

ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

September - October 2014

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Upcoming Events:

Area 8 Members Meetings -
Dec. 3, 4 - Exact Location TBA

ILICA Winter Convention -
**Jan. 15-17 - Embassy Suites,
East Peoria, IL**

THE NEW LICA PORTAL

(page 18)

The LICA Portal Offers:

- OSHA Requirements
- Risk Mgmt. Materials
- Property & Casualty Info.
- ...and so much more

Also Featured Inside:

6th Annual Area 3 Golf Outing Receives Outstanding Support (page 11)

Extension Connection: Sept. 1 Corn Stocks Estimate (page 12-13)

USDA Unveils Key New Programs To Help Farmers Manage Risk (page 22)

Return To: Illinois LICA
P.O. Box 474
Brimfield, IL 61517

LADIES ACTIVITY FOR 2015 WINTER CONVENTION!



BEFORE



AFTER

Just look at what Holly Yordy can turn a cold, bleak front entrance into with landscaping software. If there is a spot you'd like to see a complete "Make-Over" on, like this beautiful home shown here, you are in luck!

Holly has agreed to do a landscape session for our ladies at convention that will transform their "before" photos into a landscaping "works of art". But she will need a little help to prepare for this interesting session.

Take a photo of your project area and jot down a little information about your goal for the space; things like which direction (N-S-E-W) it faces, how much sun/shade it gets during a day, ... that sort of thing and email the full-resolution photo and information to the ILICA office (janet@illica.net) or directly to Holly at (hollyo02@hotmail.com). You may not even recognize your own project in January!

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The ILICA News



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The LICA Creed



Land, the foundation of the Nation
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All that man builds is from the land. We often take it for granted or even abuse it; And yet many, unthinkingly and unknowingly pass the land by. What man does with the land will be the deciding factor of his survival.



Meeting Notice

Regular Meeting of the Board

November 8, 2014 - 2 pm

Committee Meetings 10 am - 1 pm

Lunch provided on site

Gallagher - Heiser Insurance Agency

133 N. Main St., Morton, IL

Map & Directions on page 19



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kempton!

As I write this article I look out the window and see the combines beginning harvest. That means the phone will be ringing off the wall, or jiggling in contractors pockets for work farmers will want done. "The field is done, can you come tomorrow" or "There's no hurry but can you have it done by the end of the week?" Sound familiar?

Since the last newsletter, we've had a few things going on. The drainage workshop was held at Decatur. We also had a cold, wet and rainy Golf Outing at Morton. Here again, my team did not win. Janet and Kerry, Wayne and Marsha kept everyone hydrated with both warm and cold drinks.

And don't forget, you can make comments regarding the proposed changes to the Clean Water Act up to October 20th.

There will be member meetings in the southern part of the state in December. Norm Kocher is lining those up now so watch for more information soon.

As we look ahead a little further for ILICA, the November board meeting will include some crucial topics so please, board members, plan to attend.

Mark your calendars for January 15 - 17, 2015 for the next ILICA winter meeting in East Peoria. Let's hope for a good turn out as these meetings are for all ILICA members. It's a good time to meet new friends and re-connect with those you haven't seen for a while. The education and convention committees are working hard on plans to make this an informative and relaxing meeting. Look for more detailed information in the next issue of this newsletter.

I hope for all of you to have a busy and very productive fall season ... AND remember ... work safe.

David Haag, President



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Rob Williamson - Williamson Excavating, LLC
14964 Halsey Road
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Thank You!



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Outstanding partner and associate support were the hallmark of the summer drainage workshop in late July. More than 40 attendees participated in everything from traditional classroom sessions to a bioreactor site visit not too far from Richland Community College.

Several associate members participated in the panel discussions and presentations and we thank Port Industries, Schlatter's Inc., ADS, Prinsco, Springfield Plastics, Agri Drain and AGPS for providing their expertise to this workshop.

The University of Illinois Extension also has our most sincere thanks for Richard's continued involvement with this scheduling. And Richland Community College continues to be a valued partner as well as one of the best facilities that Illinois ILICA works with. Their ability to accommodate the unusual utilization requests this workshop often involves is invaluable!

Associate sponsorship was outstanding as always and the generosity of our sponsors is a huge part of this workshops' success. Each one, shown above, has our sincere thanks for helping ILICA provide a quality program at a minimum cost to

our attendees. If you have a chance, please take the time to thank them personally for their support of ILICA.

We also thank Seevers Farm Drainage for providing the bioreactor field site and all the Seevers' for putting together a delicious pork chop supper at the site, with all the fixings! JCG Midwest helped sponsor the evening meal, which was wonderful! And last but certainly not least, our thanks to education committee members, Eric Layden and Grant Curtis, for planning and facilitating the workshop.



(left) Stan Seevers doing one of his favorite things, grilling pork chops.
(below, l to r) Richard Cooke instructing the classroom session on drainage design; Kevin Shimp, Port Industries, reviewing machine maintenance and wear items at the field site.



FARMING TAKES FLIGHT DRONES SAVE IL FARMERS TIME AND MONEY

Source: Public News Service

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Farming is taking flight in Illinois.

Researchers say interest is growing in the use of drones in agriculture, and that the unmanned aerial vehicles can give farmers a bird’s eye view of their fields.

Dennis Bowman, a crop sciences educator with the University of Illinois Extension, is using two drones to take aerial snapshots of crops in the research plots on the university’s South Farms. He says it offers a quick and easy way to check on the plants’ progress and determine if they need more attention.

"It does allow the opportunity to get an overall survey of the area and make a better use of your time, rather than just walking out blindly into a field of corn that’s taller than your head, and hoping that you stumble across any of the problem areas that might be out there," he explains.

Bowman says his drones have computers similar to those used in smartphones and can make flights of about 10 to 15 minutes.



He adds while the standard pictures and video are very helpful, researchers are looking to use imagery in other wavelengths, such as near-infrared, to identify areas of crop stress.

Bowman says the agriculture industry is expected to be one of the largest markets for drone usage. He says he knows some people have concerns about their use, but he feels the technology is beneficial and can ultimately save farmers time and money.

"People think about drones and a lot of times, the negative connotations come to mind, privacy issues and those kinds of things," he says. "But in the agricultural community, we’re out in the middle of nowhere most of the time, flying them over fields of crops."

There are restrictions on commercial use of unmanned aerial vehicles, but the Federal Aviation Administration is expected to release new policies by next year that would enable businesses to incorporate drones into their operations.



The cost of the drones used in farming can range from a few hundred dollars to thousands, depending on the technology. Bowman says he’s hopeful that with more interest in drones, prices will drop in the future.

Mary Kuhlman, Public News Service – IL

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ILICA LADIES PAGE

Easy Fall Decorating Ideas:

Decorate your home inside and outside with gourds, leaves, pumpkins, nuts and other seasonal materials for beautiful fall "do-it-yourself" displays.

Source: www.Midwestliving.com



FALL IN A JAR

Create a pretty fall scene with a terrarium, bell jar or glass cake cover. Here, a bell jar on top of a shallow terra-cotta bulb dish spotlights mini pumpkins and a sprig of oak leaves on a bed of moss.

GOLDEN GLOW

Clear glass containers show off both the flicker of candles as well as the colorful materials around them.

Nestle a candle in popcorn kernels or other seasonal materials, such as candy corn or colored clear round stones (available in crafts stores).



HANGING VASE

A swan gourd makes a natural vase hanging from a front gate or porch railing. Cut a hole near the gourd's neck, then hollow out enough space for fall flowers: mums, black-eyed Susans, Virginia creeper or other favorites.

MANTEL OF GOURDS

Use as many gourds as you'd like to create this simple mantel decoration. We mixed two larger hard-shell gourds with smaller soft-shell gourds (and tucked in a squash for good measure). Bittersweet branches and maple leaves provide extra color and texture.



HARVEST VASES

Add fall flavor to a tabletop or mantel with cylinder vases filled with nuts and wheat. Roll coordinating scrapbooking paper into decorative cuffs that slip inside the vase.

SEASON'S BOUNTY

Gourds in a variety of sizes, colors, shapes and textures fill a wooden tray, accented by flowers & berries.



AUTUMN VOTIVES



Such a simple, but pretty idea: Tie fall leaves around votive holders with string or twine. Use artificial leaves and battery-powered candles for both safety and long-lasting beauty.

BOUNTIFUL WHEELBARROW



Put together a colorful outdoor fall display using a sturdy wheelbarrow as a base.

Our wheelbarrow overflows with ornamental cabbage and peppers, ornamental grasses, chrysanthemums, flowering zucchini and other seasonal plants. Fill the wheelbarrow with soil and insert the plants loosely, or tuck containers into the wheelbarrow, making sure to fill in the gaps with more plants.

HARVEST CORN BASKET

This easy-to-make ornamental corn basket holds all of your fall favorites. Attach 12 to 13 ears of ornamental corn (including husks) to a 6-inch terra-cotta pot, using hot glue. Fill with asters, peppers, safflowers, gourds, pompons, sunflowers, rosehips and maple leaves.



COZY GLOW

ORANGE-AND-WHITE CENTERPIECE

White pumpkins encircled by bittersweet vine and set along an orange table runner create a striking table arrangement.



Wrap glass votive holders in textural flair. Tie raffia around three or four overlapping moistened corn husks trimmed to fit. A spotted guinea fowl feather (available at crafts stores) adds a flourish.

2015 ILICA WINTER CONVENTION UPDATE

JANUARY 15 - 17, 2015

The 2015 ILICA convention is set at the beautiful Embassy Suites in East Peoria. It may seem a little odd getting in there the first time, but the area has a wide variety of shops and restaurants from Steak n Shake to Granite City Café or Texas Roadhouse as well as a direct route under I-74 from the hotel to the huge Bass Pro store. Of course, the real action will be at the convention!



This year's theme is "Hollywood" so our guests are encouraged to come as their favorite movie or TV character or dressed for a "Red Carpet" entry on opening night. The trade show will open on Thursday morning and exhibitors may set up on Wednesday evening after 6 pm or first thing Thursday morning as things get started. Exhibits remain open through lunch on Friday and Caterpillar has offered to host our group at their Peoria Welcome Center on Friday evening.

The exhibit contract, sponsorship documents and registration forms will be finalized at the November meetings and will be mailed to all members before the end of that month. Detailed maps and directions will be included so the



maze of highways, exit ramps and side roads that are the mark of the East Peoria riverfront will not be a problem.

Lots more plans are underway, the exhibit hall has been laid out and hotel reservations can be made online or by phone right now! Our room block rate is \$109 a night for their King or Double Queen 2-room suites and parking is included. And the Embassy Suites has several parking areas available, all at street level.

Details for all of the reservation options are listed below and remember, please don't hesitate to contact the ILICA office at 309-446-3700 with any questions. Winter Convention will be here before we know it.

Make Your Reservations Today!

There are 3 ways to make your reservations in the ILICA Convention room block:

1. To make reservations on-line:

Visit www.embassysuiteseastpeoria.com

Select check in date and check out date

Click the blue link that reads "Add special rate codes"

Enter **ILI** into the Group Code box

Select Check Availability

2. To make reservations by phone:

Call 309-694-0200 and ask for Global Reservations

State your check in and checkout date

Mention your block **IL Land Improvement Block** and code **ILI**

3. To make reservations by using website:

Visit <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/P/PIAESES-ILI-20150114/index.jhtml>

Click on "Book a Room"

Adjust your check in and checkout date

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INDIANA HOSTS SUMMER LICA MEETINGS

The 2014 Summer LICA conference was hosted by Indiana and what other theme could they possibly use besides racing! A tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway kicked off the pre-tours and a Pine Wood Derby kicked off the opening reception on Thursday.

The Pine Wood Derby was coordinated by Allison, organized by Adam Zimmermann of Caterpillar, and officiated by the Zionsville Indiana Cub Scout Pack 105. And it was a fierce competition indeed. Pack 105 Leaders not only provided the track, scorekeeping set-up and expertise to have an "official" Pine Wood Derby, they also helped our members modify their cars to meet all requirements ... and due to the creative nature of this group, there were some serious modifications required on a few cars!

And the entire crowd stayed for the final heat. New Jersey took the state chapter race and Adam had the fastest thing on wheels at the end of the night. And in the honorable mention category, Veronica Seevers' University of Illinois car did beat Jons' SFDI car.



Our sincere thanks goes out to Jerry Buiso, Eileen Levy and Allison Hack for all their hard work. They did an outstanding job coordinating this conference with the help of Indiana LICA to provide another fun and informative summer LICA conference.



(upper right) The mighty LICA Pine Wood Derby cars; weighed, checked for clearance and lined up for action! LICA members put a lot of time and thought into their cars.

(above, left to right) New Jersey group accepts the Winning Chapter trophy from Tony Stewart (Maura); The Cub Scout Troop 105 Leadership shown here with Adam Zimmermann from Caterpillar, Bob Clark, LICA President and Tony Stewart (Maura again).

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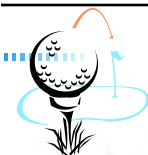
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6TH ANNUAL AREA 3 GOLF OUTING RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SUPPORT ... AND SOME RAIN

Outing Sponsors



Meal Sponsors



Trailers, who also brought a foursome to tough out the day. All of our outing sponsors are shown above so the next time you do business with one of these fine folks, please thank them for their loyal support of this fundraiser.

Illinois LICA has been blessed with beautiful weather for many of the Area 3 golf outings, but this year wasn't one of them. Earlier that week, forecasters were saying the weather would clear out Thursday evening to a sunny but cool Friday. Friday morning was anything but sunny; in fact there was a mist or light rain right up to the 1 pm shotgun start, but then it stopped!

As always, the ILICA membership and other local businesses showed outstanding support for this event and a new outing sponsor was added this year, Jim Hawk Truck

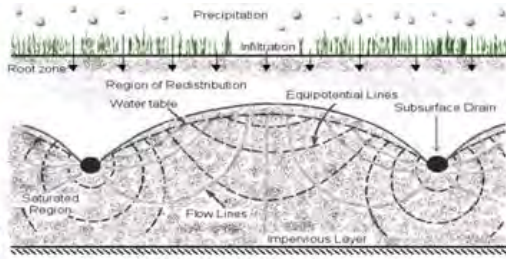
Brad & Kyle Brooks' foursome took the low score prize and Tyler Brooks won the 50/50 raffle, so it was a good day for their family. Amber Bosma of Prins Insurance took longest putt, Grant Curtis took longest drive prize and Roger Watwood from JULIE won closest to the pin. Brad Baker took the prize for showing up in the wildest pants. And although there was no cash prize for that, Bill Dean said it did give their foursome the opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance before they teed off!



(upper right) A grey beginning to the Area 3 golf outing, but at least the rain stopped for the 1 pm shotgun start.

(above, upper left to lower right) Most golfers stayed for the steak dinner, finding the warm, dry dining room a welcome change from the afternoon on the course; Tyler Brooks, Bill Dean, Brad Baker and Clay Yantis

stop briefly for some hot chocolate before the last hole of the day; Outing sponsor Courson & Associates' foursome, Dan Stoerzbach, C.L. Cummings of Tompkins State Bank, Dustin Courson and Terry Welty of Envision Insurance; Bob Balsat of CK Power, another of our long-time outing sponsors with Josh Keith, Brian Hays of Port Industries, also a long-time outing sponsor and Shawn Carroll.



The Extension Connection

SEPT. 1 CORN STOCKS ESTIMATE – DOES IT MATTER?

September 8, 2014 : URBANA, Ill. – News writer: Debra Levey Larson

Source: Darrel Good - University of Illinois Extension

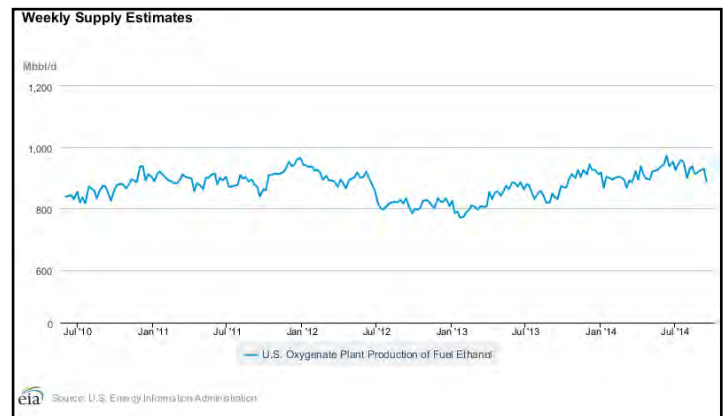
Corn prices continue to be dominated by expectations of a very large U.S. harvest. The USDA will release a new forecast of the size of the crop on Sept. 11. According to a University of Illinois agricultural economist, the market expectation is that the new forecast will be about 250 million bushels larger than the August forecast and that the forecast is likely to be larger again in October, reflecting a U.S. average yield well above trend value. With such a large harvest, the estimate of Sept. 1 stocks of old-crop corn will have less importance than was the case in the previous three years when stocks were generally small and the U.S. average corn yield was below trend value.

“Still, there will be some information in the Sept. 1 stocks estimate as it will reveal the magnitude of consumption during the final quarter of the 2013-14 marketing year and perhaps provide some insight into the accuracy of the 2013 corn production estimate,” said Darrel Good. “The price implications of the estimate, if any, will depend on the magnitude of stocks relative to the expected level of stocks. The magnitude of exports during the final quarter of the marketing year is mostly known.

“The Census Bureau estimated exports during June and July at 368 million bushels so that exports during the first 11 months of the marketing year exceeded USDA export inspection estimates by 55.5 million bushels,” Good continued. “For August, USDA export inspection estimates totaled 171 million bushels, suggesting that the Census Bureau estimate when released on Oct. 3 will be near 176 million bushels. Exports during the fourth quarter of the marketing year may be near 544 million bushels, the most in five years. Exports for the entire marketing year would be near 1.924 billion bushels, close to the current USDA forecast,” Good said.



An estimate of the amount of corn used for ethanol production during the final quarter of the marketing year is based on the estimates of ethanol production released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). A monthly ethanol production estimate is available for June, and weekly estimates are available through August 29.



July '10 - July -14 U.S. Plant Production of Ethanol

“With two days remaining in the quarter, it appears that summer-quarter ethanol production will total 3.668 billion gallons,” Good said. “Most, but not all, ethanol is made from corn, and the yield of ethanol from each bushel of feedstock varies somewhat. During the last half of the 2013-14 marketing year, the amount of sorghum used to make ethanol has declined. As a result, a slightly higher percentage of ethanol was made from corn. To forecast the amount of corn used for ethanol production during the last quarter of the year, we simply use the ratio of total ethanol production to corn consumption estimated by USDA for the third quarter of the marketing year. That ratio of 2.74 implies that 1.338 billion bushels of corn were used during the final quarter of the year and that

SEPT. 1 CORN STOCKS ESTIMATE – DOES IT MATTER?

CONT.

5.132 billion bushels were used during the entire marketing year. That is 12 million bushels more than the most recent USDA forecast. The USDA’s *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* (WASDE) report to be released on Sept. 11 will contain an updated estimate of marketing-year corn use for ethanol production,” Good said.

| CORN | 2012/13 | 2013/14 Est. | 2014/15 Proj. Aug | 2014/15 Proj. Sep |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | <i>Million Acres</i> | | | |
| Area Planted | 97.2 | 95.4 | 91.6 | 91.6 |
| Area Harvested | 87.4 | 87.7 | 83.8 | 83.8 |
| | <i>Bushels</i> | | | |
| Yield per Harvested Acre | 123.4 | 158.8 | 167.4 | 171.7 |
| | <i>Million Bushels</i> | | | |
| Beginning Stocks | 989 | 821 | 1181 | 1181 |
| Production | 10780 | 13925 | 14032 | 14395 |
| Imports | 160 | 35 | 30 | 30 |
| Supply, Total | 11929 | 14781 | 15243 | 15607 |
| Feed and Residual | 4339 | 5175 | 5250 | 5325 |
| Food, Seed & Industrial 2/ | 6039 | 6500 | 6460 | 6530 |
| Ethanol & by-products 3/ | 4641 | 5125 | 5075 | 5125 |
| Domestic, Total | 10378 | 11675 | 11710 | 11855 |
| Exports | 730 | 1925 | 1725 | 1750 |
| Use, Total | 11108 | 13600 | 13435 | 13605 |
| Ending Stocks | 821 | 1181 | 1808 | 2002 |
| Free Stocks | 821 | 1181 | | |
| Outstanding Loans | 32 | 50 | | |
| Avg. Farm Price (\$/bu) 4/ | 6.89 | 4.45 | 3.55 - 4.25 | 3.20 - 3.80 |

USDA World Agricultural Supply & Demand Estimates for Corn

year, use during the fourth quarter needed to total 465 million bushels.

Estimated use during the final quarter of the marketing year was extremely small the previous two years, averaging only 288 million bushels. Estimated use in the final quarter of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 marketing years averaged 474 million bushels. Estimated use during the final quarter in the three years preceding 2009-10 averaged 704 million bushels.



“The pattern of estimated feed and residual use of corn during the final quarter of the marketing year over the past seven years makes it difficult to anticipate use this year,” Good said. “Use should be larger than in the previous two years, supported by low corn prices relative to other feed ingredients and very modest expansion in broiler and dairy cow numbers. In addition, the availability of new-crop corn in August, which can replace old-crop corn consumption, was not unusually large this year. However, because estimates of feed use are entirely residual calculations, estimated use can differ substantially from expectations.”

June 1 stocks of corn were estimated at 3.854 billion bushels. With imports of about 6 million bushels during the last quarter, supplies totaled 3.86 billion bushels.

“Based on our estimates of exports and domestic-processing use of corn and assuming that feed and residual use equaled the USDA projection, corn consumption during the final quarter of the year totaled 2.695 billion bushels,” Good said. “Under that scenario, Sept. 1 stocks of old-crop corn would have stood at 1.165 billion bushels. The actual estimate will have to deviate from that forecast by a large amount to have a price impact.”

In the next Extension Connection:

Richard was unable to secure yield data required for the planned article this issue, but he will address the method of drawing inferences from historic yield records to determine yield response to drainage in the Nov - Dec *ILICA News*.

The USDA has forecast corn consumption for domestic processing other than ethanol during the 2013-14 marketing year at 1.385 billion bushels, 20 million less than was used during the previous year. Use during the first three quarters of the marketing year was estimated to be 13 million bushels less than use of a year earlier so that, according to Good, the USDA projection for the year appears reasonable. If correct, usage during the final quarter would have totaled 348 million bushels, resulting in total processing use (including ethanol) of 1.686 billion bushels.

For the entire 2013-14 marketing year, the USDA has projected feed and residual use of corn at 5.175 billion bushels. Use during the first three quarters of the year was estimated at 4.71 billion bushels. To reach the projection for the

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STATE LICA INSURANCE
PROGRAM DIVIDEND
ANNOUNCED



The ILICA office was notified in early September that the 2013 State LICA / UFG Insurance program dividend will be **4.5%** of the earned premium of the policy holder during the 2013 calendar year.

Bruce Mosier of Prins Insurance also mentioned that "on or about September 19 2014, a check will be printed by United Fire Group, made out to the insured and mailed directly to the agent that represents the insured."

Bruce also provided a list of eligible Illinois LICA participants to the office in case any member has not received their check in a reasonable amount of time or has a question about their dividend.



“WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES” UPDATE



Provided by: John Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations

John Peterson routinely updates interested LICA members on information he receives through his work as LICA Director of Government relations as well as through his close relationship with Soil and Water Conservation Districts on the state and National level. The following information is taken from a 19 page document released by the National Association of Counties, voicing their concern for the impact this act could have at the county level.

Another main point made in this document is that anyone with legitimate concerns or comments should take advantage of the extended comment period on this proposed change, due no later than October 20, 2014.

Why “Waters of the U.S.” Regulation Matters to Counties

- Seeks to define waters under federal jurisdiction. Because the proposed rule could expand the scope of CWA jurisdiction, counties could feel a major impact as more waters become federally protected and subject to new rules and standards.
- Potentially increases the number of county-owned ditches under federal jurisdiction. Once a ditch is under federal jurisdiction, the Section 404 permit process can be extremely cumbersome, time-consuming and expensive, leaving counties vulnerable to citizen suits if the federal permit process is not streamlined.
- Applies to all Clean Water Act programs, not just Section 404 program including; Section 402 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program; Section 303 Water Quality Standards (WQS) program; and other programs including stormwater, green infrastructure, pesticide permits and total maximum daily load (TMDL) standards.
- Ultimately, a county is liable for maintaining the integrity of their ditches, even if federal permits are not approved by the federal agencies in a timely manner.

Notable Changes over Current Practices

- Under the proposed rule, “other waters,” such as isolated wetlands, must meet the significant nexus test to be considered jurisdictional.
- The proposed rule more broadly defines the definition of tributary to include manmade and natural ditches
- The proposed rule would broaden what types of waters next to a “waters of the U.S.” are considered jurisdictional.
- The proposed rule exempts a certain type of uplands ditch - there is little consensus on how this language would (or

would not) impact roadside ditches. EPA and Corps need to answer whether ditches will be considered in parts or in whole.

- The proposed rule would exempt ditches that show they do not contribute to the flow of a “water of the U.S.”
- However, ditches can be a point source and regulated under the CWA Section 402 permit program. Under the proposed rule, ditches that do contribute to the flow of a “water of the U.S.” regardless of perennial, intermittent or ephemeral flows, would be jurisdictional.

Newly Defined Terms

- The term “significant nexus” means that a water, including wetlands, either alone or in combination with other similarly situated waters in the region (i.e. the watershed that drains to the nearest “water of the U.S.”) can significantly affect the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the water to which they drain. For an effect to be significant, it must be more than speculative or insubstantial.
- The term “riparian area” means an area bordering a water where the surface or subsurface hydrology directly influence the ecological process and plant and animal community structure in that area. (aquatic, plant or animal life that depends on above or below ground waters to exist)

The NACo has endorsed the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014, H.R. 5078, which has passed the House and is waiting to be voted on in the Senate. The support letter can be found on the NACo website, www.NACO.org. In a nutshell, H.R. 5078 calls for the following, as stated in the excerpt from that support letter, listed below.

“Of the nation’s 3,069 counties, 50 percent (1,542) serve counties with populations below 25,000 residents. Any additional costs burdens are challenging for these smaller governments, especially since more rural counties have the most road miles and corresponding ditches.”

“H.R. 5078 requires the EPA and the Corps to work closely with states and local governments to develop a “waters of the U.S.” rule, especially since we are partners with the federal government in implementing and enforcing Clean Water Act programs. NACo believes that states and local governments should be given the opportunity to provide meaningful consultation on rules before rules are formally proposed, especially if the rule will have a significant impact on capital costs, operations and mandates on the people we serve as required under Executive Order 13132: Federalism.”

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- Associate Membership - \$295** (Associate members are those businesses that manufacture or sell equipment, materials or services used by active members)
- Affiliate Membership - \$85** (Affiliate members are individuals employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership)

Signature: _____



FEATURED BENEFIT: NEW LICA PORTAL



Each LICA Contractor member has access to the Zywave Resource Library.

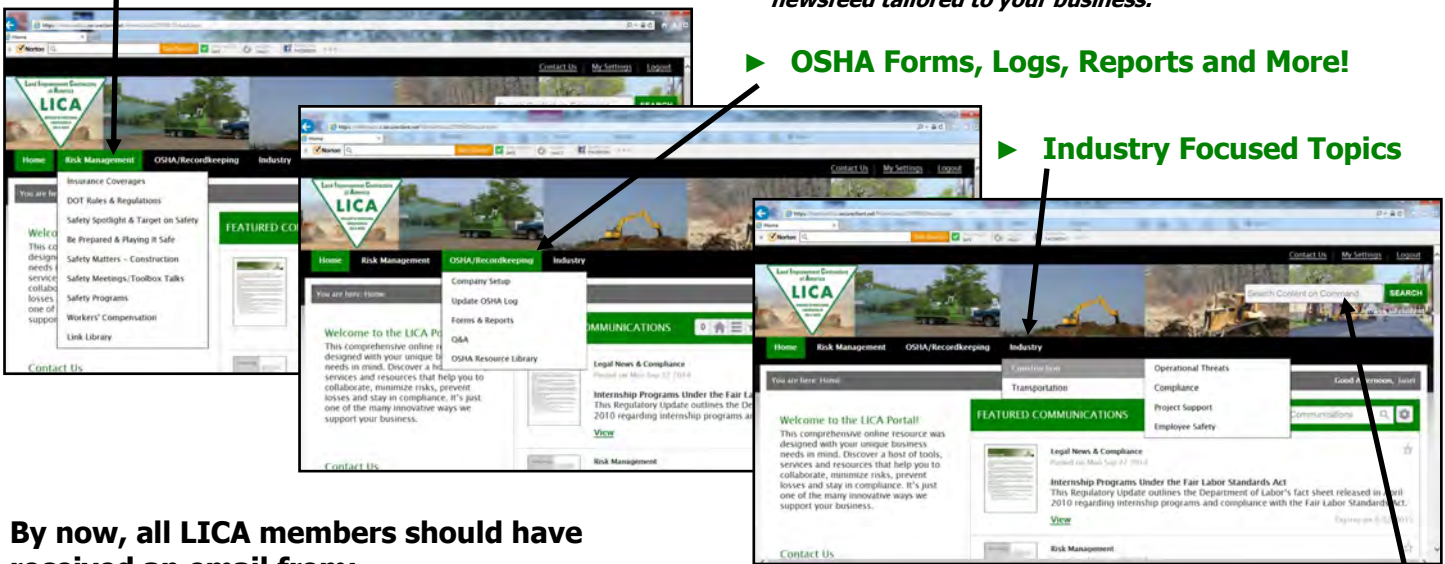
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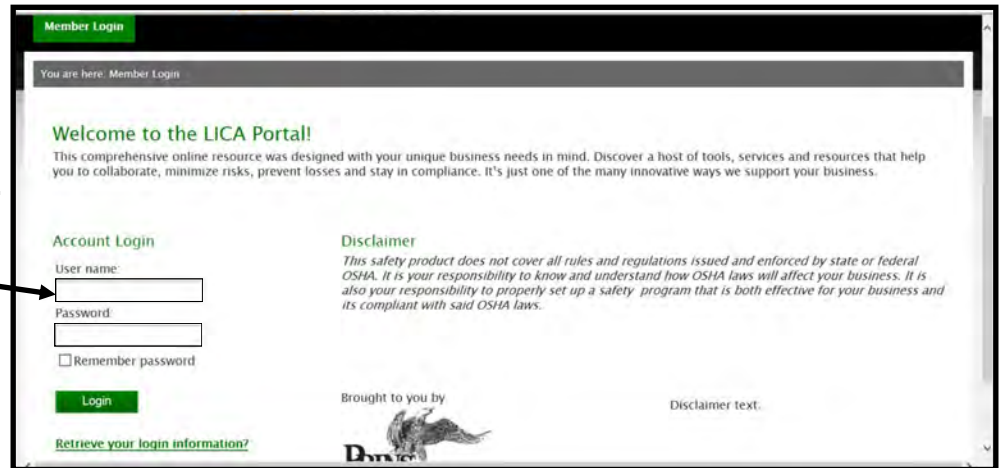
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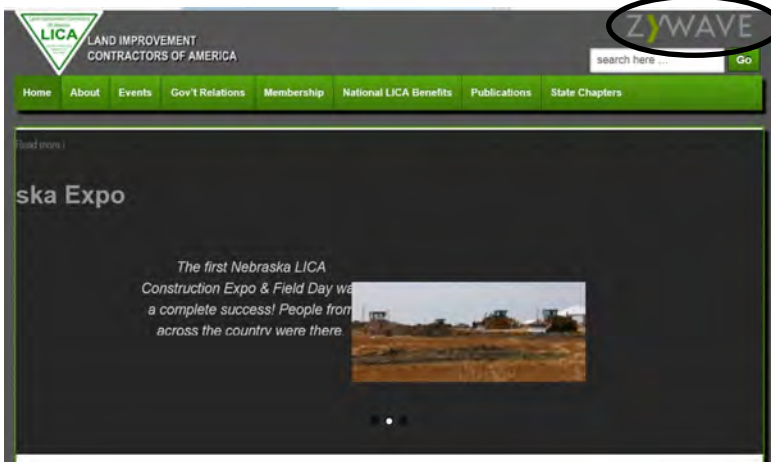
► Search for even more topics by keyword!

By now, all LICA members should have received an email from: noreply@instantbusinessresources.com. (Check your "Junk" mail box as well. Some email services will bounce a new sender.)

- Open the email and click on the link.
- Use your Member Number as your USERNAME, without the hyphen. (Example: IL141077)
- Follow the instructions to create your username and password.



If you **did not** receive the email with this link, please contact Allison at anational.lica@gmail.com.



After activating your account, you can access The LICA Portal on the **National LICA Website**. Click on the "Zywave" icon found at the upper right corner of the website.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Area 8 Member Meetings
Olney & Mt. Vernon - Exact Locations - TBA
December 3rd & 4th, 2014 (tentatively)

Illinois LICA Winter Convention & Members Meeting
Embassy Suites Hotel - East Peoria, IL
January 15 - 17, 2015

National

LICA Winter Meeting
Sheraton Tampa East - Tampa Florida
10221 Princess Palm Avenue
February 9 - 15, 2015

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November 8, 2014 Board Meeting Location Gallagher - Heiser Insurance Agency 133 S. Main St. - Morton, IL - Ph:(309) 263-8431

From I-74, take Exit 102, Morton Ave. to Jackson St. Turn left onto Jackson St and follow it to Main. Turn right onto Main, go 4 blocks to Adams St. Turn right onto Adams and turn right into the parking lot. From I55, take Main to Adams, turn left and park behind the building. There is an glass entrance door into the building from that parking lot and our meeting room is down the stairway to your right.. (You'll actually enter into a sandwich shop, but you're in the right place.)





DRIVER SAFETY

This SafetySpotlight newsletter is one of the many, many features available on the new LICA Portal. See page 18 of this newsletter for more information about how to register and begin upgrading your safety program TODAY!

LEAVE THE PHONE ALONE - DON'T DRIVE & DIAL

It is common knowledge that driving after drinking poses a serious danger to both the impaired driver and other motorists. However, studies have found that talking on a cellphone can impair one's ability to drive even more than alcohol.

More and more states are regulating cellphone use to increase roadway safety. If you are driving and need to make a call or send a text, wait until you find a place to pull over safely or until you reach your final destination. Remember:



- Not only is it unsafe, it may also be illegal. Check to see if your state has laws against texting or handheld use while driving.
- Never use your phone in bad weather, work zones, heavy traffic or in other hazardous conditions.
- It's always illegal to text while driving a commercial vehicle.
- Keep your phone on silent mode while driving to avoid the distraction of ringtones.
- If you have a passenger in the car, let them handle any phone usage.

BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY - SAFETY BELTS SAVE LIVES



Here's a startling statistic: In a frontal vehicle collision at 30 mph, an unbelted driver continues to move forward and will hit the windshield at the same velocity that a person would face hitting the ground after falling out of a third-story window.

As you can see, not wearing a safety belt can be deadly if you get into an accident. Remember the following the next time you get behind the wheel:

- Buckling up is the law! According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, commercial drivers must wear a safety belt at all times.
- State laws also mandate that drivers must buckle up behind the wheel or they may face a citation.
- Depending on the state, you may also receive a citation if any passengers in the car are unbuckled. Be aware of your state's laws.
- Just because you're in a big vehicle doesn't mean you'll be safer.
- Always follow a simple safety belt rule - buckle up, or don't budge.

DID YOU KNOW?

Using a handheld cellphone while driving is illegal in 11 states and the District of Columbia, while texting and driving has been banned in 41 states and D.C.

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants

Source: LICA Portal, brought to you by:



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Judy will need time to put everything together so this quilt is ready for the January convention ... don't delay.

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USDA UNVEILS KEY NEW PROGRAMS TO HELP FARMERS MANAGE RISK

Source: www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc; Washington, Sept. 25, 2014

The end of direct payments represents one of the most significant farm policy reforms in decades. USDA launches education efforts to help producers choose a new program that's right for them.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today unveiled highly anticipated new programs to help farmers better manage risk, ushering in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

Vilsack also announced that new tools are now available to help provide farmers the information they need to choose the new safety net program that is right for their business.

"The 2014 Farm Bill represented some of the largest farm policy reforms in decades. One of the Farm Bill's most significant reforms is finally taking effect," said Vilsack. "Farming is one of the riskiest businesses in the world. These new programs help ensure that risk can be effectively managed so that families don't lose farms that have been passed down through generations because of events beyond their control. But unlike the old direct payment program, which paid farmers in good years and bad, these new initiatives are based on market forces and include county – and individual – coverage options. These reforms provide a much more rational approach to helping farmers manage risk."



The new programs, Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety net programs in the 2014 Farm Bill, legislation that ended direct payments. Both programs offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and/or revenues. Producers will have through early spring of 2015 to select which program works best for their businesses.

To help farmers choose between ARC and PLC, USDA helped create online tools that allow farmers to enter information about their operation and see projections about what each program will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. USDA provided \$3 million to the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri and the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M (co-leads for the National Association of Agricultural and Food Policy), along with the Univer-



sity of Illinois (lead for the National Coalition for Producer Education) to develop the new programs.

"We're committed to giving farmers as much information as we can so they can make an informed decision between these programs," said Vilsack. "These resources will help farm owners and producers boil the information down, understand what their options are, and ultimately make the best decision on which choice is right for them. We are very grateful to our partners for their phenomenal work in developing these new tools within a very short time frame."

Starting Monday, Sept. 29, 2014, farm owners may begin visiting their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices if they want to update their yield history and/or reallocate base acres, the first step before choosing which new program best serves their risk management needs. Letters sent this summer enabled farm owners and producers to analyze their crop planting history in order to decide whether to keep their base acres or reallocate them according to recent plantings.

The next step in USDA's safety net implementation is scheduled for this winter when all producers on a farm begin making their election, which will remain in effect for 2014-2018 crop years between the options offered by ARC and PLC.

Today's announcement was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.



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