

International Farm Management Conference Coming To Illinois



HAROLD D. GUITHER

URBANA, ILL.

For the first time since 1986, the International Farm Management Association Congress will be held in the United States, this time from July 19-24, in Bloomington, Illinois.

The Congress is a week long gathering of agricultural professionals from around the world who come together to exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge through presentations and demonstrations. The Congress also stimulates contacts between producers, educators, advisors, policy makers and agricultural businesses at national and international levels. Those who attend will include individual and corporate producers, managers, suppliers, farming and marketing organizations, and some agribusiness companies associated with agriculture, horticulture and rural enterprise.

The first International Congress was held in the United Kingdom in 1971 and has been held almost every other year since. This year will be only the second time the Congress has been held in the United States, the last time in 1986 in Minnesota. The 2007 Congress met in Cork, Ireland and in 2011 will be in Christ Church, New Zealand. The parent organization, the International Farm Management Association, is headquartered in Cambridge, England. It is estimated that about 600 professionals from the United States, Canada, and as many as 35 different nations will attend. Anyone interested in production agriculture can attend but registration is required. A single registration fee covers tours, some group meals, speaker programs and special Congress activities.

The conference theme is Food, Fiber and Energy for the Future. Hosts are members of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and the entire membership of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. The Congress will feature speaker presentations from leaders of industry discussing the latest in technology, policy, and world activities focused on food, fiber and energy. Practicing farm managers from the United States, Canada and from

around the world will discuss current trends and opportunities. All sessions and tours will be presented in English.

In addition to invited speakers, agricultural professionals from 25 countries will present 100 peer reviewed research papers, case studies, and posters on current international and national issues.

On Tuesday and Thursday, approximately 12 separate motor coach tours are scheduled to visit research centers, wind farms, an ethanol plant, seed processing, grain handling facilities, working farms, the John Deere combine manufacturing plant, the Chicago Board of Trade and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Each tour will include three major points of interest and will be repeated the second day to give participants more choices.

Congress registration is now open and special early registration rates are available until May 1. For those who cannot attend all five days of the conference, a special 3 day package is also available. More information about the program and instructions for registration can be found at the conference web site: www.ifma17.org.

A special pre-Congress educational opportunity is also being offered. "Tools for Risk management Educators" will present Risk Navigator-SRM—a 10 step strategic risk management process, Ag Survivor, a program to help participants explore risk management options for typical western U. S. farms and ranches, and Feasibility of Alternative Rural Enterprises, a course to help operators explore new enterprises and business opportunities. More information and how to register for this limited space pre-congress workshop is located at : <http://erightrisk.com/IFMC17> information.htm.

Congress participants will be housed at local hotels in Bloomington and Normal. Speaking sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday will be held on the campus of Illinois State University. Here is a special opportunity to learn about agricultural developments from around the world. Those interested in seeing agriculture in another part of the world may also find out more about the Congress in New Zealand two years from now. Δ

Harold D. Guither is University of Illinois Professor, retired at Urbana.



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