



Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

Special points of interest:

- NACAA awards
- Congratulations to Russ Higgins and Martha Smith
- 2005 NACAA Annual Meetings, Buffalo, NY
- Fall IEAA meeting, Vincennes, IN

President's Reports— Robert Bellm

Hopefully many of you took the opportunity to apply for one of the many NACAA awards. Applications were due to the various committee chairs on March 15th. Illinois has traditionally done quite well on the regional and national level, which is indicative of the quality of our programs, and the hard work of our membership.

At the March membership meeting in Springfield, elections were held for the positions of vice president and treasurer, to become effective at the fall membership meeting in September. I want to congratulate Russ Higgins, IPM educator at the Matteson Center, on being elected vice president, and Martha Smith, Horticulture educator at the Macomb Center, on being elected treasurer. I'm sure that both will find their new offices both challenging and rewarding.

I would like to remind everyone to mark their calendars to attend the 2005 NACAA Annual

Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference, to be held on July 17-21 in Buffalo, New York. If you haven't attended the AM/PIC for a number of years, you might be surprised at the format changes that have occurred since you last attended. The quality of tours and educational seminars has improved greatly in recent years, and there should be educational opportunities within everyone's area of specialization. AM/PIC details are still in development, but the general program is now listed on the NACAA website at: <http://www.nacaa.com/> Registration information is still not available, but should be shortly.

Another date to get locked on your calendars is the fall IEAA membership meeting to be held on September 13-14, 2005. This year's meeting is being hosted by the East Central District, and is tentatively going to be sited at Vincennes, Indiana. This will give the opportunity to invite some of our Indiana colleagues and share some programming ideas and fellowship with them.

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JCEP Meetings, Milwaukee, WI

2005 AM/PIC highlights at a glance

Stu Ellis and Mark Hoard attended the 2005 JCEP meetings in Milwaukee, WI. The meeting were interesting and the following topics were discussed.

NACAA/PIC meeting in Buffalo, NY

Make sure to mark your calendar for NACAA/PIC meeting in Buffalo, NY, on July 17-21. Hotels will be Hyatt, Adam's Mark, etc., all with pools, the room rates will be \$120/night +tax. Registration will be \$215 member registration, \$170 Spouse, \$120 kids. Some tours will be in Canada and either Passport or Certified Birth Certificate will be required. Details

can be obtained at:
www.buffalo2005.rutgers.edu

Orlando Evaluation

Attendance was poor at general sessions, and there is a need to cutback on the length, hence the reworking of the Buffalo schedule. There was a very high evaluation of all of the Professional Improvement Sessions and Extension administrators should be aware of the impact of the sessions for continued support of the AM/PIC.

Association News

Membership issues

NACAA has formed a "Futuring Committee" to work on issues of how to recruit and retain younger members. Current addresses are needed for retired and life members since they become more mobile. Other issues being addressed include: AM/PIC attendance, relationship with JCEP, staffing patterns and effects on clientele, helping members better understand important issues, NACAA mission, relationship with USDA, increasing support for promotion and tenure of members.

Galaxy

A general chairman is being selected for the 2008 Galaxy meeting, and NACAA members are urged to make application, particularly those in the NC region because of the Indianapolis venue. The event will be scheduled for September or October. Details about the position are on the JCEP.org website, and deadline for application is May 1.

Outstanding Young Farmer Contest

Associations are urged to solicit applicants for the OYF program coordinated by Jaycees and sponsored by John Deere. Minimum number of applicants in a state is 3, and if an association can hold a contest, Deere will provide \$500 to the association.

Other NACAA organizational issues

Information was distributed about regional and state membership, along with membership trends. The 2004 NACAA membership was 3547, (4215 in 1994). The 2004 regional membership are: NC-858, NE-322, W-399, S-1968. Dues income and membership have declined 6-7% per year. Dues income and membership have declined 6-7% per year. The sponsor pool has also declined. The board has decided not to raise dues and will look at cost cutting to balance the budget. An effort is being made to rotate AM/PIC dates to ensure members will not always be prevented from attending because of county fairs and other events. However, strong debate about county fair vs. family vacation. Staff is working to reduce the interest fee on the

NACAA gets \$1200-\$1500 per year income from the credit card. NACAA needs donors for the AM/PIC, and members who secure funding are given a generous bounty to cover registration and hotel expenses depending on level of financial support, details are in the latest County Agent publication. There is widespread difficulty in getting state Extension specialists to join. The MO association changed its name from "county agents" to "Extension Professionals" to attract them. State newsletters were strongly encouraged (IL newsletter was touted as a good example). State officers handbook is in two versions, one on a CD available from Scott Hawbaker, or a mini PDF version on the web.

Update on NACAA officers:

Fred Miller (current Secretary) is the Southern region candidate for vice president. 30 days remain for nominations, but none others are expected. If Fred is elected, then a new Secretary must be elected, because of Miller's vacated term. Texas is nominating Leon Church for the position. NACAA directors and officers attend: 3 board meetings per year 3-4 days each, spend 8 days at AM/PIC. Directors also attend all state association meetings and participate in monthly conference calls. National officers also attend meetings of the executive committee. The president attends all annual meetings of sister organizations, 2 annual JCEP meetings, 4 regional JCEP meetings, PILD, and some state annual meetings. For the Buffalo AM/PIC, there are no known controversial issues at this time. AM/PIC 2009 location will be Portland, OR, and date will be in September. Several committee chairs and vice chairs are needed. AM/PIC registration is paid along with other perks. See County Agent or NACAA.com for details. March 1 is the deadline for application for committee chairs and vice chairs. Application can be obtained on the NACAA.com website. Website is being promoted, with suggestion to use the site index for ease in navigating it. Important areas include award applications, state officer handbook, committee positions, and AM/PIC details. The NACAA nominating committee will meet the Sunday prior to AM/PIC to review and examine the candidates. Dennis Bowman (IL) and Todd Lorenz (MO) will represent the NC region on the committee.

State Reports

Michigan—state budget problems continue and there is an expectation of elimination of both programs and personnel. County staff are encouraged to earn money through pesticide recertification programs.

Minnesota—still in a meltdown phase and association is down to 27 members. MN is responsible for a NC vice director this year, but state president is uncertain if anyone has a job solid enough to undertake the position. Counties are hiring program coordinators to manage Extension programs to save funds and not filling more expensive Educator positions.

Missouri—funding is generally level. The position of Director of Extension was elevated to a University vice provost. 24 of 30 vacant positions are being filled. Association membership has dropped from 76 to 46 because of retirements and turnover. To promote Association membership the University is providing a central server to allow Association members to post and share PowerPoint presentations.

Nebraska—11% budget cuts in the past several years, but 4-8% budget increases are in place for next two years and 45 posi-

State Reports

North Dakota—nearly all counties are losing population in every age group. Between 1970 and 2000, the number of youth under 18 declined from 63,557 to 11,662 (82%). Some counties have not recorded any births within a 12 month period (obviously eliminating a need for sex education programs.) State has implemented a successful program for eliminating leafy spurge.

Ohio—State Extension budget has been cut 10% and counties are cutting Extension budgets 10-15%, with more cuts anticipated in 2005. OEAA has 100 members but they represent all Extension disciplines. Extension administrators discontinued holding an annual conference, but after a year the OEAA picked up the responsibility with a good reception from Extension staff. Names are being changed from county agents to Extension Educators.

South Dakota—20 “community leader” meetings are held throughout the state which draw county board members, state legislators, Extension council members where they learn impact of Extension staff. Salaries have been low and the average tenure of all Extension staff is 3 years.

Wisconsin—staff is being lost to retirements and positions are not being filled. County and state leadership cannot agree whether to replace vacancies, and if so, with what discipline. There has been a strong debate over a promotion program, which has increased the salaries for everyone, but at the loss of 15 positions which were cut because of cost. Association made \$30,000 at Green Bay AM/PIC and is using for profes-

Indiana—Association has very hard feelings about NACAA stemming from the Southern region’s attitude about Galaxy and Association was considering withdrawing from NACAA affiliation. Association also does not like AM/PIC always being in July because it conflicts with county fairs, and members cannot attend AM/PIC (54 in 2004). Extension office in Marion County (Indianapolis) is on the bubble for closure because of budget cuts. An Extension fee structure is being considered, but not yet implemented. All Educators are required to take a state certification test about human subject evaluation so they can distribute impact surveys after a program.

Iowa—vacancies from retirements are not being filled and all swine specialists are now gone in Northwest Iowa. County offices are now limited to only one professional staff member and that is the county director. A few regional specialists remain, and they are housed in county offices. The regional specialists are encouraged to become certified in a variety of areas so they can charge fees for consultation and group meetings. University revenues have grown substantially, but none are being provided to Extension and county revenues to support local offices have declined. Association membership has declined to 29 county based staff and 40 specialists who are on soft grant money.

Kansas—Association dues have been cut from \$100 to \$85, but money raising events are being held to balance the books. Administration is filing 50 open positions.

Communication Award Winners, Mike Roegge

We had 21 applications for the NACAA Communication Awards this year, down from last year. We selected winners and forwarded out to Dave Whitson (many of you remember Dave when he was an IEAA member who is the North Central Communications chair. From the North Central competition, Illinois will be sending 5 nominations to compete in the national competition.

The following are Illinois winners:

1. Radio—Stu Ellis
2. Published Photo—None
3. Slide Set—Mark Hoard
4. Direct Mail—Rick Keim
5. Personal Column—Rhoda Ferree
6. Feature Story—Paul Mariman
7. Newsletter, individual—John Fulton
8. Newsletter, team—Stu Ellis
9. Video—None
10. Fact Sheet—Rick Keim
11. Publication—Marion Shier
12. Home page—John Fulton
13. Learning Module/Notebook—None

The following Illinois State Winners placed in the top three of the North Central Region and will be representing Illinois in the National Competition. Let’s send them all a message of congratulation and good luck!

North Central Winners

1. Radio—Stu Ellis
2. Personal Column—Rhonda Ferree
3. Feature Story—Paul Mariman
4. Newsletter, team—Stu Ellis
5. Home page—John Fulton



Illinois Extension Agricultural Association

Officers:

President	- Robert Bellm
President Elect	- Stu Ellis
Vice President	- Mark Hoard
Secretary	- Elizabeth Wahle
Treasurer	- Lynn Weis
Past President	- Marion Shier

District Directors:

North	- Gary Bretthauer - Greg Clark
West Central	- John Fulton - Meghan Curless
East Central	- Steve Ayers - Brenda Roedl
Southern	- Ed Billingsley - Justin Sexten

Newsletter Editor - Mark Hoard

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 .