



**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 *Jeremy Maloney, Tri-County Chemical*

When I assumed the role of IFCA chairman last January, the furthest thing from my mind was the possibility of a global pandemic!

Thankfully, we work in an essential industry and although our lives were suddenly turned upside down on the cusp of the spring season, we managed to get through it with common sense and dedication to serving our customers. I want to thank everyone in the supply chain who respected the ag retailer’s need to keep our employees safe while still ensuring we had what we needed in terms of supply and support.

As if the pandemic weren’t enough, we had yet another sudden surprise from the Court in California who decided, in the middle of spray season, to cancel the dicamba registrations resulting in Illinois losing use of the product for almost a week while USEPA decided how to react. Thankfully we were able to use the existing inventory and were able to find a few good days before the June 25th cut-off date to use this product. It is anyone’s guess where this technology goes from here.

We will continue to face uncertainty for sometime, on many fronts. IFCA had to make adjustments such as cancelling the MAGIE show, and the staff has been working remotely, but your Association has still accomplished a lot in the last few months as you will read in this newsletter. Better days are ahead and as they say, surviving challenges only makes us stronger.

Best wishes for a safe summer, hopefully you can take some vacation days even if they are just in your backyard with family!



### Exhibitors who donated their booth fees to IFCA:

- AAK Mechanical, Inc.
- Adams Fertilizer
- AGCO Application Division
- Agri-Cover Inc.
- Altorfer, Inc.
- Ameren Energy Efficiency
- Continental NH<sub>3</sub> Products
- Digi Farm
- Fertilizer Dealer Supply
- GVM
- Hays—LTI
- Heartland Tank Companies
- John Deere
- KBH Corporation, The
- Koch Agronomic Services
- Marcus Construction
- Mid-State Tank Co, Inc.
- New Leader
- Precision Liquid Construction
- Precision Tank & Equipment
- Raven Industries
- RBR Enterprises
- Software Solutions Integrated
- Squibb-Taylor
- Wilger, Inc.
- Willmar Fabrication, LLC

### MAGIE 2020 Cancelled, but Exhibitors Shine!

It was not an easy decision to cancel MAGIE but it was the right thing this year. But in difficult times, silver linings appear! We thank, from our heart, all of the MAGIE exhibitors who donated their booth space to IFCA to keep your Association strong. See the names of these generous members (right).

IFCA will share “MAGIE memory” videos with you in mid-August. To see how to send us your own short video go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gyqQ2Tofmc&feature=youtu.be>

**Mark your calendars for MAGIE 2021:** It will be August 25-26, 2021 at the McLean County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IL.

### **Famer Ammonia Safety Training—Coming for 2021!**

For the past 18 months, IFCA has worked with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the farm organizations to gain support for, and develop, a mandatory farmer safety training program for everyone on the farm who handles, transports, applies or works on ammonia equipment. The program will also stress the procedures that must be followed to report ammonia releases, in order to protect the safety of citizens and emergency responders.

**Good news!** We are well on our way to accomplishing this goal thanks to many virtual meetings over the Covid shutdown. A coalition of IDA, IFCA, Farm Bureau, Corn and Soybean Associations all worked together to come to agreement on the regulations and how the training program will work. **Here is a progress report:**

1. The rules governing ammonia (8 IAC Part 215) were amended by IDA to include language requiring that farmers, hired hands or family members who transport, handle, apply or work on ammonia equipment must complete a Department approved safety training program at least once every 3 years. The rules were published for comment on June 19, 2020. IFCA and the farm groups agreed upon the language in the rules.
2. Farmers will have access to either an on-line training program or a classroom training program. The on-line program is based off the voluntary on-line farmer training program that IFCA developed in 2012 with funding from NREC. The on-line program will be hosted by IDA and will provide certification when the user successfully completes a knowledge assessment at the end of the program. It is a comprehensive program that will take an hour or more to complete.
3. For classroom training, IFCA helped develop a slide deck of training materials that ag retailers can utilize to train their farmer customers in a local setting. The materials contain a mixture of slides and videos that cover all the key elements of ammonia safety and emergency response. Any ag retail employee who is also a competent attendant and who attends the IDA/IFCA ammonia training program each year will be approved to use the slide deck to train their farmer customers. The trainer will then send in a roster of the people they train to IDA, and IDA will issue certificates to the growers who attended the classes.

**Next Steps:** IFCA and the ag groups will send in supportive comments on the proposed rules. The rules should be final before year-end. The plan is to have the on-line and classroom training materials ready for use in January 2021 ahead of the 2021 spring ammonia season. There will likely be a “phase-in” period to give farmers a reasonable amount of time to obtain the training. Ag retailers will be key in helping communicate this new regulatory requirement to their farmer customers and help them with access to training.

**Important Points:** There will be no cost to the growers for the training, that is in the rules. Farmers, their hired employees and their family members who transport, apply or work with ammonia or ammonia equipment in any way will all be required to have the training, and renew it once every 3 years. They will receive a certificate when they complete the on-line or classroom courses and they will be required to maintain the certificate. IFCA is working with IDA to ensure that ag retailers who offer ammonia have an easy way to determine if their customers have completed the training, but the rules do not have any penalties against ag retailers if their farmer customers do not complete the training. However, if a grower has an accident and IDA determines they did not have training, the grower will be subject to penalties.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Jean Payne, John Rebholz or KJ Johnson. We will continue to keep you posted on the progress of this very important and long overdue safety initiative!

# ANHYDROUS AMMONIA *by John Rebholz*

## December 31, 2020 NH<sub>3</sub> Requirements

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

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.

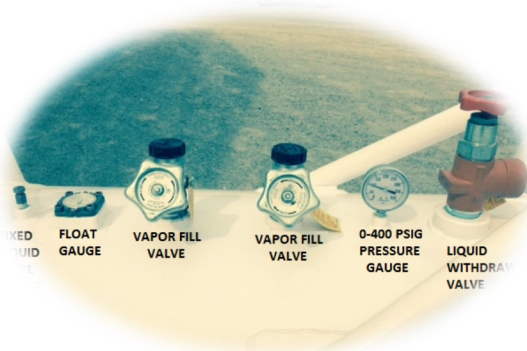
For nurse tanks that are pulled in tandem, a breakaway coupling device or other means of protection shall be installed at each point where the hose crosses a hitching point.

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.



Hopefully everyone is on the home stretch on meeting the Illinois Ammonia upgrades requirements that went into effect in 2016. The final deadline to have all upgrades in place is December 31, 2020.

Also by December 31, 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" tank connections & 60 GPM for 1½" tank connections. Each valve shall be removed from service & inspected at an interval not to exceed 5 years. With approximately 28,000 ammonia tanks in Illinois, don't hold off too long on purchasing withdrawal valves as supplies may be limited. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.



**Fall NH<sub>3</sub> Schools:** We are still preparing to have the Fall 2020 Ammonia Schools, however with the Covid restrictions in Illinois we are holding off on opening up online registration until **August 1st**. The meeting venues may also be restricted in capacity, but we will adjust accordingly and open up additional times and venues to accommodate everyone needing classroom training.



**ONLINE REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 1st**

### Fall 2020 Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Schools

Sept 14-Asmark Agricenter – Bloomington

Sept 15-Days Inn – Rock Falls

Sept 16-Knox County Farm Bureau – Galesburg

Sept 17-Poes Catering – Springfield

Sept 18-Unique Suites – Charleston

Oct 09-Asmark Agricenter - Bloomington

### Ammonia Technician, Nurse Tank Inspection & Applicator Courses

Asmark Signature Courses will resume in July, with class sizes to accommodate distancing and safety concerns. We encourage our members to take advantage of these hands-on training courses, available at the Asmark facilities in Bloomington, IL. To see the upcoming courses on these and other subject areas, and to register go to <https://www.asmark.org/signature-training.cgi>

## IFCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Pat Hodges, Squibb-Taylor

**NH<sub>3</sub>/ LP Gas Sales / Technical Support**  
**Started in the Business:** 1974

**Areas Served:** US & Canada

If you haven't met this 6'5" Texan with a witty sense of humor, you probably have never been to MAGIE or the IFCA Convention in the past 40 years! Pat grew up in Dallas with two siblings. His parents worked for an automotive air conditioner manufacturer.



**Pat & Teresa**

During college, Pat noticed a help wanted ad for a warehouse/customer service position at Squibb-Taylor and applied for the job. After working there just 3 months, Cecil Squibb allowed Pat to take a hiatus in order to try out for the World Football League (the Chicago Fire). Pat made it to the final cut before being released, and returned to Squibb-Taylor. After working in Dallas for three more years, Pat had the opportunity to relocate to Springfield, IL to serve Squibb-Taylor's Midwest territory.

Over the next 7 years, Pat logged lots of miles providing service to distributors as well as technical support for the NH<sub>3</sub> products. Although he was busy, he found time for a few (shhh...lots of) rounds of golf. In 1984, Pat returned to the Squibb-Taylor office in Dallas, where he still works today. He is considered one of the leading experts in the US and Canada when it comes to anhydrous ammonia equipment and safety. When you speak of a true friend to IFCA, that is Pat!

**Family/Hobbies?** Pat and his high school sweetheart Teresa have been married for 47 years. Teresa taught piano lessons as well as played piano in church for 30 years. They have 3 children: Greg, Leeann and Katie. Greg works as a school administrator, Leeann as an advertising producer and Katie works for a pediatrician. Two of Pat's children were born in Illinois (although Pat told us he has never told them that). Pat and Teresa have 5 grandkids that keep them very busy; in his spare time he enjoys golf, hunting, fishing and of course following any sports team that has the word "Dallas" or "Texas" in the name.

**What do you enjoy about the business?** Pat says 'I enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones throughout my travels. Squibb-Taylor has always treated me like a family member, allowing me to conduct business as if I were part of the ownership. In fact, right now I am working for the 3rd generation of ownership.'

**Concerns?** All the experienced individuals retiring or leaving the ag industry.

**Why did you join IFCA?** It's been a great way to stay in touch with the ag retail sector and a way to keep learning about the industry.



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### 2020 IFCA Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

Chairman: Jeremy Maloney, Tri-County Chemical

Vice-Chair: Jason Wesslund, Heritage FS

Finance: Tadgh Davis, Mosaic

Secretary: Greg Taylor, The Equity

Nate Todd, Tri-County Seeds

Past Chair: Carl Kessler, Syngenta

#### Board Members

Josh Allen, Brandt

Bryan Fairfull, M & M Service Co.

Mike Harriss, Winfield United

Aaron Hunsinger, BASF

Mike Koenigs, Corteva Agriscience

Dave Myers, CHS Elburn

Nate Pierce, Goldstar FS

Bob Spratt, LeRoy Fertilizer

Meg Steward, AGI

Paul Whitworth, Nutrien

#### IFCA Staff

Jean Payne, President

KJ Johnson, Director of Government & Industry Relations

Dan Schaefer, Director of Nutrient Stewardship

John Rebholz, Director of Safety & Education Programs

Leslie Forrest, Director of Office & Membership Programs

Jason Solberg, Assistant Director of Programs & Compliance

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# PESTICIDES

## Plenty of Dicamba Drama in 2020—Things We Know and Don't Know

1. **Application:** No dicamba can be applied to soybean in Illinois after June 25, 2020.
2. **Cancellation:** All uses of Engenia, Xtendimax and FeXapan are cancelled as of July 31, 2020. Although these products, and Tavium, have other labeled uses other than over the top on soybean, IFCA does not recommend their continued use in conditions that warranted the cut-off date and 85 degree temperature restriction on the Illinois 24c labels. The ultimate goal is to bring down complaints in Illinois.
3. **Future Use?** The registrants of the products are seeking to get them re-registered for use over the top on soybean and have asked for the registration to be expedited by USEPA for use in 2021 and beyond.
4. **Return/Disposal:** The registrants have not yet announced their plans for how retailers or farmers can return unused Engenia, Xtendimax or FeXapan to the registrants after July 31, 2020.

5. **Misuse Cases in 2020:** As of July 6, IDA has received 120 misuse complaints; 38 of those are dicamba related. If you've never seen the misuse complaint form it is here: <https://bit.ly/3eL5vK4> Although IDA is closed they will return calls to 217.784.2427. **For 2019**, IDA issued 113 monetary penalty notices on dicamba, some of which are resolved and others pending hearing or payment. Many cases (449) were also dismissed. See chart (right).

6. **Preparing for Investigations:** The most important thing to have ready if IDA requests your records of application is a **good** record. IFCA produced a dicamba recordkeeping guide to help you better document key elements of wind speed and direction, temperature, and where buffers were placed. If IDA requests your records that is your first clue that there is an investigation underway. You should ask to speak to the inspector about the investigation, don't assume it will go away if IDA never calls you for your side of the story. The IFCA dicamba recordkeeping guidance is here: <https://bit.ly/3icnGhW> or contact IFCA for assistance.

ITEM	Ag-related	
	Dicamba-related (a)	Non-dicamba-related (b)
Total Number of Complaints	720	204
Investigation Report not yet received from field staff	68	8
Investigation Report in review	74	8
Cases resolved with issuance of Warning Letter	12	59
Case resolved with Advisory Letter	4	0
Cases resolved with finding of No Misuse or complaint voluntarily withdrawn	449	115
Cases resolved with Warning Letter AND Notice of Fine but payment has not yet been received.	0	1
Cases resolved with Warning Letter AND Notice of Fine with payment received.	1	0
Cases resolved with issuance of Notice of Fine with payment received	74	9
Cases resolved with issuance of Notice of Fine but fine payment has not yet been received	11	3
Cases resolved with issuance of Notice of Fine but pending an appeal hearing	27	1
<b>Total Number of Complaints</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>204</b>

## IL Dept of Ag 2020 Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Each year the Illinois Department of Agriculture works with the ag retail industry to schedule collection sites for clean, triple-rinsed pesticide containers. The first collection is scheduled for July 23, 2020 at Chem-Gro in Hancock County. There are 28 locations scheduled for the months of July through August and 2 permanent sites where you can take clean containers. To download the 2020 pesticide container recycling brochure with all the details, go here: <https://bit.ly/2YGxA3D> Thank you to all the ag retailers who host these collection sites; this program would not exist without you!

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *by KJ Johnson*

The General Assembly returned to Springfield on May 20 for four days, to wrap up the 2020 spring session. The spring session went down like no other session has before, with the House and Senate meeting in separate places and social distancing. Before Covid, the subjects of energy, environment and technology would have been hotly debated; but instead the General Assembly only had time to address these issues:



**Budget:** They did pass a budget, but it is unbalanced (we know you are shocked). The main reason for an unbalanced budget is the uncertainty associated with State revenues. The budget that passed is a little more than \$41 billion dollars, although it will rely on borrowing up to \$5 billion dollars from the Federal Reserve to make up the shortfall in tax revenue.

**Dept of Ag Budget:** The Illinois Department of Ag budget for 2021 was flat. The only new money IDA received was \$5 million from the CARES Act for livestock producers to recoup economic losses from Covid.

**Progressive Income Tax Ballot Initiative:** The legislature reviewed the arguments for and against a constitutional amendment proposing a change from a flat income tax to a progressive tax. Lawmakers passed the measure spelling out the explanation voters will see about this ballot initiative. The legislature gave the Secretary of State \$2.5 million to print and mail the “pros and cons” document to voters ahead of election day in November, when the question whether to change Illinois’ tax structure from a flat tax to a progressive tax will be on the ballot.

**Mail In Voting:** Both chambers passed a bill to expand Illinois's vote by mail program. Governor Pritzker said he supports the legislation but only for the November election. In August, ballot applications will automatically be sent to anyone who voted in the 2018, 2019, and 2020 elections, or applied for absentee ballot. The ballot itself will be mailed to those who request them. Early voting locations will also be accessible.

The bills that IFCA had been watching which directly impacted our industry were put on the back burner. The legislature plans to return in early November to conduct a veto session. We hear rumors that the November session will be full of bills that didn't get moved during the spring session. We will keep you up-to-date of what legislation might be moving this fall.

We did have the Agribusiness Legislative Breakfast in February, and it was well attended by legislators and the new IDA Director Jerry Costello. IFCA organizes this event.

At the breakfast, IFCA honored State Senator Neil Anderson with the Friend of IFCA award for his help in sponsoring the legislation to remove license plates from fertilizer wagons. Representative Mike Unes was the House sponsor and we honored him at the IFCA convention in January 2020. **Make sure you've removed the license plates from your nurse tank trailers, floaters and fertilizer buggies!**

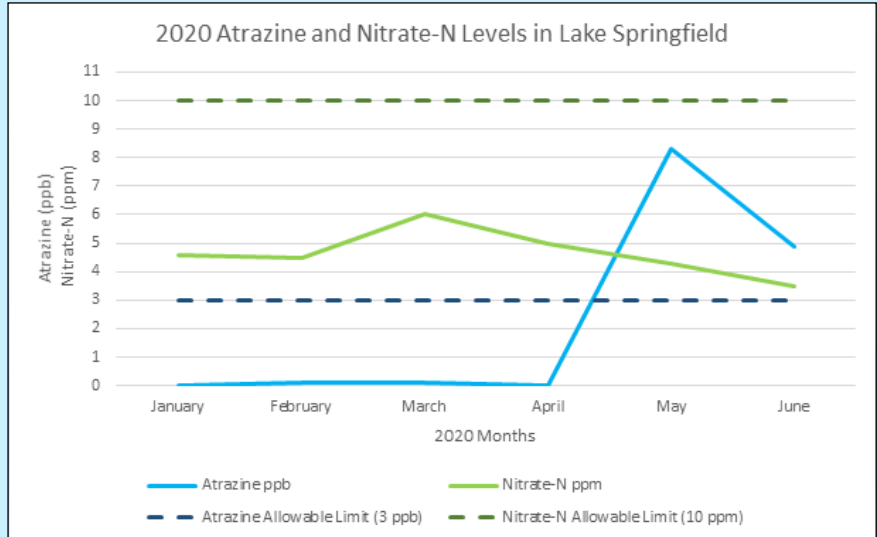


Left to Right: Dan Mogged (Ag-Solve PAC Chair), Jeremy Maloney, Senator Anderson, KJ Johnson.

## Nitrate and Atrazine Levels in Lake Springfield—Keeping a Close Eye

For almost ten years now, the folks at Springfield City, Water, Light & Power have maintained open lines of communication with IFCA regarding the status of water quality in Lake Springfield. The lake has no treatment to remove nitrate, it has a history of atrazine spikes, and it is the source of drinking water for the capitol city. For all these reasons, whatever IFCA can do to support CWLP we are all in. We also thank the CWLP management team because they support agriculture, and understand there are no easy answers to these issues.

The chart here shows why 2020 was a little stressful for CWLP and IFCA. These graphs show the highest level reached each month for both nitrate and atrazine. Nitrate levels even in the winter were higher than usual and hit 6 ppm in March (the drinking water standard is 10 ppm). Atrazine levels were above the 3 ppb standard in April and remained there well into June, only just recently coming back down to below 3 ppb at the end of June.



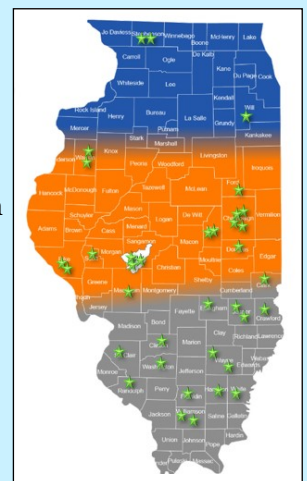
### Important things to remember:

CWLP has a treatment system to remove atrazine from the drinking water so that the public never receives water above the 3 ppb level. This spring CWLP spent nearly \$10,000 on activated carbon. But they don't have the ability to remove nitrate from the water. If it hits 10 ppm then by law CWLP has to provide bottled water to pregnant women and infants under 6 months. Although the peak was 6 ppm, the worrisome thing in 2020 were the 4-5 ppm levels in January through February, before spring fertilizer season had started. We know that nitrate levels always rise in March–May so starting the spring at 5 ppm leaves very little buffer for spring fertilizer application season and the frequent spring rains that make field tiles flow.

**What do we recommend?** IFCA works with the Sangamon County SWCD and our retail members in the watershed to promote not exceeding the recommended N rate for corn, not putting all of the N rate on in the fall, stabilizing all fall applied N, and not spreading ammonium sulfate on frozen or snow covered soils.

**What next?** 2020 will soon be in the rearview mirror, but what about spring 2021? **Can we keep nitrate and atrazine levels lower next year with good stewardship practices?** No one in agriculture or at CWLP wants to open the Springfield Journal Register and see a story about farm chemicals and fertilizers endangering the water supply. **If this is occurring in Lake Springfield it is probably happening in other lakes too.** This summer, talk with your farmer customers about next year's crop and how we can mitigate the runoff of atrazine and leaching of nitrates with enhanced management practices. That's why we are sharing this story with all IFCA members throughout Illinois, to keep stewardship foremost in planning and application of agrichemicals and nutrients.

**2020 Nitrogen Rate Trials:** IFCA's 4R program has been busy this spring putting in nitrogen rate trials to continue to support Illinois' nitrogen rate calculator. The map here shows the locations of the 2020 trials. Dan Schaefer and Jason Solberg work with growers and ag retailers to identify on-farm cooperators and UI develops the protocols for the trials and analyzes the results each year, using them to update the Calculator. NREC provides funding for this program. Illinois has the most up to date N rate recommendations of any major corn state thanks to this on-going scientific research! Go to <https://ifca.com/4R/Trials> to view the field trial results from 2014–2019.





## IFCA Golf Outings: July 30 and August 6—New Locations!

Join us for the annual IFCA scholarship golf outings this summer! We've been assured we can safely host these outings and we are going to two new courses this year: The Pontiac Elk's Lodge Course and the Edgewood Golf Club in Auburn.

Everyone may end up in their own golf cart but then no one complain about your driving (the cart or at the tee)!

Both outings begin at 11:00 am with lunch, and there is a shotgun start at noon. We wrap up with prizes and refreshments.

All net proceeds go to the IFCA scholarship fund, so that we can award five students a \$1,000 scholarship for good grades and pursuing a career in the ag input supply and service industry. Watch for the IFCA scholarship application later this fall.

The cost to golf is \$100 per person or \$400 for a foursome. If you don't have a foursome, don't worry we will put together a fun team for you.

To register, call the office or email Leslie Forrest at [leslief@ifca.com](mailto:leslief@ifca.com), or download and complete the registration form here:

<https://bit.ly/2AmMjr4>



Beau Gentry, Harbrand, chipping away!

## 2 new locations

Thursday, July 30 - Pontiac  
Pontiac Elk's Lodge

Address: 459 Elks Club Road  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
[www.pontiacselk.com](http://www.pontiacselk.com)

11:00 - Lunch  
12:00 - Shotgun Start



Thursday, August 6 - Auburn  
Edgewood Golf Club

Address: 16497 Kennedy Road  
Auburn, IL 62615  
[www.golfedgewood.com](http://www.golfedgewood.com)

11:00 - Lunch  
12:00 - Shotgun Start

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

We had an IFCA board meeting on March 12, and after lunch with the board, KJ, John and I headed to Springfield to meet with the Dept of Ag and the farm groups on the farmer ammonia safety training initiative. It was one of Director Jerry Costello's first meetings with us after being named Acting Director of IDA and I haven't seen him in person since.....

As we were waiting in the IDA lobby to be escorted to the meeting room, one of the Farm Bureau guys looked at his phone and announced that the NCAA basketball tournament had been cancelled. Then as we sat down for the meeting, the IDA staff told us all the remaining pesticide training and testing clinics were cancelled. Despite the world changing by the minute, we still had a productive meeting on ammonia safety and coronavirus didn't stop us from making progress as you can read on page 2. But it all felt a little unreal at the time, and that was just the beginning.

Despite the upheaval and uncertainty we have all dealt with since March, I look at what IFCA members have accomplished. And at the office, we were able piece together programs with the regulatory agencies to find ways for people to get licensed to spray and keep trucking to keep agriculture going. It is pretty amazing what we can accomplish when everyone has a common goal and focuses on what we can do instead of what we can't. This is especially true when we are doing it for an industry we love in the great USA in which we live.

As we head into summer, we still don't know where this will end and what changes it will bring to our lives for months or years to come. Many have suffered and some businesses won't survive. It's hard to imagine how state and federal governments will pay for vital services when so many tax dollars have eroded while spending has reached levels hard to comprehend. All I know is that the attitude of our industry members has been inspirational and makes us again realize how lucky we are to be working in agriculture. I will miss seeing everyone at MAGIE and who knows how the winter Convention will play out, but through it all, we will persevere and IFCA is here for you!

