



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

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

IFCA Chairman's Report

by Regan Wear, CHS Shipman

As we look forward to the 2018 season we have spent a lot of time discussing and training on new and improved ways to be good stewards of dicamba tolerant soybeans. There are many good reasons for this as we look down the road and consider what new technologies are coming to help us produce clean fields and bountiful crops. We have some traits that are close to getting approved for export, but by and large, we don't have a lot of new traits that will be here in the next few years to help with weed control.

The IFCA staff has visited with many retailers across the state who have plans in place to promote stewardship of traits and to protect these technologies now and into the future. This year will be a pivotal year in how we all work with our farmer customers to make this year's application season a success.

We are seeing some very positive results from our Keep it 4R Crop program and nutrient strategies promoted by our members. These 4R systems make a difference in critical watersheds across the state. As we continue to study and explore ways to better utilize the nutrients we use in crop production, I am confident we will grow more with less.

Thanks for all of your efforts in these critical stewardship areas.



Don't those pork chops look good? Then don't miss.....



August 22-23, 2018 at the
McLean County Fairgrounds!

AASA Inspections in Illinois This Year



This summer the American Agronomic Stewardship Alliance (AASA) will be inspecting bulk pesticide storage facilities in many states, and Illinois is one of them. AASA last inspected Illinois in 2015.

The inspections are no charge to you. The pesticide manufacturers who ship bulk product to you are requesting the inspections to ensure your facilities are in compliance with federal laws for repackaging and containment. This is an industry program, it is NOT a government inspection.

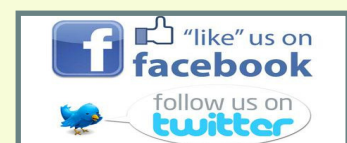
You will receive a letter in the coming weeks informing you that an AASA inspector will be calling to set up an appointment. They will do their best to avoid the busiest times of the season, but the inspections must be completed this summer. This goal is to help you with compliance and we appreciate your cooperation. IFCA administers the AASA program. To see the inspection checklist go to www.aginspect.org and click on "Inspection Program" or feel free to call IFCA with any questions about AASA.

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DICAMBA REGULATORY FACTS FOR 2018

1. Warning Letters One Year—Monetary Penalties the Next Year

The Illinois Pesticide Act has a “point” system when it comes to pesticide misuse. The more the points you accumulate as an applicator, the higher the penalty. Of the over 200 violation letters issued on dicamba misapplication last year, the majority were warning letters. **65% of the warning letters went to private applicators and 35% to commercial applicators.**

Points assigned to your license accumulate over a 3 year period. So, if you had a warning letter from 2017 and are found in violation again in 2018, you will likely face a minimum **\$750 penalty** on subsequent violations going forward because the points carry over, and higher point levels trigger the monetary penalty. This is true for both private and commercial applicators. IFCA asked IDA how many points an applicator can have before their license could be revoked. There is no hard and fast number; IDA will consider this on a case by case basis. Historically, multiple violation letters have never really been an issue for the industry, so we don’t have a precedent for this. IFCA is confident that IDA will work with our industry on this, but we are concerned about the impact of monetary penalties and potential license revocation if off-target dicamba movement continues for whatever reason. Yield loss DOES NOT have to occur in order for a violation to be issued.

2. Now that Applicators are Specifically Trained on Dicamba Use, Will Off Target Incidents in 2018 be Considered Accidental or Negligent?

Great question. On the outside looking in, most people (especially tort lawyers) would probably argue that you should be cited as negligent if you participated in required training and were provided detailed instructions on what is legal and what is not, and your application still resulted in off site symptoms, especially to downwind sensitive crops. How will the insurance industry view this? Also a great question. You should ask your insurance company so that you know their position. They may cover “accidents” but not “illegal” activities. It would be naive to fail to recognize that beyond the IDA violation system, civil cases could be brought against applicators if significant problems occur again in 2018 with off-target movement, and those applicators may be viewed by the courts or juries as negligent because of the specialized dicamba training everyone went through.

3. Do I Need to Record a Customer’s Proof of Training to Sell Dicamba RUP Products?

Nothing in the Illinois Pesticide Act requires you to document that an applicator has attended a dicamba training class in order to sell them a dicamba RUP product. It truly is the applicator’s responsibility to ensure they’ve gone to an approved training class and have proof of this. Pesticide Dealers are certainly welcome to ask for proof of training from your customers and it is a good stewardship activity to drive home the importance of the regulatory requirement for training. But the label merely states that applicators have to record that they attended an approved training class. The registrants who provided the training in Illinois are maintaining records of all those who attended a training class. There is no accessible statewide database of those persons who were trained. If you misplace your training certificate, the Illinois Dicamba Training Website at www.ifca.com/Illinoisdicambatraining lists the phone numbers for you to call to obtain a replacement certificate.

4. Has Reciprocity Between States Ever Been Resolved?

No. IDA will recognize approved training that you may have taken in any other state as meeting the requirements for dicamba application to soybean in 2018 but other states haven’t been so gracious with reciprocity. If you are applying in another state and only attended Illinois training, we encourage you to contact the state in which you will be applying dicamba and seek out options to take their approved training classes. Most states will continue to provide access to on-line training programs.

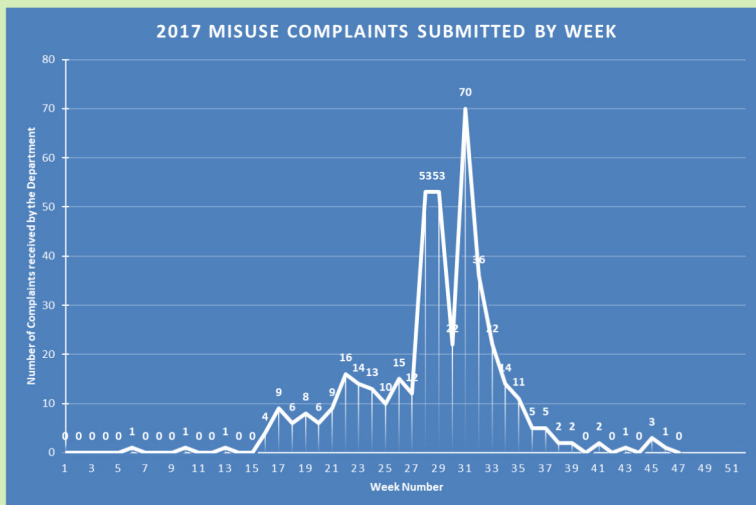
PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP

DICAMBA STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

Last summer, IFCA members answered a survey on their experience with using dicamba in 2017. The majority of retailers reported that dicamba applied during and after the week of June 19, 2017 resulted in symptoms in nearby sensitive soybeans. This directly corresponds to the high number of complaints that the IL Dept of Ag received starting in weeks 27-33 of the 2017 calendar year, which was 14-21 days after the applications that occurred in late June. **Ag retailers should not be discouraged from instituting stewardship oriented cut-off dates based on your own observations, to avoid a repeat of 2017.** It was very clear from the IFCA survey that the earlier the application, the more success with the product.

IFCA and the University of Illinois worked together to come up with these additional BMPs:

1. For custom applications, require the farmer to document and share with you what is planted on all sides of the field, and if any other sensitive high value crops are in the vicinity, and where they are.
2. Start with a clean field! Growers should plant into a weed-free seedbed achieved through the use of tillage, an effective burndown herbicide program or a combination of both.
3. Within 7 days of planting DT soybeans, apply a soil-residual herbicide that targets the most problematic weeds in the field. If desired, and if within the label parameters, add dicamba to the mixture and follow the downwind buffer mandate on the label.
4. Scout treated fields 14 days after planting. Apply dicamba at 0.5 lb ac/acre when weeds are less than 3" tall and when the label can be followed. Consider adding an approved soil-residual herbicide to the tank.
5. Scout treated fields within 7 days after the dicamba application. If control is not complete or another flush of weeds as emerged, consider using non-dicamba options for complete control. Examples include alternative herbicides, cultivation, and hand roguing. **THE GOAL SHOULD BE ZERO WEED SEED PRODUCTION.**



Pesticide Containers & Minibulk Recycling

IDA will announce the pesticide container recycling dates and locations soon, and we've asked IDA if minibulks might also be accepted as these recycling events. The recycler IDA uses will accept minibulk (cage) containers, but they must be cut into separate top, bottom and sides pieces and all fittings removed (no metal, no wood). They will also accept colored IBC containers cut into 1 foot square pieces (also no fittings, metal or wood).

But you must call IDA at (217) 785-2427 if you intend to bring any cut-up minibulks to one of recycling locations. Ask to speak to Rick Severns. The containers must be clean and properly cut up, or they will be rejected. If you bring them as instructed, and notify IDA ahead of time of how much you are bringing, IDA will accept them at no charge.

Do you want your own plastic chipper? If you generate a lot of plastic pesticide containers and want to chip them yourself, IDA is giving away two old chippers to a good home. If you want to chip your containers when convenient and then bring the bags of plastic to the nearest collection point, you can own your own chipper. Please contact John or Jean if interested.



IFCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tarter Feed & Fertilizer

1240 S 4th Avenue
Canton, IL 61520

Owners: Kevin & Mark Tarter

Started in the Business: 1954

Employees: 5

Counties Served: Fulton,
Peoria, Knox



Austin, Kevin, Mark & Serenity

Tarter Feed & Fertilizer was founded in 1954 by Harry Tarter after Harry returned from the Korean War. The original name of the business was Tarter Limestone; Harry started with two spreader trucks for limestone and rock phosphate. Harry's wife Marilyn did the billing during the evenings while also working as an RN at the local hospital, along with raising a family. Over the years Harry added dry fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, pesticides and livestock feeds to their offerings.

At a very young age, Harry's sons Kevin and Mark helped their father with all aspects of the business. It wasn't uncommon to see both Mark and Kevin in the field applying limestone or fertilizer for their father, peeking over the steering wheel to count the rows.

In 1974 Harry was injured in a haybine accident that almost cost him his right leg. After the accident Harry had thoughts about selling the business, but with the encouragement of Marilyn and Grandad Taylor, Kevin and Mark stepped in and kept the business running.

After graduating high school (Kevin in 1976, Mark in 1978) both joined Tarter Feed & Fertilizer and have kept the same high level of service leading into the 21st century. Kevin's son Austin is the third generation to enter the business having earned his degree from WIU in 2016. Like his father & uncle, Austin also grew up in the business and most likely will take the baton at some point and continue the Tarter legacy of providing quality service to growers in Western Illinois.

A little bit more about Kevin & Mark Tarter

Family/Hobbies?

Kevin and his wife Tiffani have two children: Austin (mentioned above) and a daughter, Cassidy. Cassidy is currently in school pursuing a degree in veterinary science. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys raising cattle. Mark enjoys traveling, skiing, collecting antiques as well as following his daughter Kayleen as she competes competitively in band and archery.

What do you enjoy about the business?

Working with our growers along with performing the custom application, whether it be pesticides, limestone or fertilizer.

Biggest change you have seen? Farms getting larger and larger.



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NUTRIENTS

IFCA Partners with Agrible on 4R Metrics Program



One of the top priorities of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is for agriculture to report progress on the voluntary 4R practices that are being adopted to reduce nutrient losses. In 2019, there will be a second report issued on the progress toward reaching a 15% reduction in nitrogen and 25% reduction in phosphorus losses to Illinois lakes, rivers and streams. For the 2019 report, agriculture needs a way to confidently report 4R practices that are occurring in Illinois and show progress toward these goals.

IFCA is taking on this challenge by partnering with Agrible to create a custom web-based product that will enable IFCA retail members to report their progress on implementing the 4Rs on the acres they custom-apply. The 4R metrics are based on the IFCA 4R Code of Practice. To put it simply, we want to gather tangible information from retailers on the number of acres they apply where:

1. Fall applied ammonia applications occur when soil temps are 50 degrees or lower;
2. Fall applications of ammonia are treated with a full rate of a labeled nitrification inhibitor;
3. For corn, the nitrogen rate applied is within the MRTN range for that region of the state;
4. The acres are being managed with a system of split applications to mitigate potential serious weather-related loss of nitrogen;
5. The number of acres in which the retailer is involved in soil sampling, and where custom applied P and K is within the UI recommended application rates;
6. The number of acres in which the retailer is **not** applying fertilizer on frozen or snow covered ground.

We will be testing the program with three IFCA retail members this fall/winter to assure the platform is easy to use and produces information each individual retailer can use for their own purposes, but can also be aggregated for all custom applied acres treated by many retailers, to produce a statewide report on the progress of the 4Rs.

Accountability and transparency, along with research and education, are vital to keep Illinois on track to reduce nutrient losses by working alongside all nutrient stakeholders. It is not easy to avoid litigation, regulation or legislation on nutrient use and we must keep aiming to meet each new benchmark in a positive way for our industry.

IFCA's Work with NREC Produces Updated Illinois Database for Nitrogen Rates

IFCA staff Dan Schaefer and Jason Solberg continue to work alongside U of I researchers on five NREC projects aimed at improving the science that dictates our nutrient recommendations and knowledge of nutrient movement in our environment. In 2018 we have nearly 50 N Rate Trials planned, and are now covering all regions of the state including western Illinois, southern Illinois and more trials in northern Illinois. The N Rate trials produce data that U of I analyzes and sends to Iowa State to update the Nitrogen Rate Calculator for Illinois (<http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu>). Thanks to funding from NREC, Illinois farmers benefit from having one of the most updated nitrogen response databases in the country serving as the basis for their rate recommendations.

IFCA is also working to help determine what level of nitrogen is given back by a cover crop and we are again measuring nitrogen movement in the soil, at different N rates, to determine uptake or loss potential. One project also measures N loss in field tile under various N timings.



Dan Schaefer applies spring NH₃ at 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 lb rates in an on-farm field trial.

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

REQUIREMENTS BY 2020

- Each facility shall provide the minimum protection at each non-refrigerated storage tank opening by:

A) the installation of an internal valve with a manual shutoff **or**

B) An approved excess flow valve, a manual shutoff valve, & an approved ESV located within 3 feet of the opening of the manual shutoff valve.



- Reliable actuation system for ESV's or internal valve (s).

- Bulkheads shall provide protection during transport unloading.

- Container pressure relief valves shall not be used over 5 years past the manufacture date.

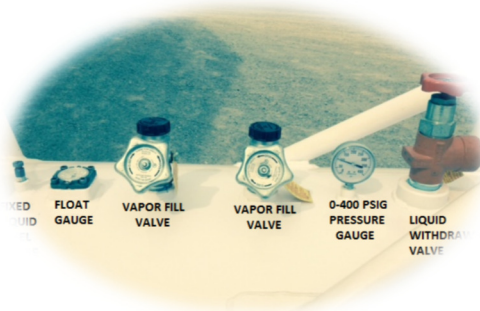
- Nurse tanks that are pulled in tandem a breakaway coupling device or other means of protection shall be installed at each point where the hose crosses a hitching point.

- Adequate hose length to allow breakaway couplers to articulate freely but prevent contact with the nurse tank tongue. This shall be achieved without securing the hose mechanically through the use of chains, elastomeric straps, wire ties or other means.

PLAYING IT SAFE *BY JOHN REBHOLZ*

Hopefully everyone is making progress on upgrades to your ammonia installations, as the deadline for these updates will be here before we know it. If you have not started your upgrades, don't wait until the last minute because you may be put on a waiting list by your contractor as we get closer to 2020.

Also by 2020, nurse tank withdrawal valves shall be protected by an excess flow valve matched to the designed flow rate. Flow capacity of the excess flow valves shall not exceed 45 GPM for 1¼" connections & 60 GPM for 1½" connections. Each valve shall be removed from service & inspected at an interval not to exceed 5 years. This is one area I have noticed where progress seems to be moving along at a slower pace. In Illinois alone, we have over 28,000 nurse tanks, so replacing these valves to the appropriate sized GPM will take time. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to put this on your to do list this summer.



Listed below are the upcoming fall anhydrous ammonia safety schools. As the dates get closer, you can go to www.ifca.com to register for the classes. We have also added an additional class in October to accommodate part time employees that are employed prior to ammonia season. If you want to host a grower training session prior to fall ammonia season, give me a call at the office.

**Mark Your
Calendars!**



**Mark Your
Calendars!**

Fall 2018 Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Schools

Sept 14-Asmark Agricenter – Bloomington

Sept 18-Days Inn – Rock Falls

Sept 19-Knox County Farm Bureau – Galesburg

Sept 20-Poes Catering – Springfield

Sept 21-Unique Suites – Charleston

Oct 12-Asmark Agricenter - Bloomington

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

IFCA Members Host Congress and State Legislators

IFCA members have assisted KJ Johnson in getting our federal and state legislators to agrichemical facilities to meet our members and learn more about the issues that affect the ag input supply and service industry. In the past several months, we have hosted Congressmen Darin LaHood, Mike Bost and Rodney Davis, as well as state legislators including Senators Andy Manar, Paul Schimpf, Jil Tracy, Neil Anderson and Rep Mike Halpin. Please call KJ or kj@ifca.com if you would like to host legislators at your facility. Thank you IFCA members!



L to R: KJ Johnson, Brian Waddell, Wes Graves, Clark Micah (TFI), Congressman Rodney Davis, Tim Wolfe, Mark Howard, Beau Gentry, Rich Fairfield and Michael Elliott at Marco NPK in Clinton.



Senator Andy Manar, Regan Wear and Jean Payne @ CHS in Shipman.



At Gateway FS in Red Bud: Eric Rohlfing, Keith Hamilton, Jerry Roosevelt, Ryan Gonzalez, Carl Tebbe, Representative Mike Halpin, Liz Hobart and KJ Johnson.



Liz Hobart, Rick Balzer, Jake Fesler, Nate Todd, Senator Jil Tracy, Rich DeSchepper and KJ Johnson at West Central FS in LaHarpe.

Lighting and Marking Required for NEW Implements of Husbandry

When the US Congress passed the MAP-21 highway bill in 2012, it mandated new lighting and marking standards for agricultural equipment. Therefore, all new ag equipment manufactured as new on or after June 22, 2017 must be equipped with roadway lighting and reflective marking in accordance with the ASABE standard S279.14. This affects new trailers including single or dual ammonia tanks and other implement trailers such as pull-type sprayers or spreaders. **It does not require retrofitting lights or markings to existing trailers.**

The photos here show a new trailer with the lights and the reflective markings. IFCA is not concerned with the reflective marking requirement, but we are with the lighting requirement. These types of trailers endure rough field conditions and retailers will be responsible for maintaining the lights in working condition. It could also result in confusion for enforcement officers when they see a few trailers with lights on them, and thousands of others with no lights. IFCA plans to attend the ASABE meeting this July to discuss our concerns and see if any reasonable relief can be granted from the lighting requirement for these types of trailers.



IFCA NEWSLETTER

IFCA
14171 Carole Drive
Bloomington, IL 61705
Return Service Requested

PRESORTED
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Springfield, IL
Permit No. 609



From the President's Desk *by Jean Payne*

Each spring, IFCA asks our members to renew their membership in the IFCA and to also let us know if there are others in the industry who may not be members, but should be. Thank you for being a member.

We continue to face many challenges, but they are nothing our industry cannot handle and IFCA invests in people and programs that enable us to lead rather than react to issues. The 4R metrics program we are launching with Agrible (see page 5) will allow our members to easily report the positive steps you are making in nutrient stewardship on custom applied acres, and will demonstrate to nutrient stakeholders that agriculture can make very positive changes with voluntary programs. With this program, we can measure our progress rather than leave it up to someone else to evaluate our industry. I am confident that this investment will streamline the way in which we document 4R stewardship, sustainability and responsibility going forward.

When it comes to crop protection, we also have our challenges. For the past decade or so, scrutiny on pesticide use in Illinois agriculture has been fairly quiet, especially when compared to the nutrient challenges. But dicamba use on soybeans in 2017 changed that, and we all need to be aware that there will be many watchful eyes on our industry this spring and summer. We all want dicamba to be successful and we need this crop protection tool not just for soybeans, but for other uses as well. Please do not fall victim to a complacent attitude that pesticide use is a right, rather than a privilege. Maybe some have forgotten what July through August 2017 was like, but I'm betting most of you have not. I don't think anyone wants to re-live that again.

We also have to do our best to overcome aspects of application that may be beyond our control. We have to be good, we can't count on luck to overcome dicamba movement. Please visit the IFCA website at www.ifca.com to see our Dicamba Stewardship message, and please share it widely. "*Could 'a, Would 'a, Should 'a*" isn't what we want to think about in hindsight come late 2018. By then it will be up to USEPA to determine if we were successful. If there is something you can do, should do, and will do to steward dicamba use in 2018, please do it. And it's ok to say "no" when you need to. IFCA will defend good stewardship. You can always call us for assistance, for someone to listen, and for action.

On behalf of the IFCA staff and Board, thank you for your membership in the IFCA and for enabling us to be a proactive, responsible and effective voice for the Illinois ag input industry.