



Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

Important Reminders:

- The IEAA Fall Membership meeting will be held September 26-27 at Rend Lake. Mark your calendars now!
- Dues payments of \$75 should be sent to Rhonda Ferree, at the Fulton Unit office.

President's Report—James Morrison

Welcome to another IEAA year! The year ahead will no doubt offer not only challenges, but opportunities as well. My hope is that all of us, working together, can make the most of these opportunities, and get the job done.

First a look back. Thanks to Pete and other retiring officers, directors, and committee chairs for their involvement this past year. We appreciate your time, effort, and leadership. If you didn't make the Fall meeting in Decatur, you missed an excellent 2-day event. Thanks to Stu, Paul, and others from the East Central district for a very enjoyable, educational, and fulfilling (food was excellent!) time.

Now the present. With the start of a new year, it is time to get your membership dues paid for 2002. As approved at our Fall meeting, IEAA dues are \$75.00. This reflects a \$15.00 increase in NACAA dues (from \$25 to \$40) that was approved at the 2001 NACAA annual meeting/professional improvement conference.

We hope you feel \$75.00 is a good investment and encourage you to complete the membership form in this newsletter and on the IEAA web site <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/ieaa/> Send the form and your check to our treasurer, Rhonda Ferree, Fulton County. Let's get as many dues paid by December 31 as possible.

There continues to be reports of members not receiving *The County Agent*. If you don't get this magazine, please contact me. Hopefully these problems will be solved in the near future when we receive our new membership database from NACAA.

What's ahead? We need a representative from IEAA to serve on the Education Committee for the 2003 NACAA AM/PIC in Green Bay. Wisconsin is hoping to get one representative from each of the bordering state organizations to serve in an advisory role to help select speakers, subjects, breakout groups, etc. The

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2002 Dues Notice—Rhonda Ferree

As of November 30, I have received 26 membership renewals and one new membership for 2002. Thank you all!

Unfortunately, we are only half way there. My records show I still need [membership forms](#) and dues from 26 2001 members. Please send your form and payment today! To assure accu-

rate information is sent to NACAA, we must have state forms and payment soon.

Additionally, remember to spread the good news about IEAA! Encourage others to join.

President's Report—*cont.*

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individual would likely have a “hands-on” role at the AM/PIC. It is assumed most of the committee meetings would be conference calls. If interested, please contact me.

We plan to have three additional newsletters—February 1, June 14, and August 2, 2002. If you have something to share, get the information to Robert Bellm, newsletter editor, by the above dates.

Mark on your calendar March 6 and 7, 2002. That's the date for the Spring Joint Associa-

tions meeting at the Holiday Inn Brandywine, Peoria. IEAA will have a membership meeting including new member induction. More info later.

Make every effort to get to your District meetings, invite life members (and take along a non-member), be an active committee member, and consider making award applications.

Best wishes for the Christmas Season! Be safe.

Jim Morrison
President, IEAA

West Central District News—*Stanley (Jay) Solomon, Jr.*

Mark February 22 on your calendars: Dot Foods, the largest food redistributor in the United States, has invited West Central IEAA for a tour of their facilities in Mt. Sterling. Dot foods serve distributors coast to coast on a daily basis. With headquarters in Mt. Sterling, Illinois, Dot is a family owned business that has grown from a single station wagon driven by the founder, Robert Tracy, to a fleet of over 400 multi-temp tractor-trailers. Check out their website for more information: <http://www.dotexpressway.com/home.shtml>.

All west central region members and others with interest are encouraged to attend this informative tour. The 60-90 minute tour will start at 10:00 a.m. We'll meet in the reception area prior to 10. Go to main building, by flagpole, enter and wait in reception area. A busi-

ness meeting will be held at a local restaurant following the tour. We have several business items that need to be addressed by the membership.

Other dates to mark on your calendar are:

April 12: Tour of Illinois Department of Agriculture - Springfield

June 14: Ethanol Production Plant or Midwest Grain processing

July/August: Summer get-together/Turf Grass inspection (Open for input)

September 13 (Northwest area of the region. Suggestions?)

Southern District News—*Robert C. Bellm*

Members of the Southern District met at the Carbondale Center on November 9th to set meeting dates for the upcoming year. In addition, three potential new members were invited to attend, and encouraged to join the organization.

Meeting Dates:

January 11—10:00 a.m.
Pioneer Hybrids Inc. seed plant—Hamilton Co.

March 8—10:00 a.m.
Guided tour of Cypress Creek Refuge

April 12—9:30 a.m.
Mike Plumer's Place—Natural Resources Mgt.

June 13—Noon
Ewing Field Day

August 9, 2002
Rend Lake—Fall Association Meeting planning

September 26-27
Rend Lake—Fall Association Meeting

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS—*Dave Robson, District 6*

The Council of Academic Professionals (formerly Professional Advisory Committee or PAC) is composed of representative from the more than 3000 Academic Professionals on campus. District 6, which encompasses only the University of Illinois Extension, is the largest of the districts. The group meets monthly.

The Council reports directly to the Chancellor, and provides input, suggestions and comments on Academic Professional issues within the UI-UC environment. This past year we've made a big push to look at long-range planning, trying to follow what we've always known in Extension "to be proactive instead of reactive."

Some of the issues we're tackling include:

1. Professional Development opportunities for all Academic Professionals (APs). Extension employees are blessed with something that is the envy of others. CAP is trying to convince other departments on the values of allowing staff to attend training, classes, conferences, or take a study leave.
2. Working with the Faculty Senate on developing a multi-year contract. Coupled with this, though, is a Severe Sanctions other than Dismissal for Cause. The first will help the University attract and keep quality staff. The second is a system for the University to have an "out" if the multi-

year contract for an employee develops into a problem.

3. Formalizing our involvement with Faculty Senate committees. The Faculty Senate essentially determines policies that may have a bearing on campus APs; however APs have no formal voice. Many APs have served as ad hoc liaisons to committees for years.
4. Developing an UI Academic Professional website, where APs can find information on jobs, salaries, professional development, and other issues. The site will be www.cap.uiuc.edu. It's our hope to have it up and running by February 2002.
5. Interacting with the University Academic Human Resources on dismissal issues, and resolving grievances dealing with dismissals.

CAP sponsors the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) award. This past year, Ellen Burton, Consumer and Family Economics, Peoria Center, was one of 3 APs throughout the campus who were recognized. David Fisher, Pat Buchanan and Chris Doll have been recognized in the past.

If you have an Academic Professional concern or comment, feel free to contact me at robsond@mail.aces.uiuc.edu.

The Council on Academic Professionals reports directly to the Chancellor.

Fall Association Meeting—*Robert C. Bellm*

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the 2002 Fall Association meeting in beautiful southern Illinois!

Plans are being made to hold the meeting on September 26-27 at Rend Lake, near Ina (that's south of Mt. Vernon off of I-57 for you northern folks looking at a map).

The area has attractions that should appeal to all members of the association, including:

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park, Southern Illinois Artisan's Center, fishing, boating, golf courses, shooting ranges, wineries, hiking trails, and the crop research plots located at Rend Lake College and Ewing Field.

Proposed educational tours include the new fish processing plant in Perry County, local wineries, the Rend Lake Golf Course (actual turf management!), and local crop research plots.

Remember the Fall Association Meeting!

September 26-27, 2002





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Benefits of Joining IEAA

- Participate in defining the future of your profession
- Opportunities to become better acquainted with other NACAA members and staff on regional and national levels
- Recognition from colleagues for your educational programs and other activities
- Direct input into Extension policy that may affect your future
- Satisfaction of doing your part in the advancement of your profession
- Improvement of professional skills and abilities through Association activities

IEAA on The Web

[Http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/ieaa/](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/ieaa/)

Goals of IEAA

The Pursuit of excellence in Extension Education by professionals interested in agriculture.

Objectives:

- To encourage the pursuit of professional improvement activities by IEAA members.
- To provide leadership opportunities for IEAA members.
- To recognize members for professional excellence.
- To provide professional improvement opportunities for IEAA members.
- To promote professional improvement by IEAA members.

Protect, enhance and promote the interests of Extension Professionals.

Objectives:

- To encourage participation in IEAA activities.
- To build coalitions with other Extension organizations in the advocacy of and in response to University administration, legislators, and other officials on matters impacting Extension professionals.
- To serve as a conduit between field staff members and administration.
- To provide a means for program development in all facets of agriculture.