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## Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

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### **Please Renew Your Membership to the IFCA**

As the newly appointed Interim President of IFCA, I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce myself. My name is Kevin “KJ” Johnson, previously I was the Director of Government and Industry Relations for the association. I look forward to working with you on current agronomic practices such as pesticide stewardship, 4R’s, the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy as well as continue being the leading voice for the ag input industry in Washington D.C. and Springfield.

As an association, our main goals include gathering and communicating useful information vital to our members, addressing regulatory concerns, influencing policy-making processes that affect the industry and developing and cultivating high standards on agronomic practices.

Each spring we ask our members to renew their dues and to continue their support of IFCA which enables us to deliver upon our mission to assist and represent you, and to be the voice for the sound stewardship and utilization of ag inputs.

In an unprecedented year with COVID-19, IFCA has served our members by working closely with federal and state agencies to ensure our members could still manage their regulatory requirements thus avoiding any disruption in the ag input supply chain. Some highlights of these efforts are as follows:

- IFCA worked with the IDA to establish an on-line and limited in-person classroom training option for applicators to become certified during COVID-19 restrictions.
- IFCA worked with IDA and other farm groups to finalize rules on farmer ammonia training that will assure improved safety for the handling and transportation of anhydrous ammonia.
- The economic challenges that face Illinois are grim. IFCA has maintained a constant presence at the State Capitol, we are continually building and maintaining positive relationships with our state and federal legislators. In Illinois we have had to be resourceful to keep the wheels from falling apart, and we are always offering common sense viable alternatives to counteract any onerous legislation that impacts our members.
- We worked with the Secretary of State to ensure the continued issuance of the restricted use CDL licenses during spring and fall ammonia season.
- IFCA worked with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency on the rollout of the Phase 1B and to assure our members were listed as essential workers.
- We continue 4R efforts through implementing nitrogen rate trials, providing assistance to on-going NREC research projects, and continue to work with stakeholders in priority watersheds. Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, IFCA remains active on stewardship programs for both nutrient and pesticide issues.

Thank you for being a member of IFCA and supporting your Association. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. In these times you can reach KJ on his cell at (217) 369-1669 or [KJ@IFCA.COM](mailto:KJ@IFCA.COM). We wish you safety and profitability in 2021.

KJ Johnson, IFCA Interim President

**Representing the Agricultural Input Industry**