



Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

Reminder:

If you haven't yet paid your 2004 IEAA membership dues, please do so as soon as possible.

The March deadline for all membership information to be sent on to NACAA is fast approaching. Memberships submitted after the national deadline do not count towards voting delegates at the AM/PIC.

Dues should be sent to:

Lynn Weis
Bond County Extension Unit
Lake and Harris Avenue
P.O. Box 187
Greenville, IL 62246

President's Report—*Marion Shier*

The winter meeting season is upon us. We may be going in so many directions we are not sure where we are going next. During this busy season, we need to take some time to collect thoughts, and take advantage of the opportunities offered through the NACAA awards programs.

By now you should have received a bright yellow copy of the January 2004 "The County Agent" magazine that includes the descriptions of awards categories, entry information, and a listing of the NACAA officers at the national and regional levels. All of us provide quality programs to our clientele every year. If you have not received your issue of "The County Agent" magazine, please let me know so that we can identify the cause and get it corrected.

Take time to review the awards categories and submit several entries. Illinois needs to be represented well at the regional level. There are three categories in horticulture, three for livestock, two for precision agriculture, two for agricultural economics/marketing, one award for 4-H and Youth, one for unit leaders, one for crop production, thirteen communications awards, and numerous NACAA poster session options. As you can see, if

you cannot find several categories to submit entries, you probably are not looking too closely.

Also included in this issue of "The County Agent" is a very good "Early Career Development Survey" that we all should take time to complete. It can be completed on the web by going to the NACAA home page at: <http://www.nacaa.com/>

At the bottom of the page is a link that will take you to the survey instrument. After completing the survey on the web, you can instantly review the summary of all survey responses. The results of this survey will be utilized to address the needs of "Early Career" employees. You are encouraged to complete the survey if you have worked in Extension from one day to "over 30 years". That includes all of us!

I hope to see everyone at the spring meeting schedule in conjunction with the PDO on Grant Writing and the Spring JCEP meeting in Springfield on March 4th and 5th. Please look for the registration information concerning the JCEP meeting later in this newsletter.

Keep up the good work through the rest of the winter meetings and spring will soon be here.

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President-elect's Report—*Robert C. Bellm*

At the end of the month, Stu Ellis and I will represent IEAA at the *North Central JCEP Leadership Development Conference* in Arlington Heights. This annual event is attended by representatives of each of the four Extension professional associations, and provides an opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from different associations and different states. As frustrating as our local staffing and budget problems may seem sometimes, we usually find that other states may have situations that are as bad, or worse than ours!

On a separate note, I will soon be soliciting your

input as I attempt to create a directory of current IEAA members. Most of the "Old Timers" (those employed before 1986) will remember that IEAA used to print a photo directory of its members which included a short professional vitae. This practice was discontinued due to the cost and time of putting together a print-publication.

New digital technology now offers the possibility to do this again, in a more economical and convenient manner. Once we're past the 2004 dues deadline, you can look forward to more information on the project!

Communications Award Applications Due—*Mike Roegge*

Award applications for the NACAA Communications Awards will be due to me by March 15th. Last year our IEAA members responded with 34 award applications (the most I've seen in the short time I've chaired this committee). Of the 12 applications that we forwarded (one for each category) we placed 7 of those as award winners in the regional competition.

Let's keep the success rate high by submitting applications again this year. You have all done programs that deserve to be recognized. Take the time to write up your achievements.

Consider bringing the application to the spring meeting on March 5th. Consult the January 2004 edition of *The County Agent* magazine for award materials, or log on to the NACAA web site at: <http://www.nacaa.com>

Click on the Professional Improvement toggle on the menu to the left, which will take you to where you can download the application form and rules.

Professional Improvement Council Awards—*Rhonda Ferree*

Membership in our association has many benefits, including the opportunity for professional development and improvement. In addition to the opportunities provided through IEAA district and statewide meetings, there are numerous opportunities available through NACAA.

Take a few minutes to look at the many offerings in the January 2004 issue of *The County Agent*. If you don't have a copy, please let Marion Shier know and he'll get you one. Below are a few examples of offerings. Please note that the deadline for all applications to be submitted to the appropriate state committee chair (shown in parentheses) is March 15.

Take advantage of these opportunities!

- **Remote Sensing & GIS Decision Support Seminar** (Higgins)
- **NACAA Cotton Marketing Seminar** (Ruth Hambleton) – even if we don't produce cotton, you wear it!
- **Animal Science Committee Pre-AM/PIC Seminar & Tour** (Fischer)
- **NACAA Pre-Am/PIC Horticulture Workshop & Tour** (Ferree)
- **NACAA/RISE Horticulture/Turfgrass Study Tour** (Ferree)

There are also several study tours available as part of the conference in Florida.

Spring Association Meeting PDO Deadline—*February 15*

Grant Writing, Level I – This workshop is for individuals with limited experience writing grants. It will focus on transforming ideas into fundable grants. Participants will receive practical tips and written materials that will help them write each portion of a grant proposal. A step-by-step process will be covered, including worksheets, checklists and examples.

Grant Writing, Level II – This workshop is for individuals with previous experience in writing grants and who have a grant proposal idea. Participants should bring a one-page description of the problem to be addressed by their grant and the basic goals and objectives they wish to accomplish.

This workshop will focus on ways to improve the potential for funding grants. Participants should come with a potential fundable grant idea that they wish to develop. Participants will utilize instruction and peer consultation/critique to begin developing the grant proposal. Suggestions for writing each section of the grant proposal will be covered. Organizational Policies and Guidelines will be covered.

Presenters for these workshops include: Richard Clark, ACES Office of Administration and Finance staff, and Office of Business and Financial Services Grants and Contracts Office staff.

PRIDE Award—*Russ Higgins*

Could you use an extra \$500? That's the national award for the winning PRIDE Program entry. PRIDE is an acronym for "Public Relations in Daily Efforts." The purpose of the award is to recognize NACAA members for outstanding use of public relations to improve the understanding of agriculture/ horticulture in their communities.

I encourage you to submit an entry, either individually or as a team, for the PRIDE Program award. Remember - the 2004 NACAA AM/PIC is in Orlando, Florida on July 11th to 15th.

Illinois did not have an entry in 2003, and I am certain there are individuals who qualify! Please take half a day and apply!

Complete details for the Program can be found on

page 15 of the January 2004 issue of *The County Agent*. Note the following:

• Complete the General Application Form that is on page 2 of the current issue of *The County Agent*. You will need the signature of your supervisor. Remember to check the box for "PRIDE Program" under "Program Recognition Council" in the lower section of the application form.

Also review the "Entry Criteria" section on page 15. It provides an outline for the entry, describes the information that is expected to be included in each section of your entry, and the points that will be awarded for each section.

Send your completed entry to me so I receive it by March 15, 2004.

District News

Northern District:

The next Northern District meeting will be February 27th at the Lee County Extension office in Amboy from 9:00–Noon.

A retirees luncheon will be held on April 9th at Maxxons restaurant in Oregon. An IEAA meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., followed by social time and lunch with our retired peers. Members from other districts are encouraged to join the festivities. The stories that are told!!

East Central District:

The EC Region has meeting dates scheduled for :

- April 1, 2004 (Dairy Tour in McLean County - still working out details)
- June 3, 2004
- November 4, 2004

Southern District:

The Southern District has meeting dates scheduled for:

- March 19, 2004
- April 30, 2004
- June 4, 2004
- September 10, 2004
- November 12, 2004



Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

Officers:

President	- Marioin Shier
President Elect	- Robert Bellm
Vice President	- Stu Ellis
Secretary	- Mike Roegge
Treasurer	- Lynn Weis
Past President	- Dennis Bowman

District Directors:

North	- Russ Higgins - Gary Bretthauer
West Central	- Mike Roegge - Aaron Duffelmeier
East Central	- Ellen Trainor - Steve Ayers
Southern	- John Pike - Elizabeth Wahle

Newsletter Editor - Robert Bellm

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/>

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 .

Joint Spring ILJCEP Meeting March 4-5, 2004

U of I Extension Building, State Fairgrounds, Bldg. 30
Springfield, IL

Thursday, March 4, 2004

9:30 a.m. ILJCEP Board

10:00 – 11:45 – ESP Assoc. Meeting

11:30 – 12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch Served (need to sign up) **Note:** IEAFCS Board will meet during lunch

12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **PDO - Grant Writing Levels I and II** (must register for the PDO to attend)

5:00 p.m. – Adjournment

Dinner on your own

Friday, March 5, 2004

7:30 a.m. – Breakfast Buffet (need to sign up)

8:30 a.m. – ILJCEP Update, Dr. Denny Campion, and Extension Partners

9:30 a.m. – Break

9:40 a.m. – Noon – IEAFCS, IEAA, IEPYE – Association Meetings

Lunch On Your Own & Safe Travels Home

To make sure you are included follow these simple steps:

1. Register for the PDO. <http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/pdo/> Choose either Grant Writing Level I or Level II on or before Feb. 15, 2004.
2. Register for Joint Spring ILJCEP Meeting using the attached Registration Form – by Feb. 24. Send to Bill Million, State 4-H Office, 302 E. John St., #1901, Champaign, IL 61820.
3. Are you staying over night? Some options to consider include:
 - Northfield Inn and Suites (217) 523-7900 - East of office, just off I -55, exit 100B
 - Ramada Limited (217) 523-4000 - East of office, just off I -55, exit 100B
 - Springfield Hilton (217) 789-1530 or The Renaissance (217) 544-8800 (Downtown)
 - The Crown Plaza (217) 529-7777 – off Clearlake Ave just west of I -55
 - Fairfield Inn (217) 793-9277 – South of the Mall on Rt. 4
 - Comfort Inn (217) 787-2250 – South of the Mall on Rt. 4

Registration Form

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Member Registration (check all that apply)

IEAFCS IEAA IEPYE ESP

Thursday lunch only, \$10

Friday meeting and breakfast only, \$10

Friday meeting only, \$6

Full Registration, \$20

1st Time Attendee

(less than 2 years Extension employment)

Thursday lunch only, \$8

Friday meeting and breakfast, \$5

Friday meeting only \$5

Full Registration, \$14

- Please write checks accordingly and make payable to **Epsilon Sigma Phi**.
- Mail registration to: Bill Million, State 4-H Office, 302 E. John St., #1901, Champaign, IL 61820 **before February 24.**
- This registration form is only good for Association meetings – it does not cover PDO.