



Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

Supply • Service • Stewardship

From the President's Desk



by Jean Payne

I am retiring from IFCA on March 31, 2021. This may surprise many of you, but I am fulfilling a personal goal to join my husband Rae in his retirement. As I step away after 23 years with IFCA—17 as your President—there are many things to say and I wish I could hug each of you. All I can do at this time, in this space, is share with you a few accomplishments that make me

extremely proud to have led this Association. They are:

Hours of Service Exemption. It took changes in federal and state statutes and regulations to ensure ag inputs can get where they need to be without restrictions on driving time. When I see an ammonia, chemical or fertilizer tanker go down the highway, or an ag retailer delivering supplies to the farm, I smile. Tom Wise with IDOT calls it the “Jean Payne exemption.” I put my heart and soul into this one, so I let him.

Ammonia Theft. Remember the scourge on our industry when anhydrous ammonia was used in meth production? IFCA made stealing NH₃ a felony, and we worked with the Attorney General to put pseudoephedrine behind the pharmacy counter. I still feel bad for allergy sufferers, but ammonia theft stopped.

License Plates on Fertilizer Wagons and Floaters. It took years of subtle work with the Secretary of State, State Police and the legislature, and in 2019 and we eliminated that law. Good riddance to 20,000+ registration stickers!

Keep it 4R Crop Program & NREC. Calls to regulate fertilizer to address water quality issues were intense in 2010. IFCA passed legislation to create the Nutrient Research & Education Council and in doing so we ensured the State could not steal these funds, plus we

forged partnerships with environmental and point source stakeholders. IFCA got NREC off the ground and the resulting research, much of it facilitated by IFCA staff, has dispelled myths about fall application of N, strengthened our State's nutrient recommendations, and revealed that fertilizer is not the sole cause of water quality issues. Stay proactive on this one, there is still much work to do.

Training & Safety. Our relationship with the Asmark Institute resulted in outstanding ammonia, applicator and grain training facilities existing on the same property as the IFCA office. IFCA always advocates for safety and stewardship, and Illinois is the first state to require everyone who handles ammonia to receive training, growers now included. This will help ensure the continued safe and responsible use of NH₃ as a fertilizer.

For every tangible IFCA accomplishment (there are many more), there were ten times as many bad things we kept from happening because of our advocacy and reputation as a proactive, stewardship focused organization. We've kept MAGIE and the Convention vibrant and successful, and the IFCA staff (Leslie, Dan, KJ, John and Jason) are talented and dedicated. I am so proud to have hired all of them! Please support them as you have me, and this Association will continue to shine.

Finally, I want to thank Lloyd Burling (President) and Steve Foster (Board Chair), who in 1998 pestered me to come work for IFCA. I wasn't sure about it, but they were. They were right! Mark Richie of Cabery Fertilizer helped me move the contents of the IFCA office from St. Anne to Bloomington in 2003 in his horse trailer, on my birthday no less. I will never forget that day and how wonderful you were, Mark.

I do have one “failure” to admit. Upon hiring me, Lloyd told me the first thing I needed to do was gain 20 lbs. I've worked hard to fail on that one. Sorry Lloyd!

To all the IFCA members, board members, industry colleagues and government friends—it was my privilege to know and work with all of you and my life is better for it. Rae and I plan to spend time at our lake home in the beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin, see our families more and cherish life together. I am grateful to God and to all of you for the blessings in my life. Thank you for trusting me to work for you, and for the friendship and laughter along the way. IFCA will always be in my heart.

Please see the Chairman's report on page 4 regarding next steps for IFCA.

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Spring In-Person Ammonia Schools Begin March 1, 2021

With spring on the horizon, IFCA and IDA have scheduled nine in-person ammonia classes throughout the state beginning March 1. These classes provide a 3-year certificate for ag retail employees who handle anhydrous ammonia, and growers who operate their own ammonia storage. Since each class will be limited in size, we will host morning and afternoon sessions. To see the list of upcoming classes, locations and to register click on https://ifca.com/IFCA_Training. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, walk-in registration will not be allowed at any of the upcoming schools.

Ammonia School	
Date and Location	
March 01	Bloomington
March 02	Bloomington
March 03	Mendota
March 04	Quincy
March 08	Marion
March 09	Effingham
March 10	Springfield
March 11	Charleston
March 15	Bloomington

If you are uncomfortable going to in-person training, you can sign up for the temporary on-line NH₃ competent attendant training, but that certificate is only good through July 15, 2021. Go to this link for the on-line training: <https://ifca.com/Training/Retailer>. If you have questions, contact John Rebholz at 815-674-3798 or john@ifca.com.

Train the Trainer Sessions Begin February 12, 2021

IFCA is hosting three “train the trainer” sessions for ag retailers with ammonia experience who want to provide safety training to their grower customers. In these classes, we will review the grower training materials and also offer competent attendant training to the trainers, which is an annual requirement for those training growers. There is no charge for these classes, and we have overwhelming response from our members who are volunteering to become trainers. If we cannot accommodate everyone in these three classes, please contact John Rebholz at 815-674-3798 or john@ifca.com to get your name on a list for future classes.



In this newsletter is a flyer on what ag retailers need to know about certified NH₃ grower training, along with a sample letter you can send to your farmer customers explaining the requirements and their responsibility to be trained and certified in ammonia safety.

You can download the flyer and sample letter at www.ifca.com. Click on the feature “Are you looking for more information on anhydrous ammonia?”

Trainer the Trainer Classes

Feb 12	Bloomington
Feb 18	Rock Falls
Feb 19	Effingham

PESTICIDES UPDATE

DOT Requirements for Enlist Herbicides

Enlist One and Enlist Duo herbicides are DOT regulated as *Environmentally hazardous substance, liquid, n.o.s. (2,4-D choline salt), UN 3082, Class 9, Packing Group III*. This means that if you repack these herbicides and offer them for transportation, you will have to mark the containers with a label or placard. The truck or trailer transporting the PRC does not need placards.

Corteva plans to provide guidance and labels/placards to ag retailers who take bulk delivery of Enlist and have repackaging agreements. If you provide PRCs to farmers, you must offer them shipping papers and document that you did so, keeping copies of all shipping documents for 2 years.



Dicamba & Paraquat Training, Pesticide Testing

Dicamba specific training is again required for certified applicators to apply dicamba in 2021. Training is only offered on-line this year. The training addresses additional Illinois requirements, including a June 20 cutoff and 85-degree temperature restriction. Certified applicators who apply paraquat must also take paraquat specific training, but it will be good for 3 years. Please visit www.ifca.com and click on the "Training" tab for links to dicamba and paraquat training programs.

On-line pesticide training had a few bumps in the road on the initial launch, but things are improving. For on-line testing, you must first set up an account with UI Extension at this link: <https://learn.extension.illinois.edu/login/index.php> Once you have an account, you can then sign up for any exam by setting up an account with ProctorU, which is the service that monitors you as you take the on-line exam. The cost for ProctorU is \$12 per exam attempt. A laptop with a camera and microphone is needed. Tablets and smartphones will not work.

If you aren't comfortable with on-line testing, IDA is offering some in-person testing at locations throughout the state. Space is limited and you must comply with COVID protocols. To access in-person testing options, visit the Illinois Dept of Ag's website and click on "Pesticide Testing & Training" or call IFCA for assistance.

4R Update & February 26, 2021 Webinar

The pandemic did not stop IFCA from implementing 36 nitrogen rate trials across the State. The yield information will update the Nitrogen Rate Calculator for Illinois. To see individual trial results, go to www.ifca.com and Click on the "Keep it 4R Crop" menu for the N Rate Trials. On February 26 at 9:00 am, Dr. Emerson Nafziger will present a webinar explaining the nitrogen trial results and provide recommendations for successful spring N management. This webinar provides .5 CEU in SW and .5 CEU in NM. To register for this free webinar, go to the IFCA website under "In the News."

Vaccine Update

IFCA has been in frequent communication with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) regarding the rollout of the COVID vaccine. Ag workers are in Phase 1B which started on January 25. However, each county health department has home rule, which means they have the authority to establish their own priority and distribution system. IFCA recommends being proactive and designating someone from your company to contact your county public health department and inquire how they are proceeding with the vaccination of essential workers. As of the first week of

February, Illinois ranked 45th among all states for getting the first of two shots of the vaccine into the arms of residents.





**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*

Board Members

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*

IFCA Staff

Jean Payne, President • jeanp@ifca.com
KJ Johnson, Director of Government & Industry Relations • kj@ifca.com
Dan Schaefer, Director of Nutrient Stewardship • dan@ifca.com
John Rebolz, Director of Safety & Education • john@ifca.com
Leslie Forrest, Director of Office & Membership Programs • leslief@ifca.com
Jason Solberg, Assistant Director of Programs & Compliance • jason@ifca.com

Our Mission

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

IFCA Office:

14171 Carole Drive
Bloomington, IL 61705
Ph (309) 827-2774
www.ifca.com

IFCA Chairman's Report

by Tadgh Davis



I am sure most of you are surprised to learn that Jean Payne, IFCA President, plans to retire at the end of March. It may give you some comfort to know that Jean shared her intentions with us as far back as a year ago, and the IFCA Board of Directors has been working behind the scenes to make sure there is a solid plan in place for the continued strong leadership of this great organization.

It would be impossible for me to list all the accomplishments Jean and the IFCA have achieved during her 17 years as President. She has always had the forward-thinking vision to know what

the organization and its members should be working on proactively. Whether it has been the 4R program, or working with agencies on regulatory issues and numerous safety and stewardship initiatives, she has always kept the IFCA a step ahead. Jean has led by example, with professionalism and with class.

Jean has earned her retirement, and though she leaves us with incredibly "big shoes" to fill I wish her and Rae all the best. As chairman I accepted her upcoming resignation with the condition that she will come back to MAGIE and the 2022 Convention for all of us to celebrate her contributions to the IFCA.

With this development I think without question my biggest challenge as your chairman is to ensure that we have a very smooth transition in leadership upon Jean's retirement. On February 3, your IFCA Board of Directors voted unanimously to make Kevin "KJ" Johnson Interim President for 12 months beginning April 1. KJ has excelled as IFCA's Director of Government & Industry Relations for the last 8 years. He has incredible relationships with government agency staff, state and federal legislators, other organizations and most importantly our members. KJ is excited about this opportunity and has already spoken to me several times about ideas to further strengthen IFCA. The Interim title will allow both the IFCA Board and KJ to make sure this is the correct fit. The Board Executive committee will meet regularly with KJ, in addition to our regularly scheduled board meetings, to ensure this transition is successful. The rest of the staff fully supports this decision and they remain committed to the excellent work that we have come to expect from them. To allow KJ to focus on the President's role and also handle government and industry relations, the board has asked Leslie Forrest and Jason Solberg to take on additional responsibilities, and they have accepted.

Thank you for those that attended the virtual annual meeting in January, as we welcomed Dustin Ehler and John Swanson to the board. I received excellent feedback, and though we all wish we could have met in person, the virtual meeting allowed us to keep the business of IFCA moving forward in a pandemic.

It is my honor to serve as the Chairman of IFCA this year. I pledge to continue to work with the IFCA staff, board, and members on current and future issues, and make sure this association remains as strong as ever. I have my fingers crossed that I will be able to see many of you this August at MAGIE. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.