat their American-grown popcorn while they watch their pirated American-made movies!! You’ll see conditioning and packaging.
- **TN&W Irrigation, Manito** -- TN&W is an acronym for the three original owners, Nick Talbott, Bud Neikirk,

and Roger Warner. This stop will include some field visits (weather permitting) showing in-field sensors and new pivot technology, so wear comfortable shoes.

- **360 Yield Center, Morton** -- Taking technology one step further is part of the mission of the team at 360 Yield Center. We’ll have lunch here and then travel to the research farm which is part of.....
- **River Valley Farm, Tremont** -- Owned and operated by the Gregg and Cindy Sauder Family, The farm is known nationally and internationally for their developing of a high type-high genetic herd of Jersey dairy cattle. For their dairy operation, they have incorporated four Lely Astronaut robots into their automated milking system with a freestall and box stall housing unit for their 300-plus cow milking herd. This will afford you an up-close look at robotic milking -- assuming the cows are cooperative at the times we are there!

- **Marijuana Growing** -- You’ll get a complete briefing on some of the challenges of growing marijuana (legally, or course). Sorry. No samples.

- **Sysco Foods Distribution Facility, Lincoln** -- With nearly 5 acres under roof, this facility stocks over 6,000 items for delivery within 24 hours and another 10,000 items that can be in customers’ hands within 48 hours. The Sysco facility at Lincoln serves an area that extends from both east/west borders from I-80 south to I-72. This includes loading and delivery of 25,000 to 30,000 cases a day ranging from dry goods to frozen food products.

Dinner on Thursday night, July 16 will be a summer picnic with brats, burgers and the fixin’s. A great evening to enjoy great company. Registration information will be coming to all members in early May!! Watch the mail for details.

Inside This Issue

- Summer Tour to Focus on Lincoln Area 1
- “Randy Says” -- A Message from the President . . . 3, 7
- 2015 ISPFMRA Leadership Team 5
- Land Values Slide Sideways 9, 10
- PF Editor Receives Service to Ag Award 12
- Upcoming Dates and Events 12
- Chicago Moms Program Receives ASFMRA Award. . . 14
- Welcome New Members 14
- Enger to Head Membership Development. 14
- ISPFMRA Teams With AI for Course 15
- Swires Named to Hall of Fame 16
- Fransen Elected to Lead Society 17
- Silver Plow Award to Schnitkey 17
- Our Commercial Sponsors 19
- Annual Meeting Photos 20, 21



2014 INDEPENDENT CORN TEST RESULTS

	Brand	Test/Location	%Mois.	Bu./A.	Rank
University of Illinois	Phoenix 6542A4**	East Central IL - Goodfield, IL	26.3	282.9	3 rd out of 96
	Beck 6365AMX™*	East Central IL - Urbana, IL	19.4	275.1	1 st out of 96
	Beck 6365AMX™*	East Central Region Summary	21.2	273.3	2 nd out of 96
	Beck 6365AMX™*	West Central Region Summary	17.7	269.6	1 st out of 108
	Beck 6365AMX™*	West Central IL - Monmouth, IL	19.6	271.6	1 st out of 108
	Beck 6365AMX™*	West Central IL - New Berlin, IL	17.9	294.3	3 rd out of 108
	Phoenix 5832A3**	South Region Summary	18.8	234.9	2 nd out of 71
	Beck 6365AMX™*	South Region Summary	19.0	234.1	3 rd out of 71
	Phoenix 5832A3**	Southern IL - St. Peter, IL	20.0	212.1	3 rd out of 71
	Beck 5828AMX™*	North Region Summary	21.6	259.5	3 rd out of 105
	Beck 5828AMX™*	Northern IL - Mt. Morris, IL	24.6	253.3	2 nd out of 105
	Beck 5828AMX™*	Northern IL - Erie, IL	19.6	282.1	2 nd out of 105
	F.I.R.S.T.	Beck 5828AMX™*	ILWC - Early Summary	16.3	248.1
Beck 5828AMX™*		ILWC - Virden, IL	14.5	258.8	2 nd out of 54
Beck 5828AMX™*		ILWC - Clayton, IL	14.2	252.7	1 st out of 54
Beck 5828AM™*		ILSO - Belleville, IL	14.6	260.3	2 nd out of 54
Beck 5828AM™*		ILNO - Full Season Summary	23.7	234.1	1 st out of 60
Busey Ag Services	Beck 6365AMXT™*	Stonington, IL	25.4	284.5	3 rd out of 18
	Beck 6365AMXT™*	Ivesdale, IL	21.1	275.4	2 nd out of 18
Soy Capital Ag Services	Beck 6365AMX™*	South Central IL - Adair, IL	20.0	278.3	2 nd out of 43

No product recommendation by F.I.R.S.T. is implied. *XL is a registered trademark of Pioneer. XL brand seed is distributed by Beck's Superior Hybrids, Inc.
 **Phoenix is a trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. Phoenix® brand seed is distributed by Beck's Superior Hybrids, Inc.



BECKSHYBRIDS.COM | 800.937.2325

2015 ISPFMRA Board of Directors

Randal Fransen, AFM
President

Phone: 815-584-1400
rfransen@fnbofdwight.com

Richard Hiatt, AFM, ARA
President-Elect

Phone: 815-842-2344
rhiatt@mchsi.com

Eric Wilkinson, AFM
Vice President

Phone (815) 935-9878
ericw@hertz.ag

Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

University of Illinois
Phone: 217-244-9595
schnitke@illinois.edu

Phil Eberle
Academic Vice President

Phone: 618-713-3534
eberle@siu.edu

Norbert Soltwedel, RPRA
Past President

Phone: 217-868-2833
soltk@frontier.com

Illinois Chapter Office
Carroll E. Merry
Executive Director

N78W14573 Appleton Ave.
#287
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Phone: 262-253-6902
Fax: 262-253-6903
ISPFMRA@countryside-marketing.com

www.ISPFMRA.org

If you are interested in participating on the Board of Directors or an ISPFMRA Committee, please contact
Randy Fransen
rfransen@fnbofdwight.com

Randy Says

by Randal S. Fransen, AFM
President
Illinois Society of Professional
Farm Managers and Rural
Appraisers



Wow!

The Annual Meeting has come and gone and the 2015 Illinois Land Values & Lease Trends Conference is concluded and soon there will be planters stirring dust in farm country. It's a great time of year and it's a great time to belong to the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers.

Much thanks goes out to Steven Burrow, AFM and his Annual Meeting Committee for their efforts and a terrific program in Peoria in February. Although the weather was raw, the educational programming during that meeting was red hot. Besides what I learned from chatting with many of you between sessions, I learned much from this Peoria experience. The learning opportunities via our annual meetings are outstanding. Wind turbines, appraisal updates, fracking, economic updates from LaSalle Economics, nutrient management in U.S. waters, weed resistance discussion, grain market and farm program updates; this program had it all. Another annual meeting done quite well. Special mention to our latest Hall of Fame recipient, Bobby Swires, AFM. Additionally, congratulations to long time Society member and contributor Harold D. Guither, Ph.D., AAC, recipient of a Society Honorary Membership for his years of commitment and service. Finally, we are proud to add the name Josh Flint, Editor of *Prairie Farmer*, to our list of recipients of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award.

The much anticipated 2015 version of our Land Values & Lease Trends Conference in Bloomington was managed well, again, by General Chair Dale Aupperle, AFM, ARA. Regional Chairs provided the background information and insights to, once again, make this a well-attended event by managers, appraisers, brokers, land owners, farmers, and several members of the media. What a great opportunity this effort provides for us to tell our story. This entire Land Values & Lease Trends effort will be reviewed soon to ensure that our approach to this event maintains the great level of success to which we have become accustomed. A full reflection on all areas of this program is underway to maintain it as a professional presentation that will provide value to all who deal with Illinois farmland. Much thanks to our University of Illinois partnership and much help from Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D., and Bruce Sherrick, Ph.D., for their involvement. Thanks, also, to ISPFMRA Executive Director Carroll Merry for, once again, improving upon a terrific Land Values & Lease Trends full color report. Please contact Carroll for copies of this professionally prepared booklet to enhance your advertising efforts and to keep your clients updated concerning land values and leasing trends in Illinois.

Much is underway in your Society. Prior to the Land Values Conference, your Board of Directors met with Society committee Chairs to focus plans for the year ahead. Rob Woodrow, AFM, provided insights into his committee's plans

BIG YIELDS ARE COMING.



Ready for a big haul? Plant LG Seeds in your fields. The LG Seeds advantage means more bushels per acre on every acre you plant – big results year after year.

To learn more about LG Seeds and our performance advantage, visit lgseeds.com/BIG or call 800-752-6847.



OUR SEED. YOUR SOIL. TOTAL SUCCESS.

2015 ISPFMRA Leadership Team

Chairman and President

Randal Fransen, AFM
First National Bank of Dwight
122 West Main Street, PO Box 10
Dwight, IL 60420
Phone (815) 584-1400 Fax: (815) 584-1280
Cell (815) 584-7354
rfransen@fnbofdwight.com

President-Elect

Richard Hiatt, AFM, ARA
Hiatt Enterprises
221 W. Washington St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
Phone (815) 842-2344 Fax: (815) 844-3024
Cell (309) 838-7933
rhiatt@mchsi.com

Vice President

Eric Wilkinson, AFM
Hertz Farm Management, Inc.
200 E. Court Street, Ste. 502
Kankakee, IL
Phone (815) 935-9878 Fax: (815) 935-5757
Cell (217) 552-3777
ericw@hertz.ag

Academic Vice President

Phil Eberle
112 N. Lark Lane
Carbondale, IL 62901
Phone (618) 713-3534
eberlep@siu.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D.
University of Illinois
300A Mumford Hall
1301 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 244-9595 Fax: (217) 333-2312
Cell: (217) 898-3762
schnitke@uiuc.edu

Past President

Norbert Soltwedel, RPRA
18991 North 900th St.
Shumway, IL 62461
Phone (217) 868-2833 Fax: (217) 868-2833
Cell (217) 259-2833
soltk@frontier.com

2015 Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting - 2015 @ Peoria	Steve Burrow, AFM
Annual Meeting - 2016 @ Springfield	Thomas Peters, AFM
Appraisal (Divergency) Review	LeeAnn Moss, Ph.D., ARA
Appraisal Education	Dan Legner, ARA Herb Meyer, ARA
Audit	Dan Cribben, AFM, ARA
Bylaws	Winnie Stortzum, ARA
Commercial Sponsorship	Brian S. Neville, AFM Thomas Wargel, AFM
Ethics	Allen D. Worrell, AFM
Farmland Values/Lease Trends Survey/ 2015 Illinois Land Values Conference	Dale Aupperle, AFM, ARA Tim Harris, AFM Winnie Stortzum, AFM
Conference Meeting	Jonathan Norvell, Ph.D. Chuck Knudson, ARA Dan Davis, AFM, ARA
Advertising	Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D.
Farmland Data Collection	
Farmland/Lease Trends Survey	
Government & Policy	Jerry Hicks, AFM
Honorary Awards	Norbert Soltwedel RPRA
ICAP Representative	Herb Meyer, ARA Michael Morris, ARA, MAI
Management Education	Steve Glascock, AFM
Membership Development	Laura Enger
Memorial Scholarship	Seth Baker, AFM
Mentoring/Retiree	Rick Hiatt, AFM, ARA
Nominating	Norbert Soltwedel RPRA
Public Relations	Ernest Moody, AFM, ARA, AAC
Summer Tour - 2014	Rob Woodrow, AFM
Young Professionals	Eric Wilkinson, AFM Logan Frye



BEANS

THAT ARE MADE

TO FIT YOUR FIELDS

TO A **T**



Unleash T Series to unlock potential.

Pioneer® brand T Series can help you hit your yield goals with soybeans designed for your acres. Packed with the latest defensive and agronomic traits to keep you ahead of the game, the 2014 lineup also includes products with the Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® trait. Talk to your Pioneer sales professional about the best fit for your fields. Pioneer.com/tseries

T Series Soybeans



Genuity® and Roundup Ready® are registered trademarks used under license from Monsanto Company. Roundup Ready 2 Yield® is a registered trademark of Monsanto Technology LLC used under license. Pioneer Premium Seed Treatment for soybeans is applied at a DuPont Pioneer production facility or by an independent sales representative of Pioneer. Not all sales representatives offer treatment services, and costs and other charges may vary. See your Pioneer sales representative for details. Seed treatment formulation exclusive to DuPont Pioneer and its affiliates. The DuPont Oval Logo is a registered trademark of DuPont. PIONEER® brand products are provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchase which are part of the labeling and purchase documents. ®,™,SM Trademarks and service marks of Pioneer. © 2013 PHIL. DUPPSY13029VAR1

Randy Says

(Continued from Page 2)

for a Lincoln-based Summer Tour. Additionally, Tom Peters, AFM, explained preliminary thoughts concerning a planned February, 2016 Annual Meeting to be held in Springfield. Please contact Tom with thoughts for programming, or better yet, offer to serve on his committee. Eric Wilkinson, AFM, offered an update concerning our Young Professionals Program, which is gaining steam. Appraisal education was a topic that Herb Meyer, AFM, discussed with the Board.

Plans are now underway for a June Board meeting in Mahomet to discuss a revamp of Management Education for our membership. This meeting will include an update from Mark Peterson, AFM, ARA, AAC, of the California Chapter to enlighten us concerning educational programming that they have developed. This may provide a great opportunity for Society members as well as others who might benefit from course topics that they have included as part of their offering.

Your Public Relations Committee is headed up by Ernie Moody, AFM, ARA, AAC. Ernie has established a committee of excellent people and I expect great things from them. Promotion of Accreditation titles will be a major goal of this committee, to begin with. Look for

ISPFMRA articles to soon appear in major Farm newspapers and magazines, which will promote our Society and the services, which we deliver to our clients. Phil Eberle, Ph.D., updated the Board concerning Summer Education Week. Furthermore, the Board supported the idea of sponsoring and encouraging college students to attend our annual meetings.

Many activities are underway in the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers. There is no need for anyone to feel left out. Please contact any one of your leadership team listed on Page 5 if you have a desire to become more involved in the process. Our organization is great because of the overwhelming participation of our membership.

Respectfully,



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



Our heritage is protecting yours

So when it comes to protecting your farm, you need AgriPlus® from COUNTRY Financial®. It's made for your operation, whether your specialty is livestock, grain, or both. Be sure to ask about coverage for your auto and farm vehicles, too.

Contact your local COUNTRY Financial representative today and grow your own way!





Credenz™

**We're not
reinventing
the soybean.
Oh wait,
yes we are.**



Introducing Credenz™ soybeans from Bayer CropScience.

Utilizing high-performing smart genetics and the best traits in a wide range of varieties, Credenz gives growers a new, more advanced choice to maximize yields.



Land Values Take Sideways Slide, Dip Slightly

Values for Illinois farmland took a 1 – 3 percent dip in prices in 2014, continuing a flattening trend that started in 2013 according to the 2015 Illinois Land Values and Lease Trends Report issued March 19.

“We saw a flattening of prices starting in 2013 and this continued through 2014,” says Dale Aupperle, AFM, ARA, president of Heartland Ag Group, Forsyth, IL, and overall chair of the annual land values project.

“This comes after prices rising 80 percent from 2008. We for sure have not seen a bursting of a bubble as many had forecast over time.”

Aupperle notes that the variations on values changes across the state and depends greatly on the productivity ranking of the properties. “Farmland considered Excellent (Productivity Index rating of 133 – 147) saw a general drop of one percent in 2014 from an average of \$13,100 in 2013 to \$12,800 last year. These prices are supported by historic high crop yields. In general there were very few new high land price levels set.”

He continued explaining that Good productivity land saw the greatest decline -- -3 percent – from an average price of \$11,100 in 2013 to \$10,500 in 2014. “The buyers of this land were primarily farmers and they were cautious and looking for deals.”

“Our sideways 2014 land value trend is actually a surprisingly strong performance in the face of declining commodity prices and shrinking net farm income!” Aupperle says. “This whole flattening process started in early 2013 and farmland values have generally gone sideways for the past two years. Another interesting point” he adds, “is there have only been three times in the last four decades where the powerful Illinois farmland value uptrend was interrupted. In 2008 the market went sideways after doubling in value, and in 1998 – 2001 we saw a 15 percent correction after nearly doubling in value.”

The major correction came in 1980 through 1987, he says, after farmland values advanced nearly 500 percent. “The one place where we’ve seen some strengthening of prices this past year has been in land that is classified as Recreational.

There have been some upticks in prices and the volume of land sales increased slightly in 2014,” Aupperle says.

Local farmers still account for 66 percent of the buyers of farmland with local investors coming in second at 13 percent.

Settlement of estates is still the primary reason for land sales to occur. Auctions and private treaty sales are the leading methods of making the transactions happen. The Report is done annually by members of the Illinois Society. The state is divided into 10 geographic areas and teams gather regional information. The data is then compiled and summaries are developed with assistance from the University of Illinois’ College of ACES.

Lease Trends

Lease rates and trends are also part of the overall Report and lower commodity prices have driven cash rents downward, says Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D., University of Illinois College of ACES. “What was being paid for rent correlates directly to incomes off the land. For example, traditional crops share income on Excellent productivity farmland was \$70 per acre lower in 2014 compared to 2013. Cash rents across all farmland classes fell: \$28 per acre decrease for Good quality farmland; \$27 per acre decrease for Average quality farmland; and a \$19 per acre decrease for Fair quality farmland.”

What does this mean moving forward? “Eighty percent of Survey respondents expect that cash rents for 2016 will decrease modestly in 2016,” he says. “We asked what would happen to rents if yields are normal and fall prices are near \$3.50 per bushel for corn and \$10 per bushel for soybeans. Ninety two percent expect cash rents would decrease by more than \$10 per acre given this scenario.”

Some Highlights

► Sellers of Farmland –

Estate sales accounted for 49 percent of the volume of Illinois farmland sold. The next two categories included retired farmers and individual investors who are now starting to put land on the market for sale.

► Buyers of Farmland –

Farmers (and local investors) accounted for 73 percent of the purchases made in year 2014. These are agricultural families who generally reinvest in their farming business. You don’t get a second chance at

Continued on Page 10

Region	Excellent Quality Farmland Values	Cash Rent Values
Northern Illinois (Regions 1,2)	\$11,500 - \$14,000 per ac. (unchg to -5%)	\$350 - \$450 per ac. (down 10% to -15%)
Central Illinois (Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)	\$10,400 - \$16,150 per ac. (unchg to -5%)	\$300 - \$450 per ac. (down 5% to -10%)
Southern Illinois (Regions 8, 9, 10)	\$9,500 - \$14,000 per ac. (unchg to +10%)	\$160 - \$300 per ac. (up 5% to -10%)

Land Values Move Sideways...

buying the farm next to you. This is a good sign for long term values!

► **Methods of Sale** –

51 percent of the farmland transactions were sold at public auction. 40 percent of the land was sold by private treaty. In stable or declining land markets the volume of auction sales can reduce somewhat.

► **Cash Rents** –

Generally, farm income was lower in 2014. As a result crop share lease income was noticeably reduced as compared to cash rent. Cash rents for year 2014 declined by \$21 per acre to \$375 (average) on excellent quality farmland. Most ISPFMRA members expect 2015 cash rents to be \$25 per acre lower than the current year at \$350 per acre.

► **Net Farm Income** –

Farmland is what it earns! All of agriculture is watching corn and soybean prices to see which direction our earnings will take in 2015. Crop insurance is an important safety net. In general, the earnings outlook is a diminishing one!

► **Return on Investment** –

Our traditional 3.5 percent to 4.0 percent competitive return on farmland investments is diminished by the lower commodity prices. Those returns are now in the 2.0 percent to 2.5 percent range. Investors find this acceptable.

► **Alternative Investments** –

As farmland's performance levels off - - the competition from other financial assets is enhanced. A rising U.S. dollar and potentially rising interest rates signal that the game is changing. Hopefully money does not start leaving agriculture. We are seen as an extremely safe haven investment!

► **Interest Rates** –

Interest rates on operating loans and farm mortgages are crucial to profitability. We are all watching the Federal Reserve Bank's action with regard to higher interest rates for all of us - - a perceived negative.

► **Livestock Industry** –

Livestock farmers have competed vigorously (in their respective neighborhoods) for additional land purchases with their extra profits.

► **Farmland Availability** –

In general, the supply of farmland was tight most of the year which helped to keep overall land values stable. Yes - - that tract near you never comes up a second time!

► **Agriculture's Profits** –

There is still a large amount of cash in the agricultural economy from multiple years of prosperity. That cash gets redirected into land purchases and aggressive cash rents.

► **Ethanol's Future** –

A lot of our corn usage is dependent on a vibrant ethanol industry moving forward (especially in unstable economies). Farmers and landowners are closely watching the Renewable Fuel Standard.

► **Mineral Rights** –

In various parts of the state of Illinois drilling technology has caused renewed interest in oil and gas rights. Illinois has a lot of mineral resources beneath our top quality farmland.



**YOUR ROOTS ARE IN ILLINOIS.
SO ARE OURS.**

For more information, contact your dealer:
Nathan Butler
District Sales Manager
202-340-6670
Bloomington, IL

STONE SEED GROUP

WE KNOW ILLINOIS.
StoneSeed.com

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain in local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible. Stone Seed & Design is a registered trademark of American Seeds, LLC. ©2014 Monsanto Company. 38146 ED 9/0714

**WHEN YOU'RE THE SMALLER,
MORE AGGRESSIVE
COMPETITOR, YOU TEND TO
CHALLENGE THINGS MORE.
LIKE THE STATUS QUO.**

The status quo can drive us out of business. We can't afford to increase yield at the industry average. We can't afford common quality control standards. And we certainly can't afford to let a customer down. So we work harder, innovate quicker and perform at a higher level. We have to. We're Wyffels. And we can't exist any other way. **WYFFELS.COM 800.369.7833**



More than a number.®

Prairie Farmer Editor Given Service to Ag Award



Service To Ag Award Presented

Josh Flint (right), editor of *Prairie Farmer* magazine, receives the Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award from Bruce Huber, AFM, ARA, immediate past president of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

The editor of *Prairie Farmer* magazine was presented the Outstanding Service To Agriculture Award by the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers during the organization's annual conference February 12 in East Peoria. The citation is the highest non-member award presented by the group.

Josh Flint, editor of the publication, was cited for his continued leadership and personal focus on telling the story of agriculture in Illinois. "Through the editorial he prepares and directs, Josh goes beyond just telling the story of farming in Illinois," commented Bruce Huber, AFM, ARA, who made the presentation. "The writing and reporting in the magazine reaches out to consumers and others beyond the farm fields of our state to bring better understanding of the dynamics that shape agriculture today." Huber is the immediate past-president of the Society.

Huber cited the Web presence and social media outlets being used by the editorial staff of the publication as "a means to reach the non-farming public so people can see the complexity of agriculture today. Through Josh's leadership housewives and mothers in Chicago and Springfield and St. Louis and elsewhere are finding out more about where their food comes from, and the fact that Illinois farmers are just like them, looking for abundant and safe food for their families."

Flint is a 2004 graduate of Truman State University with a degree in journalism. He worked at smaller, regional news publications before being named editor of *Prairie Farmer* in 2008.

The Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award has been presented annually by the Society since 1940. "The roster of recipients reads like a Who's Who in Illinois Agriculture," Huber said. Past recipients have included secretary's and directors of agriculture, academics, industry leaders and influential journalists. He noted that in 1981 the citation was given to James C. Thompson who was editor of *Prairie Farmer* at that time.

Upcoming Dates and Events

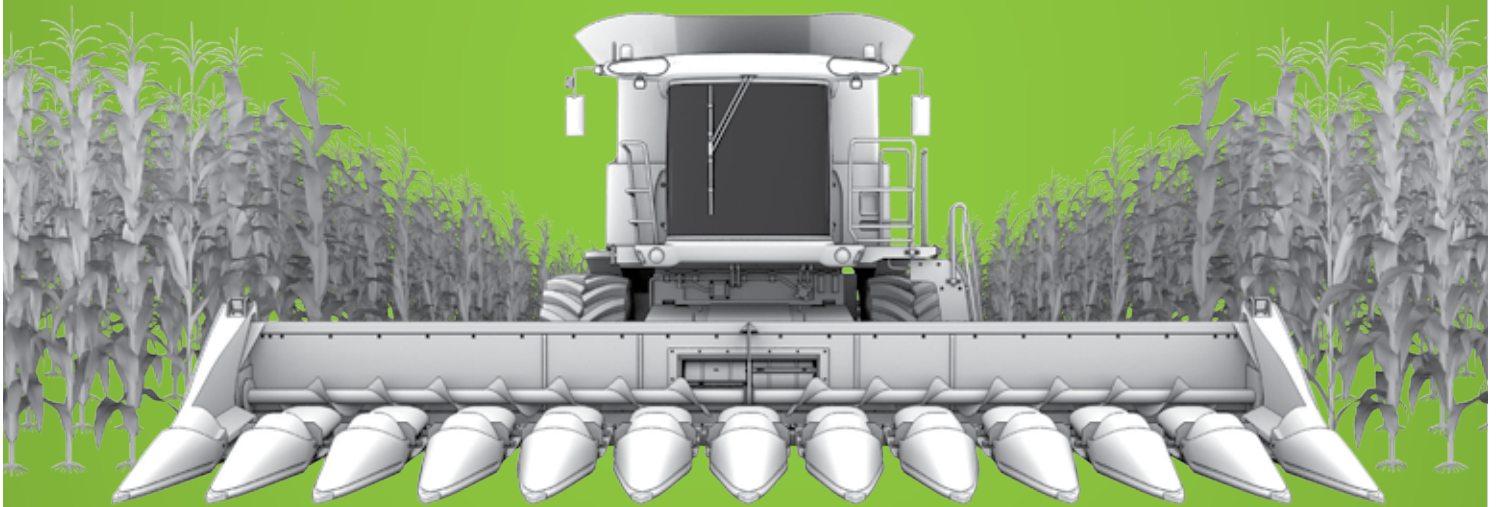
- | | |
|--------------|--|
| July 15 | Evaluating Residential Construction Class
Lincoln, IL |
| July 16, 17 | ISPFMRA Summer Tour
Lincoln, IL |
| July 19 - 23 | ASFMRA Summer Education Week
Omaha, NE |
| August 26 | Mid-Year Land Values Snapshot Survey Press
Event, Farm Progress Show
Decatur, IL |

ADI
Ag Drainage Inc.
**Making the Most
of EVERY
Acre!**

1103 Prairie Mills Road • Golden, IL 62339
www.agdrainage.com • 800-545-9044

BETTER GENETICS

BETTER RESULTS



Every season presents new challenges. That's why Agrigold has developed one of the most diverse genetic lineups in the industry. This gives AgriGold customers a simple way to diversify their genetic selection and manage their risk ensuring better results at harvest. No matter what the season brings, Better Genetics bring Better Results.



AgriGold[®]
WE KNOW CORN

When it comes to higher yields,
no one knows corn like we do.

agrigold.com

Chicago Moms Program Recognized with ASFMRA Meritorious Service Award

Marla Behrends, at left in photo on right, and Linda Olson were presented with the Meritorious Service in Communications award from the American Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers for the Illinois Farm Families Chicago Moms Program by Jerry Hicks, AFM, regional Council member for ASFMRA, during the annual meeting of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Manager and Rural Appraisers in East Peoria. Behrends, who is industry relations manager with the Midwest Dairy Association, and Olson, manager of communications for the Illinois Farm Bureau, accepted the award on behalf of the Chicago Moms Program. The program, which was launched in 2012, involves hosting Chicago-area mothers visiting Illinois farm families for on-farm experiences and inside looks at how food is grown, processed and delivered to grocery stores. During the tours they meet farmers and can ask questions related to growing food and about animal care, antibiotics, hormones, biotechnology and any other topics that interest them. Those 'mom's who make the visits then post blogs on their experiences at www.WatchUs-Grow.org. The program is underwritten by Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Illinois Corn Marketing Board, Illinois Soybean Association and Illinois Beef Association. The award from ASFMRA acknowledges an individual, company, or association involved in the area of communications that has promoted understanding and goodwill between producers and consumers of agricultural products. (Photo courtesy of Chicago Moms Program)



Welcome New Members

Crump, Alexzander

STUDENT
306 W 5th St.
Sterling, IL 61081-3417
815-441-7147 - p
az92@comcast.net

Firkins, Joel Lloyd

STUDENT
408 Chestnut Dr.
St. Joseph, IL 61873-9472
217-714-7294 - p
jlfirki2@illinois.edu

Hill, Kimberly A.

STUDENT
117 McDaniel Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62902-7436
618-964-4415 - p
kim.hill@outlook.com

Noonan, Micharl

ASSOCIATE
Prudential Agricultural Investments
801 Warrenville Rd., Ste. 150
Lisle, IL 60532-4328
319-551-8936 - p
michael.noonan@prudential.com

Sun, Paul DongSun

STUDENT
201 Maple Ave., Apt. G12D
Ithaca, NY 14850-4891
dss337@cornell.edu

Simons, Mark

FRIEND
161935 150 W
Kentland, IN 47951
219-863-3274 - p
mcsimons803@gmail.com

Enger to Head Membership Development

Laura Enger, with Farm Credit Illinois, Mahomet, has taken on the role of chair of the Chapter's Membership Development Committee. As such she will become one of the first 'voices' from the Illinois Society to greet new members when they join the group. Her role will also involve introducing new members at their first formal Society function. In that capacity she is reaching out to all members to lend a welcome hand as they greet newcomers to the group.



Laura Enger

She is looking for committee members to help in this task as well as that of identifying potential new members for the Society. Anyone interested in becoming involved with these activities can contact her directly at 217-590-2157 or at laura.enger@farmcredit.com.

Enger is a 2009 graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in agribusiness markets and management. She joined the Chapter that same year. Her work at Farm Credit is as an appraiser.

Evaluating Residential Construction

ISPFMRA Teams with AI for Education Program

Wednesday, July 15, 2015
from 8:30am - 5pm
American Legion Post 263
1740 5th Street
Lincoln, IL 62656

This seminar is co-sponsored by ISPFMRA and the Chicago Chapter of the Appraisal Institute. It is approved for 7 hours of CE from the AQB and the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

This education program IMMEDIATELY PRECEDES the ISPFMRA Summer Tour in Lincoln.

Evaluating Residential Construction shows how single-family houses are constructed from the ground up. More than 950 construction slides and a 120-page Reference Manual illustrate site conditions, structure, envelope, interior, and environmental system components for houses ranging from custom to affordable and even double-wides. This seminar will improve your confidence to inspect, characterize, and critique a new or existing residential property. You will better identify and describe the quality and condition of a house that affects its market appeal and probable value. Participants have given this seminar high marks for its practicality and benefit to real estate appraisers, brokers, and mortgage lenders.

For details go to:

[\\ http://www.myappraisalinstitute.org/education/seminar_descrb/default.aspx?sem_nbr=789&key_type=S](http://www.myappraisalinstitute.org/education/seminar_descrb/default.aspx?sem_nbr=789&key_type=S)

Upon completion of this seminar, participants should be able to:

- Present prevailing residential construction techniques with associated terminology
- Identify diverse levels of single-family housing construction quality
- Illustrate where to look for potential physical deficiencies in a house

If you want to improve your inspection, description, and valuation skills, then this course is for you.

Cost is \$150.

All registration processes for this event are being managed through CCAI. For information contact Mary Jane Lukas at 312-616-9400 or visit the Web site address shown above.



A herbicide with the work ethic of a machine.

When weeds are handled automatically, you have time to handle everything else. Let Halex GT do the work for you.
Visit HalexGT-Herbicide.com today.

Syngenta
Halex[®] GT

©2010 Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., 410 Swing Road, Greensboro, NC 27409. Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using Syngenta products. Halex[®] GT and the Syngenta logo are registered trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. Syngenta Customer Center: 1-866-SYNGENT(A) (796-4368). www.FarmAssist.com

Swires Named to Hall of Fame

Bobbie Swires, AFM, a 39-year member of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, has been named to the Society's Hall of Fame. The award was presented February 12 during the Chapter's annual meeting held in East Peoria.

Swires was cited for "his willingness to always step forward when asked whether it was for assisting with the United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs in the Decatur area, his local Lion's Club, or for the Society." The presentation was made by Bruce Huber, AFM, ARA, immediate-past president of the Society.

Huber noted Swires' long commitment to local organizations including the YMCA and local Boy Scouts in addition to those cited above. In making the presentation, Huber explained that Swires is a 1972 graduate from the University of Illinois, hold the Accredited Farm Manager title, is a state-certified General Appraiser in both Illinois and Indiana, and is a licensed real estate broker in Illinois.

"Bobbie began his professional farm management career with First National Bank of Decatur then worked for First Midwest Bank before starting his own private farm management and brokerage business in Decatur," Huber explained. He also cited Swires' activities as a Society member including serving as Legislative Affairs Committee chair, Society president in 2006, general chairman of the Illinois Land Values Conference for three years, on the Society's committee for C-FAR for seven years, and co-chair of the International Farm Management Congress in 2009.

"Bobbie is a member's member if there ever was one and I am proud to call him a friend."

The award has been presented to a Society member every year since 1980 for the purpose of recognizing members whose stature 'exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and character both as members of the Society and within their local communities.'



Swires Named to ISPFMRA Hall of Fame

Bobbie G. Swires, AFM, (right) receives a plaque marking his being named to the Hall of Fame for the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. Making the presentation is Bruce Huber, AFM, ARA, immediate past-president of the organization. Huber cited both Swires' involvement as a Society member and leader as well as his involvement with civic activities in the Decatur area over many years. He particularly mentioned Swires' leadership with the local United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, Boy Scouts and Lions Club. The Hall of Fame dates to 1980 and is designed to recognize members for their high standards of professionalism and character as both members of the Society and within their local communities.

ASM

Agricultural

Soil Management

Champaign, IL

(217)356-5756

asm@volomail.net

Soil Testing

Agronomic Consulting

IPM/Scouting

- * Consulting, Recommendations with Maps
- * GPS Boundaries and Soil Test Points
- * Variable Rate Electronic Data Compatibility and Transfer
- * In-House Soil Testing Laboratory

Fransen Elected to Lead IL Society

Randal S. Fransen, AFM, (seated, left) vice president and farm manager at the First National Bank of Dwight, was elected president of the Illinois Society during the business meeting held in conjunction with the Chapter's annual meeting held in East Peoria in February.

Fransen is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in agricultural economics. He joined the Chapter in 1985 and received his AFM accreditation in 1992. He is an alumnus of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

Prior to becoming president he served terms as vice president and president-elect with the Chapter.

Seated next to Fransen is Norbert L. Soltwedel, RPRA, Shumway, IL, immediate past president of the Chapter. In the second row are, from left: Richard H. Hiatt, AFM, ARA, Hiatt Enterprises, Pontiac, IL, president-elect; Eric M.

Wilkinson, AFM, Hertz Farm Management, Inc., Kankakee, vice president, and; Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, secretary/treasurer. Unavailable for the photo was Phil Eberle, Ph.D., Carbondale, IL, academic vice president. The leadership team was sworn in by Fred L. Hepler, AFM, AAC, Hepler and Associates, Edmond, OK, current ASFMRA president.



Silver Plow Award to Schnitkey

Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D. (left) receives the ASFMRA Silver Plow Award from ASFMRA Regional Council Representative Jerry Hicks, AFM, Agrivest Inc., Springfield. The presentation marked Schnitkey's 10-year anniversary serving as secretary/treasurer of the Illinois Chapter. A member since 2002, Schnitkey is an Extension Specialist, Farm Management, with the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, Urbana.



THE FIRST FAMILY OF SINGLE-BAG REFUGE SOLUTIONS.

AUTOMATIC COMPLIANCE AND EASE OF PLANTING IN EVERY BAG.

- The broadest choice in above and below ground insect protection
- The **truly simple** refuge-in-a-bag solution for the Corn-Growing Area; just fill your planter and go

Contact your seed rep or go to genuity.com/RIBComplete



EVERY BUSHEL MATTERS

Important: Genuity® RIB Complete® are blended seed corn products that require the planting of a structured refuge in the Cotton-Growing Area. Always read and follow IRM, grain marketing and all other stewardship practices and pesticide label directions. Details of these practices can be found in the Trait Stewardship Responsibilities Notice to Farmers printed in this publication.
RIBCOM029454 RIB_Page_Ad

Our Commercial Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge our commercial sponsors whose support greatly enriches the programs of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers:

Platinum Level

AgriGold Hybrids
Bayer Crop Science
Beck's Hybrids
Dow AgroSciences
LG Seeds
Monsanto
DuPont Pioneer
Wyffels Hybrids

Gold Level

1st Farm Credit Services
BASF
Burrus Hybrids
COUNTRY Financial
Farm Credit Illinois

Silver

Ag Drainage, Inc.
Agricultural Soil Management (ASM)
Stone Seeds
Syngenta Crop Protection

Bronze

LandOwner Magazine

Please show your support and purchase Products/Services from these companies whenever it is appropriate to do so.

2015 ISPFMRA Annual Meeting

(Clockwise from right) Josh Flint, editor of Prairie Farmer, addresses the group after receiving the Service to Agriculture Award (see complete story on Page 12); Immediate Past President Norbert Soltwedel presented ASFMRA shirts to Dan Legner and Herb Meyer for their work as co-chairs for the Appraisal Education Committee; 125 members turned out for the annual event and that attendance represents one third of the total membership, not including Friends; Eric Wilkinson newly elected vice president, discusses activities being undertaken by the Young Professional Group Committee, of which he is co-chair; Fred Hepler, ASFMRA President, delivers the oath of office to the newly-elected leadership team of the Illinois Society.





(Clockwise from above) The area set aside for meal functions / breaks and the Scholarship auction doubled as the site for the Trade Talk program offered by members of the Chapter Commercial Sponsors; Jerry Hicks presents special recognition to representatives from the Chicago Moms Program (see complete story on Page 14); members wait for the ice cream to be served during the Ice Cream Social break in the afternoon on February 12; new ISPFMRA President Randy Fransen receives the Chapter's ceremonial gavel from past-president Norbert Soltwedel during the traditional Passing of the Gavel ceremony held at breakfast on the final day of the conference.



What Do ALL These Items Have in Common??



They are ALL part of the 2015 ISPFMRA Summer Tour!!

- Weaver Popcorn in Forest City
- TN&W Irrigation in Manito
- Yield 360 Training Center in Morton
- River Valley Farm in Tremont
- Sysco Foods Distribution Center in Lincoln
- Challenges of Marijuana Growing -- legally, of course

It ALL happens July 16 and 17 and will be based out of Lincoln, IL.

BOOK YOUR DATES and be a part of it!

Watch www.ispfmra.org for details