

# ILICA



# NEWS

## Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

### January - February 2025

#### *Past President*

Steve Anderson

#### *President*

Eric Layden

#### *Vice President*

Jon SeEVERS

#### *First Vice President*

Tyler Seals

#### *Treasurer*

Lee Bunting

#### *Associate Director*

David Randolph

#### *Executive Director*

Ryan Arch

#### Directors

##### **Area 1**

Brian Brooks

LaVerne Weber

##### **Area 2**

Steve Anderson

Stuart Anderson

##### **Area 3**

Joe Streitmatter

Grant Curtis

##### **Area 4**

David Kennedy

Lee Bunting

##### **Area 5**

Rick Maguire

##### **Area 6**

Bill Dean

Scott Day

##### **Area 7**

John Barttelbort

##### **Area 8**

Tom Beyers

Tyler Seals



## SAFETY WORKSHOP SERIES JANUARY 2025

(page 9)



## ILLINOIS LICA CONVENTION & MEMBERS' MTG. JAN. 29-31, 2025

(page 14)



## NATIONAL LICA WINTER CONVENTION FEB. 11-15, 2025

(page 20)

### Also Featured Inside:

- ▶ **GOP Governors Urge Reauthorization of Farm Bill, Call 2018 Bill "Outdated"** (page 6)
- ▶ **Extension Connection: Impact of Subsurface Drainage System Design on Nitrate Loss and Crop Production – NREC-Funded Project** (page 12)

Illinois LICA  
112 Exchange St., Ste. 2  
Galva, IL 61434



**SIGNS OF QUALITY**

# VERSATILITY

## SINGLE-WALL PIPE

**SPRINGFIELD PLASTICS**  
single-wall pipe (SWP) is made of 100% virgin resin for quality without compromise.

CHOOSE FROM SLOTTED, SOLID, LEACH, MUCK, ULTRA-NARROW SLOTTED, AND FILTER WRAP TO BEST MEET YOUR SPECIFIC DRAINAGE NEEDS.

**Springfield Plastics, inc.**  
800-252-3361  
[spipipe.com](http://spipipe.com)

BRING THE QUALITY AND VERSATILITY OF OUR SWP TO YOUR NEXT PROJECT.  
Call your Springfield Plastics sales rep or our customer service team to place an order today.

# Schlatter's Inc.

Intelligent Water Management™

**Trimble**

Drainage Plows  
GPS Machine Control  
Design Software  
Custom Fabrication


Since 1952

16179 W 500 S  
Francesville, IN 47946  
(219) 567-9158  
[www.SchlattersInc.com](http://www.SchlattersInc.com)

**BRON**  
POWER TO PERFORM



## OUR NEW CATALOGS HAVE ARRIVED!



THE COMPLETE LINE OF HICKENBOTTOM® PRODUCTS

REQUEST YOUR COPY ONLINE AT [HICKENBOTTOMINC.COM](http://HICKENBOTTOMINC.COM) OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER

**Hickenbottom Inc.**  
LOOK FOR THE BRIGHT ORANGE INLET - HICKENBOTTOM'S TRADEMARK®



# The ILICA News



Editor / Advertising Manager  
**Ryan Arch**

Past President  
**Steve Anderson, Marseilles**

President  
**Eric Layden, Hoopeston**

Vice President  
**Jon Seevers, Argenta**

1st Vice President  
**Tyler Seals, Mt. Carmel**

Executive Secretary  
**Ryan Arch, Galva**

Treasurer  
**Lee Bunting, Dwight**

Educational Advisor  
**Professor Richard Cooke**  
University of Illinois

The *ILICA News* is the official publication of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc. at 112 Exchange St., Ste. 2, Galva, IL 61434. (309) 932-1230.

Subscription price is \$50.00/year, issued bi-monthly: Jan.-Feb.; Mar.-Apr.; May-June; July-Aug.; Sept.-Oct.; Nov.-Dec., and also includes one annual directory.

## FEATURES

GOP Governors Urge Reauthorization of Farm Bill, Call 2018 Bill Outdated 6	
Safety Workshop Series . . . . .	9
2025 ILICA Annual Convention & Members' Meeting . . . . .	14
2025 National LICA Winter Convention . . . . .	20

## COLUMNS

President's Message . . . . .	4
2024 Board & Members' Meeting Attendance . . . . .	4
2025 Board & Members' Meeting Schedule . . . . .	5
New Members . . . . .	5
ILICA Ladies' Page: Grocery Shopping Tips to Save Time & Money . . . .	8
Extension Connection: Impact of Subsurface Drainage System Design on .	12
ILICA Trivia . . . . .	22
Calendar of Events . . . . .	23
Advertiser Index . . . . .	23
Featured LICA Benefit: FREE Convention Registration for New Members	24
Safety Feature: Mobile Equipment Maintenance . . . . .	26

# Northland Trenching Equipment, LLC

*"We are the largest volume supplier for this type of equipment in the US"*

**Trimble** TRIMBLE GPS SYSTEMS



The Inter-Drain plow, three types, double link, single cantilever, or single link, each in three sizes. Cat, Cummins or Volvo power. Offset available.



**Inter-Drain**  
**Plows & Trenchers**



The Inter-Drain chain trencher. Four size choices, mechanical or hydraulic chain drive, vertical and offset available. Cummins, Volvo or Cat power.

**FULL SERVICE AND REBUILDS**

**HUGE PARTS INVENTORY**

**Corporate Office**  
12929 410th Avenue  
Waseca, MN 56093  
Phone: (507) 835-4214  
Fax: (507) 835-2032

**Eastern Division - Indiana**  
3578 North State Road 59  
Brazil, IN 47834  
Phone: (812) 835-2900  
Fax: (812) 835-2535

Email: [nte@hickorytech.net](mailto:nte@hickorytech.net)  
[www.northlandtrenching.com](http://www.northlandtrenching.com)

**NORTHLAND** Trenching  
Equipment, LLC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season surrounded by friends and family. Around here, I am truly blessed. Blessed to have a supportive family, good help, and good work. We have pretty much been running nonstop this fall with it being so dry. I haven't had

to think about mid-season maintenance too much in the past. With only a two-person crew, we jump in and out of machinery all day and so it's hard to get two hundred hours on any one piece of equipment. Not the case this year. We have been performing mid-season maintenance in the field just to keep going.

Here in a couple of weeks at our annual convention, I will be passing the gavel to Jon Seevers as our next ILICA president. My term is over, but I will continue helping ILICA in the capacity of a past president. Two years go by quickly. I want to thank Michelle and Ryan in the ILICA front office for making my job so easy. I am so happy to have been able to work alongside you two and get to know you and your families better. Thank you to the ILICA board of directors. Thank you for showing up to committee meetings and board meetings and helping steer this organization into the future and build upon its legacy. Thank you to all the members and associate members of ILICA. We are one of the busiest LICA chapters in the nation. Thank you for your membership. I hope that every year we add value to your membership. That is our goal.

ILICA is in a great place right now. We continue to work alongside our industry partners to promote land conservation in Illinois. We have several huge opportunities in the works right now. Historically, membership dues were our primary source of income. With our current expenses increasing every year and only seeing a slight increase in membership, ILICA has had to find alternative revenue streams. This is our future. It will take even more support from more of our members to be successful in the long term, but I have no doubt that we will get the support we need.

January is a busy month. The National LICA winter convention will be held in Jacksonville, Florida mid-month. Come see for yourself how our Illinois LICA chapter shines on the national stage. Please join us in Champaign at the end of the month for our annual state convention. The convention committee spends all year planning this event. Every year it changes and evolves, and in my opinion gets better and better. We have lots of exciting things planned for this year. Come help see me out the door as your ILICA president and welcome in Jon as our new incoming president.

This is my last newsletter submission. It has truly been an honor to help lead this organization for the past two years. Hopefully you have learned a bit about me and my business. I hope I have conveyed just how much I value my membership to ILICA. The professional development opportunities are what drew me to ILICA and through the years it's the friendships I have made that keep me coming back. Jon Seevers was one of the first people to welcome me to ILICA many years ago. It was friendship at first sight for me. Jon has taught me many things through the years. He has the pedigree, the knowledge, and the dedication to this organization to be a great leader. I welcome Jon in his new role as ILICA president.

Best regards,

Eric Layden

2024 BOARD MEMBER MTG. ATTENDANCE						
A = absent	P = present		C = cancelled meeting			
Area / Director	Jan	March	May	July	Sep	Nov
Pres: Eric Layden	P	P	P	P	A	P
VP: Jon Seevers	P	P	P	P	A	P
1st VP: Tyler Seals	P	A	A	A	P	A
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P	P	P	A	P	A
Area 1 - LaVerne Weber	P	P	P	P	P	P
Area 2 - Steve Anderson	P	P	P	P	P	P
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P	A	P	P	P	P
Area 3 - Grant Curtis	A	A	A	A	A	A
Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter	P	A	P	A	A	P
Area 4 - David Kennedy	A	A	P	P	A	P
Area 4 - Lee Bunting	P	P	P	P	P	P
Area 5 - Rick Maguire	-	P	P	A	P	P
Area 6 - Scott Day	P	P	A	A	A	A
Area 6 - Bill Dean	A	A	A	A	A	A
Area 7 - John Barttelbort	-	A	P	A	A	P
Area 8 - Tom Beyers	P	P	P	P	P	P
Area 8 - Tyler Seals	P	A	A	A	P	A
Associate Director: David Randolph	P	A	P	A	P	A

## NEW MEMBERS

### Contractors

**Andy Burke**

**B3 Excavating LLC**

5589 N 2850 E Rd

Leroy, IL 61752

Ph: 217-304-1593

Email: b3excavating@gmail.com

**Justin Henrichs**

**Ag Water Management Farm Drainage**

1411 North 1100 East Rd

Onarga, IL 60955

Ph: 815-471-4189

Email: 10djeagwatermgt@yahoo.com

Website: agwaterdrainage.com

**Chris Kafer**

**Kafer Tiling & Excavating, Inc.**

8114 N 2275 E Rd

Fairbury, IL 61739-9200

Ph: 815-692-3641

Email: office@kaferinc.com

Website: kafertilingandexcavating.com

**Cody Adams**

**A.J. Adams & Sons, Inc.**

3354 E. 500th Road

Kansas, IL 61933

Ph: 217-948-5317

Email: cody@ajadamsandsons.com

**Mike Sproule**

**Mike & Nick Sproule Construction**

12981 W. Norris Ln

PO Box 6161

Galena, IL 61036

Ph: 815-777-2499

Email: mikenicksprouleoffice@gmail.com

**Jody Kabat**

**BNK1987 LLC**

3730 E Mozart Rd

Woodlawn, IL 62898

Ph: 618-322-2582

Email: kfacles@hotmail.com

**Timothy R Baer**

23785 Augustine Lane

Tremont, IL 61568

Ph: 309-253-2597

Email: tbaer57@frontier.com

### Associates

**Pattern Energy**

**Diogo Botelho**

1088 Sansome St.

San Francisco, CA 94111

Ph: 908-952-5721

Email: diogo.botelho@patternenergy.com

Website: patternenergy.com

## BOARD & MEMBERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

Unless changed by the Board during the year, the ILICA business meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Jan. 29, 2025** - Final Regular Meeting of the Board:  
Holiday Inn, Champaign

**Jan. 29, 2025** - Annual Members' Meeting:  
Holiday Inn, Champaign

**March 8, 2025** - Regular Meeting of the Board (TBD)

*Exact location, meeting times & other details will be published in the ILICA News and sent to members via mail and/or email.*



## GOP GOVERNORS URGE REAUTHORIZATION OF FARM BILL, CALL 2018 BILL “OUTDATED”



*Photo by Cami Koons/Iowa Capital Dispatch*

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, along with governors from 16 other states, signed a joint letter Monday urging Congress to reauthorize the Farm Bill and to provide “immediate financial assistance” to the agricultural sector.

“Our nation’s agriculture industry is in trouble and if meaningful support is not provided soon, the well-being of the nation is at risk,” the letter read.

The Farm Bill was last authorized in 2018, and after failing to reauthorize it on the typical five-year schedule in 2023, Congress extended the 2018 bill through the 2024 fiscal and crop year.

Congress failed again in the 2024 regular session to pass a new Farm Bill, which allocates funding for agricultural and food programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Now U.S. lawmakers weigh the option to pass another extension of the bill, or rush to finish a new version during the lame duck session, before final provisions of the extension expire at the end of the year and new members are sworn in on Jan. 3.

The group of GOP governors is asking Congress to pass a new version of the massive bill rather than extend the “outdated” 2018 bill another year.

The letter said the current farm bill has left farmers to operate “under a framework that is no longer viable.”

The governors pointed to inflation, high input costs, high interest rates, natural disasters and agricultural trade deficits as “powerful headwinds” the sector has faced since the expiration

of the 2018 Farm Bill.

“Another year-long extension will leave farmers working under an outdated plan as they continue to face evolving challenges in today’s agricultural landscape,” the letter said.

In mid November, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture, nutrition and forestry, issued an updated version of the “Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act” from earlier in the year that could serve as a new Farm Bill, if passed.

The updates include \$39 billion in new resources for farmers, families participating in the SNAP program and rural communities, according to its summary.

Republican lawmakers have been unsupportive of the bill, with reports of House representatives rejecting the it and Sen. Roger Marshall of Kansas calling it “not a sincere or transparent effort to address the urgent needs of rural America.”

The governors in their letter urged Congress to fulfill “its obligation to protect and revitalize the agriculture industry before it’s too late” by reauthorizing the bill rather than extending.

“If a country can’t feed itself, fuel itself, or fight for itself, then it cannot survive,” the letter read. “It is imperative that the United States not become dependent on other countries for our food supply, while we have the best farmers and ranchers in the world right in our backyards.”

Governors who signed the letter include Reynolds, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, Arkansas Gov. Sarah Sanders, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, Idaho Gov. Brad Little, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte, Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, and West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice.

*Source: Reprinted with permission from Iowa Capital Dispatch and author Cami Koons: <https://iowacapitaldispatch.com/briefs/gop-governors-urge-reauthorization-of-farm-bill-call-2018-bill-outdated/>*



**BERNS, CLANCY AND ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS • SURVEYORS • PLANNERS

WEB: [www.bernsclancy.com](http://www.bernsclancy.com)

405 EAST MAIN STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 755  
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61803-0755  
PHONE: 217 - 384 - 1144  
FAX: 217 - 384 - 3355

101 THORNTON BUILDING  
28 WEST NORTH STREET  
DANVILLE, ILLINOIS 61832-5729  
PHONE: 217 - 431 - 1144  
FAX: 217 - 431 - 2929

### DRAINAGE & CONSERVATION ENGINEERING SERVICES

- State and Federal Permitting Assistance
- Familiarity with NRCS Conservation Practice Standards
- NRCS Technical Service Provider (TSP)

Contact Gayle Baker, PE  
309.693.7615

3116 North Dries Ln Suite #100 Peoria, IL 61604 [www.mstutz.com](http://www.mstutz.com)

**MAURER-STUTZ**  
ENGINEERS SURVEYORS

# BUILDING TOMORROW, TODAY.

JOIN OUR JOURNEY  
OF PROGRESS.

We're not just planning for our future;  
we're actively crafting it with our ingenuity,  
dedication and relentless spirit. Let us show  
you how our investments in tomorrow are  
not promises of what might be, but tangible  
realities being shaped today.



PLAY VIDEOS

**FRATCO**



[FRATCO.COM/TOMORROW](https://fratco.com/tomorrow)





# ILICA Ladies' Page



## Grocery Shopping Tips to Save Time & Money

Grocery shopping may not be your favorite household task. It's often a mundane chore, yet necessary if you want to have food in the house to eat. Here's a few tips to save you time and money without sacrificing good nutrition.

- **Get organized and plan ahead.** Use a free grocery list app; many major grocery stores have their own app with this feature. As soon as you run out of a common ingredient, add it to the list. Check the stores for sales and
- **check your fridge, freezer and pantry for items you need to use up.** Look for recipes utilizing these foods and make your list!
- **Buy canned and frozen fruits and vegetables to have on hand.** Fresh doesn't last forever so supplement with no added salt canned veggies and buy canned fruits packed in its own juices. Look for frozen plain vegetables and fruits.
- **Buy with convenience in mind, but only when it makes sense.** Some stores are selling pre-cut fresh fruits and vegetables. Pre-cut butternut squash, which is not an easy one to slice, may be worth the extra money. For a household of one, buying small bags of popcorn so that it stays fresh for longer, may be worth the extra cost if you're having to throw out stale popcorn. However, many ready prepared foods are high in saturated fat sodium and may not be the most nutritionally sound options.
- **Read the Nutrition Facts and ingredients label.** Compare labels and go for the lowest amount of saturated fat, sodium and added sugars. When buying bread or other grains, look for the word "whole" as the first ingredient.

Source: Reprinted with permission from author Jenna Smith, U of I Nutrition & Wellness Educator -

<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/simply-nutritious-quick-and-delicious/2023-10-06-grocery-shopping-tips-save-time-and-money>



**www.rwfbron.com**

- Five Core Cooling System exceeds cooling for Tier 4 engine standards
- Quieter Reconfigured Cab Interior for Operator comfort
- Standard DL 850 Drainage PLOW increased strength & durability
- LED Light Package for increased visibility for those long days in the field
- Improved swing mechanism for the Onboard Reel for smoother reel speeds & consistent torque
- Optional hydraulic rear step raises out of the way when plowing and lowers when required.
- Standard oscillating track frames.

## BRON 585

### SELF-PROPELLED DRAINAGE PLOW

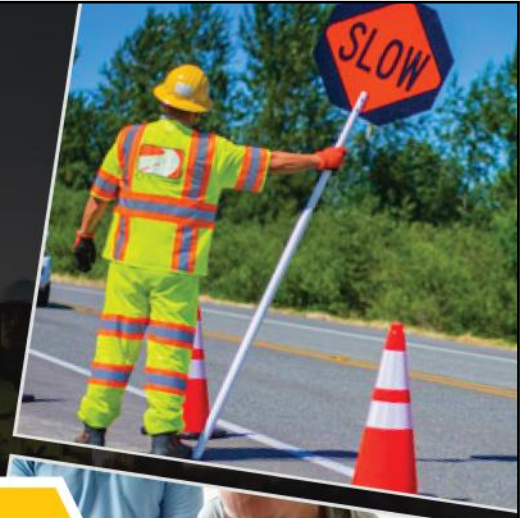
**AUTO STEER READY | LOW GROUND PRESSURE**  
**CAT OR CUMMINS ENGINE**





ILLINOIS LICA

# SAFETY SERIES



## CERTIFICATIONS:

**10 Hr. OSHA and CPR or Flagger**

**JANUARY  
2025**

*Across 3 Locations!*

**Day 1**

9am - 5pm: 10hr. OSHA

**Day 2**

8am - 12pm: 10hr. OSHA

1 - 5pm: Flagger or CPR



**Jan. 9th & 10th**

Richland Comm. College, NSEC Bldg.  
1 College Park, Decatur, IL

**Jan. 14th & 15th**

DoubleTree  
222 Potomac Blvd., Mt. Vernon, IL

**Jan. 23rd & 24th**

Jason Beyers' Shop  
31150 Harvest Road, Lanark, IL

Registration requested by **January 3, 2025.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (please circle one): Decatur      Mt. Vernon      Lanark

### Certification Training(s) Quantity:

**10 HR OSHA**    member \$25/ea: \_\_\_\_\_    non-member \$95/ea: \_\_\_\_\_

**Flagger**    member \$25/ea: \_\_\_\_\_    non-member \$95/ea: \_\_\_\_\_

**CPR**    member \$25/ea: \_\_\_\_\_    non-member \$50/ea: \_\_\_\_\_



illica.net/events



Please return form with payment to Illinois LICA, 112 Exchange St., Ste 2, Galva, IL 61434



# HYDRAMAXX



[www.PortIndustries.com](http://www.PortIndustries.com)

(573) 769-3338

[HydramaxxSales@portind.com](mailto:HydramaxxSales@portind.com)



## Quality Products...Unequalled Service

Over 65 years of manufacturing and supplying corrugated metal pipe and related highway drainage products.

Havana, IL Office (309) 543-2271

Monmouth, IL Office (309) 734-4113

Corporate Office (800) 735-7312

Email: [sales@metalculverts.com](mailto:sales@metalculverts.com)

[www.metalculverts.com](http://www.metalculverts.com)

# COOK'S //AGPS LLC

**NOW HIRING  
INSTALL & SUPPORT  
TECHNICIAN**

**YOUR CONTINUED SOURCE FOR:**

## //AGPS



**INDUSTRY LEADING FINE GRADE RTK GPS  
MACHINE CONTROL SYSTEMS**



Design and machine control for tile drainage, land leveling and surface water management needs.

### GPS-GNSS RECEIVERS & ANTENNAS



New in 2022 our NovAtel receivers are able to use GALILEO & BEIDOU satellites for better availability near obstructions like trees.

**ASK ABOUT OUR NEW LOW-COST  
RTK SURVEY/ GUIDANCE TABLETS**

Contact Nate at 989-640-2347 or [nate@cookswms.com](mailto:nate@cookswms.com)  
Visit our new website at [www.cooksagps.com](http://www.cooksagps.com)

1807 179th St North  
East Moline, IL 61244  
(309) 751-9540

120 East Martin Dr  
Goodfield, IL 61742  
(309) 965-3300



# Vermeer®

**Midwest**

**WWW.VERMEERMIDWEST.COM**





**Bulk mulch available!**

**309-654-2261**


[www.xylemltd.com](http://www.xylemltd.com)

Cordova, IL 61242


**XYLEM<sup>LLC</sup>**

**Quality wood chips for bioreactors!**

**ROLAND MACHINERY CO.**  
www.rolandmachinery.com



**FOR ALL OF YOUR EQUIPMENT NEEDS!**



**CHOOSE ROLAND**  
RELIABLE EQUIPMENT • RESPONSIVE SERVICE  
REPAIR PARTS IN STOCK

**KOMATSU** **KOMATSU** **WIRTGEN** **HAMM** **KLEEMANN** **VÖGELE**  
**PURCE** **TAMM** **GRADALL** **DOOSAN** **LeeBoy** **Rusco** **Epiroc**

**Illinois locations**

<p><b>Springfield, IL</b> 816 N. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62702 Phone: 217-789-7711</p>	<p><b>East Peoria, IL</b> 4299 N. Main St., Unit A East Peoria, IL 61611 Phone: 309-694-3764</p>
<p><b>Bolingbrook, IL</b> 220 East Frontage Rd. Bolingbrook, IL 60440 Phone: 630-739-7474</p>	<p><b>Marengo, IL</b> 18210 Beck Road Marengo, IL 60152 Phone: 815-923-4966</p>
	<p><b>Cartersville, IL</b> 1505 Donna Drive Cartersville, IL 62918 Phone: 618-985-3399</p>

**PRECISION INTAKES**

2064 Republic Ave • Monroe, IA 50170

**SURFACE WATER INTAKES**

- 6"-8"-10" SIZING
- HIGHLY ADJUSTABLE
- INTERCHANGEABLE
- USER FRIENDLY
- EXCLUSIVE TWIST LOCK DESIGN



800-932-7611

[OFFICE@PRECISIONINTAKES.COM](mailto:OFFICE@PRECISIONINTAKES.COM)

**"Dealer Inquiries Welcome"**

[www.precisionintakes.com](http://www.precisionintakes.com)

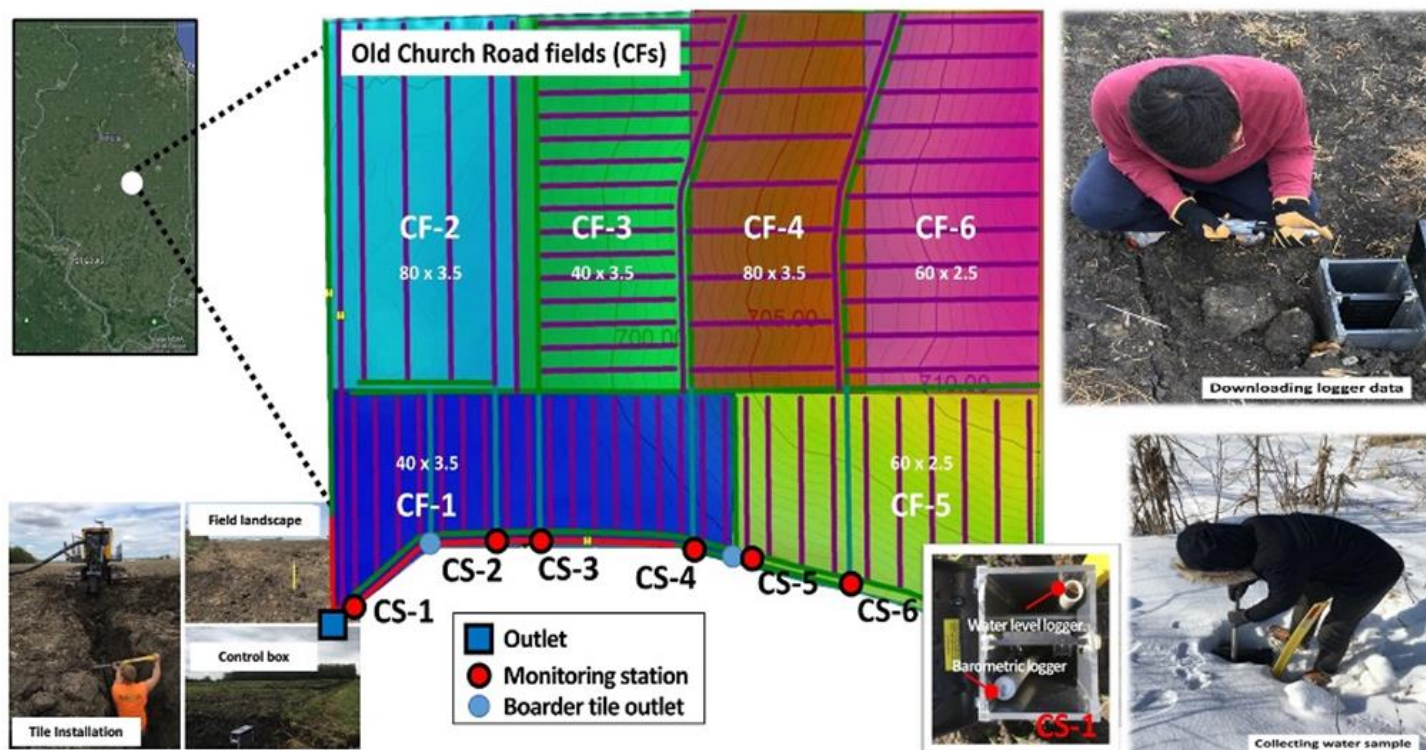


## INTRODUCING NEWLY PUBLISHED ARTICLE: IMPACT OF SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE SYSTEM DESIGN ON NITRATE LOSS AND CROP PRODUCTION – NREC-FUNDED PROJECT

By Soonho Hwang, Richard Cooke, and Rabin Bhattarai

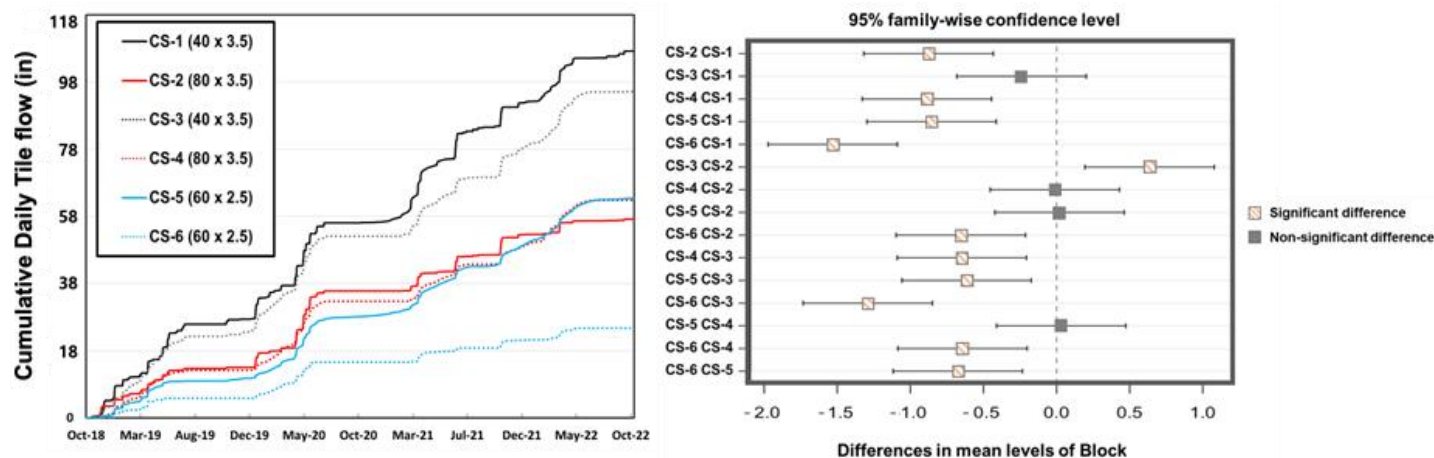
Subsurface drainage systems play a crucial role in improving crop yields by optimizing planting schedules, enhancing fertilizer efficiency, and removing excess water from poorly drained yet highly productive soils. However, these systems also contribute to significant water quality concerns by accelerating the transport of contaminants like nitrates into water bodies, leading to nutrient losses that severely impact ecosystems, including the Gulf of Mexico. In Illinois, where nutrient reduction strategies aim to lower nitrogen loads, refining drainage system design—especially tile depth and spacing—is essential for achieving a balance between water quality and agricultural productivity. From 2018 to 2023, the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at the

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign conducted a comprehensive study, supported by funding from the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC-2018-3-360624-356). This article for the ILICA newsletter highlights the project, “Assessing Tile Depth and Spacing Impact on Nutrient Losses and Crop Production.” This initiative provides critical insights into best practices for sustainable water management, helping Illinois farmers make informed decisions to reduce nutrient losses while maintaining high crop yields. This research has been conducted in a replicated tile drainage field experiment at the Agricultural Engineering Farm in Urbana, IL. During more than four years of the study period, a subsurface drainage system has been installed in a separated six fields with each 5-acre area in a farm (Figure 1).

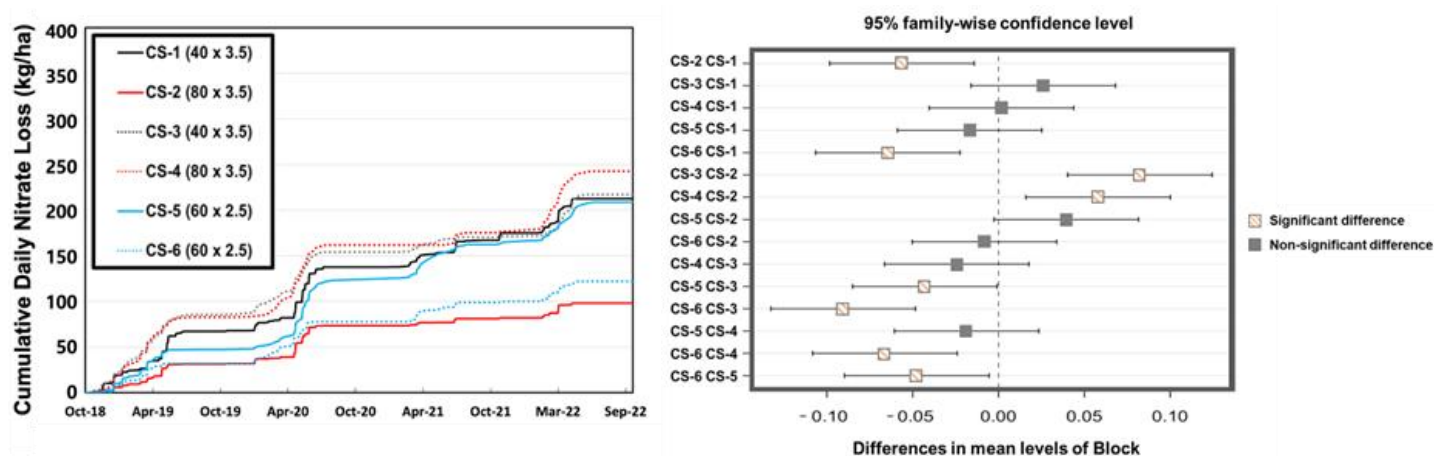


**Figure 1.** The layout of the installed tile-drained fields and monitoring stations. CS-1, CS-2, CS-3, CS-4, CS-5, CS-6 are monitoring stations that collect water samples and gauge tile flow.





**Figure 2.** Cumulative tile flow at each site from 2018 to 2022 (left) and drainage flow differences between plots analysed using Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ) (right) (Hwang et al., 2024).



**Figure 3.** Cumulative NO<sub>3</sub>-N loss at each site from 2018 to 2022 (left) and NO<sub>3</sub>-N load differences between plots analysed using Tukey's test ( $p < 0.05$ ) (right) (Hwang et al., 2024).

This research investigates the influence of tile drainage depth and spacing on drain flow, nitrate losses (NO<sub>3</sub>-N), and crop productivity over a 4-year period in central Illinois. The study evaluated three drain spacings (40, 60, and 80 feet) and two drain depths (2.5 and 3.5 feet) across six plots managed under a corn-soybean rotation system. The configurations included plots with varying combinations of spacing and depth, providing a comprehensive dataset to explore how these factors affect agricultural water management and productivity.

The findings reveal that narrower drain spacings (40 feet) result in higher drain flow and NO<sub>3</sub>-N losses, whereas wider spacings (60, and 80 feet) demonstrated reduced drain flow and improved NO<sub>3</sub>-N retention. Seasonal trends in tile flow highlighted significantly higher drainage and nitrate losses during the non-growing season compared to the growing season. Interestingly, the plots with 80 feet spacing (e.g., CS-2) consistently showed better NO<sub>3</sub>-N retention and higher corn yields compared to those with narrower spacing (Figure 2 and 3). These results underline the potential of optimizing drainage configurations to reduce nutrient losses while maintaining or enhancing crop yields.

Corn yield data from the study further supported the benefits of wider drain spacings. Plot CS-2, with 80 feet spacing and 3.5 feet depth, achieved the highest yields, outperforming other plots by up to 13.6%. This result indicates that wider drain

spacings not only mitigate nutrient losses but also contribute to sustainable crop production. However, variations among plots with similar configurations, such as CS-4, emphasize the influence of site-specific factors like soil type, landscape position, and biochemical soil interactions on drainage performance and nutrient management.

The study concludes that while wider drainage systems offer significant advantages for both environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity, they may pose risks of temporary nitrate surges during high-drainage events. To address these challenges, the research recommends incorporating additional measures such as controlled drainage systems or bioreactors to manage nitrate losses effectively. Furthermore, the findings emphasize the need for extended field monitoring and modeling studies to refine the understanding of subsurface drainage design and its broader implications for water management in agricultural landscapes.

This comprehensive analysis not only demonstrates the critical role of drainage design in balancing productivity and environmental impacts, but also sets the stage for future research to optimize these systems for sustainable agricultural practices.

Source: Hwang, S., Singh, S., Bhattarai, R., Jeong, H., & Cooke, R. A. (2024). Impact of Subsurface Drainage System Design on Nitrate Loss and Crop Production. *Applied Sciences*, 14(22), 10180.



Illinois Land Improvement  
Contractors Association

# 2025 Annual Convention & Members' Meeting

**Save \$100**

Register before Jan. 10th  
and get early bird pricing!



REGISTER ONLINE

**Septic Installers,  
Pumpers, &  
Technicians  
3.0 Hrs. CEUs**

**\*Attention\*  
New Contractor  
Members**

Convention registration is  
FREE with your first year of  
membership!



**January 29 - 31, 2025**

*Holiday Inn Champaign*

*101 Trade Ctr. Dr., Champaign, IL 61820*

We invite you to expand your knowledge and connect with fellow professionals at the 2025 Illinois LICA Annual Convention & Members' Meeting! Themed "Business Beyond Digging," you'll enjoy a variety of engaging activities at this year's event. Take a guided tour of U of I's Memorial Stadium and research labs, attend informative education sessions, earn septic license CEUs, and explore the vibrant trade show featuring over 30 vendors. Celebrate our ILICA award recipients at the banquet, participate in the exciting auction to support the ILICA scholarship, relax in the Skyway hospitality room, and so much more. Don't miss out on our biggest event of the year. We can't wait to see you there!





# Convention Agenda

## Wednesday, January 29

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### Registration

3 pm; 4 pm; 4:30 pm

### Convention, Nomination, Awards Comm. Mtgs.

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

### Final Regular Board of Directors Meeting

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

### Members' Dinner Meeting & Election of Officers

*All members are encouraged to participate. Members will be given updates from our various committees, as well as have the opportunity to guide Illinois LICA through 2025.*

## Thursday, January 30

6:30 am - 4:00 pm

### Registration

6:30 am - 8:00 am

### Breakfast

7:30 am - 8:00 am

### Devotions

*Jump start your morning with scripture, testimony, and hymns.*

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

### U of I Campus Tours

*Jump on the bus with other members to head down the road to tour the University of Illinois's Memorial Stadium and research labs.*

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Septic Training

*Installers, pumpers, and portable sanitation technicians receive 3 CEUs from this inclusive training provided by Doug Ebelherr, Contractor Training Store.*

## Thursday, January 30 (Continued)

10:00 am - 10:30 am

### Morning Break

12:00 pm

### Welcome Luncheon

*Convention committee chairman welcome and new member recognition.*

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### FREE Trade Show

*Visit over 30 industry vendors and chat with Associate members to check out all their latest equipment, technology, and product offerings. Your name may be drawn to win \$250 trade show dough!*

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

### Afternoon Break

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### Happy Hour

*Speculate over the 2024 award recipients with a drink.*

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Awards Banquet

*Help us recognize those individuals and entities that have contributed so much to the Association over the past year during this formal event. Friends and family welcome.*

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

### Live Auction

*Bid on your favorite items from model toys to tools and everything in between during the Live Auction hosted by BigIron! All proceeds fund the ILICA scholarship.*

10:00 pm - 1:00 am

### Associate Hospitality Room

*Before you turn in for the night, pop on in to the Associate Hospitality Room to congratulate the 2024 award winners one more time. We know they would appreciate it!*

## Friday, January 31

7:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Registration

7:00 am - 9:00 am

### Breakfast

7:30 am - 8:30 am

### Devotions

*Using God's Word in song to spread the message of salvation, Mark & Pam Fisher will uplift, encourage, and entertain you with their Gospel music. Their high-energy, toe-tapping presentation incorporates Southern Gospel, traditional, contemporary, and country styles. Named the Illinois Country Music Association's "2009 Gospel Duo/Group of the Year," they have a rich musical history of motivating listeners and stirring hearts!*

9:00 am - 11:00 am

### FREE Trade Show

*Take advantage of your last opportunity to visit over 30 industry vendors and to win \$250 trade show dough!*

10:00 am - 10:30 am

### Morning Break

11:00 am

### Associates Committee Meeting

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

### NRCS Practice Standard Designs & Checkouts

*Learn how to read & understand NRCS design sets and how to complete project checkout notes for standard conservation practices from ILNRCS's Matt Robert & Scott Quillen.*

12:00 pm

### Luncheon

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Ladies Outing

*Join the ILICA Ladies for lunch at the Sun Singer, and afterwards stroll through some delightful consignment and thrift shops just a short distance away. Meet at the registration desk for car pooling.*

## Friday, January 31 (Continued)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### Suicide Prevention

*Learn about how you can make an impact in someone's life by getting trained on suicide intervention techniques including identifying cultural misconceptions, reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors, identifying warning signs, asking and talking about suicide, and more from Kim Bryan, Rattle the Stars.*

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA)

*Learn about Illinois's Paid Leave for All Workers Act and how to properly meet the requirements of the legislation as it applies to your individual company from John Simmons, Wessels Sherman.*

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

### Afternoon Break

*Grab a sweet treat at the ice cream social.*

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

### Tax Updates

*Get all the latest tax & accounting updates from Dustin Courson, Courson & Associates.*

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

### Tips to Maximize the Return on Your Equipment Investment

*Learn about preventative maintenance inspections that decrease downtime on the job-site and keep equipment safe and reliable, adding to its trade-in value from Ken Smith, Birkey's.*

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

### Happy Hour

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

### Dinner & Trivia Challenge

*Gather up your savviest friends & family members at a dinner table to compete in the ILICA Trivia Challenge.*

8:00 pm - 1:00 am

### Associate Hospitality Room

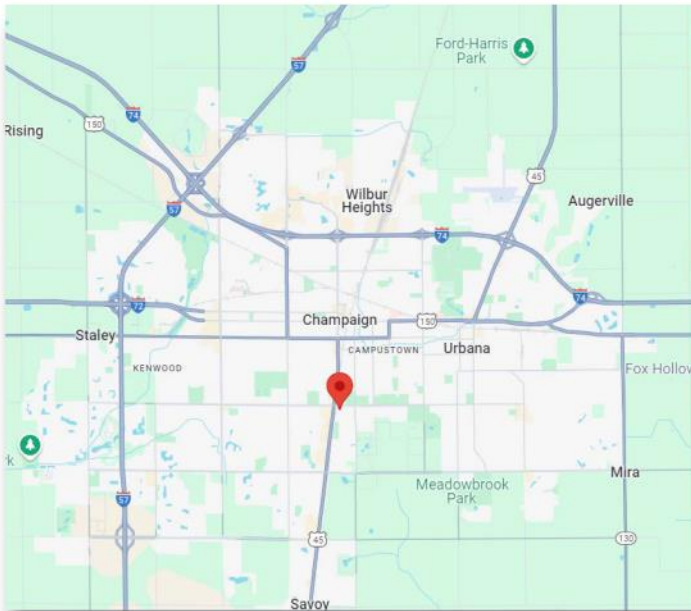
*Pop into the Associate Hospitality Room one last time before calling it a night to chat about the day's events and to close out the event in the company of friends.*



## Hotel Info

The Holiday Inn Champaign is offering a room rate of \$85 per night for a standard king or a double queen, plus applicable state and local taxes. To take advantage of this block room rate, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/23njh89z>

Or call 217-398-3400 and simply ask for the IL Land Improvement Contractors Association room block. This rate will expire on **December 29, 2024**, so reserve your room as soon as possible!



## U of I Campus Tours



Join us for exciting tours on the University of Illinois's campus! First stop, Memorial Stadium where you'll get to explore exclusive premium spaces like private suites, the 77 Club, the Colonnades Club, the dynamic Media Area, and, if weather permits, even step out onto the field! Last stop, the Hydraulics Lab and the Engine Research & Education Complex. The Hydraulics Lab is a multi-purpose space featuring a rainfall simulator that enables students to conduct controlled experiments in soil erosion processes, surface runoff, and infiltration patterns. Supervised by LICA Life Member, Dr. Richard Cooke, the lab houses a historic tile display with many pieces donated by ILICA members. At the Engine Research and Education Complex, we'll visit the Engine Teardown Lab and the Engine Test Lab where students gain practical experience in engine disassembly, inspection, reassembly, performance analysis, and testing. We can't wait to share this experience with you!

## Two \$250 Drawings!



Attend the 2025 ILICA Trade Show for a chance to win one of two \$250 vouchers redeemable at the participating vendor of your choice! One winner will be drawn each day. Must be present to win.

## Ladies' Outing



Calling all LICA Ladies, we'd love for you to join us for lunch at the Sun Singer! After that, we'll stroll through some delightful consignment and thrift shops just a short distance away. We'll use our own cars to make it easy to get around. We hope you can come along for a fun day!





Register Online



## Illinois LICA's Annual Convention & Members' Meeting

January 29 - 31, 2025

Holiday Inn Champaign ~ 101 Trade Ctr Dr, Champaign, IL

**Registration Deadline: Jan. 10, 2025**

(\$100 late fee after deadline)

### Full Participation: Jan 29 - 31

(all meals, activities, & trainings, except septic)

Individual	#	_____	x \$205 =	_____
Couple	#	_____	x \$315 =	_____
Child (5-12)	#	_____	x \$90 =	_____
Tour	#	_____	x \$60 =	_____
<b>Total</b>			<b>=</b>	_____

**FREE Admission**

☐ **Trade Show Only**

Thursday, Jan. 30 1-4 PM

Friday, Jan. 31 9-11 AM

- Heavy Equipment
- Drainage Supplies
- Engineering Consulting
- Environmental Support
- Erosion Control Products
- Waste Mgmt. Products
- Rental Equipment
- Insurance
- Laser/GPS Products
- Safety Equipment

**U of I CAMPUS TOURS**

JANUARY 30TH | 8 AM - 12 PM



Attend the 2025 ILICA Trade Show for a chance to win a \$250 voucher redeemable at the participating vendor of your choice!

One winner will be drawn each day | Must be present to win

Attendee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Dinner Options: **Stuffed Chicken Florentine #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roasted Salmon #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payable to: ILICA**

112 Exchange St., Ste. 2

Galva, IL 61434

Email: michelle@illica.net

Fax: 309.932.1231

(\$100 late fee after Jan. 10th)

**Hotel Reservations**



Reserve your hotel room today to ensure a guaranteed room rate of \$85/night, plus tax!

Call 217-398-3400 and simply ask for the IL Land Improvement Contractors Association room block or book online [here](#).

**Hotel reservation deadline: December 29, 2024**





## Private Sewage Disposal Contractor Training

January 30, 2025  
Holiday Inn - Champaign, IL



### Installer, Pumper, Portable Sanitation Technician CEU's

The Contractor Training Store and Illinois LICA are pleased to announce a 3 CEU training required for the renewal of Illinois Septic Licenses at a **discounted rate of \$50 for single, \$80 for dual or \$110 for all 3 licenses for ILICA members & employees** during the 2025 ILICA convention.

Plus, Illinois LICA is **offering a single license training FREE for any non-members that join Illinois LICA at the training**. So, be sure to invite fellow septic contractor service providers to the training and the free convention trade show, too!

#### Training Schedule:

**8 am-12 pm: 3 Hour IDPH approved CEU course for Private Sewage Disposal Contractors**  
(includes sign-in, breaks between sessions, sign-out, workshop evaluations and certificate distribution)

#### In addition to the septic training fees, the following Convention charges may apply:

8 am - 10 pm: **Single Day Registration:** Trade Show, Breaks, Lunch, Banquet Dinner,  
and Live Auction. . . . . **\$100.00**  
12 pm - 5 pm: **1/2 Day Registration:** Lunch & Trade Show . . . . . **\$25.00**  
(+\$15 late fee after Jan. 20th)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

IDPH Installation Contractor License #: **049** - \_\_\_\_\_

IDPH Pumping Contractor License #: **054** - \_\_\_\_\_

IDPH Certified Portable Sanitation Technician #: **901** - \_\_\_\_\_

**Single License Training - \$50**

**2 License Training - \$80**

**3 License Training - \$110**

Septic Training: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Registration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this form and mail it along with  
a check for your participation to:**

**Illinois LICA  
112 Exchange St., Ste. 2  
Galva, IL 61434**

# 2025 National LICA Winter Convention

Jacksonville, Florida - February 11 - 15th

## Agenda & Convention Information

### Tuesday, February 11

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Land & Sea Tour

### Wednesday, February 12

9:00 am - 4:30 pm St. Augustine Experience

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Executive Committee

### Thursday, February 13

7:00 am - 5:00 pm Committee Meetings

12:00 pm Opening Lunch

### Friday, February 14

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Educational Seminars

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Executive Directors' Meeting

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Associates' Night  
(Exhibition)

### Saturday, February 15

8:00 am  Caterpillar Grab & Go  
Breakfast (Continental)

9:00 am - 10:00 am Delegates' Meeting

10:00 am - 11:00 am Board Meeting

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Reception

7:00 pm Awards Banquet

### What does Registration Include?

Winter Convention registration includes all meal functions, Associates' Night, Educational Seminars, Committee Meetings, and the Board & Delegates' Meetings. All registered members will receive a name badge, and a program when they check-in on site and are welcome to attend any of the Committee Meetings and the Board Meeting. For a list of committees and their functions, visit [LICANational.org](http://LICANational.org).

### Name Badges

Your name badge serves as your "ticket" for all meals, seminars, and tours. Please remember to wear it for the entire duration of the convention.

### Tours

Those who pre-register for any of the tours, it will be indicated on name badges. Tours leave promptly at the listed time.

### Attire

The attire for our Winter Convention is mostly casual. Members do wear "dressier" attire for the Awards Banquet Saturday evening. Slacks, dresses, and nice shoes are often worn, but not required.

### Marriott Jacksonville Downtown

Nestled right in the bustling heart of River City, Marriott Jacksonville Downtown is your VIP pass to Jacksonville's hottest cultural and business hot spots! Kick back by the pool with mind-blowing views of the Riverfront and skyline. Savor delicious bites or sip on a cool cocktail at J Bar and Juliette's, conveniently located on the main level. And don't forget, the roomy hotel rooms and suites come with stunning views of the Riverfront that will have you saying, "Room service, please!"

Scan Code for  
Hotel Reservations





# 2025 National LICA Winter Convention

Jacksonville, Florida - February 11 - 15th

## Convention Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Early Bird Rate Postmarked by January 20, 2025

Contractor Member, Spouse or Associate Member.  
Includes: Thursday Lunch, Friday Breakfast, Associates' Night, Saturday Breakfast, Reception & Awards Banquet. Seminars & Meetings.

Price

# Attending

Total

\$395.00

Youth: 13 Years & Under

FREE

### Registration postmarked after January 20, 2025

Contractor Member, Spouse or Associate Member.  
Includes: Thursday Lunch, Friday Breakfast, Associates' Night, Saturday Breakfast, Reception & Awards Banquet. Seminars & Meetings.

\$450.00

Youth: 13 Years & Under

FREE

### Tour Registration

Tuesday, February 11  
Land & Sea Tour

\$80.00

Youth: 13 Years & Under (2 & Under FREE)

\$40.00

Wednesday, February 12  
St. Augustine Experience

\$90.00

Youth: 13 Years & Under (2 & Under FREE)

\$50.00

### Winter Convention Total (Registration plus Tours)

\$

#### Accommodations:

Marriott Jacksonville Downtown  
245 Water St. Jacksonville, FL

Room Rate: \$174/night (plus taxes & fees)

Call: 1-800-535-4028

Group: LICA Winter Conference 2025

Deadline: January 20, 2025

Make check payable to: LICA  
3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300, Lisle, IL 60532

Amount: \$

Cardholder:

Card Number:

Exp.:

3-Digit Code:

Billing Zip:

# YOUR CONSTRUCTION INSURANCE PARTNERS



**Peru**  
1701 4th St.  
Peru, IL 61354  
815-223-7923

**Fairbury**  
310 S. 7th St.  
Fairbury, IL 61739  
815-692-2343

**DimondBros.com**

## ILICA Trivia

Which Associate member does ILICA Area 3 golfer, Rachel Harsh, work for?



Be the first to submit the correct answer to [michelle@illica.net](mailto:michelle@illica.net)  
One lucky winner will receive a prize!



Nov/Dec Answer: Brian Brooks



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA  
Virtual Septic Training  
January 7, 2025

8 - 11:30 am

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/210405973758159>

Safety Workshop Series  
January 9-10: Decatur, IL  
January 14-15: Mt. Vernon, IL  
January 23-24: Lanark, IL

Day 1: 10 hr OSHA: 9 am - 5pm

Day 2: 10 hr OSHA: 8 am - 12 pm

Flagger or CPR: 1 pm - 5 pm

Register via QR code on page 9: [www.illica.net/events](http://www.illica.net/events)

2025 ILICA Convention & Annual Mtg.

January 29 - 31, 2025

Holiday Inn Champaign

101 Trade Ctr. Dr., Champaign, IL 61820

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/222925682060051>

or via page 18

Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA  
Virtual Septic Training  
February 20, 2025

8 - 11:30 am

Registration open after 1/7/25:

<https://form.jotform.com/210405973758159>

National

2025 LICA Winter Convention  
February 11 - 15, 2025

Marriott Jacksonville Downtown

Jacksonville, FL

Register: <https://www.licanational.com/event-posts/2025-national-winter-convention/>

or via page 21

ADVERTISER INDEX

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. ....	25
Agri Drain Corp .....	24
Berns, Clancy & Associates .....	6
BRON .....	8
Cook's AGPS, LLC .....	10
Dimond Bros. Insurance., LLC ....	22
Drain Tile Safety Coalition. ....	27
Envision Insurance Group, LLC .....	28
Fratco, Inc .....	7
Hickenbottom, Inc. ....	2
Martin Equipment of Illinois, Inc .....	28
Maurer-Stutz, Inc .....	6
Metal Culverts, Inc .....	10
Northland Trenching Equipment, LLC .....	3
Port Industries, Inc. ....	10
Precision Intakes, Ltd .....	11
Prins Insurance, Inc./United Fire Group ....	28
Prinsco, Inc .....	28
Roland Machinery Co. ....	11
Schlatter's, Inc. ....	2
Springfield Plastics, Inc. ....	2
Vermeer Midwest, Inc. ....	10
Xylem, LTD. ....	11

## FEATURED ILICA BENEFIT: FREE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FOR NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

Are you a new contractor member that just joined the Association in 2024/2025? If so, you are eligible to receive a FREE full convention registration. That's right, all 3 days of meals, activities, and entertainment included! The Illinois LICA Annual Convention and Members' Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Champaign on January 29-31 (see pages 14-19 for

event details). Come for the trade show, education, entertainment, and hospitality Wednesday through Friday...or just come on whichever day works best for your schedule! Bring your spouse or partner along (additional registrations may apply) and have lunch and dinner on us. We can't wait to see you there!



### 68th Annual ILICA Convention & Members' Meeting

This card entitles a new active contractor member (or his/her company designee) to **one (1)**

**FREE** full participation at the 2025 ILICA Convention: **\$205 value!**

Register at [illica.net/events](http://illica.net/events) and use code: **DIG25**

or

Return this card with the convention registration by Jan, 10, 2025 to:



Illinois LICA  
112 Exchange St., Ste 2  
Galva, IL 61434

**AGRIDRAIN**  
Innovative Water Management

Watermaster Floating Pump

Intake Marker Flags

Bar Guards

Catch Basins

Smart Drainage System®

Flap Gates

Call for a **FREE** catalog or visit our website to view our full line of products.

800-232-4742 ■ 641-742-5211 ■ [www.agridrain.com](http://www.agridrain.com)





Scan to see our commitment to supporting Illinois contractors.

# We keep business flowing.

With historically high prices for corn and soybeans, there has never been a better time to reinvest in land. Together with drainage contractors across Illinois, ADS products and solutions help farmers improve yields, increase farmable acres and create sustainable water management solutions to ensure the long-term success of their operation.

ADS®, the ADS logo and the Green Stripe are registered trademarks of Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.  
© 2021 Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. 03/21

**ADS**  
Our reason is water.™



## SAFETY FEATURE: MOBILE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

One of the most important elements contributing to the success of the land improvement contractor is the reliability and availability of your mobile equipment. Everyone knows equipment downtime directly relates to project delays that can jeopardize contractual performance obligations and adversely impact profitability. The good news is that unlike the weather, equipment downtime is something you can directly control by keeping your mobile equipment in tip-top operating condition by developing, implementing and managing inspections and preventive maintenance routines. It all starts with you!

Initially, preventive maintenance programs can be a monumental undertaking but, once implemented, they become ingrained in your business operations and workforce performance, and you reap the rewards. Luckily, most manufacturers and dealers provide preventive maintenance practices that can extend the life of your mobile equipment. While the manufacturers and dealers hope you return to them for preventive maintenance services after the initial warranty expires, most know they are less likely to retain your preventive maintenance business. What does this mean for you? It's up to you and your workforce to keep your mobile equipment in tip-top operating condition until you dispose of it. If you consistently observe routine and extended preventive maintenance practices, you should benefit from the extended life of your mobile equipment. And who doesn't want to maximize the return on their investment in mobile equipment?

Here are a few preventive maintenance practices to consider:

- Establish and promote a management and workforce mindset of prevention versus reaction.
- Continue the manufacturer's preventive maintenance practices for the life of the equipment.
- Develop an in-house preventive maintenance and tracking program for each piece of equipment.
- Develop a pre-startup inspection policy and practice for each piece of equipment.
- Determine which maintenance needs require immediate shut-down and maintenance.
- Create pre-startup inspection and maintenance-need reporting forms.
- Train operators and supervisors to conduct pre-startup inspections to identify deficiencies.
- Require that equipment operators perform pre-startup inspections and document them.
- Audit operators pre-start inspections and mechanical repairs of in-house mechanics.
- Are there inspection practices specific to your business or industry? If so, include them.

Although each piece of mobile equipment will have individual preventive maintenance needs, here are some common items to include in your inspection list:

- Fire extinguisher – is it present, securely mounted, workforce trained in its use, and is it discharged?

- Is operator trained and qualified to use the equipment?
- Operator cab/enclosure – is it damaged and, if equipped, are environmental controls functional?
- Seatbelt – if equipped, is it in good condition and functional? Do you have a use policy?
- Any damage to operator controls such as clutch, brakes, leavers, stick, etc.?
- Hydraulic hoses – are there any visible cracks, wear or leaks?
- Hydraulic reservoir, pump, valves and actuators – are any damaged or leaking?
- Is there damage to any moving parts such as tires, tracks, bucket, boom, hook, hoist, etc.?
- Is the equipment beyond its prescribed hours-of-use preventive -maintenance schedule?
- Are lights, horn and safety equipment in good condition and functional?
- Are the weather and job site conditions conducive for safety and damage-free operation?

Let's not forget about theft and mischievous damage prevention. If your equipment is stolen or damaged, it can be a setback for your project and a financial hardship for you and your workforce.

Here are a few prevention questions to ask yourself:

- Is your mobile equipment insured?
- Do you keep it insured to value?
- Do you have theft and damage practices in place?

Theft and mischievous damage prevention practices should include but are not limited to:

- Do not leave mobile equipment on site any longer than required to complete the job that equipment is needed for.
- Do not leave the haul trailer on the job site.
- Install telematics with startup and tamper detection and GPS tracking with active monitoring and notification.
- Remove operators key and secure cab and controls.
- Change the operator key, if possible, to avoid master key use.
- Install hidden kill switch.
- Remove battery and tire to immobilize equipment.
- Use fencing and lighting to deter theft or damage.

As a closing thought, mobile equipment does and will fail, sometimes unexpectedly, but a well thought out and implemented preventive maintenance programs and end-of-useful-life management can minimize the impact.

Learn more about UFG Risk Control at:

<https://www.ufginsurance.com/insurance/services/risk-control>

*Adaptation of Mobile Equipment Maintenance by Michael Muehlberger,  
Senior Risk Control Technical Consultant, UFG Insurance*



# IT HAPPENED TO HIM. IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU.



**FARM SAFE** 811

Always **Contact 811** or **clickbeforeyoudig.com**  
before starting any drain tile project.

## Watch online at **ThreeSecondsLater.org**



**SCAN ME**

Watch the award-winning,  
first-person account of a tragic  
drain tile accident and its impact  
on a close-knit community.



**ENVISION**  
INSURANCE GROUP

## Four Area Locations to Serve You

1616 W Pioneer Parkway  
Peoria, IL 61615  
(309) 683-1100

150 B, S Main St.  
Morton, IL 61550

456 E Main St.  
Galesburg, IL 61401

1150 E. Pershing Rd  
Decatur, IL 62526

Business & Personal Insurance • Life & Health • Benefits • Bonding



STRONG SERVICE.  
POWERFUL EQUIPMENT.

# ENDLESS DEDICATION.

In addition to selling industry-leading equipment for every customer need, Martin Equipment is a proud member of the Illinois chapter of the Land Improvement Contractors Association. Together, we share dialogues, connections, and education to improve the construction business and environment.



**JOHN DEERE**

**MARTIN**  
Equipment

► Connect and learn more at  
[MartinEquipment.com](http://MartinEquipment.com)

IL: Goodfield, Peru, Springfield, Rock Island, and Tolono  
IA: Cedar Rapids and Dubuque MO: Columbia and Palmyra

# People you can trust



Find a sales rep to  
experience the  
Prinsco Difference.  
[prinsco.com/agsales](http://prinsco.com/agsales)  
800.992.1725

**the Prinsco  
difference**  
service led by values

## INSURANCE ELEVATED. BEYOND DEDICATED. ► WE'RE ALL IN.



**You've worked hard to construct a  
reliable business.**

We're trusted partners equally committed to protecting  
your business and reputation.

Visit [ufginsurance.com](http://ufginsurance.com) to find an agent today.

**ufg**  
INSURANCE  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

**PRINS**  
INSURANCE



© 2022 United Fire & Casualty Company. All rights reserved.