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ILLINOIS

CHAPTER

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NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

May-June 2007

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D & L Drainage Helps Knox Township Road Commissioner With Heaving Roads

Featured Contractor



Bill Doubet of D & L Drainage monitors the return conveyor while installing tile along one of the heaved oil and chip road sections in Knox Township. (see story on page 12)

Featured Inside

ILICA New Office Location

ILICA Summer Picnic & Golf Outing

2007 Conservation Expo in McLean County

2007 Summer LICA Conference-Omaha, Nebraska

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Report Examines Ethanol's Potential for Rural Economy

From: National Governors Association—03/22/2007

Contact: Christopher Hayter *why underlined?*
Social, Economic & Workforce Development Division *wh*

A new paper by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City explores why ethanol is attractive to rural communities and the potential risks of the industry. Currently, 20 states have ethanol refineries, but production is concentrated in the Midwest. **Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois** are the top three ethanol states in the country.

Rural areas and Midwestern states are hoping ethanol will yield new local markets for grain, new investment, new jobs, greater tax revenues and increased wealth. Indeed, a 50-million-gallon-per-year ethanol plant employs about 40 people and costs about \$73.5 million to build. This report reviews the challenges to making the ethanol industry sustainable, including:

- Price volatility;
- Technological advance; and
- Policy uncertainty.

The prices of ethanol and its inputs are especially volatile, causing profits to also vary widely. The two main inputs to ethanol production are feedstock (mostly corn) and natural gas, which represent more than 50 percent and 12 percent of the total costs respectively. Not only are the costs of these inputs highly variable, but so is the price of ethanol itself, which has been as low as \$1.20 and as high as \$4.10 in the past two years. This has caused profits to range between \$.50 and \$3 per gallon. A sustainable ethanol market will require low corn prices and high oil prices.

Some technologies are likely to improve the productivity of ethanol production and some will move the industry to inputs other than corn. However, ethanol cannot be transported by pipeline; instead it must be moved by truck or rail. So while Midwestern locations provide important proximity to corn fields and cattle ranches, they are far from the largest ethanol markets.

Ethanol investment strategies should also beware of legislative changes to the Renewable Fuels Standard or in ethanol subsidies. Currently, refiners receive a tax exemption of 51 cents per gallon of ethanol that is blended into gasoline. This exemption is currently capitalized into ethanol prices creating a larger profit margin than would exist under free market conditions.

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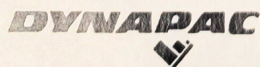
Illinois Division

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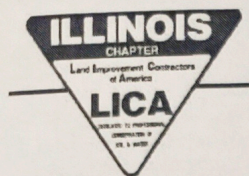
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How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg? ... Four.

Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg.

Abraham Lincoln

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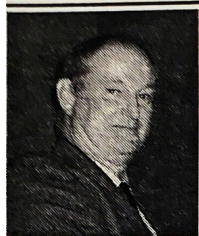
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The LICA Creed

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The thrifty and prudent
The poor man's joy and comfort
The producer of food, fiber and fuel
The basis of factories
The foundation of banks

All that man builds is from the land.
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abuse it; And yet many, unthinkingly
and unknowingly pass the land by.
What man does with the land will be
the deciding factor of his survival.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Hope all is well with everyone. I'm sure when you read this planting will be well on its way. I'm writing this on April 19th, and today is the first day I have seen a planter in the field. In my area, soil temperature was 45 degrees at the 4 inch level and the conditions are very wet with more rain in the forecast. (Hah! good for our business). I'm not sure the planters I saw running were a real good idea with the soil temp less than 50 degrees. Oh well, they didn't ask me first and many of the farmers are nervous since a lot of the corn was already planted this time last year.

As I mentioned, the ground is wet. We have pulled our equipment out of many of the wet spots we are working. I hope everyone has plenty of work as it seems we do. We have had many small rains 4-6 days apart. Actually, that has helped us stay ahead of the farmers. We have been fortunate that the ground has dried enough the couple of days in between these rains that we could work yet the farmers couldn't. As everyone well knows, when it dries out, the farmers don't want anyone in their way when they hit the field. Yet that is when they find the wet spots and all the tile holes from last winter and then they want these fixed before they plant. With the 16, 24, and yes, even 36 row planters, it doesn't give us a very big window to work in the spring anymore.

It appears business with our association will be very busy this summer again also. That is good since it will keep us all out of trouble. It appears we will be helping Progress City to build 11th street before the Farm Progress Show. Richard & Bob Lasser looks like they want to put up with us again for our Con-Expo in McLean County in August. We have looked at some work to help the U of I on their bell tower however I don't think that will happen until next year. It also looks like our summer picnic will up in Dave & Marsha Haags's area July 7th instead of June 16th as we had originally planned. Conflicts with scheduling the location cropped up and we apologize for the outdated information in the 2007 Directory. With this busy schedule we will need everyone's help to get all this done. Don't be surprised if you get a call from one of us asking for your help. We understand everyone is busy, however keep in mind how many ideas you might steal from your fellow member if you work with him or her. (Did I actually say that?) I will almost guarantee you will have fun if you work with us. If you do not please let me know, and I will get to the bottom of it.

I should announce Janet has a new home now. Bill kicked her out and she is in Brimfield now. That is just the ILICA office however. The new phone number is 309-446-3700 and the address is 118 E. Knoxville St., Brimfield, IL. Please stop by and tell her "hi."

Let's don't forget Wayne Litwiller (Membership Chairman) and his goal to gain new members. He has blown us all out of the water for signing up new members. Let's see if we can't catch up or even blow him out of the water this year. Take care; it is time for me to go to work so see ya' for now.

Bill Dean, President



New Members

Associate Members

Walter Frakes, Hi-Line Supply—Peoria

Ragland Buildings—Hopedale

Nick Herbst, Jim Hawk Truck & Trailer—East Peoria

Karen Johnson, Auto Glass of Illinois, Inc.

Precision Planting—Tremont

Paul Richardson, Mutual Wheel Co—East Peoria

Mike Blunier, Roanoke Concrete Products Co—Roanoke

Mike Slaughter, The Checkley Agency, Inc.—Mattoon

Active Members

Greg Jamison

Jamison Excavating—Princeton

Doug Knuppel

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Ric Baldoni

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Simon Wagenbach Jr.

Wagenbach Builders—Pekin

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Bruce Bolliger Excavating Inc.—Tremont

Jerry Snearley

Snearley & Company—Martinsville

Bryan DeSutter

DeSutter Excavating—Manito

Neal Barnes

StormWater Erosion Specialties Inc.—Millstadt

Doug Hayes

Crescent Enterprises—Crete

Steve Johnson

Thank You

ILICA Annual Summer Picnic and Golf Outing - July 7, 2007 - Pontiac Illinois

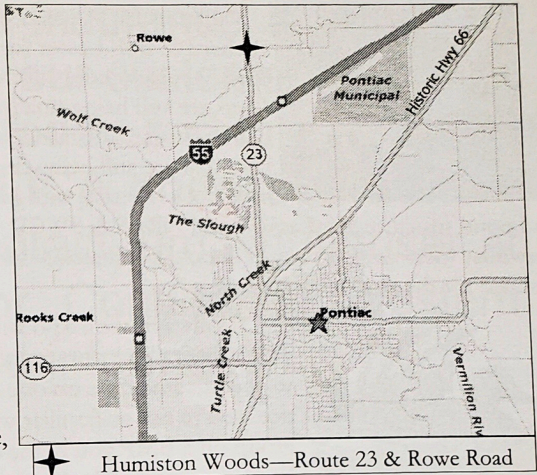


Dave & Marsha Haag will host the annual summer outing in Pontiac on Saturday, July 7th. The day will begin with the July Board of Directors meeting at 10:00 am at Humiston Woods Nature Center with a catered lunch following at 12:00 noon. There are hiking trails and open spaces for your children to run and play. After lunch, we'll travel a short distance to Wolf Creek Golf Course for our golf outing.

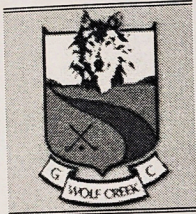
If you're not interested in golfing, Pontiac also has a historic downtown area with over 40 retail and specialty shops with antiques, apparel and gift shops. At

the Old City Hall Shoppes you will find vintage and handcrafted jewelry, handmade doll clothes and a variety of glassware and stained glass plus much more.

There are 3 museums, The Livingston County War Museum, RT 66 Hall of Fame Museum and Yost House Museum, all open until 4:00 PM on Saturdays. Pontiac also has Three Swinging Bridges, *Over the Vermillion River* that connect downtown Pontiac and its' parks with the residential areas of town; There's Chautauqua Park at the south end of Hazel Street and Sculptures of Dargan Park at the corner of Madison & Fountain Streets. Maps of the downtown area will be available at the picnic. As you can see, there will be plenty to do, whatever your interests.



Humiston Woods—Route 23 & Rowe Road



Wolf Creek Golf Course

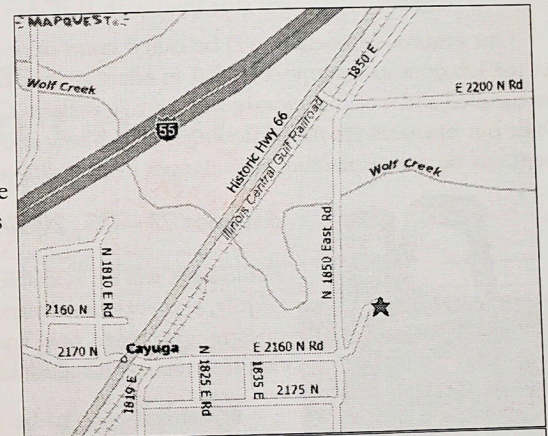
21062 N. 1850 East Road—Pontiac, IL (815) 842-9008.

The course is easily accessible, located minutes off of Interstate 55 on Historic Route 66 just north of Pontiac. Our course has been awarded 3 stars from Golf Digest, and has always been known for having some of the fastest and smoothest greens around. The course measures 6,905 from the championship tees and has four sets of tees

for all skill levels. Water comes into play on 13 of the 18 holes.

The ILICA golf outing is always a lot of fun for any skill level. You can ride along with your spouse or friends on the golf cart, even if you don't want to play. There is a sandwich shop at the course and several local restaurants, in case anyone would like something following their golf game, before heading back home. If anyone needs information for overnight arrangements, please contact Janet at the ILICA office for names of local hotels.

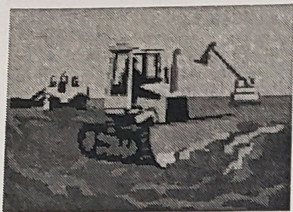
Don't Miss Out On All The Fun! Join Us at the 2007 ILICA Picnic & Golf Outing!



Wolf Creek Golf Course

We're Coming Back to McLean County!

2007 Conservation Expo - Richard & Bob Lasser Farm - August 21—23, 2007



Illinois ILICA has been invited back to McLean County (believe it or not) by Richard & Bob Lasser for a second Conservation Expo on a Lasser farm. They've promised us dry weather for the event, so how could we say "no!" Plans are still being finalized, but what we know so far, is that a pond will be built, a wetland installed, a small amount of tiling and other erosion control practices that are still being decided upon. Members of the ILICA Show Committee have been meeting with Jim Evans, the engineer developing plans for the dam

and pond structure, the Lassers' and NRCS & SWCD field staff to keep the planning moving along, but everyone is back to work and very busy these days. Practices should be finalized during the upcoming Show and Industrial & Business Relations Committees meeting, planned for the next rainy spell we get.



As always, the Expo will take cooperation from all our members that can help with some aspect of this year's show. The opportunity to work along side the best in the business is available to any contractor willing to spend some time on one of the BMP's being installed this year. You can take this chance to work on a practice you're not as familiar with and gain the experience your business needs to tackle it on your own or lead a group on a BMP you're the expert on. We need volunteers of all skill levels to make our 2007 Conservation Expo a success. The hands-on education available at our expos is one you'll only get (for free) with ILICA.

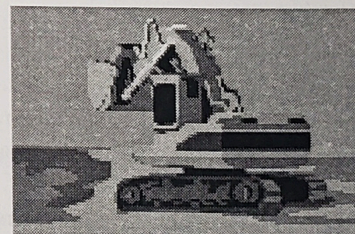
Our generous associates will be called upon once again to provide the equipment and materials required to get the job done and support ILICA in any way they can. We're discussing some changes in how our exhibits are handled and working closely with our Associates Committee on the best way to benefit everyone involved. Once our practices are nailed down and the Show and Associate Committees can get together, an announcement will be sent explaining any changes in the exhibit set up.



August 21—23, 2007—Please save these dates on your calendars because we'll need your help.

Full details will be available in our next newsletter, coming out the first week of July, and you can always contact Janet at the ILICA office if you have any questions between now and then. The map below shows the 2007 Expo location and driving directions will be included in the next newsletter.

It's shaping up to be an exciting Expo again this year, so let's show McLean County what we can do when it DOESN'T rain!

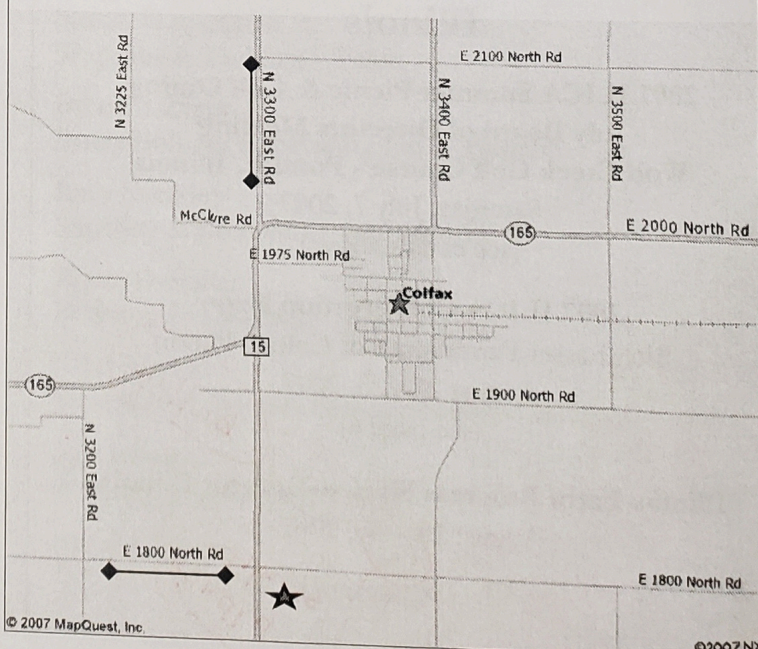


Lesson of the Day!

Never Tick-Off a guy with a backhoe!



★ McLean County, Martin Township, SE Section of property at Intersection of County Road 1800N and County Road 3300 E



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☞ Gabbin' with the Gals..

At this writing we've been spoiled with some nice warm summerish weather, but threatened now with disappearing temperatures. That's all right with this person, as it was getting so you didn't know if it were winter, spring or summer. Maybe Mother Nature likes to keep us guessing. We have had bad weather like this before as I remember wearing a coat or heavy jacket to school early in the morning and carrying it home after school—a bummer as those coats were so heavy. It has held off with rain long enough that our guys have been working here again. The wind helped dry up the mud. We have an enigma at our office building with wind—we are next to open fields and the wind really does a number on anyone when it's very windy. Sometimes, I

need someone to hold the door of the car open before the wind can slam it on me. Kinda scary—you have to get coordinated and sometimes this gal can't get that done. That's probably why it took so long for me to learn to ride a bicycle and to roller skate. Can't you see me on a balance beam—whoops! PLOP!

As of now, it seems that an office for the ILICA secretary has been found. That will make it much easier to have everything in one place—don't envy anyone trying to get desks, machines, etc., set up the way you want it. When we moved my typewriter upstairs from the basement, there was talk of getting a desk in the room also. But upon setting the brain cogitating, realized that there was a desk in my bedroom just waiting to be used—and it looked so lonely. Recently it was gone through and some things rearranged and there were some surprises, finding things that had been but away for so long. It's another enigma—good to go through things but sometimes memories overtake one and a different course of action taken. When one considers the age of the person doing this it should not be a surprise. When things are going smoothly we don't realize that time is passing so quickly. Come November, four of my five children will be in their fifties. Now that should tell me something! My hair was white by the time I was 45. My mother was 36 when I came along and she already had white hair, so it is inherited. Only one of our children shows any sign of it with salt and pepper hair, so maybe they won't get to look like a grandparent before they really are one. Of course, if they take after their father's side it may be that it will be gone before it can turn white. Now that is inherited, certainly not wanted. Keep telling you that Mother Nature cannot be put to the test—she is indefatigable.

There was a big, burly, tough-looking cowboy who rode up to a tavern, went inside for refreshment (?). After a while, he went outside to check on his horse and it was gone. Back in the tavern he told all the customers that if his horse was not returned by the time he left, he would have to do what he had to do when someone in Texas stole a horse from him. Well, he stayed a while and sure enough when he went out, his horse was back. The bartender hurried out to see him before he left and asked, "What did you have to do when your horse was stolen in Texas?" He grinned and said, "I had to walk home."

Sometime ago, there was an article about where one could send used greeting cards and of course, nothing was done about making a note of the address to send them to. If anyone out there in reader-land knows of anyplace that could use them, it would be much appreciated if you'd let this gal know. I would be happy to pay the postage if someone else can use them. At one time, it was fun to pick out cards that had a small picture on it you could cut out and use as a tag for Christmas gifts. Sometimes, you could even match the picture with the pattern on the gift wrap.

Looking forward to July when granddaughter April is married. She will make a beautiful bride. We are all happy with her choice of husband and he fits right in with our clan. People really have to make wedding plans a year ahead of time any more. Sometimes the minister isn't available when you have a date picked and sometimes it is difficult to find a place for the reception; finding a time when neither one of the main party is booked up with something else, etc. Here's a wedding story; Little Toney was in his uncle's wedding. As he came down the aisle during the ceremony, he carefully took two steps, when stopped and turned to the crowd. When facing the congregation, he put his hands up like claws and roared loudly. So it went, step, step, turn, roar, step, step, turn, roar, all the way up the aisle. As you can imagine, the people were near tears from laughing. By the time Toney reached the alter he was near tears. When later asked what he was doing he sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

Adam and Eve had the perfect marriage: He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked!

This person has been know to write letters to the editor from time to time. Been quite a while since that happened, but saw something in the Sunday newspaper magazine section that riled the cogs to some extent. It was an article written by a woman reporter about whether or not a woman should take her husband's surname after they are married. Guess age propels this one, as it was an honor for me to take my husband's name and be proud of it. After all, you are still the same person and if not mistaken, the marriage vows say "and you shall be as one"; if the true love is there that is exactly what it should feel like. You can still be your own self and no one has to wave a magic wand over you. Just because a lot of us have a job and help with the household, we don't need to look like a separation over a name. Anyway, many modern women do not think thataway.

The word for this issue is "shock." Our neighbors just had a tragedy learning that their 48 year old son died in an auto accident. So sudden many people cannot absorb it and remain in shock for a long time. We certainly don't know the day or cially for the mother and father who never dreamed they would lose a child. Our faith is tested many times in our lifetime—will we pass the test?

Hopefully flowers and gardens will bloom where planted and be bountiful!

..... Rambling Rose

JOB SITE FOREMAN – SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

(from www.cna.com/riskcontrol)



INTRODUCTION

The key to success in any construction loss prevention program is its actual implementation on the job site. Field supervision is the main mechanism by which the loss prevention policy and procedures are implemented. The attitude of individual workers toward the company loss prevention program

is dependent upon the attitude of their supervisor. The foreman's actions in directing the work are the critical link in delivering success. If foremen are given clear responsibilities for job site safety, and are held accountable through a performance review and reward system, the likelihood of accidents will be reduced helping to achieve greater construction quality, productivity, and worker safety.

Safe operations are practiced on the job site, not in the home office. Effective loss prevention programs are a result of the involvement and commitment of all members of the construction team, from the chief executive officer to the worker on the job site. However, in accomplishing the desired objectives, foremen play the most critical role. As the principal representative of management seen daily by the workers performing the actual construction work, a foreman has direct control of the activities of the workers.

The foreman must be thoroughly familiar with the duties and responsibilities of all parties involved in the loss prevention program. Foremen must understand the economic impact of accidents and incidents. The foreman who understands the mechanics of direct and indirect accident costs, as well as overhead implications for workers' compensation and other insurance coverages is in a better position to make intelligent decisions in directing the work activities.

Increasing the awareness of the individual workers on the impact of their actions can greatly affect the business results. In addition, it is also essential that the superintendent who has overall responsibility for the production, quality, cost, and scheduling of a project also be held principally accountable for job site safety.

FOREMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

The foreman is the primary project leader and must be held accountable for the project's safety performance. They must also be the principal implementers of the company loss prevention policy and procedures. The key roles and related responsibilities are outlined below:

- **Knowledge** – Have the knowledge to carry out all the training, site inspections, accident investigation, and recordkeeping roles defined below. Understand the principles of loss prevention as well as the company policies and procedures. Have a thorough understanding of the operations and hazards expected, controls to be used, company policies, and legal safety standards, which apply to the hazard.

The information and suggestions presented in this document have been developed from sources believed to be reliable, but they should not be construed as legal advice. CNA accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this material or its application to specific factual situations. Consult competent legal counsel before deciding how to proceed in any specific situation.

- **Site Safety Compliance** – Must be given full authority to require workers of all levels on the job site to comply with the established work rules and other applicable loss prevention procedures. They must also follow proper pre-job and pre-task planning procedures and establish specific elements of the loss prevention program.

- **Site Inspections** – Continually check the job site to determine the level of implementation of loss prevention procedures and to assess the practices and site conditions. Any unsatisfactory conditions should be promptly reported and corrected. Check the job frequently to determine if the proper procedures are being followed. Be sure that potential hazards are being safeguarded against and that no new hazards have developed. This includes verifying that personal protective equipment is being worn and used properly and that all other equipment is being properly used.

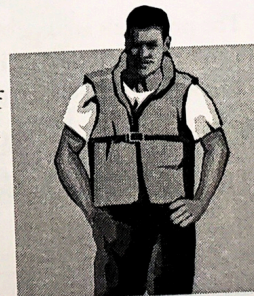
- **Communication** – Hold periodic group meetings and weekly toolbox talks and promote other means of communications with workers to ensure awareness of site safety. Reward outstanding performance and promote feedback and involvement of the workers in the loss prevention program. Communication must flow back to senior management to advise of areas where help is needed and areas where there was superior performance.

- **Recordkeeping** – Maintain job site performance records, training, inspections, investigations, statistics, and other means to assess the level of implementation. Take corrective action for potential problem areas. Report and record the performance of the crew and any problems with the implementation of any element of the loss prevention program.

- **Worker training** – Determine the level of knowledge and job requirements of each individual worker. If there is a gap, it is up to the foreman to assure the proper training or support is provided and maintained. Give special attention to new or inexperienced workers since they are most "at risk" on the job site. Conduct periodic safety training sessions (e.g., toolbox meetings) to familiarize crew members with safety performance indicators, lessons learned from previous accidents, and other pertinent information which will promote work safety.

- **Accident Investigation** – Require that all injuries and incidents be promptly reported and fully investigated to prevent future accidents. As the most knowledgeable individual working with the crew, the foreman is in the best position to determine what went wrong, why it happened, and how future occurrences can be prevented. This information must be shared with management so that recordkeeping requirements can be met, as well as benefits derived from the insight gained through the investigation.

- **Goal Setting** – Participate with upper management in the development of foreman safety goals. Some measurable goals include experience modification reduction, incidence rates or days away from work reduction, training goals, inspection goals, and budgeting goals.



JOHANN'S UNVEILS 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSALS



WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 2007 - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today unveiled the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 farm bill proposals. The more than 65 proposals correspond to the 2002 farm bill titles with additional special focus areas, including specialty crops, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged producers.

"We listened closely to producers and stakeholders all across the country and took a reform-minded and fiscally responsible approach to making farm policy more equitable, predictable and protected from challenge," said Johanns. "We started with the 2002 farm bill and propose to improve it by bolstering support for emerging priorities and focusing on a market-oriented approach."

USDA began preparations for the 2007 farm bill in 2005 by conducting 52 Farm Bill Forums across the country. More than 4,000 comments were recorded or collected during forums and via electronic and standard mail. These comments are summarized in 41 theme papers. USDA economists, led by Dr. Keith Collins, studied the comments and authored five analysis papers.

The proposals unveiled today represent the final phase of a nearly two year process. Each detailed proposal provides information about why a change is needed, the recommended solution, and relevant background information about the impacted program or policy.

Highlights of the proposals include (funding reflects ten year totals):

- Increase conservation funding by \$7.8 billion, simplify and consolidate conservation programs, create a new Environmental Quality Incentives Program and a Regional Water Enhancement Program
- Provide \$1.6 billion in new funding for renewable energy research, development and production, targeted for cellulosic ethanol, which will support \$2.1 billion in guaranteed loans for cellulosic projects and includes \$500 million for a bio-energy and bio-based product research initiative
- Target nearly \$5 billion in funding to support specialty crop producers by increasing nutrition in food assistance programs, including school meals, through the purchase of fruits and vegetables, funding specialty crop research, fighting trade barriers and expanding export markets
- Provide \$250 million to increase direct payments for beginning farmers and ranchers, reserve a percentage of conservation funds and provide more loan flexibility for down payment, land purchasing and farm operating loans
- Support socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers by reserving a percentage of conservation assistance funds and providing more access to loans for down payments, land purchasing and farm operating
- Strengthen disaster relief by establishing a revenue-based counter-cyclical program, providing gap coverage in crop insurance, linking crop insurance participation to farm program participation, and creating a new emergency landscape restoration program
- Simplify and consolidate rural development programs while providing \$1.6 billion in loans to rehabilitate all current Rural Critical Access Hospitals and \$500 million in grants and loans for rural communities to decrease the backlog of rural infrastructure projects
- Dedicate nearly \$400 million to trade efforts to expand exports, fight trade barriers, and increase involvement in world trade standard-setting bodies
- Simplify, modernize, and rename the Food Stamp Program to improve access for the working poor, better meet the needs of recipients and States, and strengthen program integrity

The Administration's 2007 farm bill proposals would spend approximately \$10 billion less than the 2002 farm bill spent over the past five years (excluding ad-hoc disaster assistance), upholding the President's plan to eliminate the deficit in five years. These proposals would provide approximately \$5 billion more than the projected spending if the 2002 farm bill were extended.

The proposals are available at www.usda.gov/farmbill. Also posted on USDA's website are the Farm Bill Forum transcripts, farm bill comments submitted by the public, theme papers summarizing the comments and USDA analysis papers.

Fact Sheet: A Commitment to Rural America

MEDIA KIT: Collection of News Releases, Fact Sheets and Power point Presentation.



Illinois LICA Office Moves to New Location!

After a very busy winter, ILICA has found a permanent office location in beautiful downtown Brimfield Illinois. The office is just 10 minutes from ED, Janet Doubet's home and conveniently located just off I-74 west of Peoria.

There's lots of room for work-space, storage and even a conference table, allowing ILICA to hold committee or Board meetings at the office when needed.

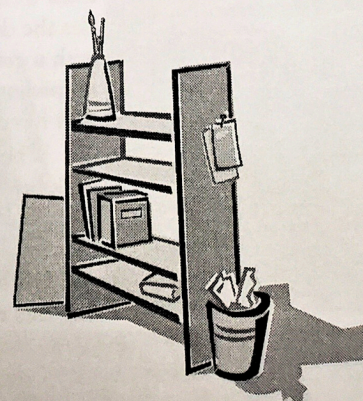
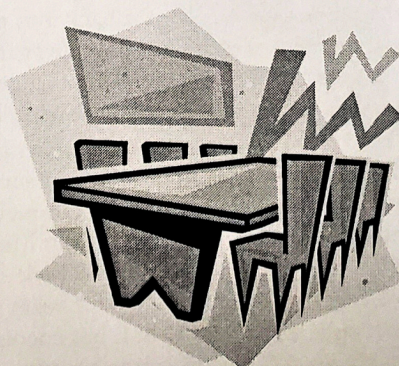
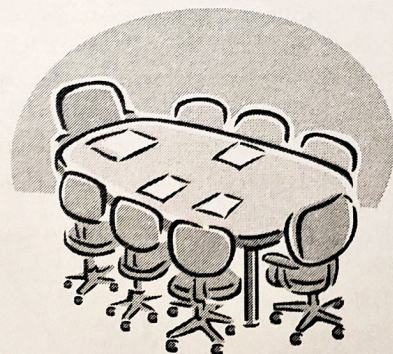
The office contact details are listed below and were finalized in time to get the current information into the 2007 Directory.



Stop by and "check it out" the next time you're in the neighborhood!

118 E. Knoxville Street, Suite A P. O. Box 474 Brimfield, Illinois 61517 PH: (309) 446-3700 Fax: (309) 446-3744

If you have used office type furniture you're willing to part with that is just taking up space in your garage or storage area, ILICA may be able to utilize some of the following items in their new 800 square foot office. There is enough room for a conference table (and chairs) in either the front or back of the office and we're in need of several substantial shelves for the back room, for storing the ILICA Scrapbooks and 50 years of the organization's documentation. Some members are already looking but please contact Janet at the Brimfield office if you think you can help! (309) 446-3700

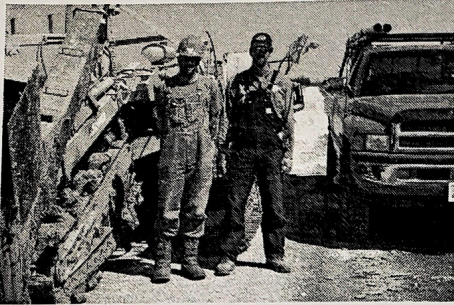


THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ILICA

Featured Contractor

D & L Drainage Helps Knox Township Road Commissioner With Heaving Roads

It was early spring when the Knox Township road commissioner, Mark Boyer contacted D & L Drainage about two sections of oil and chip road southwest of Knoxville that had crumbled during the heavy spring rains. The hard frost the area experienced this winter followed by excessive rains this spring had turned these sections of road into a mushy mess, requiring Boyer to repeatedly spread gravel on the sections until something permanent could be done...bringing him to call D & L Drainage.



D & L Drainage was established in 1997 by it's two partners, Bill Doubet and Rick LaFollette in Williamsfield Illinois. Being local to the area, they had known each other long before becoming partners. Although much of their work consists of farm field tiling done with the Vermeer track trencher featured in this article, these partners also own a Kobelco track hoe and John Deere Backhoe as well as owning other equipment individually. They construct ponds, wetlands, terraces and most other conservation type practices. When asked what they enjoy about this type of work, both men responded that working with farmers is one of the best parts of the job.

But back to the heaving roads in Knox Township...what does field tiling have to do with broken up roads you might ask. Well, it turns out that tiling can have a tremendous impact on how long one of these roads, or any road will last. Illinois DOT standards mandate that any new state roads built today are to have drainage tile installed on both sides of the road with outlets every 500 ft. Even though this is a township road and not subject to that standard, tiling on both sides of the road would have prevented the mess Boyer had to deal with this spring.

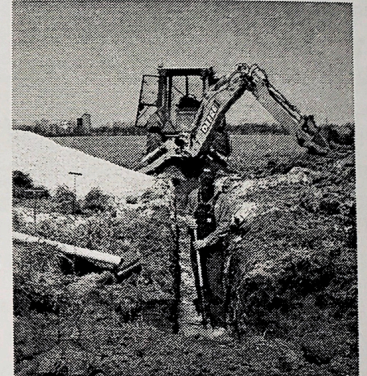
Bill and Rick explain that this particular area of Knox Township is a very flat grade with shallow ditches providing the only drainage for the road. If excess water isn't allowed to wick away from underneath the road before a hard freeze, it freezes there and expands. If more rain follows, softening up the top layer, normal traffic will basically crush the road between the frozen base and their tires, creating broken pavement and softening the base layer as frost goes out in the spring. With tile installed along both sides of the road, moisture can be drained away from underneath the road before it has the chance to freeze, expanding the road material and creating the uneven thawing conditions that break up a road. The first day after completing tile installation on just one side of this road, the existing tile it fed into was running 1/2 full with the water being pulled from under the road. This slows down once the initial moisture is removed, until the next big rain, explains Bill and Rick, , but the tile continually removes excess moisture, keeping the road's base solid underneath.

Rick went on to explain how it costs the township \$10,000 per mile to oil and chip a road, not counting the cost of any rock base that may be needed or stop gap measures taken to get the road through the end of winter. The sections of road D & L were working on had been oiled and chipped last year and will have to be done again this year, once their work is complete. For approximately the same cost, D & L can install tile along both sides of the road, outlet into existing field tile and remove the excess moisture before it costs taxpayers more money in repairs. Once the tile is in place, the oil and chip surface should last years longer than those without drainage. And those that deliver papers or goods to farmers and other rural businesses rely on these township roads to make those deliveries in a timely and cost effective manner. While this road was closed during this project, the detour added 3 miles to the normal route; an added cost no one needs in their business.

Another interesting feature of the D & L tiling operation is the return conveyor on their Vermeer track trencher. The trencher dumps the dirt it pulls from the trench onto a moving conveyor that carries the dirt past the tile boot and dumps it back into the trench, eliminating the need for backfilling with a grader or loader. This process not only saves time on any tiling job, it covers an open trench immediately after the installation of tile making the area safer, especially along a road where vehicles may have to turn around due to construction barricades

When asked how their involvement with ILICA has helped on this project or in general, Bill and Rick both credit ILICA for their understanding of surveying, topography, mapping as well as drainage co-efficiencies and other drainage guidelines. Through the ILICA training provided by people like Carroll Drablos, Dr. Kent Mitchell, Jim Evans, and Dr. Richard Cooke to name a few, Bill and Rick are capable of tackling this road project as well as many others for years to come. Bill also

mentioned how often he has learned an easier way to handle a problem D & L has encountered on various jobs by discussing it with another ILICA member who has run across the same situation. "It's an education every time I get together with these guys", comments Bill Doubet.



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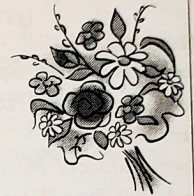
9 am . . . Registration
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1:30 pm . . Field Demo

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I Said a Mother's Day Prayer for You

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.



I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.

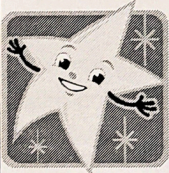
And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
and I bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be!



- Author Unknown.



Don't forget your special 'moms' on
Mother's Day
May 13th, 2007



Do You Want to Be A STAR? Featured ILICA Contractor Article

Now that Illinois LICA is under new office
management, it has been suggested that the
"Featured Contractor" newsletter article be
revived for 2007. This idea isn't a new one, but to make it
happen will take some work and planning.

If you're planning or starting a project that you'd like featured
in the ILICA News this year, please contact Janet at the ILICA
office to schedule a time for photo's and a short interview.
Your article will appear as the cover story for one of the re-
maining newsletters for 2007. Articles will be printed in the
order in which they are scheduled although our Conservation
Expo and Convention will probably occupy a cover or two
throughout the year as well. As you can imagine, these slots
could fill up fast!

This is an excellent way to show off some new practices,
showcase a special project or just demonstrate some of the
many talents of our Contractor membership.

Contact the ILICA Office Today!

(309) 446-3700

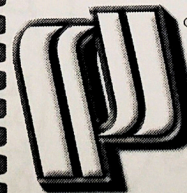
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Committee Agendas

Illinois ILICA is and should be a committee run organization. It is up to the committees to generate ideas and present them to the President and/or the Board of Directors and to act on those ideas upon further direction. It usually takes some time for newly formed "emergencies" or events that push committees into action before they're organized generally leaving a few people in the position of having to make decisions without the benefit of the input of the entire committee. Getting organized should be the first order of business for every committee.

Following are a few ideas to pursue at the first organizational committee meeting of each year.

- Exchanging contact info and preferred type of correspondence (email, fax, cell phone)
- Formulate a list of duties and responsibilities
- Formulate a list of goals
- Discuss and document relationship with related committees (coordinate any joint meetings/decision making required during the year)

Organizing and documenting these issues will not only benefit each committee, it will also benefit the officers, members and other committees in delegating issues to the appropriate committee. It can be used as a guideline for future committees or newly appointed members, and modified by each committee as needed for their specific responsibilities.

Please give these issues some thought prior to the next committee meeting and bring your ideas for 2007. There will be an organizational template available at all remaining Board Meetings and anyone who would like to customize it for their specific needs should contact Janet at the office and an electronic copy will be provided via email.

Once each committee's annual agenda is completed, a copy should be filed with the ILICA office and distributed to any other committee chairs with shared responsibilities. These agendas will become a permanent part of the committee records for the year and help committee chairs with their year end reporting for the Illinois Annual Meeting in 2008.

Submitted by Dave Hurst

Committee Function, Responsibility and Authority

The committee system is the best system yet devised in a democracy to capture and develop ideas into a workable program. The **FUNCTION** of each committee is to gather ideas from every source that relates to its area of concern. Those ideas should be advanced in the form of a proposal. Each member of the committee has a personal **RESPONSIBILITY** to become knowledgeable in that area of the committee's concern. Each committee has the **AUTHORITY** to investigate, research, meet submit reports and develop proposals, to the extent of its budget. Committees are authorized by the By-Laws as an instrument of the Board as a means to secure ideas and suggestion from the membership. Committees which do not gather and refine ideas for presentation to the Board are missing the opportunity to serve the Association. Committees can be no stronger than the individual members who serve the Association.

The committee structure of Illinois LICA is an integral part of every function, goal and service we provide. Committees are the driving force behind every convention, workshop, expo or membership drive and one of the reasons we are celebrating 50 years of success at the January 2007 Convention. If you are interested in becoming involved in one of the committees listed on page 14, please let your Area Director or any member of the Executive Committee know.



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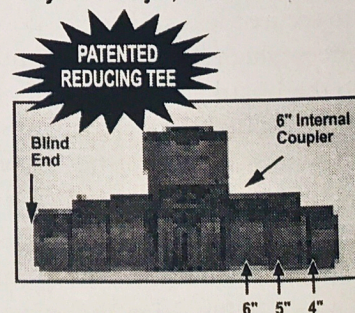
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EPA, National Water Groups Promote "Green Infrastructure" Solutions to Pollution

EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson celebrated Earth Day by signing a statement of intent at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center with four national organizations to promote the use of "green infrastructure" approaches, such as rain-catching roofs and gardens, to lessen sewer overflows and runoff after storms.

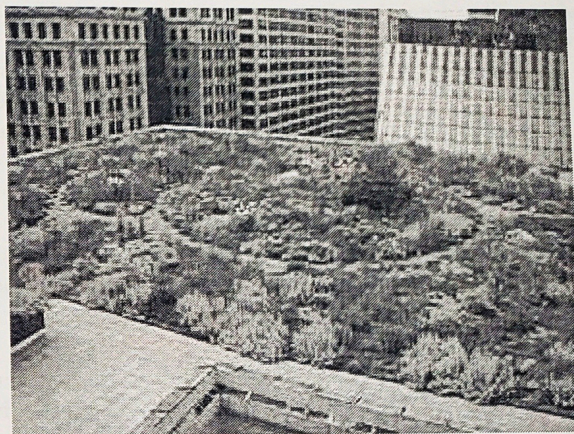
"Earth Day is an annual reminder to all Americans that environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "EPA is pleased to join our water infrastructure partners to help communities understand the environmental and economic benefits of going 'green.'"

The statement formalizes a collaborative effort among EPA, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Low Impact Development (LID) Center to assist state, city and local governments in implementing and evaluating innovative and effective green infrastructure approaches.

Through green infrastructure techniques, stormwater and its pollutants are managed using natural systems to help absorb, infiltrate, evaporate or reuse excess stormwater instead of using traditional infrastructure that collects, stores and transports water through large, buried sewer systems. Rain barrels and cisterns, roofs that are covered with vegetation and plantings, tree boxes, rain gardens, and pocket wetlands are just a few examples of common green infrastructure approaches. Water is treated as an important resource rather than a waste product.

A variety of initiatives are included in the statement of intent. EPA and its partners plan to offer technical assistance, training, and outreach to potential users of green infrastructure, including states, cities, counties, utilities, environmental and public health agencies, engineers, architects, landscape architects, planners and nongovernmental organizations.

The creation of a Web-based green infrastructure resource center will assist communities in complying with requirements for combined sewer overflows and municipal stormwater permits. EPA also seeks to recognize the most effective and innovative uses of green infrastructure through awards and recognition programs to meet the Clean Water Act goals while making models of green infrastructure techniques available nationwide.



*Photo of a green roof installed on Chicago City Hall
Photo Credit: The Green Institute*

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is a cost effective and environmentally friendly approach to reduce stormwater and other excess flows entering combined or separate sewer systems. Green infrastructure is a way to protect surface waters and drinking water supplies, reduce drinking water and stormwater treatment costs, reduce urban heat island impacts, and provide more sustainable water resource management systems.



A stormwater wetland detains stormwater, removes pollutants, and provides habitat and aesthetic benefits (Source: The Bioengineering Group, Inc., no date)

Green infrastructure approaches use natural systems such as forested areas or engineered systems such as raingardens to cleanse water and reduce excess volumes by filtering and treating it using plants, soils and microbes. Green infrastructure can be used to reduce our reliance on pipes, channels and expensive engineered treatment systems that are costly to build, operate and maintain.

Common green infrastructure approaches include:

Green Roofs	Green Parking	Trees and Tree Boxes
Vegetated Filter Strips	Rain Gardens	Reforestation
Vegetated Swales	Protection of Natural Features	
Pocket Wetlands	Riparian Buffers/Forested Buffers	



Reported on U.S. EPA Website <http://www.epa.gov/npdcs/greeninfrastructure>

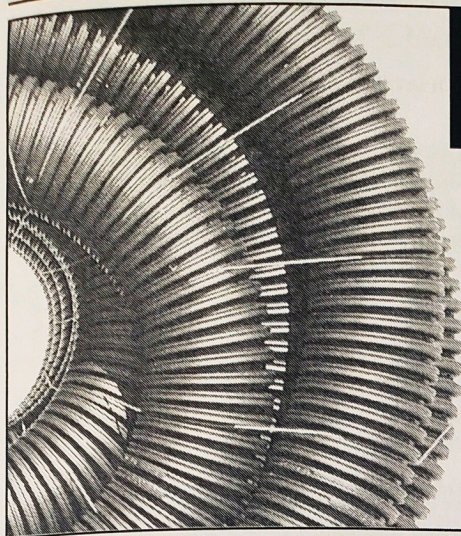
Mother's Day ~ May 13, 2007 ~ Mother's Day



The mother loves her child most divinely, not when she surrounds him with comfort and anticipates his wants, but when she resolutely holds him to the highest standards and is content with nothing less than his best.

--Hamilton Wright Mabic





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Dealing with Storm Damaged Trees

(from *Trees Forever* web site)



Dealing with storm damaged trees involves more than just clean up – it involves personal safety and wise pruning techniques to protect your trees.

"The number one priority in dealing with storm clean up has to be personal safety," said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau and certified arborist. "Too often people underestimate the danger, whether from fallen power lines to the weight of the branches to the use of chain and pruning saws resulting in dangerous situations that often lead to a trip to the emergency room."

State foresters are recommending to homeowners with tree damage from the latest round of ice and snow, to make sure no power lines are present in dealing with downed limbs. If power lines are present, stay away and contact your utility company right away.

"If no power lines are present, storm clean up must prioritize getting access to your home, clearing limbs from your car or property using chain saws, pole pruners and pruning saws. In no sense should homeowners climb into a tree, get on a ladder or add additional weight to already damaged limbs to prune. Stay on the ground," Walkowiak said. "The best advice I can offer when dealing with trees is, if the job requires you to leave the ground or the job is bigger than the equipment you have, contact a professional."

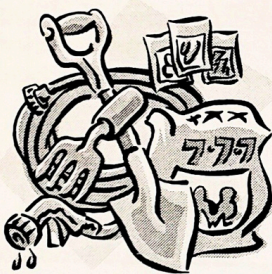
"We also advise people to wear protective clothing from chain saw chaps and hard hats, to leather gloves and eye protection," he said.

Homeowners should try to protect the branch collars of damaged limbs by using a three step method of undercutting to reduce stress, then removing the weight of the branch and then pruning to protect the branch collars.

"Improper pruning can make a lasting damage to the life of the tree," he said.

For more information on storm damaged trees, go to your local ISU County Extension Office and request SUL- Managing Storm Damaged Trees or visit <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/publications/urban.html>.

Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources



Helpful Tips from U of I Extension

Planning a Garden

Make the Most of Your Space

A well-planned garden is easier to care for. It saves time in the garden and is more productive than an unplanned garden. Start planning your garden well in advance so you will be ready to get to work when planting time arrives. If the soil was not tilled in the fall, that must be done early in the spring. Fertilizer probably will be needed.

Choose a Spot

The success of your garden depends greatly on location. Although you may be limited in the choice of locations, consider the following:

Good soil - A loose, level, fertile, well-drained soil is best. If possible, avoid clays and very sandy soils unless you are able to buy adequate organic matter.

Sunlight - Sunlight is necessary to produce healthy high-quality vegetables.

Avoid Trees or Shrubs - Trees and shrubs compete with garden crops for sunlight, plant food and moisture. Especially avoid walnut trees as they produce a toxin that prevents vegetables' growth.

Water supply - When possible have a supply of water near your garden site. Watering is particularly important when starting seeds or transplanting crops.

Close to Your Home - If possible, your garden should be near your home for convenience, especially during harvest time.

Picking A Garden Plan

Consider the following points when planning your garden:

Garden Size - The size of your garden plot depends on how much land is available, how much time you intend to spend in your garden, and how much garden produce you can use. Don't overplant.

Types of vegetables - Choose vegetables that you and your family enjoy. Make sure they can be grown successfully in your garden considering space and sunlight conditions.



(continued on page 21 →)

Helpful Tips from U of I Extension — **Planning a Garden (cont.)**

Picking A Garden Plan (cont.)

For **shady gardens** use this rule of thumb. The sunniest spot goes to vegetables grown for their fruits or seeds such as corn, tomato, squash, cucumber, eggplant, peppers, beans, and peas.

Plants grown from their leaves or roots like beets, cabbage, lettuce, mustard, chard, spinach and turnips can be grown in partial shade. For **small gardens** plant vegetables with a high yield per plant space such as bush snap beans, bush lima beans, Southern peas, leaf greens, tomatoes, and bell pepper plants.

Vegetables that take a lot of garden space for a long time and produce less are vining melons, squash, pumpkins and sweet corn.

Hybrid and variety recommendations are available from your county Extension office. A proper selection of varieties will allow you to grow vegetables resistant to certain diseases.

A hybrid results from crossing (breeding) two parental lines that differ in one or more important characters. Hybrids combine disease resistance and improved quality.

How Will Your Garden Grow?

Locate vegetables according to their growing seasons. Separate the early plantings from the quick growing vegetables so that after harvesting, this space can be used for later plantings. Perennial crops such as asparagus, rhubarb and berries should be planted at the side of your garden since they will remain in the same location from year to year. To avoid shading plants, the taller crops should be to the north or west of shorter crops.

Rotating Crops - Do not grow the same vegetable or related vegetables in or near the same location more often than once every three years. Rotating crops every year helps to control diseases that survive in the soil over the winter.

Successive Planting - This provides a continuous supply of vegetables. Don't plant too much of a crop at one time. Two or three small plantings of leaf lettuce and radishes may be made one week apart in early spring with additional ones made in the fall. Onion sets for green onions may be planted every two weeks until they are used up. If space is available, there can be at least two plantings of beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage and carrots - one early in the spring for summer use, another in the summer for fall use and storage. Make several plantings of sweet corn. Later crops can be planted on the same spot where earlier plants were harvested. Early harvested crops such as leaf lettuce, spinach, radishes, green onions, and peas can be followed by plantings of beans, beets, carrots, cabbage, sweet corn, late spinach, late leaf lettuce and turnips.

Spacing Between Rows - Proper spacing is important for plant growth, cultivation and efficient use of space. Check for individual requirements.

Seeds and Plants

Purchase seeds in advance in case you need to order them from a seed catalog. Don't use seeds left over from last year unless they were stored properly. Most vegetable seeds except onion, parsley and parsnip can be stored. They should be kept in jars or in cans that are tightly sealed against moisture, insects, and rodents. Store in a cool place such as an unheated room or refrigerator. Some plants such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peppers, and tomatoes do best when they are transplanted into the garden. These plants may be grown at home or purchased from a store. When buying transplants, avoid plants that are yellow, spindly or too large.

Sketch A Plan

Put your garden plan on paper. This will give you a guide for planting. The sketch should include:

- Location of each vegetable
- Length of row for each vegetable
- Spacing between rows and between plants in rows
- Planting dates
- What plant is to follow when each vegetable is harvested



<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/tog/planning.html>



SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association • 2391 Knox Highway 11 • Williamsfield, Illinois 61489

I, _____, hereby apply for active membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION INC. (ILICA) and enclosed \$_____ as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for the subscription to the "Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association Newsletter" for one year.

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*New members only, for 1st 2 years of membership. All existing members are \$400.00

(One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125.00) of the dues of each active member is paid to the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) as National dues.)

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to any ILICA member or to the corporate address above.

Individual Name _____ Spouse _____

Firm Name _____

Address _____

County _____ ILICA Area Number _____

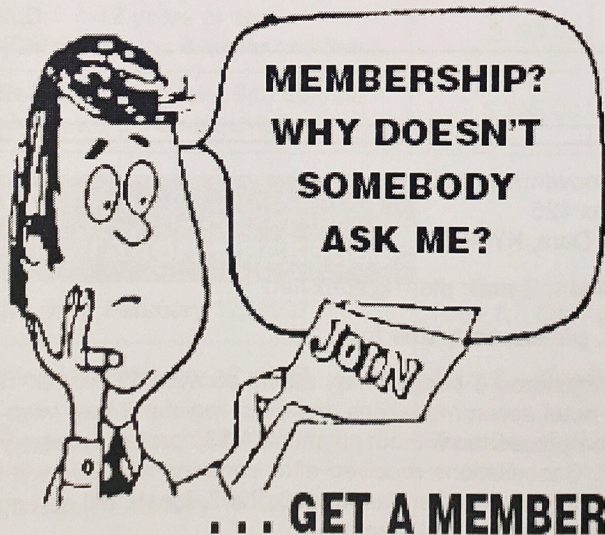
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| • Sewage Treatment | • Surveying |
| • Stream Banks | • Water Conservation |
| • Utilities | • Campsites and Parks |
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| • Dams and Structures | • Land |

Application For AFFILIATE Membership

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association

2391 Knox Hwy 11 • Williamsfield, IL 61489 • Phone (309) 639-2015

_____ hereby makes application for Affiliate Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Eighty Five Dollars (\$85) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association Newsletter" for one year.

Affiliate members shall consist of and be limited to individuals employed by the ILICA, persons employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership, individuals engaged in professional soil, water and natural resource conservation work and persons, firms, corporations, associations and organizations engaged in the business of publishing magazines and newspapers, part or all of which are devoted to disseminating information on soil, water and natural resource conservation and any person, firm, corporation, association or organization that has demonstrated a special interest in soil, water and natural resource conservation.

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to any ILICA member or to the corporate address above.

Individual Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Application For ASSOCIATE Membership

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association

2391 Knox Hwy 11 • Williamsfield, IL 61489 • Phone (309) 639-2015

_____ hereby makes application for Associate Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association Newsletter" for one year.

Associate members shall consist of and be limited to persons, firms, corporation, associations or organizations that manufacture or sell equipment or materials used by land improvement contractors.

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to any ILICA member or to the corporate address above.

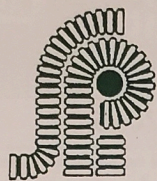
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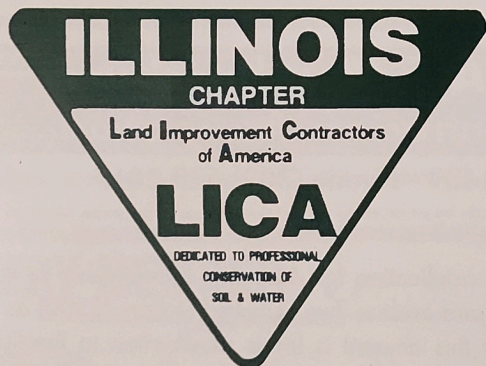
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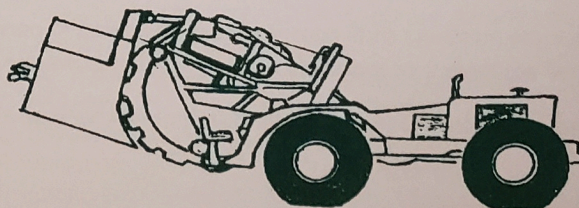
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