

# IFCA NEWS



## ILLINOIS FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION

**Our Mission Statement:** *To assist and represent the crop production supply and service industry while promoting the sound stewardship and utilization of agricultural inputs.*

### Winter/Spring 2014 Newsletter IFCA Chairman's Report by Brian Waddell

In my first week as your 2014 Board Chairman, one of the first phone calls I received was from Dan Grant, a writer for Illinois Farm Bureau's newspaper, *FarmWeek*. He asked me what I felt was the most important issue facing IFCA, and I didn't hesitate in my answer: Maintaining Ownership of Nutrient Management.

I think one of the reasons that this farmer-oriented newspaper reached out so quickly is apparent: the farm organizations recognize how serious the challenges are on the nutrient front, and they also recognize that IFCA has taken a strong lead on these issues. I am very honored to be serving as your Chairman, alongside 14 other IFCA Directors who are extremely talented, visionary, and dedicated to the success of our industry. You could not ask for a better leadership team at a time when leadership is critical not just for the success of IFCA members, but for Illinois agriculture as a whole. We are also very fortunate to have a staff that is not afraid of a challenge and has a skill set including leadership, communication, organization and work ethic to manage a multitude of issues on a daily basis on behalf of the IFCA members.

As we look forward to the Spring after this long and snowy winter, the challenges in fertilizer, agrichemical and equipment manufacturing, distribution and retail will not be easy as crop prices trend lower. We have all experienced this before, but that doesn't seem to make the reality of it any easier to accept. However, I have no doubt that our members will draw upon their knowledge, experience and patience to continue to promote the sound utilization of crop inputs in a manner that will help ensure the profitability of our customers even in these challenging markets.

Finally, we have all read about the new "Responsible Ag" program that the TFI and ARA Boards of Directors has approved. IFCA and many of our members were instrumental in the committees that helped to develop the structure of this program. Society and our government fully expect that our retail facilities are handling products in full compliance with existing federal regulations. Responsible Ag's role will be to provide expertise, through a quality inspection program, to help assure that all retailers who handle bulk fertilizer understand and comply with the regulations governing these products. As you see and hear more about Responsible Ag, please don't hesitate to reach out to the IFCA staff with questions. As we always do, we will be there to help our members with this new program and work to assure the long-term success of your business.

*Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. - Warren G. Bennis*

## **Two Illinois Retailers Recognized as 4R Advocates!**

Congratulations to IFCA members Verne (Tinker) Bader of Bader Ag Service in Meredosia and Malcolm Stambaugh of Ag View FS in Princeton for being selected by The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) as a **4R Advocate** (right source, right rate, right time, right place).

TFI selected five national winners from over 60 applications. Tinker worked with farmers John & Dean Werries and Malcolm worked with farmer Chris VanHolten to plan and implement 4R practices in their farming operations. These retailers, the farmers and their spouses received an expense paid trip to Commodity Classic in San Antonio, TX where they were honored at a special 4R reception and spoke as part of a special panel explaining and advocating for 4R practices.

These two Illinois retailers and their customers utilized a combination of split nitrogen applications, stabilizers, strip till and cover crops to improve their overall farm profitability and reduce nutrient losses. As John Werries summed it up: *"The 4R approach just makes sense. If you apply everything in the fall and get a big rain event, you run the risk of losing it to a large runoff. By spreading it out, you're more likely to keep it for the crop. And if you keep the soil in place, you keep your nutrients where they belong."* Way to go guys!





**Illinois Fertilizer &  
Chemical Association**  
Supply • Service • Stewardship

### **IFCA Board & Staff**

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##### ***Secretary***

Eric Gordon, Brandt Consolidated, Lincoln

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Jeremy Maloney, Tri-County Chemical, Eldorado

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John Musser, Stephenson Service Co., Stockton

Jamie Southard, Effingham Equity, Effingham

Regan Wear, Shipman Elevator Co., Shipman

Jason Wesslund, Heritage FS, Cissna Park

#### **IFCA Staff**

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**www.ifca.com**

### **NEW IFCA MEMBERS**

Scott Allen, Westheffer Company, Lawrence, KS  
Jeff Bradford, Crop Production Services, Cissna Park, IL  
John Brown, Prairieland Testing, LLC, Goodfield, IL  
James Collvins, Agrium U.S., Inc., Denver, CO  
Craig Dick, Calcium Products, Gilmore City, IA  
Terry Feldmann, Maurer-Stutz, Inc., Peoria, IL  
Tim Gocken, Northern Illinois Alliance, Crescent City, IL  
Bill Norden, Crop Production Services, Sheffield, IL  
Michael Spencer, TruAG, West Lafayette, IN  
Jordan Sterling, Purple Wave Auction, Manhattan, KS  
Jim Stetson, Ag View FS, Inc., Princeton, IL  
John Swearingen, Swearingen Seed Agency, Aledo, IL  
Darrell Haag/Brandon Grubbs, B & D Chemical Inc, Kempton, IL

### **IFCA 2014 CALENDAR**

#### **NH3 Safety Schools**

February 25—Marion, IL  
February 26—Whittington, IL  
February 27—Charleston, IL  
February 28—Bloomington, IL  
March 4—Mendota, IL  
March 5—Monmouth, IL  
March 6—Quincy, IL  
March 7—Springfield, IL

#### **Info AG**

July 29-31—St. Louis, MO

#### **National Agronomic and Environmental Health & Safety School**

August 20-21—Bloomington, IL

**MAGIE**—August 20-21—Bloomington, IL

#### **2015 IFCA Winter Convention & Tradeshow**

January 20-22, 2015—Peoria, IL

Anhydrous ammonia season is right around the corner. Please take the time to educate your customers about anhydrous ammonia safety or direct them to [www.learning.ifca.com](http://www.learning.ifca.com) for



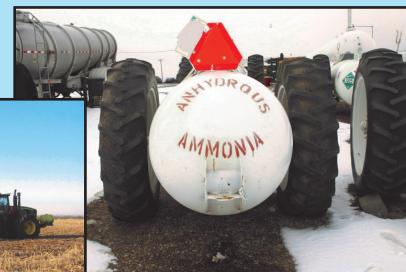
the online NH3 safety awareness training for farmers. This on-line program was funded by NREC to improve education on how to properly handle ammonia to reduce  
**Oops!** accidents. See story on page 2.

## SPECIAL UPDATE - ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

### Illegal NH3 Nurse Tanks Popping Up In Midwest

US DOT Office of Pipeline HAZMAT Safety (PHMSA) has asked IFCA to get the word out regarding illegal anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks popping up in the Midwest.

Some of these tanks have been improperly retrofitted and welded upon illegally to apparently meet the needs of some growers in the Midwest. The major problem with altering some of these tanks is that the changes may not allow them to be considered an implement of husbandry according to DOT requirements, or if welding was conducted by a non-R-Stamp welder. Existing regulations would then require these tanks to be taken out of service. The pictures on the right are examples of nurse tanks that are no longer implements of husbandry or have been illegally retrofitted. Please contact Kevin Runkle at the IFCA office if you see illegal nurse tanks in Illinois.



### December 2013 Ammonia Incident

December 5, 2013 was a typical day in the fall fertilizer industry; it was one of the last suitable days for fall application of anhydrous ammonia and a farmer's hired man picked up two 1450 gallon nurse tanks from the ag retailer to take back to the farm and apply.

Except it wasn't a typical day. There was a terrible accident during the transport of these tanks, resulting in one tank hitting the pavement and rupturing, catastrophically releasing the entire contents of the tank along Route 40 outside of Peoria. The second tank was also damaged and emergency responders applied water to knock down the cloud while the fertilizer dealer, who also responded to the accident when he heard about it, plugged the valve. The farmer's hired hand was severely injured from exposure to the ammonia, and was pulled out of the truck by an Illinois State Trooper who was nearby and able to respond immediately. The release of ammonia and water applied required remediation of the soil as well as actions to assure that the water did not reach a field tile and a creek nearby. The quick actions of the emergency responders, the fertilizer dealer, and the farmer whose hired hand was injured helped to mitigate a serious situation.



Tragically, the injuries that the driver sustained from ammonia exposure were serious and the gentleman passed away two months after the incident from complications of his injuries. IFCA is deeply saddened by this event and we know that all IFCA members all feel this way. While the contributing factors to the accident may never be fully known, it was an accident involving only the towing vehicle and the nurse tanks; thankfully no other vehicles or adjacent homeowners were injured, although the State Trooper was also taken to the hospital for minor treatment. When the nurse tank made contact with the pavement and ruptured, the force of the rupture carried the tank several hundred yards into an adjacent corn field.

In today's society, accidents like these affect not just the persons in the vicinity, but every aspect of the product supply chain. This is a tragic reminder that we must be diligent in all aspects of the ammonia supply chain, no matter who is in control of the product. IFCA provides on-line farmer ammonia training on our website at [www.ifca.com](http://www.ifca.com). It is free to use and we strongly encourage our members to educate your ammonia customers regarding the critical safety factors involved in safely handling, transporting and applying this product. We will never know how many accidents can be prevented because of proper training, but we do know this: no accident is acceptable.





## Important Industry Issues



### Illinois Anhydrous Ammonia Regulation Changes

Over the last year, IFCA has been working closely with the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Ag Products Inspection and a committee of industry representatives to revise the Illinois anhydrous ammonia regulations. We expect the regulations to be implemented within a year with a four year phase in period to comply with new requirements. Here are few highlights of what to expect:

- ◆ Railroad car tanks permanently mounted and used for storage shall be removed from service no later than 10 years from the effective date of the new regulations.
- ◆ Installation of an internal valve in the storage tank with a manual shutoff valve located immediately outside of the opening, or the installation of an approved excess flow valve or a back check valve inside of the tank, a manual shutoff valve located immediately outside of the opening and an approved Emergency Shutoff Valve (ESV) located within 3 feet of the opening side of the manual shutoff valve.
- ◆ Installation of reinforced concrete and structural steel bulkheads or equivalent anchorage strong enough not to break and massive enough not to be uprooted by a transport semi.
- ◆ A manual shutoff valve shall be installed on the liquid and vapor line and located at the bulkhead.
- ◆ The liquid unloading line shall be protected by a back check valve located within 5 lineal feet of pipe from the bulkhead.
- ◆ Bulkhead protection cannot be attached to the storage container piers.
- ◆ All welding for repairs to any pressure vessel or on any piping and associated appurtenances shall be done by a firm that holds a valid R-Stamp certification.
- ◆ No pressure relief valve shall be used over 5 years past the manufactured date.
- ◆ Removal and inspection of NH<sub>3</sub> nurse tank valves shall be conducted every 5 years.
- ◆ Any nurse tank that does not have a legible data plate and has not been pressure tested, thickness tested and visually inspected by a certified cargo tank (CT) inspector shall be removed from service.
- ◆ Mounting of quick disconnect coupling devices shall allow for full articulation in all directions as required by the coupler manufacturer.
- ◆ Multiple breakaway coupling devices mounted on a tool bar shall not interfere with one another in a turn or an unhitching event.
- ◆ Anhydrous ammonia hose from the quick disconnect coupling device on the toolbar to the nurse tank shall not be secured through the use of chains, elastic straps, wire ties or other means. A physical test shall be accomplished by performing a complete turn in both directions with all equipment to be used in application.
- ◆ Any device used for the introduction of atmospheric air into any part of anhydrous ammonia storage, transportation or application systems is prohibited.
- ◆ A written record of all inspections and maintenance shall be kept at the facility for a period of 5 years or until sold or removed from service.
- ◆ Each entity with multiple storage tanks shall complete modifications to a minimum of 25% of the storage tanks they own each year beginning one year from the effective date of the regulations.

**Keep in mind, these are just some of the highlights and are subject to change until the regulation is adopted.** The purpose of these changes is to enhance ammonia safety and reduce the likelihood of catastrophic releases that can put an ag retailer out of business and injure employees or members of the public. If you have any questions about the proposed changes in the ammonia regulations, please contact Kevin Runkle at the IFCA office at 309.827.2774 or [kevinr@ifca.com](mailto:kevinr@ifca.com).



## Legislative Update



### **IFCA Focusing on State and Federal Legislative Issues Important to IFCA Members**

IFCA traveled to Washington DC in February to visit with the Illinois congressional delegation on issues important to IFCA members. IFCA Board members Carl Kessler from Syngenta and Jeremy Maloney from Tri-County Chemical accompanied KJ on the trip. They thanked our US legislators for providing leadership to secure the Hours of Service exemption for ag inputs, and visited about issues including GMO food labeling, the Farm Bill and nutrient and agrichemical regulatory issues.

Back home in Springfield, IFCA is handling a multitude of state legislation aimed at GMO food labeling, an attempt to weaken the pesticide preemption laws, efforts to regulate nutrient use, a carbon tax and the continuing issue of our state budget deficit and attempts to raise more revenue from taxes and elimination of sales tax exemptions. You can stay updated on the bills we are working on by going to [www.ifca.com](http://www.ifca.com) and visiting the "Legislative Update" section. Stay tuned for legislative alerts from IFCA, we will send these out when we need your help to contact legislators as key issues come up for a vote.



Carl Kessler, Congressman Rodney Davis, Jeremy Maloney and KJ Johnson

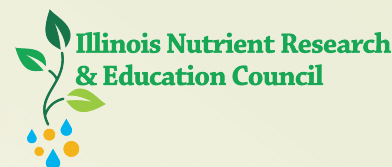
### **Nutrient Regulations Becoming More Prevalent: IFCA Leadership is Critical**

IFCA is a key leader among Illinois agricultural groups in addressing nutrient issues. We have taken on the challenge of rebuilding the research and education infrastructure in Illinois that is vital to assuring that Illinois ag retailers and farmers maintain ownership of nutrient management issues. We are accomplishing this through the "Keep it for the Crop" 4R nutrient stewardship program, and sustaining funding for nutrient research and education through the Nutrient Research and Education Council. IFCA partnered with IDA to rewrite the Illinois Fertilizer Act to create NREC and worked with Illinois ag groups and legislators to assure its passage—no easy feat. NREC dollars cannot be swept, and the program generates approximately \$2.5 million per year from a 75 cent per ton assessment on fertilizer sales. NREC funds programs to proactively address agriculture's need to minimize environmental impact, optimize harvest yield and maximize input utilization (MOM).

Even with KIC and NREC, the pressure on nutrient use is escalating. Farmers and retailers in the Chesapeake Bay must comply with regulations on nutrient plans and application. This month, the Ohio State Senate passed legislation that requires anyone who applies fertilizer on more than 50 contiguous acres to be licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (farmers are not exempt). Ohio CCAs are also being asked to participate in a 4R certification program that includes special training, certification, nutrient management planning, recordkeeping and facility audits. The Nature Conservancy is helping to administer the 4R certification program. The intense pressure to reduce nutrient loading in Lake Erie was the driving force behind these efforts in Ohio.

IFCA President Jean Payne is involved daily in the management of the KIC program and also administers the NREC program. The addition of KJ Johnson to the IFCA staff last year was critical to assure that IFCA has the human resources necessary to continue to successfully manage the many regulatory and legislative issues facing our members. IFCA was also the lead author of a **Illinois Agriculture & Water Quality** report that the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices shared with Illinois EPA, environmental groups, point sources and all nutrient stakeholders. To see a copy of this report, which explains the role of KIC, NREC and how these programs are working together to keep Illinois agriculture in the driver's seat on nutrient use, go to [www.ifca.com](http://www.ifca.com). Our website also features the latest news on projects NREC is funding and the activity of the KIC program.

The IFCA Board of Directors is committed to the intense effort that is required of the IFCA staff to strategize, develop and implement the types of programs within the ag retail industry that will continue to lead Illinois agriculture in a positive direction to maintain our industry's control over nutrient use. If it seems like we are pushing hard, we are. The stakes could not be higher. We need only to look at what is developing in states immediately to our East to see what the alternative could be for Illinois. With the help of our members promoting the 4Rs, we will control our future.



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### From the President's Desk *by Jean Payne*



In November 2013, I was honored to receive the "Freedom to Operate" award from the Illinois Soybean Association. Tom Jennings, our former Director of Agriculture, was also one of the five people honored by ISA for providing leadership on behalf of Illinois agriculture. To be recognized alongside someone of the caliber of Tom Jennings meant a great deal to me...he is a true friend to me and to our industry.

In explaining why I was selected for this award, ISA board member Ron Moore said *"Jean has an extraordinary gift of understanding farmers and can articulate with regulators about agriculture. She is passionate and has our best interests at heart. She has had an impact on the use of the 4Rs in Illinois and is dedicated to making sure*

*farmers stay profitable and have the resources we need to meet the needs of a growing population."*

What Ron says above is not really about me, but is a reflection and appreciation of the fundamental attributes of the IFCA members. What I do in my job is simply articulate to other groups, to legislators and to regulators what all of you do every day in your business. The passion I have for this was instilled in me by all of you. I have such great respect for what you do every day as crop input supply and service providers. I also know the challenges you face from a multitude of pressures and yet the attitudes of our members, your professionalism, sense of humor and your work ethic remains as strong as ever. Thank you for allowing me to be your spokesperson and empowering me and the IFCA staff to be proactive on your behalf.

We will continue to face an uphill battle on nutrient and crop protection issues. It is not easy now, and it is never going to get easier as the general public becomes even further removed from the farm, and as the percent of people working in this industry falls to less than 2% of the population. But we have a great industry, people need us, and we are strong.

If it was easy, anyone could do it. In Illinois, IFCA is not just anyone. We are leaders.