

# ILICA



# NEWS

## Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

### March - April 2025

#### *Past President*

Eric Layden

#### *President*

Jon Seevers

#### *Vice President*

Tyler Seals

#### *First Vice President*

LaVerne Weber

#### *Treasurer*

Lee Bunting

#### *Associate Director*

Kyle Dentino

#### *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

Earl Mast

##### **Area 6**

Bill Dean

Scott Day

##### **Area 7**

VACANT

##### **Area 8**

Tom Beyers

Tyler Seals



## 2024 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS

(page 16)



## NEWEST BENEFITS ALL THE TALK AT NATIONAL LICA CONVENTION

(page 20)



## NEW ILLINOIS LICA SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

(page 25)

### Also Featured Inside:

- ▶ University of Illinois Extension Seeks Increased Funding & Your Support (page 6)
- ▶ Extension Connection: Illini Drainage Tools - A New QGIS Plugin for Subsurface Drainpipe Sizing (page 12)
- ▶ ILICA Annual Convention Held in Fighting Illini Territory (page 14)

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





**SIGNS OF QUALITY**

**100% VIRGIN RESIN**

**DUAL-WALL PIPE**

**ONLY SPRINGFIELD PLASTICS**  
uses 100% virgin resin in our dual-wall pipe (DWP), so it doesn't fail under the weight of soil—like pipe made from recycled materials can.

**UP TO 48" DIAMETER**

**BELL JOINTS ALLOW THE PIPE TO FIT TOGETHER TIGHTLY.**

**Springfield Plastics, inc.**

**GET THE QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY THAT COMES WITH 100% VIRGIN RESIN DWP.**  
Call your Springfield Plastics sales rep or our customer service team to place an order today.

**800-252-3361**  
[spipipe.com](http://spipipe.com)

**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



**INTRODUCING**

**THE HICKENBOTTOM®**

**TOP HAT®**

**DEFEND YOUR TILE LINES FROM DEBRIS**

made to the same quality you trust  
and the durability you rely on

the NEW Hickenbottom®  
Top Hat® is a featured  
accessory in the  
bright orange®  
Hickenbottom® inlet  
family

look for the bright orange® inlet  
Hickenbottom®'s Trademark®



shown in 6IN XL



find pricing, sizes, distributors & more  
visit [www.hickenbottominlets.com](http://www.hickenbottominlets.com)



# The ILICA News



Editor / Advertising Manager  
**Ryan Arch**

Past President  
**Eric Layden, Hoopston**

President  
**Jon Seevers, Argenta**

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

1st Vice President  
**LaVerne Weber, Rock City**

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

University of Illinois Extension Seeks Increased Funding & Your Support . .	6
ILICA Annual Convention Held in Fighting Illini Territory . . . . .	14
2024 ILICA Award Recipients . . . . .	16
Newest Benefits All the Talk at National LICA Convention . . . . .	20
2025 ILICA Honor Roll . . . . .	22
National LICA Scholarship Application . . . . .	24
New Illinois LICA Scholarship Available . . . . .	25

## COLUMNS

President's Message . . . . .	4
2025 Board & Members' Meeting Attendance . . . . .	4
2025 Board & Members' Meeting Schedule . . . . .	5
New Members . . . . .	5
ILICA Ladies' Page: 20 Easter Traditions for Families . . . . .	8
Extension Connection: Illini Drainage Tools -A New QGIS Plugin . . . . .	12
ILICA Trivia . . . . .	26
Calendar of Events . . . . .	27
Advertiser Index . . . . .	27
Featured NEW LICA Benefit: 401K Employee Program . . . . .	28
Safety Feature: Is Your Equipment Secured . . . . .	30

# 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



Our recent ILICA president, Eric Layden, who by-the-way did a great job, warned me that this part of being president was the most challenging for him; writing the president's message for our newsletter every two months, so here we go!

A quick introduction for those of you that don't already know me. I'm a second-generation drainage contractor from Argenta, located 17 miles NE of Decatur. The family business started in 1975 by my father, Stan Seevers, while I was in the 8th grade. Plastic tubing was still several years away, so the drainage pipe of choice was either clay or concrete. My summers were spent loading the trenching machine by hand with the heavy pipe while we laid mains through standing crops, and if we couldn't install tile, we did concrete construction, another fun summer activity that got me into shape for the upcoming football season! When we started, none of our equipment had enclosed cabs, now every piece of equipment has a climate-controlled cab with a stereo, some even with blue tooth capability. Our first tiling machine was a used Speicher 600 powered by a 147 hp Chevrolet 292 c.i. gas engine with three 4-speed manual transmissions back-to-back-to-back, allowing the traction speed to be slow enough to install 12" tile 6' deep using targets for grade control. Now we have a Hydramaxx 2715 with a John Deere 450 hp diesel engine capable of installing 30" pipe 8' deep using GPS grade control. I've not only seen but have personally experienced some of the greatest advancements within our industry!

By their example, my parents instilled in me the importance of becoming involved. I've been an active ILICA member for 40 years, currently serving on the Executive, Education, Budget, Picnic, Convention, and the Show & Other Income committees, chairing or co-chairing four of them. I've also been a volunteer fireman for 40 years and serve as our department's president, a founding member of the Piatt County Habitat for Humanity and serve as construction co-chair, Trustee chair for our church and serve on the Administrative Council and serve on the Board of Directors at Tatman Village (a local retirement home). But the one thing that I'm most proud of is donating 178 units of blood, initially giving back the 4 units that I received during surgery to repair a broken femur from a high school play-off football game my senior year. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the loving support of my high school sweetheart and wife of over 42 years, Veronica.

Illinois LICA held its annual convention and members meeting in Champaign the last week of January. Highlights included

several informative educational sessions and the free trade show, the announcement of our new scholarship program with an auction that raised over \$8,500 towards it!

The National LICA convention was the second week in February hosted by sunny Jacksonville, FL. Daytime temperatures ranged from 65 to 84 degrees, unseasonably warm and much better than the 5" of snow they experienced the previous week. Two new member benefits were presented: World Insurance Associates and the CDL Training Program, thousands of dollars of savings for a few hundreds of dollars in dues.

Work hard and work smart, while being safe, and give back to your community.

Jon Seevers

2025 BOARD MEMBER MTG. ATTENDANCE						
A = absent	P = present		C = cancelled meeting			
Area / Director	Jan	March	May	July	Sep	Nov
Pres: Jon Seevers	P					
VP: Tyler Seals	P					
1st VP: LaVerne Weber	P					
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P					
Area 1 - LaVerne Weber	P					
Area 2 - Steve Anderson	P					
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P					
Area 3 - Grant Curtis	A					
Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter	P					
Area 4 - David Kennedy	A					
Area 4 - Lee Bunting	P					
Area 5 - Rick Maguire	P					
Area 5 - Earl Mast	P					
Area 6 - Scott Day	P					
Area 6 - Bill Dean	P					
Area 7 - VACANT	-					
Area 8 - Tom Beyers	A					
Area 8 - Tyler Seals	P					
Associate Director: Kyle Dentino	A					

## NEW MEMBERS

### Contractors

**Ariel Raska**
**Tidy Tank Septic Service**

740 McArdle Dr, Unit A

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Ph: 847-516-0121

Email: [accounting@tidytanksepticsservice.com](mailto:accounting@tidytanksepticsservice.com)

**Jordan Johnson**
**Countryside Plumbing Sewer & Septic**

40338 N Fox Dr

Antioch, IL 60002

Ph: 847-809-2494

Email: [mycountrysidecontractor@gmail.com](mailto:mycountrysidecontractor@gmail.com)

Website: [countrysidesewerandseptic.com](http://countrysidesewerandseptic.com)

**Lindsey Dixon**
**Huddleston McBride Services**

9504 Fowler Rd

Rochelle, IL 61068

Ph: 815-757-7187

Email: [ldixon@huddlestonmcbride.com](mailto:ldixon@huddlestonmcbride.com)

**Mitch Runde**
**Runde Enterprise**

PO Box 548

Elburn, IL 60119

Ph: 847-652-7036

Email: [mitch9315@gmail.com](mailto:mitch9315@gmail.com)

Website: [reseptic.com](http://reseptic.com)

**Silas Steiner**
**Thrive-Spray Drone Services**

2438 County Rd 700 N

El Paso, IL 61738

Ph: 309-232-2415

Email: [silas.steiner@thriveagco.com](mailto:silas.steiner@thriveagco.com)

Website: [thriveagco.com](http://thriveagco.com)

**Dwight Behme**
**Behme Excavating LLC**

14002 Behme Rd

Carlinville, IL 62626

Ph: 217-556-5131

Email: [behmefarms@outlook.com](mailto:behmefarms@outlook.com)

**Lance Cathcary**
**Joe Dirt Excavating LLC**

8030 N 1700th Ave

Oscoda, IL 61274

Ph: 309-714-2751

Email: [lancecathcart07@gmail.com](mailto:lancecathcart07@gmail.com)

### BOARD & MEMBERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

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

**March 8, 2025** - Regular Meeting of the Board:

Virtual & IP - ILICA Office, Galva

**May 3, 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.*



**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



## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION SEEKS INCREASED FUNDING & YOUR SUPPORT



Residents and businesses statewide rely on the University of Illinois Extension's programs and services to support Illinois' multibillion-dollar food and agriculture industry. Playing a vital role for

people and communities across Illinois's 102 counties for over 110 years, Illinois Extension is seeking increased funding from the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly to continue its legacy of education, empowerment, and service.

Increasing Illinois Extension funding by \$10M will enable the hiring of new staff in every region of the state that are focused on agriculture, horticulture, local food systems, small farms, urban agriculture, food safety, and land management education. Partnerships with community colleges to expand workforce development training and education will be supported by new funds. An economic study indicated that for every \$1 spent on Extension, there is an economic return of \$10, making Extension a high-impact investment for Illinois.

The University of Illinois Extension requests your advocacy to secure increased funding. You can urge the Illinois General Assembly, Governor, and Department of Agriculture to renew its support for Extension via a template letter (<https://emails.illinois.edu/files/61/1910073561/extensiongrassrootsletters03feb2025.pdf>) or write your own letter and tell your story about how you, your family, friends, and communities benefit from Extension. You may also send a letter to legislators through the legislative action request portal: <https://uillinois.quorum.us/campaign/108864/>

Join thousands of Extension volunteers and supporters by sending the Governor, Lt. Governor, Director of Agriculture, legislative leaders, and your local legislators a letter asking for an increase in Extension's budget, which will put more educators in the field throughout the state. These educators provide programs, services, and research-based information to the people of Illinois.

An advertisement for Xylem Ltd. featuring a background of wood chips. The text is overlaid on the image in various fonts and colors. At the top, it says 'Bulk mulch available!' in white with a black outline. Below that is the phone number '309-654-2261' in large, bold, orange-outlined black numbers. Under the phone number is the website 'www.xylemltd.com' in white with a black outline. Below the website is the location 'Cordova, IL 61242' in white with a black outline. In the center, the company name 'XYLEM' is written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. At the bottom, it says 'Quality wood chips for bioreactors!' in white with a black outline.

**Bulk mulch available!**

**309-654-2261**

**www.xylemltd.com**

**Cordova, IL 61242**

**XYLEM**

**Quality wood chips for bioreactors!**



# 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



## 20 Easter Traditions for Families

Cherished traditions are what keep a family together. Easter is a wonderful time to celebrate family, create lifelong memories, and build on those traditions. Here are 20 fun ways for your family to start and carry on some special family times for years to come.

### 1. Plant an Easter Garden

It's no secret that Easter ushers in the arrival of spring. Brighten your yard with an array of blooming plants. Consider pansies, tulips, marigolds, and petunias.

### 2. Egg Time Machine

Have your kid write a letter to him or herself that can be placed inside a plastic egg to open next year on Easter. Your child can read about what they were thinking and doing when they were a year younger. It's a fun way to read how they have grown in a year.

### 3. Decorate an Easter Egg Tree

Make a trip to the craft store and purchase some foam or plastic eggs and decorations. This is a fun activity and lets the kids get creative. Attach a matching colored ribbon to each egg and hang from a live or artificial tree.

### 4. Journey to Easter through Scripture

Easter is a deeply religious holiday for many, packed with significance in the resurrection of Christ. Research related scripture that can be shared throughout the weeks leading up to the holiday that tell the story of Easter.

### 5. Gather Round the Table

Many families have a big Easter brunch or dinner, often featuring ham as the main course. Coming together over a grand meal provides families a time for fun, food, and

fellowship. Inviting extended family members will bring generations together.

### 6. Baking, and More Baking

Put an apron on and break out the mixing bowls! Bunny, chick or egg-shaped cookies are perfect shapes to bake and decorate for this holiday. Feeling ambitious? Try an annual bunny shaped cake decorated with icing, coconut, and candies. Go traditional and serve hot cross buns on Good Friday; they fill the kitchen with spicy, sweet, and fruity aromas!

### 7. Observe Lent

Lent is a season leading up to Easter where some may choose to "give up" something they treasure as a reminder of the 40 days of praying and fasting observed by Christ. Others may take on something new as a challenge - an act of service or healthy new habit to work into each day.

### 8. Attend an Easter Parade

Many cities offer Easter parades on Easter Sunday or a day around Easter. Have kids put on an Easter hat, hit the streets, and watch the excitement. Marching bands, colorful floats, and fire trucks are often the highlights for little ones.

### 9. Decorate Easter Eggs

A tried and true tradition! Dipping eggs in a brightly colored dye and watching it take hold is a delightful experience for kids of all ages. Decorate with glitter, paint, and stickers and use them to decorate the house or Easter baskets. If you want to up the ante, plan an Easter egg decorating competition, complete with prizes, in your neighborhood!

### 10. Egg Relay Race

After the fun of decorating Easter eggs, give them a second act by using them as the focal point in an egg relay race. Divide participants up into teams. Give every team a hard-boiled egg and a spoon. Blow the whistle and the players balance an egg on the spoon while walking or running to a given point and back and then hand off to the next team member. The first team to finish wins the game.

### 11. Shell Crack Game

Here's a great Easter game to play year after year! This time each person gets his own hard-boiled Easter egg and pairs up with one other participant. The contest is to have each pair smash the small ends of their eggs together. The person with the unbroken shell advances to the next round where they pair up and do it again. The one who has the last uncracked egg wins.



# ILICA Ladies' Page (cont.)

## 12. Easter Basket Scavenger Hunt

Instead of just placing the Easter Basket out on Easter morning, add a fun twist with a scavenger hunt! For little ones, draw a map with picture clues. For older children, use written clues. For active ones, let them hop to it by placing an Easter Bunny footprint trail on the floor that will lead them to their basket.

## 13. Treats for the Easter Bunny

This tradition is similar to leaving cookies and milk for Santa, but make it a rabbit-friendly treat. Put carrots and water out before bedtime.

## 14. Plant a Jelly Bean Garden

Plant a handful of jellybeans in the dirt outside the night before. Replace each one with a lollipop while little ones sleep. In the morning, eyes will grow wide as they see each jellybean has grown into a magical lollipop treat!

## 15. Egg the Neighbors

Spread Easter joy by egging the neighbors with an Easter basket filled with goodies. Leave the basket on their front porch and ring the doorbell before running back home. Make sure the basket contains a "You have been egged" sign and maybe a clue about your family to help them guess who left it. This is one kind of egging your neighbors won't mind.

## 16. Easter Basket Puzzle Hunt

Start with a white, blank puzzle (you can buy one at a craft store) with pieces small enough to fit inside plastic eggs. With the puzzle still together, write a message about where their Easter basket is hidden. Then, break up the pieces and divide between the eggs. After all the eggs are found, the children will have to put the puzzle together to find the location of their Easter basket.

## 17. New Easter Clothes

Having new clothes for Easter is deeply rooted in European customs and led to the same practice here in America. Wearing a brand new outfit for Easter Sunday has become one of the most commonly celebrated traditions for families.

## 18. Resurrection Eggs

Explain the Resurrection story in an interactive way to your children by using 12 numbered colorful plastic eggs. Each egg contains a small object that tells a part of the story of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Use items such as donkey, money, and sword. Hide the 12 eggs in your home or yard. Once your children have found all the eggs, gather everyone

around, and open the eggs in numbered order as you read about the Resurrection story.

## 19. Attend Easter Service at Church

For many families, Easter wouldn't be complete without attending a worship service at their church. Some churches host an early sunrise service and others hold a Saturday night Easter vigil.

## 20. Egg Rolling

In many towns, egg rolling is an important part of the Easter tradition that usually takes place on Easter Monday. Decorated, hard-boiled eggs are rolled down a hill to see which egg can go furthest without breaking.

With these fun ideas, your family will have many meaningful traditions to look forward to each year. Enjoy the season!

*Source: Reprinted with permission from SignUpGenius -*

*<https://www.signupgenius.com/home/easter-traditions.cfm>*

*Author Sara Kendall is a freelance writer and mom of two daughters.*



**HYDRAMAXX**

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

(573) 769-3338

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

**Trimble**  
Authorized Dealer

# 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

"Dealer Inquiries Welcome"

[www.precisionintakes.com](http://www.precisionintakes.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](http://WWW.VERMEERMIDWEST.COM)



**BRON**  
POWER TO PERFORM

- ▶ 5 Core Cooling Package (T4f/Stage V Compliant)
- ▶ DL850 Plow Standard
- ▶ Best in Class Hydraulic Filtration
- ▶ Oscillating Tracks & Body Tilt Standard
- ▶ Machine Telematics Standard
- ▶ HD Drive Package
- ▶ Camera System Optional

# BRON 585

## SELF-PROPELLED DRAINAGE PLOW

JOHN DEERE OR CATERPILLAR ENGINE  
LOW GROUND PRESSURE  
AUTO STEER READY



- ▶ 150 Point Machine Inspection
- ▶ All Fluids Sampled
- ▶ Internal Inspection of All Drivetrain Components
- ▶ Detailed Quote for Suggested Repairs
- ▶ Factory Trained Technicians Complete Repairs
- ▶ Post Repair Testing
- ▶ 6 Month Parts Only Warranty Assigned

## FACTORY RECONDITIONING



- ▶ Repairs on All Drainage Plows & Selected Construction Equipment
- ▶ Road Service For All BRON Products & Other Selected Equipment
- ▶ Custom Fabrication
- ▶ New & Used Equipment Sales
- ▶ Parts & Service For All BRON products
- ▶ Selected All Makes Parts For Construction Equipment


## THE BRON TOTAL PACKAGE



 873 DEVONSHIRE AVE.,  
WOODSTOCK ON N4S 8Z4  
1.800.263.1060 | ON: 519.421.0036

**AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE**  
Visit us online at [www.rwfbron.com](http://www.rwfbron.com)

BRON is a registered trademark of RWF Industries, a division of Roberts Welding & Fabricating Ltd.

610 MAIN ST. W.   
LEROY MN 55951  
MN: 507.547.2864



Extension  
Connection

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER  
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering  
338 Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building, MC-644  
1304 W. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801

ILLINI DRAINAGE TOOLS: A NEW QGIS PLUGIN  
FOR SUBSURFACE DRAINPIPE SIZING

By Anamelechi Falasy & Richard Cooke

The Illini Drainage Tools, developed at the University of Illinois' Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, are a suite of one-click QGIS processing plugins designed to streamline subsurface drainage system design. These open-source tools, freely available on the QGIS Plugin Repository and the Illinois Drainage Guide, reduce the GIS and technical expertise needed for effective drainage planning.

The latest addition, "Network Pipe Sizing," enhances drainage design by determining optimal drainpipe sizes across an entire tile network, from upstream to downstream. Using output from the previously discussed **Tile Burying System (TBS)** tool, it factors in tile network geometry, cumulative flow, slope, drain spacing, tile material, and drainage intensity. Advanced settings highlighted in section B (Figure 1) allow users to customize drainage coefficients and spacing strategies, offering flexibility for expert designers and contractors.

A comparative analysis (Table 1) evaluates the tool against a proprietary software package using field data from Piatt County, Illinois. Results indicate slight variations in pipe sizing, likely due to differing slope and depth priority strategies in each software. Different strategies include maximizing slope, striving for a uniform depth, or striving for a uniform slope (Figure 2). These insights help refine drainage design methodologies and support informed decision-making in agricultural water management.

Existing Software			New Tools		
Burying Slopes	Actual Pipe Sizes	Nominal Pipe Sizes	Burying Slopes	Actual Pipe Sizes	Nominal Pipe Sizes
0.001	12.88	15	0.001	11.15	12
0.001	12.88	15	0.001	11.15	12
0.001	10.20	12	0.001	9.46	10
0.001	10.14	12	0.001	9.46	10
0.001	10.14	12	0.001	9.46	10
0.001	7.54	8	0.001	7.54	8
0.004	2.04	4	0.001	2.55	4
0.001	9.97	10	0.001	9.33	10
0.001	7.23	8	0.001	7.07	8
0.004	2.04	4	0.001	2.50	4
0.001	6.77	8	0.002	5.80	6
0.001	9.62	10	0.003	7.34	8
0.001	5.26	6	0.001	4.81	5
0.001	8.67	10	0.001	7.90	8
0.001	3.94	4	0.001	5.09	5
0.001	8.41	10	0.001	7.89	8
0.001	8.41	10	0.001	7.87	8

Table 1. Comparative Analysis of Installation Slopes and Pipe Sizes between (a) an Existing Software and (b) the Newly Implemented Tool

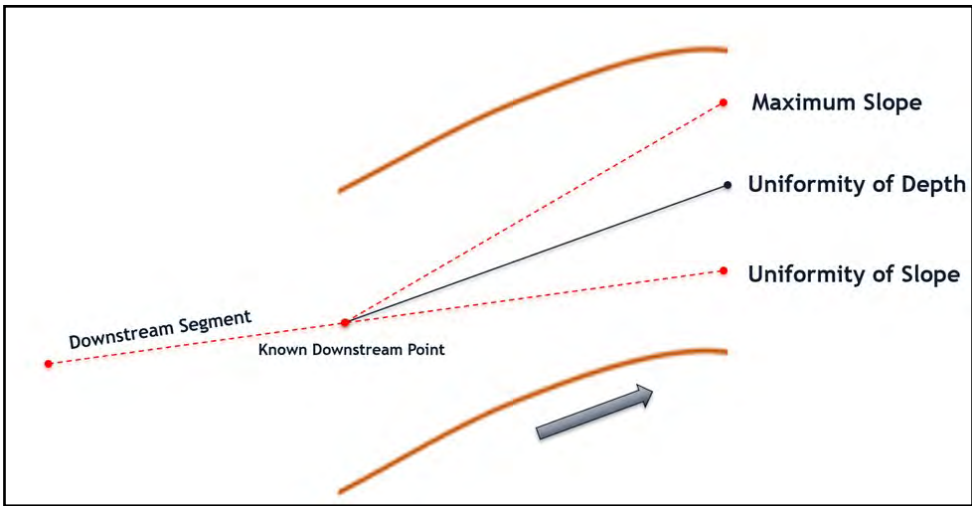


Figure 2. Options for moving from upstream to downstream from a known downstream point, when sizing a pipe: (a) Maximum Slope (b) Uniformity of Depth (c) Uniformity of Slope. 04



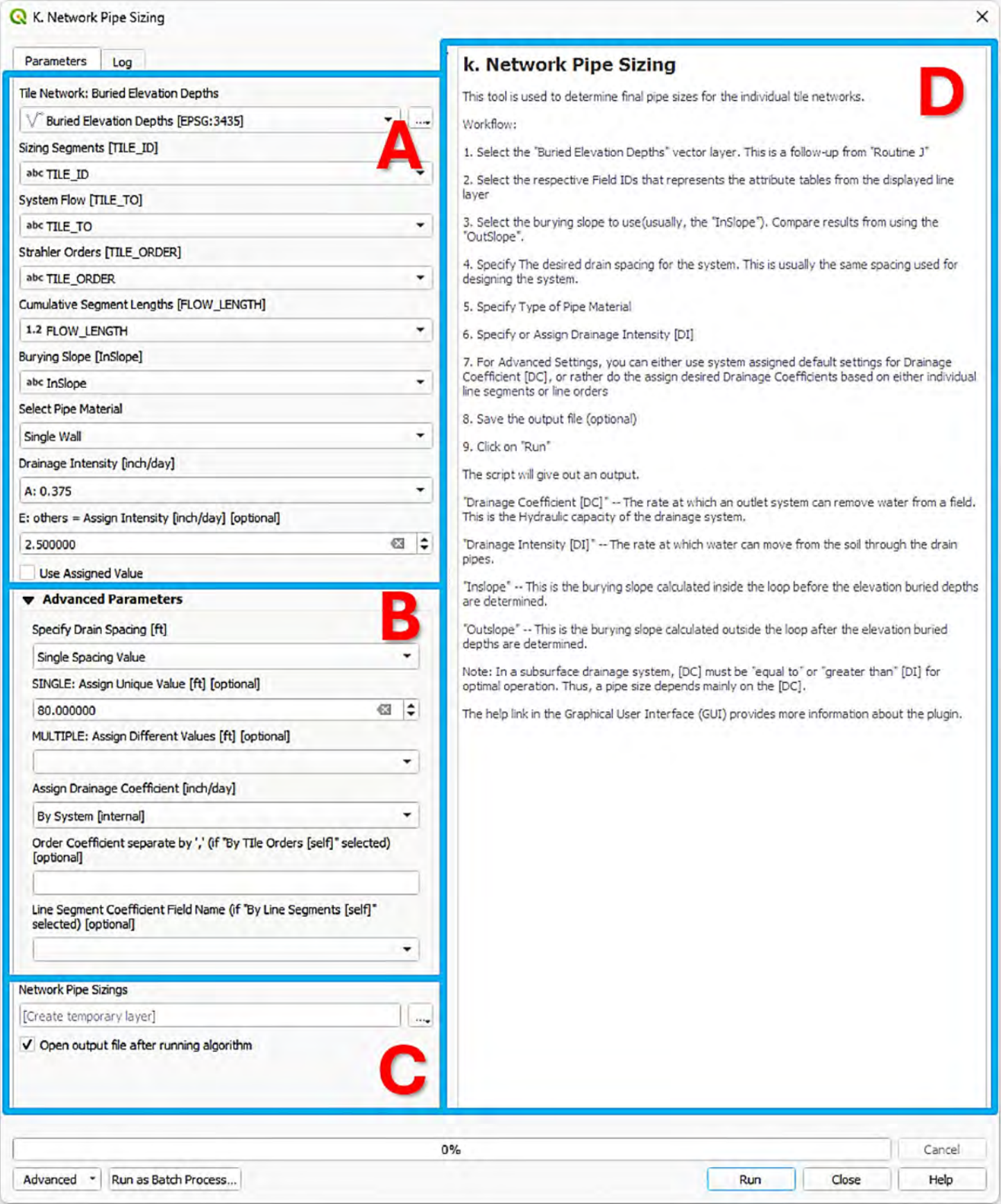


Figure 1. Network Pipe Sizing Graphical User Interface

# ILICA ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN FIGHTING ILLINI TERRITORY

Survey says...the 2025 ILICA Annual Convention held in Champaign, IL on Jan. 29-31 was a first-rate event that met the goals of the Convention Committee! It was also the prior year's survey of members that said Champaign was the preferred location for the 2025 event. With the limited selection of venues in the area capable of meeting ILICA's size and budget requirements, the 2025 ILICA Annual Convention squeezed into the Holiday Inn with a little ingenuity and patience.

Immediately noticeable to attendees this year was the lack of trade show exhibitors...or so it appeared. With an overall smaller square footage to work with, the trade show was reduced by about 10 booth spaces. However, because exhibitors had to be spread across three separate rooms of the hotel to fit them all in, it was likely the at-first-glance appearance of only one room of vendors that caught members by surprise walking in the door, rather than the lack of vendors.

Convention registration numbers hovered around 130, and we are somewhat thankful they did! The main meal room could not physically hold one more table, and it was set for 130 even. The number of registrants for the trade show only was solid again this year and very comparable to last year's figures. Sponsorship for the event was once again strong thanks to our very supportive Associates, and, by bringing back a live auction with the help of BigIron, we raised just over \$8,500 for the new Illinois LICA scholarship (see application on page 25)! As usual, our education sessions, banquet, and hospitality were all top-notch, as were the University of IL campus tours of Memorial Stadium and the research labs. A big thanks to Richard Cooke and U of I for allowing us to come visit!

Thank you to our Convention Committee, event sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and everyone that showed up to support the 2025 Illinois LICA Annual Convention! Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's convention to be held at the DoubleTree Bloomington on Jan. 21 - 24, 2026. It's already being planned based upon what the survey says...



## Exhibitors & Sponsors

Advanced Drainage Systems  
Agri Drain Corporation  
AISWCD  
Alta Equipment Company  
Altorfer, Inc.  
Berns, Clancy & Associates  
BigIron  
Birkey's  
BRON  
Consolidated Treatment Sys.  
Cook's AGPS  
Dimond Brothers Insurance  
Envision Insurance Group  
First Mid Insurance Group  
Fratco, Inc.  
Grey & Associates  
Hickenbottom, Inc.  
JULIE  
Marathon Pipe Line  
Martin Equipment

McCoy C&F / APEX Technologies  
Metal Culverts, Inc.  
Mid-Tech Services  
Pattern Energy  
Pinion  
Port Industries  
Precision Intakes, Ltd  
Prins Insurance  
Prinsco, Inc.  
Purple Wave Auction  
River Valley Pipe  
Roland Machinery Company  
Schaeffer Oil  
Schlatter's, Inc.  
Springfield Plastics, Inc.  
United Fire Group  
Xylem, Ltd.

See more photos @

<https://www.illica.net/state-conventions/2025-convention>









## 2024 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS

During the 2025 ILICA Annual Convention held in January, the Awards Committee recognized the most outstanding individuals and partners for their contributions to ILICA in 2024. Based on membership nominations, the award winners were:



### Merit Awards

For his outstanding role in support of ILICA's 2024 Drainage Workshop, Jon Seevers, Seevers Farm Drainage, Inc., received a Merit Award.

Diverging from ILICA's traditional drainage design workshop, the ILICA education committee decided early last year to host a workshop series across three areas of the state (north, central, south) over the summer focusing on conservation drainage education for contractors, producers, landowners, and agency staff. As with any new Association offering, whether it's a workshop, social event, or benefit, the new drainage workshop offering for 2024 was inherently at a higher risk of being poorly attended and unsuccessful as compared to ILICA's traditional and more established drainage workshop that had been offered for years. Why, you may be asking yourself? Well, generally, it takes time to promote, educate, and encourage members to embrace something new. New offerings need to gain traction. New offerings have no historically established dates or locations. No one has ever utilized or attended a new offering before and don't know what to expect or what the content is like. Adding to these uncertainties for members and adding to the risk of the 2024 drainage workshop's success was the fact that landowners and producers were also a primary target audience for this new workshop series; an audience typically outside of ILICA's general and regular communication circles.

However, ILICA hosted an exceptionally successful new drainage workshop series with the support of many Associates,

partners, and members. Attendance totaled approximately 150 for the workshop series with an audience nearly evenly split of one-third agency staff, one-third contractors, and one-third landowners/producers across all locations. While the workshop series content, the extensive list of partner and local expert presenters, and a little advertising played into the overall success of last year's workshop series, it was the support of our local contractor members who championed the series that had the biggest impact on its success.

Jon Seevers was one of these champions. He not only served on the education committee and provided input on the development of the new, out-of-the-box workshop for ILICA, but he also took it upon himself to promote the workshop in his area by mailing letters to nearly 100 of his customers, personally inviting them to attend. This had a noticeable impact on attendance at the drainage workshop held in his area, making it the largest workshop of the series in terms of attendance by two to three-fold compared to the other locations. It even put ILICA in a situation where we started considering overflow options for the workshop at Richland Community College in Decatur because we were maxing out the two rooms we had reserved; the same two rooms that had easily been accommodating our traditional drainage workshop for a number of years.

Rob Williamson, Williamson Excavating, LLC, received a merit award for his contributions to the Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership demonstration on behalf of ILICA in 2024.

Despite many project challenges including shifting construction dates, NRCS project redesigns, inclement weather and site access issues, Rob and his company professionally navigated all the challenges they were confronted with to install a woodchip bioreactor last May for Illinois LICA and the Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership. A well-known drainage professional in his area with decades of experience, we are appreciative of this 10-year ILICA member for supporting the Association and our partnership initiatives and for getting more conservation drainage on the landscape in his area of Heyworth, IL.

Paul McKillip also received the honor of a merit award for his continued support of the Illinois LICA Area 6 Trap Shoot.

Roughly 5 years ago, Illinois LICA began to explore adding a trap shoot to its existing area golf outings as a way to diversify the event, increase attendance, and enhance its "fun factor." Many other Midwest LICA chapters were hosting similar events at the time, and ILICA had an interest in doing the same but would need to find suitable locations for each event.

Luckily, when approached in 2019 about the possibility of utilizing his property to host a trap shoot, paired with our Area 6 Golf Outing, Paul was receptive to the notion. Not only was



## 2024 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONT.)

he receptive to the idea, but he also welcomed us with open arms allowing us to use his site, facilities, and trap shoot equipment. Continuing to allow us to use his farm as the host location for the event since 2019, Paul has helped bring our paired trap shoot and golf outing vision to fruition. He's very accommodating each year, making his property the perfect site to meet the needs of our event. And to give you an indication of his character, Paul takes no personal donations for his support of our event but instead requests any donations ILICA would provide be directed to his local Shrine Club to support Shriners Hospitals for Children.

### Shiny Shovel Awards

Bringing recognition to those members and partners that have consistently supported Illinois LICA in every, or almost every, event throughout the year (i.e. financially, physically, and promotionally), Shiny Shovel Award recipients are highly engaged, supporting ILICA at its numerous functions held each year. Metaphorically, their shovel never sets down long enough to acquire rust, but instead is shiny from its continual use.



#### Shiny Shovel Awards:

*L to R: Awards Committee member Brian Brooks congratulates Tyler Seals. LaVerne Weber and his wife Susan.*

Blessed with many dedicated and committed members, Illinois LICA is a very active chapter and in 2024 held 6 business meetings, 2 golf outings & trap shoots, a member appreciation picnic, 1 field demonstration project, 9 virtual webinars, 3 drainage workshops, an inaugural offroad adventure, countless conference calls & industry partner meetings, and an annual meeting, just to name a few.

For an individual to provide financial, physical, and promotional support to all, or even most, of these events is a notable recognition for someone who receives no monetary compensation for their dedication, commitment nor time donated to the Association. And yet, Tyler Seals & LaVerne Weber earned

the recognition for devoting their personal time, finances, manpower, and experiences to many or most of these activities listed for 2024

### Leadership Award

By dictionary standards, "leadership" is the action of leading a group or organization. In practice, leadership is the art of motivating a group of people toward a common goal. Over the years, ILICA has benefited from the exemplary leadership & mentorship of several members, and this year Eric Layden was recognized with the Illinois LICA Leadership Award.

For consideration of the ILICA Leadership Award, nominees are judged on their dedication and loyalism to the Association; their willingness to share and impart their knowledge and expertise upon others within and outside of the Association; and their professionalism, business ethics, and ideological representation of the construction industry.

Eric Layden personifies all of the above and, over the years, has led the association by serving on several committees and chairing a number of these, serving as a Director and Alternate Director on the Board for many years, and serving as ILICA President. Eric also sits on committees at the National level where he is currently serving as the safety committee chair.



**Leadership Award:**  
*Eric Layden and his wife Angela*

A leader in Illinois LICA throughout his 15 years of membership, Eric also received the Shiny Shovel Award in 2021 and Mr. Contractor Award in 2017.

### Innovator Award

The Innovator Award recognizes individuals that stand out for their visionary or trendsetting contributions to conservation. Innovator award recipients are highly aware of their conservation responsibility as a landowner, partner, or ILICA member. They are strong conservation supporters and promoters that are "early adopters" or innovators actively involved in the betterment of the conservation industry. They recognize the value of partnership and are willing to work with various interests for the optimization of resources and conservation promotion.

Curt Yoder, Central Plastic Products, received the 2024 Innovator Award for his ingenuity and contributions to the drainage industry through the development of the 4" Flex Tap fitting.

*(Cont. page 18)*

## 2024 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONT.)



**Innovator Award:**  
Curt Yoder (R) receiving  
congratulations from Brian  
Brooks

Curt grew up around farming and farm drainage his entire life, working in the trenches by the age of 9 crumbing dirt out to prep for tile install and learning how to manage the multiple pieces of fittings to make the drainage system work. Most of his summers growing up were spent installing tile for farms, commercial buildings and residential projects. Needless to say, he is no stranger to the process of drainage.

Graduating from Lakeland Community college in 2006 and University of Illinois Geis College of Business in 2008 with a Business Marketing degree, Curt started his career in sales working for a software company and then for General Motors in Texas before moving to Los Angeles, California shortly after to work at an IT Recruiting company where he further honed his sales skills.

In 2010, Curt moved back home to central Illinois to manage a small fleet of rental equipment including skytracks, mini excavators and compactors while also working for his older brother installing drainage pipe and more specifically making 40-50 connections per day with the old style tap tees. Then one day his dad told him about a plan to possibly start a tubing manufacturing plant to make 4" pipe. With 2 years of corporate sales experience and a drive to be an entrepreneur, Curt and his dad started Central Plastic Products in June of 2011 but instead of making 4" pipe became a distributor for Fratco tubing instead.

Fast forward to the spring of 2018, Curt had begun developing a new kind of tap tee that could be pushed in to lock instead of wedged in by hand or with a shovel, confident that he could successfully design a custom head that would be easier to install and benefit the entire industry. The process of designing his tap tee was intense. It took 6 months of daily design and modification to come up with the first working prototype which included Curt buying his first 3D printer just so he could work with his CAD guy during the day and 3D print the modified head at night so it could be tested the next morning; a process that continued until October of 2018 when he ordered his first mold block and partnered with Fratco to help finance the venture. The 4" Long Flex Tap was the first tap tee he produced for the marketplace and was available for purchase in January of 2019. Shortly after the successful launch of the Long tap, Curt began work on the 4" Short Flex Tap in

the early spring of 2019. This process took around 4 months to complete and that product launched in October of 2019. Since then, he has gone on to develop 5 additional fittings and had his design patent granted last year. The success of the Flex Tap can be seen all over the industry, and Central Plastic sells its products all over the United States and Canada making it the #1 selling 4" tap tee in North America.

### Most Active New Member

Developed to commend and recognize the newest members of Illinois LICA that immediately immerse themselves into the goings-on of the Association, whether for their own benefit, the benefit of the Association, or both, the Most Active New Member award recipient must be an approved new member during the calendar year, or prior year, for which the award is presented and must have regularly engaged, supported, or contributed significantly to the endeavors of Illinois LICA during their first year of membership.

William Schrage, WRS Construction, was named 2024 Most Active New Member by attending Illinois LICA's convention, in-person and virtual education workshops, and the LICA Off Road Adventure during his first 12 months of membership. Building friendships and his knowledge base in tandem within ILICA has been an important membership experience for William who is new to the contracting industry, or at least the land improvement contracting industry.



**Most Active  
New Member Award:**  
William Schrage (L) receiving  
congratulations from Bill Dean,  
Awards Comm. Member

With the kind of work ethic that can only be born on a dairy farm, his grandfather's dairy farm to be exact, William is an excellent carpenter with home building and home remodeling experience and skills. And while he enjoys spending time in his home woodworking shop making items with and for his family and others, his newest passion is running equipment for his grading, seeding & septic business.

### Mr. Contractor Award

Like a number of ILICA members, the 2024 Mr. Contractor, Mike Yordy of Mike Yordy Excavating, has his hands in both agriculture production and land improvement contracting.

Prior to starting his business in 2007, with a used Cat 304 excavator and pickup, Mike gained construction experience



## 2024 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONT.)



**Mr. Contractor Award:**  
Mike Yordy,  
Mike Yordy Excavating

working for a Bloomington concrete contractor and G.A. Rich and Sons Plumbing while attending school and over summer breaks.

Graduating with a degree from ISU in ag business management, Mike was also involved in farming with his father and brother at the same time. His farming operation has grown over the years, and he is currently farming with his family raising corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Today, his contracting business has a skid steer with numerous attachments and GPS, 2 dozers with GPS, pan scraper and tractor, smooth drum roller, sheep's foot roller, several trailers, semi tractor, triaxle dump truck, service truck, a variety of seeding equipment, offset disk, and 3 excavators with numerous attachments.

The type of work that Mike specializes in includes installation of underground utilities; building site preparation; parking lot preparation, utilizing GPS grading equipment prior to paving; electric substation base preparation and rock; subdivision lot, road, and utility work; site demo; farm surface drainage and waterway work.

A leader in the community, Mike has strong relationships with the city council, city manager, and mayor, and he currently serves on the Morton planning commission. He also has an excellent relationship with the Tazewell Co. SWCD.

His faith in God and serving Him is extremely important to Mike and his family. He has served the First Mennonite Church as an elder, church board moderator, steward commission chairman, property commission chairman, and Sunday school teacher. He currently serves on the Mennonite Relief Sale board and is chairman of the meat market. Plus, he's also helped coach his daughter's soccer team.

For nearly 17 years, Mike Yordy has been an active ILICA member attending events and serving on committees, currently including the education, industrial & business relations, and legislative committees.

### Associate of the Year Award

Throughout Illinois LICA's nearly 70-year history, our great Association has been blessed with passionate members who are dedicated, loyal, and generous in their everyday lives to

their families, their communities, and Illinois LICA. Upon this foundation Illinois LICA was built and upon this foundation Illinois LICA stands strong today decades later with a fellowship that feels and acts much more like a family unit than a group of business professionals.

This year, to bring more recognition to a segment of membership that has been such an integral part of this storied and successful history, the Illinois LICA Awards Committee established a new award: the Associate of the Year Award!

The Associate of the Year recipient is an Associate member of Illinois LICA that demonstrates strong support for the association and its goals through the support of and participation in area and/or chapter events, as well as membership development. Martin Equipment of Illinois was named the 2024 Associate of the Year for being an extraordinary supporter of Illinois LICA, year-in and year-out, with 2024 being no exception. They sponsored and attended both area golf outings and trap shoots, ILICA's member appreciation picnic, and the second Industry Bites event where they provided contractors education on grade control technology and application. While they may only have one location and point-of-contact listed in the ILICA directory, support from Martin Equipment regularly comes from various locations across the state where they are always interested in supporting Illinois LICA members and our Association's mission.

Founded in Illinois nearly a century ago, we are incredibly thankful for Martin Equipment's continued legacy within Illinois LICA and for their embodiment of their company motto: "Superior Equipment – Legendary Support."



**Associate of the Year Award:**  
Eugene Glueck (L) and Zeke Wade (R) of Martin Equipment  
with Bill Dean (center), Awards Comm. Member

## NEWEST BENEFITS ALL THE TALK AT NATIONAL LICA CONVENTION

The National LICA Winter Convention held mid-February in Jacksonville, FL drew members to the Atlantic coast once again for business and fun. This time, though, members were greeted with phenomenal weather, including highs ranging between the mid-60s to mid-80s, and a few new benefits that were all the talk of the convention!

Sure, the pre-convention tour to the oldest city in the US (St. Augustine) was great; so too were the productive committee meetings, the new LICA contractor song (spontaneously drafted to the tune of the Village People's YMCA song late one evening in the hospitality room), and the conversations with fellow members in sessions and down the halls. But all these activities, in one form or another, are regular staples of a National LICA Convention and moments our members have come to cherish year in and year out. The information shared about a few new benefits during the convention, however, is what really seemed to elicit some fresh excitement amongst members.

The newest of these benefits is slated to be released around the time this article hits your mailbox in March. Developed by National LICA's Caroline Krug, it is essentially a training rubric and resources that LICA members can access to provide their employees, interested in obtaining a CDL, their federally mandated Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT). For those not familiar with ELDT requirements, now in force for a few years, it's a prerequisite training required prior to someone taking their CDL test at a DMV. ELDT provides training on a number of topics applicable to CDLs requiring both theory (classroom) and behind-the-wheel instruction. Members with current CDLs interested in training their own employees can save themselves thousands by registering themselves as a training provider and taking advantage of this new benefit at no cost! Members have been asking for help on this issue and National LICA has responded, so please leverage your membership and tap into this benefit when it becomes available!

Addressing more regulatory issues for members, National LICA has just released a 401K benefit from World Insurance. Since 2018, the Illinois Secure Choice Act has required employers to offer a retirement plan to their employees or enroll them in a mandatory state-sponsored retirement program. Implemented over a tiered schedule based on company size since its inception, the Act has now come in force for those companies that have been in business for a minimum of two years with 5 or more employees during the last four quarters, including seasonal employees, with penalties

for non-compliance. World Insurance, in partnership with Lincoln Financial, have put together a competitive 401K employee program (see page 28) that will either help your company establish a program or that will save you money over your current retirement plan offerings. This all-inclusive benefit even handles all the fiduciary and administrative responsibilities and paperwork for you! It's certainly worth a look, and we are already aware of ILICA members saving money by switching their program over.

Another new benefit offered from World Insurance is payroll and HR services. Using a core payroll package to get members up and running, the benefit has many additional a la carte options for payroll processing, HR, and workforce management that can be added as members' companies need them. Detailed information about this benefit can be found on the ILICA website and by contacting World Insurance: <https://www.illica.net/discounts-services>

The last benefit to mention is another from World Insurance, thought it's not entirely new. It is their health insurance benefit that offers approximately 8 different policy options from Cigna & PHCS that leverage our pool of members and medical underwriting to keep consistent and competitive premiums in place for our members. With some recent administrative and platform changes behind the scenes and no minimum employee participation requirements, the program continues to add functionality and efficiency to become an even stronger member health insurance benefit option worth checking out!

For more information about all the latest LICA benefits, please bookmark and visit regularly our benefits webpage: <https://www.illica.net/discounts-services>. For all the reports and meeting minutes from the National LICA Winter Convention, visit National's website at <https://www.licanational.com/meeting-minutes/> or contact the National office.

We hope to see a large contingency of ILICA members and you at the National LICA Summer Meeting back here in the Midwest on July 8-12 in Duluth, MN!









Illinois LICA



# BREAKING NEWS

## 2025 HONOR ROLL

### 55 YEARS

**Ron Masching** - Masching Excavating

### 50 YEARS

**Dan Day** - Day Drainage Company

**Allen Yonaka** - Yonaka Bulldozing Service

### 45 YEARS

**Scott Day** - Day Drainage Company

### 40 YEARS

**Jon Seevers** - Seevers Farm Drainage, Inc.

### 35 YEARS

**Brian Brooks** - Brooks Farm Tiling

**Larry Meisner**

**Larry Rhodenbaugh** - Rhodenbaugh Excavating

### 25 YEARS

**Charles Adams** - A.J. Adams & Sons

**Frank Huston** - Huston Land Improvement

### 20 YEARS

**Dennis Behrends** - Haley Bros Excavating

**James West** - Three W Tiling



### 15 YEARS

**Paul Beisiegel** - Beisiegel Conservation Svcs.

**Tom Beyers** - Beyers Excavating, LLC

**David Casey** - Countryside Prof. Land Svcs.

**Mike Gaskins** - MTG Excavating

**Josh Keith** - Prairieland Farm Drainage

**David Krumholz** - Krumholz Bros. Landscaping

**Eric Layden** - Layden Drainage

**Joel Sandeno** - Agri-Tile, Inc.

**David Schielein** - Ironhustler Excavating

**TJ Timmerman** - Quad Cities Directional Boring

### 10 YEARS

**K. Justin German** - Montgomery Land Impv.

**Rick Hislope** - Hislope Backhoe Service

**Paul & Elmer Lanz** - Lanz Bros. Farm Drainage

**Roger Shoemaker** - Shoemaker Farm Drainage

**Kirk Wainwright** - Kirk R. Wainwright Const.

**Deborah Walski** - DECA Contractors

**Dale Williamson** - Williamson Farm Drainage II

**Rob Williamson** - Williamson Excavating

### 5 YEARS

**Colby Schwarze** - Schwarze Enterprises

**Alan Pearce** - Pearce Farm Tiling

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO ILLINOIS LICA!**



## Register Today! ISAP to Host Conservation Drainage Training



Join the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) and a cadre of experienced drainage engineers and technical service providers for *A Practitioner's Guide to Advancing Conservation Drainage Practices*.

This half-day training, scheduled for 8:00 AM to Noon on Wednesday, April 2nd, will be held in conjunction with the Conservation Drainage Network's 2025 Annual Meeting on April 1-3, 2025, at the Illini Hotel (1401 West Green Street, Urbana, IL, 61801).

Participants will engage in a hands-on, interactive training that will provide relevant information and tools to support their work in advocating for and coordinating increased conservation drainage practice adoption and implementation. The training will cover several practices, including saturated buffers, bioreactors, controlled drainage, and constructed wetlands.



Use ISAP's registration form to register for the ISAP training only, which includes one day access to the CDN meeting on April 2:

<https://tinyurl.com/mpvbae3c>

If you would like to register for the full, three-day, Conservation Drainage Network meeting, please register on the Eventbrite page instead:

<https://tinyurl.com/4pxz7v7z>



Use the promo code **ISAP-CDN25** to receive \$100 off your full CDN meeting registration.

**Deadline to register is Wednesday, March 26th!**

## Built to last.

## Here to serve.



### Illinois Locations:

**Springfield**  
816 N. Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62702  
Phone: 217-789-7711

**Marengo**  
18210 Beck Rd.  
Marengo, IL 60152  
Phone: 815-923-4966

**Bolingbrook**  
220 E. Frontage Rd.  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440  
Phone: 630-739-7474

**Carterville**  
1505 Donna Dr.  
Carterville, IL 62918  
Phone: 618-985-3399

**East Peoria**  
4299 N. Main St., Unit A  
East Peoria, IL 61611  
Phone: 309-694-3764



**THANK YOU**  
for  
**SPONSORING!**

ILLINOIS LICA'S WINTER

# SAFETY SERIES



10 Hr. OSHA  
Flagger  
CPR

# NATIONAL LICA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Every year, National LICA awards scholarships to support students in their pursuit of higher education. LICA encourages students to fulfill their dreams of entering into the career of their choice.

To be eligible, applicants must be related to an active LICA Contractor member. This includes members themselves,

spouses, children or grandchildren. To apply, complete the application **no later than March 15, 2025** and return to:

National LICA, 3080 Ogden Ave., Ste 300, Lisle, IL 60532

Applications can also be downloaded online at:  
<https://www.licanational.com/national-scholarship/>

## National Land Improvement Contractors of America Scholarship Application

3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300; Lisle, IL 60532  
 Phone: (630) 548-1984 • Email: NLICA@aol.com



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

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

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

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

Educational institution currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Present year in school: \_\_\_\_\_ Major course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

List courses you are taking or planning to take: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Occupation(s) of parent(s) or guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of current, active LICA contractor member: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to active LICA contractor member: \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions:

- 1) Write an essay (300 words or less) describing your academic, vocational and personal goals and objectives and why you should receive this scholarship.
- 2) List your major course of study and include high school and/or college grade transcripts.
- 3) Include three letters of recommendation from your community, school or other adult non-relative.
- 4) Include a wallet size picture (2"x3" or equivalent), with the understanding that award recipients will be featured in the *LICA News*.
- 5) Application must be completed and mailed to the National LICA office with a **postmark date no later than March 15**. Incomplete applications and ineligible students are automatically disregarded.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## NEW ILLINOIS LICA SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

For the first time, Illinois LICA is excited to announce a new scholarship benefit for members! Similar to National LICA's scholarship, this scholarship is designed to support students in their pursuit of any post-high school education to fulfill their dreams of entering into the career of their choice.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be related to an active Illinois LICA contractor member. This includes the member themselves, their spouse, children or grandchildren. The scholarship is open to high school seniors and upperclassmen students pursuing ANY post-high school education (e.g. trade school, 2 year or 4 year degree) and ANY course of study.

The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded directly to the recipient's college, university, or educational institution. Scholarship judging and selection are conducted by the Illinois LICA Ladies Committee (committee members related to applicants recused from selection process).

Interested applicants should mail the following materials below to the ILICA office (112 Exchange St., Ste. 2, Galva, IL 61434), **postmarked no later than March 15**. Incomplete applications and ineligible applications are automatically disregarded. Winners will be notified by May 15.

1. Complete the scholarship application.
2. Submit recent high school and/or college grade transcripts.

3. Provide an essay (300 words or less) addressing your education, career, and employment goals. Include motivating factors or important experiences that have helped to shape these goals. Describe your involvement within the community (e.g. church, non-profits, etc.) and your involvement in extracurricular school activities. Give examples of how furthering your education will help you grow your leadership in these areas. How will this scholarship and your future education help you achieve your goals?
4. Provide three (3) letters of recommendation from non-relative individuals within your community or school. Letters should reference and provide examples of applicant's leadership, character, and other noteworthy qualities. Letters should also include information about the individual providing the letter, their relationship to the applicant, and their contact information including name, company, title, and phone number. Recommendation letters should be sealed and delivered directly to Illinois LICA, 112 Exchange St., Ste. 2, Galva, IL 61434.
5. Submit a wallet size photo (2"x3" or equivalent) with the understanding that award recipient(s) will be featured in ILICA publications and online media.

Applications can also be completed online at:  
<https://form.jotform.com/241353639433053>

Illinois LICA Scholarship

### Scholarship Application

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

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

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

Current educational institute: \_\_\_\_\_

Present year in school: \_\_\_\_\_ Major course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

List courses you are taking or planning to take: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parents or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of current, active IL LICA contractor member: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to active IL LICA contractor member: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS



**Dimond Bros.**  
INSURANCE

**DIMONDBROS.COM | 815.875.4537**



**Pete Mangold**

Sales Executive - Partner  
petemangold@dimondbros.com  
Ext. 1808



**Mitch Newell**

Sales Executive - Partner  
mitchnewell@dimondbros.com  
Ext. 4320



**Stephen Symons**

Sales Executive  
stephensymons@dimondbros.com  
Ext. 3214



**Caleb Dickens**

Sales Executive  
caleb.dickens@dimondbros.com  
Ext. 1613



**Dan McNeely**

Executive VP of Sales - Partner  
dan.mcneely@dimondbros.com  
Ext. 3403



## ILICA Trivia

This National LICA Summer Meeting was held in which year?



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

Jan/Feb Answer: PIP Printing





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Board of Directors Meeting (hybrid)

March 8, 2025

Galva, IL

Committee Meetings: 8 am - 12 pm

Board Meeting: 1 pm

In-person:

ILICA Office: 112 Exchange St., Ste. 2, Galva, IL 61434

Virtual:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9759547353?pwd=c1ZPcjFhSTBTYjhXeERNZnFRTXdOZz09>

Or call: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 975 954 7353

Passcode: 0000

Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA

Virtual Septic Training

March 20, 2025

8 - 11:30 am

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

NRCS/ILICA Technical Meeting

April 2025 (TBD)

USDA-NRCS Illinois State Office

2118 W. Park Court, Champaign, IL 61821

Meeting @ 9:30 am

Please submit questions/comments to bring to NRCS and register to attend this yearly meeting (members only) by March 24 via:

<https://form.jotform.com/230454081861150>

National

2025 National LICA Summer Meeting

July 8 - 12, 2025

Radisson Duluth Harborview

505 W Superior St, Duluth, MN 55802

ADVERTISER INDEX

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. ....	29
Agri Drain Corp .....	31
Berns, Clancy & Associates .....	5
BRON .....	11
Cook's AGPS, LLC .....	10
Dimond Bros. Insurance., LLC ....	26
Envision Insurance Group, LLC .....	32
Fratco, Inc .....	7
Hickenbottom, Inc. ....	2
Martin Equipment of Illinois, Inc .....	32
Metal Culverts, Inc .....	10
Northland Trenching Equipment, LLC .....	3
Port Industries, Inc. ....	9
Precision Intakes, Ltd .....	10
Prins Insurance, Inc./United Fire Group .....	32
Prinsco, Inc .....	32
Roland Machinery Co. ....	23
Schlatter's, Inc. ....	2
Springfield Plastics, Inc. ....	2
Vermeer Midwest, Inc. ....	10
Xylem, LTD. ....	6

## FEATURED NEW LICA BENEFIT:

# 401K EMPLOYEE PROGRAM



Our mission at the Association is to do everything we can to help members succeed by providing valuable services, promotional efforts, and member benefit programming. To that end, **we're excited to announce a powerful new retirement planning solution that is now available exclusively for members of the Land Improvement Contractors of America Association.**

We've partnered with Lincoln Financial, a nationally recognized leader in retirement planning services, along with trusted local expert and Association member World Insurance, to develop this unique program that leverages the strengths of group participation to provide a cost-effective and easy way for you to implement a turnkey 401K employee program. Our Multiple Employer Aggregation Program is a retirement plan solution that lets you offer your employees a competitive 401K benefit that can help reduce your fiduciary and administrative responsibilities in the process.

- **IF YOU CURRENTLY HAVE A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR YOUR COMPANY,**  
it's worth asking for a free proposal to see if switching to this Group 401K Plan can save you time and money, give you greater peace of mind, and provide added flexibility for your employees potentially.
- **IF YOU DON'T CURRENTLY HAVE A RETIREMENT PLAN OPTION**  
for your employees but are interested in adding this important benefit, please reach out to learn more and receive a proposal / quote. An employee Retirement Plan option can be a significant driver of employee retention as well as a recruiting benefit.

**FOR NEXT STEPS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR REACH OUT DIRECTLY TO OUR PROGRAM'S FINANCIAL ADVISORY PARTNER:**

**Mike Coughlin, CIC, CPIA, World Insurance Associates LLC**

**[mikecoughlin@worldinsurance.com](mailto:mikecoughlin@worldinsurance.com)**

**201 - 559 - 8157**





# 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: IS YOUR EQUIPMENT SECURED



Every year thousands of pieces of equipment, tools and construction-related items are either damaged or stolen from job sites and contractors' yards. The loss of tools, materials and equipment affects everyone working on this job. These losses are caused by employees, former employees, disgruntled employees, local gangs, children, vandals and vagrants. The direct costs of the loss are recognized when the stolen items have to be replaced. The indirect cost is much greater since it includes the loss of materials, which means down time for reordering and delivery; and loss of tools and equipment, which delays production and generates accusations between employees and subcontractors.

To reduce the opportunity for loss, the following guidelines should be incorporated into your company's philosophy regarding theft and vandalism:

### **Communicate your company's intent**

Preplanning can have positive lasting effects throughout the job. Communications should take place with all subcontractors and employees onsite, emphasizing that theft and vandalism will not be tolerated. All personnel should be encouraged to report any vandalism or theft of equipment or materials. No tools should be allowed to be used overnight or on weekends. Communication with the local police or security company should be made with discussions regarding delivery times of materials and products; delivery and storage of any special or critical equipment; special working hours, including regularly scheduled work times; as well as what to expect from a construction standpoint, movement in and out of equipment etc. Police or security should be given phone numbers of key personnel for work hours and after hours. All security personnel should be aware of how your equipment is

identifiable. Discuss with local police what crime trends have occurred in these areas. This will give you an indication of the scale of past thefts.

If the project is going to last for several months, invite communication with the neighbors. Give them the phone numbers of key personnel to call if they see suspicious activity after hours. Emphasize to them that safety and security is a key factor regarding this construction site so that their children and family members will not be encouraged to trespass and play in the construction area and get injured.

### **Site security**

Where possible, park equipment or store materials near yard, street, road lights, or close to occupied homes or buildings. This will allow people passing by, or law enforcement, to see the site and any individuals trespassing or suspicious activity. Making equipment and materials visible to the public may reduce the chance of vandalism and theft.

Keep an inventory list of all your tools and equipment. By assigning tools and equipment to your employees, you have an opportunity to track them down and hold the employee accountable.

Jobs in suburban or urban areas located on a single site should be protected with an 8-foot-high security fence. It should have one entrance with a lockable gate.

Establish a clear area away from tool and material storage sheds to prevent employees or others from parking next to them and providing an opportunity to load and hide such items. All parking should be outside the perimeter fence.

All personnel should be informed that deliveries of materials



and equipment are to be made during normal work hours. Unscheduled deliveries or pickups should not be allowed. Materials should be delivered in a reasonable time frame of when they will be installed. This will reduce congestion on the site and reduce the amount of materials subject to loss.

### Tools and equipment security

All tools and equipment should be readily identifiable. Mark all tools and equipment with a special color or marking. Document what identifying mark was made and where it was made on the equipment. Vehicle identification numbers should be engraved or stamped on the machine in at least two places. One place in the open and one in a hidden area. Painting the tops of cabs of mobile equipment helps identify them from the air. This will help you identify and recover this equipment in the event it is stolen.

Large equipment with buckets, blades, excavation arms, etc., should be lowered to the ground to help make the equipment immobile. Smaller equipment can be parked inside the reaches of a backhoe or between two larger pieces of equipment. Fuel cap locks should always be used. Keys should be removed from equipment. Anti-theft devices can also be installed on mobile equipment such as LoJack security systems, fuel cut-off switches, locks for tracks, boom or hydraulic arm locks are also available.

Is there a current equipment inventory list? This will help determine what exactly is missing.

All sheds, storage rooms and gang boxes should be locked when not in use. Keys to these items should be limited to supervisory personnel.

Equipment inventory and knowing where the equipment is

located is critical. This applies to equipment in a yard or stored on a job site.

Standard padlocks have keys that can be duplicated very easily. Special locks should be used to secure job trailers, gang boxes, sheds, etc. Key control should be limited to supervisory personnel and these locks should be changed or rotated frequently.

All equipment with cabs should be locked at the end of the day.

### Keep these questions in mind

Are the windows on cabs protected from breakage?

Are equipment operators trained to inspect equipment for signs of vandalism or damage prior to operating?

### About UFG Insurance

UFG currently offers insurance to chapter members in Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The State LICA Insurance Program is administered by Prins Insurance Inc. of Sanborn, Iowa.

### About Prins Insurance Inc. of Sanborn, Iowa

Prins Insurance has partnered with LICA contractors for 25 years to provide an insurance product that gives the opportunity to work with your independent agent while taking advantage of a comprehensive insurance program that focuses on the unique needs of your industry. If you have questions about The State LICA Insurance Program, contact Prins at 800-831-8545.



The advertisement for Agri Drain Innovative Water Management features a scenic background of a rural landscape with a river and fields. In the foreground, various water management products are displayed with labels: a blue 'Watermaster Floating Pump', 'Intake Marker Flags' (orange and yellow triangles), 'Bar Guards' (yellow wire mesh), 'Catch Basins' (black rectangular units), a 'Smart Drainage System' (a vertical assembly with a solar panel and control box), and 'Flap Gates' (large metal circular gates). The Agri Drain logo, a stylized 'AD' with a green leaf, is in the top left. Text at the bottom provides contact information: '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'.





**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



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 Toluca  
IA: Cedar Rapids and Dubuque MO: Columbia and Palmyra

# People you can trust



**the Prinsco**  
*difference*  
service led by values



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

## 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.