



Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
Supply • Service • Stewardship



Midwest Ag Industries Exposition



August 25-26, 2021 • McLean County Fairgrounds

Magie is the only major equipment show in the U.S. designed for the ag retail sector AND we are celebrating 40 years. Exhibitors will showcase application equipment, blending and handling equipment, tendering, construction, metering, tanks, tires and all related products and services in the ag industry.

Are you an avid fan of Max Armstrong? IFCA is giving you an opportunity to be able to see him on the show-grounds. Max will be touring the show on Wednesday, August 25th from 8 am – 11 am.



We are ecstatic that he will be walking the show to see our Industry's Premier Outdoor Equipment Show.

Top 5 reasons to attend MAGIE

- The Ag Retail Industry's Premier Outdoor Equipment Show
- Climb in the cab and test-drive ag application equipment
- Escape the office and visit with other peers in the industry
- See up close and learn about cutting edge technology
- FREE FOOD – It's never difficult to find exhibitors firing up a grill and handing out food

Online registration is open:

www.ifca.com/MAGIE/Registration

Show your support for our 40th celebration and visit our on-line store to purchase a commemorative polo shirt, t-shirt and/or hat. Hats are in short supply and are limited at the moment, so don't delay with your order. We would love

to see our attend-

ees wearing their newly purchased apparel at the show. Store link:

<https://ifcastore.itemorder.com/sale>



ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Fall 2021 Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Schools

Each spring and fall, IFCA partners with the IL Dept. of Ag to offer ammonia safety courses throughout the state. Those who attend the training program and pass the exam receive a 3-year certificate from IDA as a “Competent Attendant” to handle anhydrous ammonia.

We have set the dates for the fall ammonia courses; you can register for any of these upcoming classes on our website at www.ifca.com.

There are six upcoming classes available throughout the state. Dates and locations are listed to the right.

Ammonia School Date and Location

September 7	Rock Falls
September 8	Galesburg
September 9	Springfield
September 10	Charleston
September 13	Bloomington
October 4	Bloomington



In-Person Certified Grower Training Dates

IFCA, the Illinois Department of Agriculture and Illinois Farm Bureau recently issued a Joint Press Release July 8th providing dates and locations for in-person Certified Grower Training.

All growers or grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, shall be certified to understand:

- Properties of ammonia
- Safe operating practices
- How to take appropriate actions in the event of a leak or emergency
- Personal protective equipment & first aid
- Transportation safety



Growers, farm employees, family members & others that may handle, transport, or apply ammonia have until April 1, 2022, to be initially certified, and must participate in refresher training every three years. The training sessions will follow IFCA's annual Fall Competent Ammonia Trainings. Grower Training will begin at 1 p.m. and will have limited capacity. Information on the training dates, locations and registration can be found at www.ilfb.org/NH3.



Redistrict Map Legislation Signed by Gov. Pritzker

The redistricting process has unsurprisingly evolved into another partisan debate and Illinois Democrats were feeling the pressure to finalize the maps by June 30 — or the task would have been delegated to a bipartisan commission.

At the end of session, the Senate passed the Democrats legislative district map on a party-line vote of 41-18. A few hours later, the House passed the legislation on a 71-45 partisan line vote. Governor Pritzker signed the legislation on June 4th.

Since Illinois has not yet received data from the census, Democrats used American Community Survey data to draw the maps. The use of this data has garnered significant criticism.

The new maps did not include the state's congressional districts. Democrats currently have a 13-5 majority in the state's congressional delegation and, as a result of the census data, the total number of delegates will fall to 17 from 18. It is likely that Democrats will aim to redraw the districts to preserve their number of delegates while getting rid of a Republican seat.

Illinois' primary date next year is moving, from March 15 to June 28 — a move that gives candidates for the U.S. House time to organize their campaigns and petition drives, given that legislators will not finalize a new map of Congressional districts until fall.

Breakdown of 2021 Spring Legislative Session at the Illinois State Capitol

IFCA had a successful spring session in Springfield. As most years, IFCA is trying to defend programs that we support or prohibit bad legislation. The 2021 year was no different than most years. Below are a handful of bills that IFCA successfully killed or help stop in both chambers. We also worked to secure funding for the nutrient loss reduction strategy going on in the State of Illinois.

- Legislation was proposed that would have injected the current California Clean Air Standards for diesel engines into Illinois regulations. The legislation would have required all model year 2007 and later vehicles registered in the federal clean air non-attainment areas of Illinois to pass 5% testing standards. This includes Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Will, McHenry, portions of Grundy & Kendall, St. Clair, Madison, and Monroe Counties. IFCA and allied interests met with the bill's sponsor and others to remove the California standard language in exchange for a study to be conducted by IDOT on diesel emissions.

- A ban of Neonic Pesticides to be banned on any State of Illinois property. This bill did not get a hearing.

- A ban of Glyphosate in Illinois. The bill would have provided that no person shall distribute, sell, offer for sale, or use glyphosate or any products containing glyphosate within Illinois. The bill was never called for a hearing.

- Pesticide Penalties Bill. Sen. Villa introduced legislation to amend the Illinois Pesticide Act. The bill both add and changes monetary penalties for specified amounts of violation points. The legislation would have tripled most fines in the pesticide act. IFCA had meetings with Sen. Villa and the environmental groups, and

no agreement could be reached. Discussions will continue on this legislation this fall.

- IFCA worked with ag and environmental groups to secure more funding in the FY 2022 budget for ag priorities. Two major line items to note, Soil, Water, and Conservation Districts (SWCDs) funding and the cover crop program. Both programs saw major increases. Total funding for SWCDs doubled to \$15 million by increasing operations funding by \$4 million. The budget also created new funding for the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy at \$3.5 million. The cover crop program more than doubled, the program was increased by \$360,000 to \$660,000.

- Property taxes on commercial property legislation was reintroduced. The bill forces commercial property owners to disclose certain financial information to the county assessor's office about the building's income. This would enable the county assessor to get more information to help accurately calculate its value for the tax assessment purposes. IFCA was one of the lead groups working legislators to oppose this harmful bill. This bill was not called in committee but plan on this moving forward again. This legislation is the top priority of the Cook County Assessor's office.

FOCUS ON FERTILIZER

turer or distributor, registration is still required if your company name appears on label or invoice when the product is distributed to the farmer. This only applies to single fertilizer products that are sold or distributed; custom mix products do not require registration.

When submitting your fertilizer registration form to IDA, also include an example of an invoice or delivery ticket listing all fertilizer products that you are registering. Include on the example invoice or delivery ticket the following information: Your company name and address, the customer name and address, the net weight and quantity of the product, and product grade. If listing by gallon include weight per gallon. **Please contact John Reholz at 309.827.2274 or john@ifca.com with questions.**

Fertilizer Registration

If your company name & address appears on a fertilizer invoice or delivery ticket, the Illinois Fertilizer Act requires you to register each individual fertilizer grade at \$20 per product. This is not a new requirement, but IDA is following up with retailers as they do fertilizer sampling, to ensure you have your products properly registered. Even though you are not changing the guarantee or altering the product from the manufac-

From the President's Desk

by Kevin "KJ" Johnson



It is challenging to come into a job on the heels of someone like Jean Payne, who was IFCA's president for 17 years. I appreciate Jean's guidance and mentoring for

the past 8 years. Also, I appreciate the IFCA board of directors for having the confidence in me to steer the IFCA ship into the future. I took the reins on April 1st and have really enjoyed these first few months. I have been making short- and long-term plans for the IFCA staff and the board of directors to enhance the value we bring to our membership. I have been on the road most of June and July visiting our great members. I appreciate all the IFCA members that have opened their doors to me. I have had good conversations on how the staff and I plan to lead IFCA into the future. In these visits I have also received input from our members on concerns they have on regulations, employment issues and things that are going on in our nation and state capitol. I plan to take this information back to our board of directors to come up with policies to better help serve our members.

IFCA is fighting for the future of our industry, and I am honored to be the one carrying that message and communicating the importance of our industry to regulators, legislators, and the public at large. There are too many people who do not understand or appreciate our culture, much less the value and importance of the ag input industry to the economy of this state. The ag input industry supports 30,437 jobs, pays \$1.13 billion in taxes, pays \$2.34 billion in wages, and has \$8.07 billion in economic impact to the state of Illinois.

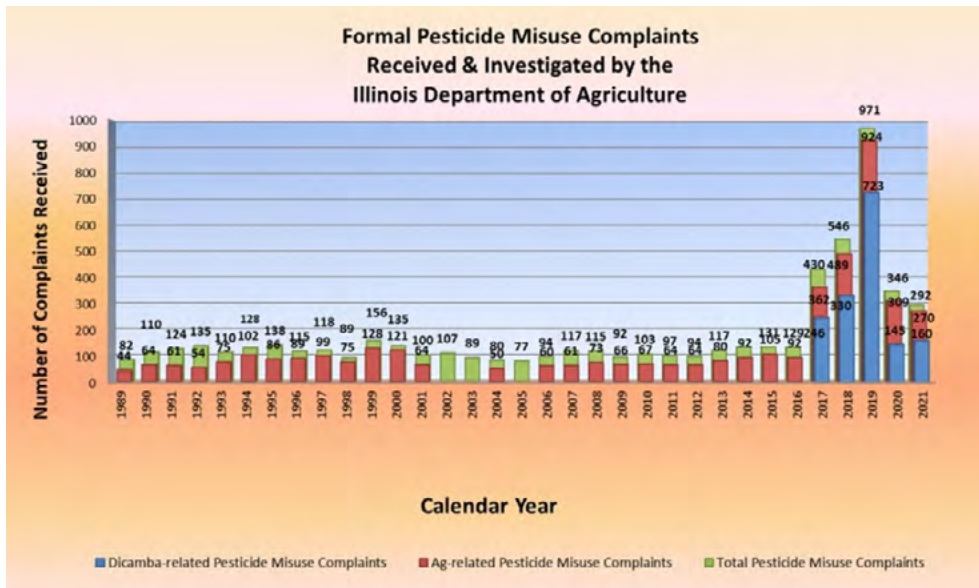
Despite the challenges we face, I enjoy representing this industry in fighting for what we know is right for ourselves, our community and for our state.

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PESTICIDES UPDATE

Pesticide Misuse Claims Update

As we enter the month of August, IFCA wants to ensure our members are informed regarding the current number of IDA pesticide misuse complaints. It was only the middle of June where IDA sat at 81 pesticide misuse complaints, with 5 being specifically dicamba related. As of the end of July, we currently reside at a total of 292 pesticide misuse complaints and 160 of them being dicamba related.



IFCA Hits The Road For Member Visits

Everyone can agree that its time to start seeing people again. It is no different for the staff at IFCA. At the end of May, the IFCA staff started going out and visiting our great members. At these visits, a lot of our members inquired on what is going on regulatory or legislatively in the state and nationally. The meetings are just as important for IFCA to hear from our members what is affecting them on a day-to-day basis in the ag input industry. The visits help the IFCA staff and our board of directors make informed decisions to craft sound policy to take to regulators and legislators. As of right now, IFCA has done more the 20 members visits this spring and summer.



Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) and Restricted Class B Licenses

The compliance date for Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) is February 7, 2022. ELDT is a federal standard establishing minimum training requirements for new drivers. These new training requirements will apply to anyone:

- Acquiring a Class A or Class B CDL for the first time
- Upgrading from an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL
- Acquiring a H, P, or S endorsement for the first time

One major question within our industry is how ELDT will impact our Restricted Class B drivers. We have good news to report in that Restricted Class B Drivers will not be required to participate in ELDT. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has made clear that in Illinois, Restricted Class B Drivers receive an exemption to the training, as outlined in 49 CFR 383.3.

IFCA hosted an ELDT webinar on July 13th with representatives from both FMCSA and the Illinois Secretary of State. A recording of the webinar, a pdf of the slides used, as well as a document outlining the Restricted Class B exemption can all be found on IFCA's homepage. Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions related to ELDT.



IFCA 4R Update

Dan Schaefer, Director of Nutrient Stewardship for IFCA, continues to lead the charge promoting 4R practices in Illinois. Despite an extremely wet season, IFCA continues to work diligently on several Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC) projects. Working in conjunction with U of I Researchers and area Growers, IFCA is heavily involved in two major research sites located in both Piatt and Douglas County. Research of a wide range of practices occur at these sites, including nitrogen rates and timing, phosphorous applications and placement, N and P soil testing, tillage practices, cover crops, tile monitoring, and much more.

IFCA, along with John Pike of Pike Ag, LLC, continue to implement nitrogen rate trials across the state to update the nitrogen rate calculator with new, reliable, and scientifically defensible data from recent trials. Many of these trials, when harvested, can have their data combined with soil samples taken throughout the year for a better understanding of crop utilization of nitrogen.



**Illinois Fertilizer &
Chemical Association**
Supply • Service • Stewardship

2021 IFCA Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Chairman: Tadgh Davis, *Mosaic*
Vice-Chair: Greg Taylor, *The Equity*
Finance: Nate Todd, *Tri-County Seeds*
Secretary: Bryan Fairfull, *M & M Service Co.*
Josh Allen, *BRANDT*
Past Chair: Jeremy Maloney, *Tri-County Chemical*

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Dustin Ehler, *Ehler Brothers Co.*
Mike Harriss, *Winfield United*
Aaron Hunsinger, *BASF*
Mike Koenigs, *Corteva Agriscience*
Dave Myers, *CHS Elburn*
Nate Pierce, *Goldstar FS*
Bob Spratt, *LeRoy Fertilizer*
Meg Steward, *AGI*
John Swanson, *Wabash Valley Service Co.*
Paul Whitworth, *Nutrien*

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Our Mission

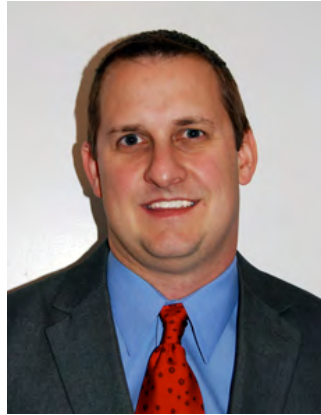
To assist and represent the Illinois crop production supply and service industry while promoting the sound stewardship and utilization of agricultural inputs.

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IFCA Chairman's Report

by Tadgh Davis



It was great to be back together in person for the July 15th IFCA Board meeting in Bloomington. I am pleased to report that despite not being able to host a MAGIE Show or convention this past year the IFCA's finances are very strong. The board also met with our financial advisor to insure they will remain strong in the future. This board and I are committed to keeping the IFCA leading the way for our industry.

I want to thank the IFCA staff for what can only be described as an extremely smooth transition from Jean's departure as President into her well-deserved retirement. Jean's leadership along

with a ton of hard work from every one of the staff members has the organization not missing a beat as we head through 2021. And they did all this while dealing with working from home part time and navigating through the pandemic with the rest of us.

KJ's commitment to the IFCA and his leadership has been exceptional during his interim President period. I know he has been on the road this summer visiting many of our members and discussing with them how we can make this organization even better. I have heard several compliments from our membership on KJ and that certainly gives me continued confidence in him.

I am very pleased that once again we will be hosting the MAGIE show in person in Bloomington in August. Please make plans to attend a reception honoring Jean Payne at 3:15 on August 25th on the show grounds.

As always please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

**nutrient
stewardship
ADVOCATES**

Mark Your Calendar!
4R Field Day September 21

Location: Precision Planting in Pontiac, IL
Sponsored by 4R Field Day Alliance and IFCA

More details to come...