



November 2007

The IICCA Newsletter

Iowa Independent Crop Consultants Association

President

Tom Hillyer
1005 Shady Lane
West Liberty, IA 52776
(319) 627-2367

e-mail:
thomas@Lcom.net

2007-2008 Officers/Directors

Joe Turner - secretary
Neola, IA
Frank Moore - treasurer
Cresco, IA
Shannon Gomes - director
Waverly, IA
Mark Raasch - director
Odebolt, IA

Kirk Leeds

executive director
4536 114th St
Urbandale, IA 50322
(515) 727-0648

e-mail:
kleeds@associationinsight.com

Newsletter editor

Byron Peters
AG PLUS Consulting
410 1/2 2nd St
Ida Grove, IA 51445

Ph: (712) 364.2885

e-mail:
agfocus@longlines.com

President's Comments

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Fall Tech Update meeting! I'm also looking forward to setting inside in a warm room all day long. Yeah I know you know what I mean.

As I look forward to this year in our organization I have high hopes that we all will begin a closer relationship with each other. We all have so much to offer and share with each other. Sometimes we don't even know what questions to ask, sometimes we just need to listen and contemplate what others are doing and how it can work for us.

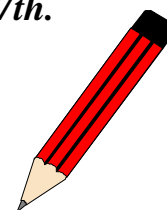
With this thought we have decided to try to do just that as an opener at our Fall meeting, with a forum of our own crop consultants **sharing ideas about our business.**

In these dynamic, changing times in production agriculture I feel like I'm on a boat without a paddle heading which ever way the current takes me. Personally I would rather have the paddle and chart my own course, doing what I enjoy and still being profitable at it. **Bring me a paddle on November 27th.**

Tom Hillyer

Mark your calendar!

IICCA Tech Update and Annual Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Gateway Hotel, Ames, Iowa



The IICCA Annual Meeting and Spring Tech Update will be held on February 19, 2008 immediately preceding the ISA Nitrogen Management Conference. More information will be available early in 2008.

Fall IICCA Tech Mtg
Tuesday, Nov. 27th
Gateway Hotel, Ames

ICM Crop Conference
Wed./Thurs. Nov.28/29
ISU Campus

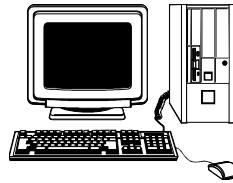
Reminder:
Membership dues may be sent to Kirk prior to Nov.27th meeting or done at day of tech meeting.

Thank you for extra effort!

Our thanks to **Shannon Gomes** for organizing the August 2007 summer consultant meeting at West Bend (north central IA). We assume the adjacent Algona area consultants also assisted with meeting arrangements and accommodations. It takes extra effort during a busy summer season to line up speakers and facilities.

Many consultants were in the "heat of the battle" with aphid control decisions at that time. Report from the get together was that the diversity of the speakers for topics covered on nitrogen management was excellent. With costs and availability of all fertilizer products changing rapidly, exploring through sharing of knowledge will be critical in meeting clients' quest for solutions.

Project for winter 2008



Member List

Updating of consultant name/address list

This is a constant challenge for any organization. A contact list helps consultants reach one another to share information by phone, mail, or e-mail. One of Shannon Gomes projects during his term as president of IICCA was the creation of a web site. Member contact information was one of the tools on this site.

Over time, outdated information has occurred with member listings/contact information. During this coming winter we will be working with Jean Scheidecker (FarmNet info organizer) who helps IICCA update our website member listings. Example of improvement is a “change of information form” located on the website, so notices could be sent direct to Jean for periodic updating.

Jean has offered to explore changes/additions to important links from IICCA site to other useful sites for consultants. Ideas are welcome by sending them to Byron Peters (address on first page of newsletter). Some items on the current website are easier, less cost to change than other parts. As a result we will accumulate some ideas, have Jean provide a cost estimate for changes (initial and periodic) and then have the board of directors review and make decisions on what is most important to our organization through the website.

Listing of officers for 2007-2008 has been updated on the website. An updated paper membership brochure is a **possibility** and would be put together by Byron using a format that has been used in the past for a single page.

Ideas for website maintenance and updates are welcome!

Let Byron or Tom Hillyer know your thoughts. Fall tech meeting is a good opportunity for some one-on-one time for these organizational service ideas.

Topics/presentors for consultant meetings..... everyone can help!

Any consultant is welcome to share ideas for presentors/topics for our tech meetings. A portion of time is allocated for sustaining member presentations. Yet, some of the best topic ideas come from within our own group and the many contacts in the industry that our consultants have built-up over the years.

Feel free to contact Tom Hillyer or Kirk Leeds with your ideas. With our meetings being one day, it takes good planning and some lead time to make the most of each tech meeting get-together.

Your input is important!

Thanks to Kirk Leeds, IICCA executive director and to his assistants for making fall conference arrangements and working to provide speakers covering a diverse range of topics for our consultants group.

**Happy Thanksgiving.....
enjoy time with family and friends**

