



## Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

### Congratulations ! 2004 NACAA Award Winners

**David Robson**  
Distinguished Service Award

**Rhonda Ferree**  
Achievement Award

### President's Report—*Marion Shier*

I attended the PILD (Public Information and Leadership Development) Conference in Washington DC the first of May.

This was a very informative conference that allowed Extension professional staff from across disciplines and around the United States to meet together, discuss issues, funding challenges, and become better informed about the legislative process. We gained a better awareness of the multitudes of challenges that bombard legislators daily and what types of information that we can provide that may aid them in supporting our efforts.

On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, we visited Capitol Hill and visited with staffers of several Illinois legislators. We met with staff from Senator Durbin and Senator Fitzgerald's offices. We also discussed the same topics with staff from Congressman Hastert, Evans, Johnson, Emanuel, and Costello's offices. We summarized several of the issues and programs that we are involved with and then encouraged them to support the reinstatement of the 10% reduction from last years Federal Appropriation. Several staffers were former 4-H members, while others were not aware of what Extension is or does.

(Teachable moments for sure.) Several of the staffers inferred that they would encourage support of our funding while others were much more ambivalent.

We need to remember that we need to keep legislators informed, invited, and involved with Extension programs. We need to send them newsletters, invite them to programs to have a chance to meet with constituents, involve them on councils and committees, and make personal visits to their offices to become a resource for them when dealing with agricultural, horticultural, environmental, youth development, rural development, or other Extension issues.

The NACAA AM/PIC is rapidly approaching and the early registration deadline has now passed. We will be planning a state's night out for those attending this years meeting and I would like to know who and how many are planning to attend. This years national meeting should be an excellent learning experience for those attending because of the diversity of offerings that Florida has.

Have a good summer and take some time for yourself and your family.

#### Inside this issue:

NACAA Scholarship Information	2
2004 Communications Award Winners	2
West Central District News	3
East Central District News	3

### President-elect's Report—*Robert Bellm*

Summer is officially here, and it seems that time is rapidly slipping away. Between client requests for programs, farm visits, phone calls, and miscellaneous Extension committee meetings, there just aren't enough hours in the day to keep up sometimes.

We need to remember to make time, and then take time to be actively involved in our professional association activities! It is easy to become so immersed in the day-to-day details of our job that we forget the personal and professional benefits of association membership. Case in point: this newsletter issue was due out more

than a month ago, and is just now getting completed.

If you've forgotten why you joined our association, glance at the last page of this newsletter. It is there as a constant reminder of why we belong to IEAA. Take the time to get involved! Volunteer to serve on a committee. Attend your local District meetings. Attend the national meeting. Apply for an association scholarship or award, and be recognized for your outstanding work efforts.

And by all means, remind your fellow members to do the same!

## NACAA Scholarship Information—*Betsy Greene, Scholarship National Chair*

As the National Scholarship Chair, I would like to remind our membership of a few action items:

**1. To be eligible to apply for a 2004 Scholarship (group or individual), all applicants must have donated \$40 to the scholarship fund by June 30, 2003 (NOTE: 2003).**

This ensures that the scholarship members are active members for at least a year before they have the opportunity to benefit from this great opportunity. (This is not a new rule...)

**2. Please be sure that your members that are interested in applying for a 2005 scholarship have donated (received by myself...) the \$40 before June 30, 2004.**

**3. We are requesting items for the live and silent auction in Orlando.**

Please encourage folks to donate, whether they will be able to make it to the meeting or not... they can still get credit for the value of the item toward the \$40 dollar donation.

**4. We will have some great "Case" NACAA knives for sale at the meetings.**

These have the logo engraved on the blade, and come with a nice tin that has the logo

screened on the top. They are offered at \$45 at the meetings, and this is approximate retail cost of the knife without the tin or engraving. High quality knives for a high quality membership!

If you have some retiring members, or someone that deserves to be honored, consider purchasing a knife for them for a great (and useful) keepsake.

**5. This year we will also have another activity at the auction...a "must be present to win" drawing.**

We will be selling tickets throughout the meetings (get them at registration!) and you will have the chance at several smaller drawings and one great big one during the auction.

Good news: if you win, you get money: cold, hard cash! If you don't win: you get donation credit. How's that for a win-win-win?

Look for those things to support Scholarship, especially since it only exists to help support membership!

Let me know if you have any questions!

---

*The deadline for making your 2005 scholarship contribution is June 30th, 2004.*

## NACAA Communications Award Winners—*Mike Roegge*

Award Category	Winner	Award Level
Radio Program	Stu Ellis	State, Regional, National Finalist
Published Photo & Caption	Kevin Brooks	State, Regional
Computer Generated Presentation	Dennis Bowman	State, Regional
Direct Mail Piece	Kevin Brooks	State
Personal Column	Stu Ellis	State
Feature Story	Rhonda Ferree	State, Regional
Newsletter by Individual	John Fulton	State, Regional
Newsletter by a Group	Stu Ellis *	State, Regional
Video/TV Presentation	Kevin Brooks	State, Regional
Factsheet	Dean Oswald	State
Publication	Rhonda Ferree	State, Regional
Web page	Susan Meeker **	State, Regional, National Finalist
Learning Module/Notebook	Pete Fandel ***	State, Regional

Other members of the team include:

\* Paul Mariman

\*\* Jodie Tate

\*\*\* Dennis Bowman, Greg Clark, Aaron Dufelmeier, Sean Evans, Marion Shier, Cathy Deppe, April Eddinger, Lisa Woessner, Deanna Hanks

## West Central District News—*Rhonda Ferree*

Join the IEAA West Central District on August 6<sup>th</sup> in Mason County for a summer tour.

The day will begin at 8:30 at the CIIGA (Central Illinois Irrigated Growers Association) plots. They are located about 5 miles east of Havana on Rt. 136. All the plots are on irrigated sand ground. Research projects include continuous soybean herbicide trials (Sunrise Ag), composting study (Duane Friend), miscanthus (Dr. Steve Long, U of I), pea and sweet corn variety screening/pea root rot tolerance study, nematode study in soybeans, Bt vs. non Bt impact on insect reduction, Horizon seed corn study, mustard study, Bill Brink's research, cuphea (USDA Research Lab in Peoria), Growmark plots, and Weaver Popcorn research.

After the plot tour the group will go to Rhonda Ferree's house for lunch. Rhonda's house is 3 miles east of Havana on Rt. 136. Rhonda will provide a BBQ and tour of her yard and CRP ground.

Following lunch will be a tour of Chautauqua Na-

tional Wildlife Refuge and the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery. Located along the Illinois River, Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge covers 4,480 acres of bottomland forest, floodplain wetlands, and backwater lake habitat (<http://midwest.fws.gov/Chautauqua/>). Refuge Manager is Ross Adams, husband of Pike County Unit Leader Marianne Adams.

Near Chautauqua is Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, the largest of Illinois' four hatcheries (<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Education/INTERPRT/jwolf.htm>).

Tentative Schedule is:

9:00 - 11:00 Tour CIIGA plots

11:15 - 12:30 Lunch at Rhonda's

1:00 - 3:00 Chautauqua and Fish Hatchery Tour

For more information contact Rhonda Ferree at 309-547-3711 ([ferree@uiuc.edu](mailto:ferree@uiuc.edu)) or Keith Worner at 309-543-3308 ([jworner@uiuc.edu](mailto:jworner@uiuc.edu)).

---

## *West Central District Summer Tour—August 6, 2004*

## East Central District News—*Marion Shier*

The East Central District IEAA met on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Stone Ridge Dairy near Bellflower Illinois. This dairy milks about 3000 cows three times daily (lots of fun for the milking crew who milk for about 7 1/2 hours straight every shift that they work).

The larger picture shows the double 50 milking facility. Their goal is to turn fifty cows into one side of the parlor, prepare them for milking, milk them, take off and dip and release them every 13 minutes.

One other thing about this dairy that surprised me was that they do not have a bulk tank, the milk is filtered, cooled and pumped directly into semi tankers and transported to Wisconsin for cheese.

Following the tour we ate lunch in Farmers City, had a good discussion, and were on our way.





## Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

### Officers:

President	- Marion 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 .