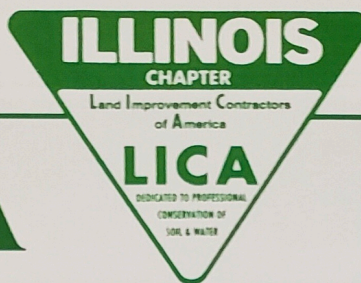


ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

September - October 2007

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CONSERVATION EXPO 2007



RAIN DELAY DOESN'T STOP ILICA CONTRACTORS FROM COMPLETING POND AND 3 WETLANDS IN 1 WEEK (PAGE 5)

Also Featured Inside

ILICA Summer Picnic and Golf Outing

Nebraska Hosts Summer LICA Conference

Farm Progress Show - Partners in Conservation Tent

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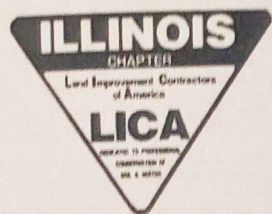
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There is joy in work.
There is no happiness
except in the realization
that we have
accomplished
something.

Henry Ford

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The LICA Creed

Land, the foundation of the Nation
The basis of all wealth
The heritage of the wise
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.
We often take it for granted or even
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.

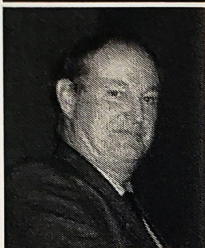
Meeting Notice

ILICA November Board Meeting
Saturday, November 3, 2007 2:00 pm

LOCATION TBA

Committee Meetings
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

LOCATION TBA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

Today is September 12th. Due to the hot weather, corn has matured nearly 1-2 weeks early so combines have hit the fields in our area and farmers have just began going steady. West of here approximately 30 miles, they have been going since the first of the month. Looks like crops around here are showing some exceptionally good yields and moisture levels are ranging from 14.5 - 20, depending on the maturity of the crops. A few beans have been cut, but not too many.

I hope everyone's work schedule looks good for the fall; it appears ours will be. I feel crop prices along with good yields should help all of us no matter what business you are in. It seems if the farmers are making money that money trickles down to nearly all businesses. Another thought is that most of them made good money last year and that money is usually spent the following year. We have had a busy summer as an association. We worked at the Progress City in June, helping build 11th Street so that the FPS could expand as I had mentioned in the last message. We also had our summer picnic in Pontiac that Dave and Marsha Haag hosted with a wonderful turn out ... after I found how to get there.

On August 21, 22, & 23 we had our own Con-Expo in Colfax, IL. Richard & Bob Lasser hosted this years show again as they did in 2004. I want to thank each and everyone who took time out from their busy schedule to come and run a piece of equipment, provide labor, deliver materials or equipment, bring drinks to workers, set up, & or cleanup afterwards. We also want to thank our Associates who provided the equipment, materials, & service necessary for the show. Yes, the rains hit again this year. Nearly 2" of rain on Aug. 19th & 20th caused us to cancel the public tours on the 21st. However, we were able to continue working and finished the show that same week for the most part.

I want to make everyone aware that we had several new members helping out. Maybe that shows we are growing. When we get these new members involved it helps to keep their interest in the Association and really gain benefit from our organization. Please encourage any new or existing member to get involved. September 15th is our next board meeting at the new office and it would be a good opportunity to see the new office Janet now works out of now.

Speaking of Janet, let's shed some light on her. I'm not sure if everyone is aware that she spends many hours to make our Association run as smooth as it does. These are hours at night and on weekends when many don't realize. Our Executive Director actually ran her tail off during the show. Many may think she gets paid for her efforts, however, she has gone way over and above her duties to see to it this show was a success. She spent endless hours lining up exhibitors, tents, caterers, speakers, taking pictures, and many other endless details of the show. She rode on some of the equipment I ran to actually see progress being made instead of just hearing about it. Yes, I saw her muddy shoes during the show several times. I think she needs a standing ovation for her commitment to this association, which is far more than just doing a job. Anyone who has worked with her with attest to that. Please make an effort and call her at 309-446-3700 and thank her for this commitment.

It is time to go now so everyone work safe this fall and talk to you soon.

Bill Dean, President



New Members

Active Members

Kris Fussner
Fussner Ratcliff - Toulon

Associate Members

Paul Slavish
Slavish Pre-cast Concrete, Matherville

Affiliate Members

David Pyle
Streitmatter Land Improvement - Wyoming

Ryan Ruhl
Streitmatter Land Improvement - Wyoming

Thank You



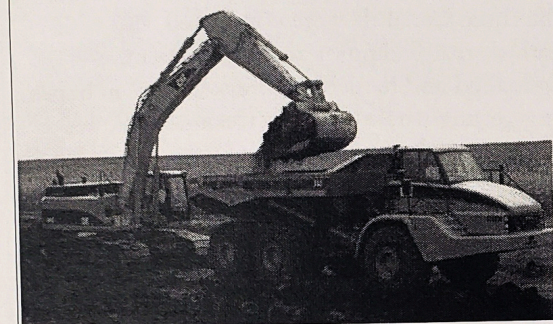
Please take the time to
personally welcome one
of these new ILICA
members.

Let's keep ILICA
GROWING!

CONSERVATION EXPO 2007

RAIN DELAY DOESN'T STOP ILICA CONTRACTORS FROM COMPLETING 1.5 ACRE POND AND 3

Once again ILICA was able to bring rain to an area that had been dry for most of the summer. It seems our Conservation Expos just can't help bringing out the wet weather. Luckily, equipment started arriving on Thursday, August 16th and several ILICA contractors were on hand Friday to begin scraping top soil from the pond site and stockpiling it close by. Knowing how the weather is, show committee co-chairs Bill Doubet and David Kennedy decided to set a goal of having the core trench dug and re-packed to existing waterway elevation before leaving the site for the weekend. Although fewer workers were available on Saturday, everyone stayed late on both days to see that the goal was met. If the rains came, at least the core trench would be firmly in place and even heavy rain wouldn't stop further construction on Monday. Sunday, the rain began. Monday, the rains continued and although some work could be done, those on site had to start considering whether tours would be possible on Tuesday, even if the rain stopped. The steady rain continued on Monday and it was decided by mid-morning that Tuesday's public tours would have to be postponed until Wednesday, if it would be possible even then. Bob Frazee from U of I Extension and Kent Bohnhoff from Normal NRCS headed back to Kent's office to start notifying everyone of the rain cancellation for Tuesday. Tour guides were notified, newspapers, television and radio stations were asked to make announcements as quickly as possible and then it was a matter of waiting to see what Tuesday would bring.



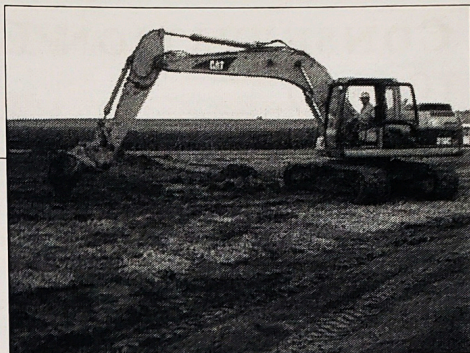
Tuesday morning was cloudy but the rains had stayed north of Colfax overnight. Although occasional drizzle caused concerned looks around the show site, no rain developed and by noon, the sun was breaking through the clouds. Wayne Litwiller went about making roads through the muddy oat stubble up to the exhibit and headquarters tents, parking areas were remarked to utilize a grassy area and by 4 pm, there was dust kicking up off the newly

formed roads. Construction continued on the pond throughout the day and the haul trucks looked like they were on a merry-go-round as they circled the pond excavation site, loading, dumping and coming back around to start it all over again.

Wednesday started out as a typical August day, sunny and humid, and the crowds began to arrive before the official 9 am opening. Associates and Expo cooperators filled the exhibit tent and as the tours completed, visitors were dropped off there to see the many displays and talk with the associates. There was no shortage of contractor volunteers to run equipment and help on the show site, which always happens, rain or shine. The Colfax High School Ag teacher had scheduled three of his classes to attend and although they didn't have a lot of time, tours were arranged to accommodate their schedule. Tour wagons provided by Matt Jungmann from Farm Progress Companies were filled each time they left the headquarters tent and found people waiting for them as they returned. Many good comments were overheard regarding the informative tour stop personnel as well as the overall experience. By the end of the day, the dam was complete and Thursday's tour wagons could start using it to get visitors closer to the action. The auxiliary spillway was well underway too, and Neal Barnes and his crew from Storm Water Erosion Specialists were tacking down coconut mat to stabilize the structure. There was a lot of ground to cover however, so that would have to wait until Thursday for completion along with most of the hydro-seeding.

Thursday was another beautiful day and saw similar crowds as on Wednesday. The morning was very busy with tours and excavation and the auxiliary spillway was to finished grade. Hydro-seeding started in earnest as the Litwiller fire truck made multiple trips to Colfax for water to keep the seeding (continued on page 6)

(upper right) Wayne Litwiller makes road to tents
(center left) Haul trucks at pond excavation
(center right) Show site early Thursday am
(right) Some of the many pieces of equipment provided by ILICA associates



CONSERVATION EXPO 2007 (CONT.)

moving along. As things slowed down in the late afternoon's heat, everyone involved seemed pleased with the outcome. Other year's have seen complete rainouts and conditions almost too sloppy to work in. Cooperators, associates and contractors all seemed satisfied with the public interest, publicity and work accomplished during the 2 dry days of the expo. Along with our many cooperators, we were able to demonstrate the environmental benefits of grassed waterways, filter strips and field borders, wetland restoration and installation, pond construction and septic installations. Even with one day rained out, it seemed we had accomplished what we had set out to do. By the time our contractors finally quit on Thursday, the 1.5 acre excavated pond included an island and was being spruced up with top soil and a smooth grade around the water line. Two of the three wetlands were completed, also with their own islands. There was still work to do the next morning, but everyone left with a great feeling of accomplishment.

With a light rain overnight and more threatening on Friday, equipment started being loaded and hauled off the show site in hopes of avoiding getting trucks stuck in fresh mud; however enough contractors and machinery remained to finish the hydro-seeding, build the third wetland, and trench in pipe from the water control structure to the wetland it would supply with a constant source of water.

A visit to the show site 2 weeks later, shows some grass shooting up in the hydro-seeded areas but more rain will help produce much thicker results before winter hits McLean county. The site looks strangely empty without the tents and equipment, but it is still apparent that the site has undergone a drastic change. It won't be long before the 300 acres that drain through this watershed

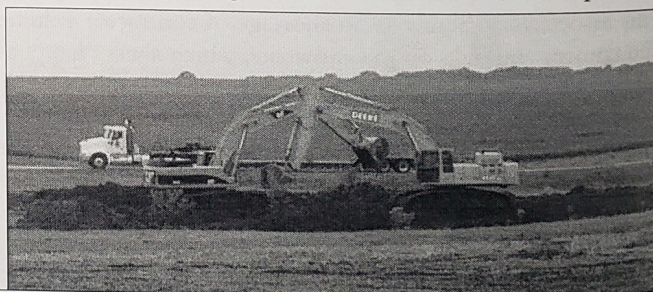
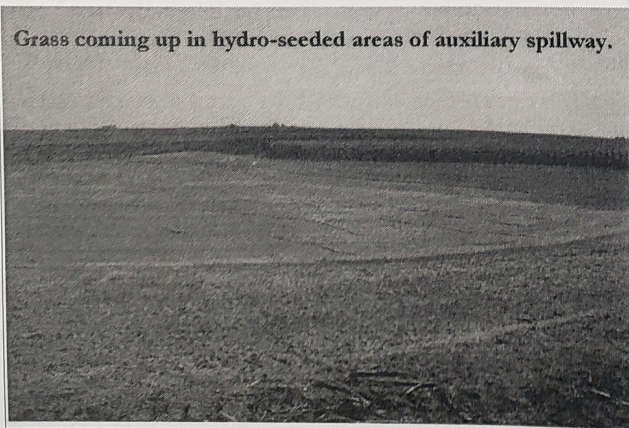


will have the pond filled to capacity.

A special "Thanks" goes out to all the ILICA contractors that donated their time and/or their employee's time to complete this project. So often over the course of that week it was mentioned how unusual it is that so many different contractors with their own ideas of how things should be done can come together once a year and work so well together. It is a testament to the spirit of fellowship that is a core value in our LICA chapter and we sincerely thank you all. We also want to thank all of our associates that donated equipment or material and continue to support us with their exhibits, regardless of how much mud is involved. Last but not least, thanks to all the cooperators who put in long hours to help make this year's expo such a great success.

We couldn't do it without you!

Grass coming up in hydro-seeded areas of auxiliary spillway.



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ILLINOIS LICA PICNIC & GOLF OUTING



Morgan with her great-grandmother, Rose Day

The Illinois LICA annual picnic was held on July 7th at the pavilion at Humiston Woods, a beautiful park just a short distance from Pontiac Illinois. It was a perfect sunny day with plenty of shade and a nice breeze blowing through the pavilion. Picnic committee chairs Dave and Marsha Haag did a wonderful job planning the meal and selecting the locations for the picnic and golf outing and attendance was outstanding. The Board meeting moved along quickly and completed just as the food arrived. With just a few minutes for members to visit with others from around the state, we soon began the meal with the blessing. The outstanding support from our associates not only sponsored the complete meal, but also provided several prize giveaways that were raffled following the picnic lunch. Prins Insurance & Continental Western Group sponsored the lunch and Agri-Drain Corporation, ILICA, Midwest Auger-Aerator, Prinsco and Springfield Plastics, Inc. co-sponsored the picnic and also sponsored

holes and giveaways for the golf outing at Wolf Creek Golf Course.

We were blessed to have Rose Day join us for the meeting and picnic as well as Bruce Barnhart, Region IV LICA VP, his wife Shelley and their son Jacob (*shown to the right*) who made the drive over from Iowa to join us. (*Shelley and Jacob somehow ended up with both squirt guns from the door prize giveaway...???*) Bruce continues to extend encouragement to our chapter as we build our membership and partnerships with other agencies and organizations. He is genuine advocate for the Illinois LICA chapter at the national level and we also appreciate his family taking the time to join us to share a good meal and beautiful Illinois summer day. The picnic concluded with the sponsored door prize raffle and ice cream and cake for everyone. Those golfing were soon off to Wolf Creek, which had lots of shade trees and a good breeze as well.



Those that didn't care to golf headed to Pontiac for shopping or museums or sat in the shade outside the clubhouse to continue the leisurely pace of the afternoon enjoying friendly conversation. Golfers of all skill levels enjoyed the day and those that spend a lot of time golfing said it was a quality course. Those with less practice on the fairways still enjoyed each others company and just had fun chasing the ball around. The generous support of our associates provided a sleeve of 3 golf balls or golfing glove for each participant and Larry Philyaw of Midwest Auger-Aerator donated a golf club (*show below*) that was won by Bill Masching. Thank you to all those that played 9 or 18 holes and helped make this an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon with good friends.



(upper left) Humiston Woods pavilion was a beautiful setting for the picnic

(above) Kate Baker, Dave Hurst & Mark Baker (*behind pine limb*)
(left - l to r) Bev Dean with donated golf club from MAA, Dave & Marsha Haag, Jackie Streitmatter and Bill Dean at the Wolf Creek clubhouse





GABBIN' WITH THE GALS..

Our radio station here in Gibson City plays lots of music called "Easy Listening" most of the day and now are on the air 24/7, so we get to listen to a lot of good music. This gal does like Rock 'N Roll, but a lot of what the young ones call music nowadays is definitely NOT music. Summertime always reminds me of that great hit of Nat King Cole, "In the Good Old Summertime" and "Roll Out Those Lazy, Crazy, Hazy Days of Summer". I do have several CD's of his, but none with those songs, so will have to look for another one. You know Nat King Cole was taking voice lessons before he got popular and his instructor

suggested that he look for another line of work! He probably laughed all the way to the bank.

As this is written, preparations are well underway for the ILICA Conservation Show. Many of our members are involved not only with advance preparations, but with the actual work during the show. It gives Mr. and Mrs. Public the chance to see just how different practices are installed. We hope this humidity will simmer down for the show and lots of bottled water is available. Maybe by the actual time of the show Mr. Sun will cool off a bit so all can be more comfortable.

We have a weekly supplement to our daily newspaper in which different people are the contributors of jokes for the last page in the supplement. Sad to say one of our contributors will no longer be available as Mr. Cancer claimed him last week. However he has a son who could probably take over for his father, so we shall see. A contribution by another person goes like this: "An elderly couple were celebrating their 60th anniversary. They had moved back to their old neighborhood after retiring. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It wasn't locked, so they entered and found the old desk they had shared and Andy had carved "I love you Sally" in. On their way home a bag of money fell out of an armored car, landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and they took it home where she counted \$50,000. Andy said they had to give it back and Sally said "Finder's Keeper's". She put the bag of money in their attic. The next day two FBI men were canvassing the neighborhood for the money and knocked on their door. "Pardon me, but did you find a bag that fell out of an armored car yesterday?" Sally said "No." They questioned Andy: "Tell us the story from the beginning." Andy said, "Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday..." The first FBI man turns to the other and said, "We're out of here!"

Everyone in high school probably studies History at one time or another. Actually, if you take the time to read it, there are many interesting happenings that are as good a book as you can get. Take for instance this instance: Daniel Webster went hunting one day and was enjoying it so much that time whizzed by and it was almost dark. Not wanting to walk all the way back to town in the dark, he came upon a home in the country but the people had already retired and no lamps were lit, but Dan'l banged on the door until a window was raised upstairs and a grouchy voice said, "Whaddaya want?" And Daniel said, "I want to stay here tonight." "Okay" the man said, "stay there," and promptly shut the window. That'll teach him to hunt at night when the animals can see you better than you can see them.

This time of year is one of those rare times when it seems like everyone and their brother is running for office. And out of those, only one will be elected; now that would prohibit me from running for sure. I would probably run, but far away! It does give one a chance to listen to different views and see if they match your own. We must remember one thing; don't judge a person by the way the candidate(s) demeanor is out in public. There are plenty of books out there, about some of the candidates at least, and people who have known them by working with them will tell you some things you would not like a president to have known to the general public. If we had someone of the caliber of Margaret Thatcher, then I would be for a woman at the helm. But so far there does not seem to be anyone that comes close. This is the writer's opinion, not the ILICA (I guess).

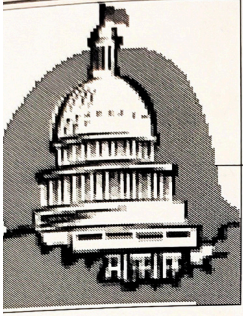
At the time of this writing the big bridge in Minneapolis has collapsed. It is impossible to imagine how one would feel to be crossing a bridge and the next moment, you are in the Mississippi River. No other feeling could duplicate that one. Perhaps the Corps of Engineers should take into consideration the enormous amount of big rigs that are on the road today as compared to when the bridge was built. It was a miracle that all of the children on the school bus that went down were okay. Some heroics there you can believe, because that bus was in a position it could go either way. Let's hope all of you out there who travel around a lot will be alert and remember this bad day.

School is just around the corner; tomorrow (Monday) one of my granddaughters will be helping to register students at the grade school here. And football will be going on in a few weeks - hope the temperature has gone down by then. We might see "Skivvie Football!" Folks, if your class has had its fiftieth anniversary, just lose count as it only makes one feel older for sure. Of course time goes on but do we have to publicize it? Sometimes people say "Act your age!" And I say, "Who's acting?"

The word for this issue is "bloviolate". Now Bill O'Reilly says that all the time but it doesn't mean anything because it is not in the dictionary, so there! And if we don't know what it means, it can't be done, right? So go ahead and bloviolate, kids, if you can figure out what the word it would do to you. It's probably nothing you can get inoculated for. Everyone's probably allergic to it anyway.

A big get well to the ones who are in ill health at the moment and a speedy recovery. Keep the out-of-door fires burning in the back yard (not in the forest please) and the franks and marshmallows browning nicely.

See you around. Rambling Rose



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

REASONS TO OPPOSE THE "CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT OF 2007," H.R. 2421

Federal legislation has been proposed by Representative Oberstar in the U.S. House & Senator Feingold to amend the Clean Water Act of 1972 by changing the definition of "navigable waters" and further define it to mean "the waters of the United States." This change would have grave consequences to agriculture and would create a bureaucratic problem to administer. Below is an issue paper put out by the Water Advocacy Coalition. Some of its members are; American Farm Bureau Federation, The Fertilizer Institute, National Association of Counties, national cattleman's beef Association, National Pork Producers, National Corn Grovers, Associated General Contractors of America, and many more.

Please read, review and contact your congressman to appose the additional regulation of water resources.

Issue: The Waters Advocacy Coalition opposes H.R. 2421, the "Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007," because it would expand federal Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction to virtually all wet areas in the United States.

Background: Since 1972, the CWA has regulated "navigable waters." The term "navigable waters" is further defined in the statute to mean "the waters of the United States." EPA and the Corps have provided varying regulatory definitions of "the waters of the United States" over the past 30 years. The United States Supreme Court has examined the scope of the CWA three times:

- .. **Riverside Bayview** (1985): Unanimously upheld the agencies' authority to regulate wetlands adjacent to navigable waters.
- .. **SWANCC** (2001): Rejected the agencies' authority to regulate isolated waters based upon the potential presence of migratory birds (the Migratory Bird Rule). The Court said that asserting jurisdiction over such waters raised "significant constitutional concerns."
- .. **Rapanos** (2006): Affirmed that CWA jurisdiction extends beyond strictly navigable waters, but does not extend to all areas with merely a "hydrological connection" to navigable waters. The unifying theme of all Justices was not that the CWA needed to be changed but rather that the Corps and EPA should issue new regulations. As Justice Breyer, who sided with the dissent, observed, the agencies should "write new regulations, and speedily so."

H.R. 2421: H.R. 2421 would delete the term "navigable" from the statute and replace it with a **new legislative definition** of "waters of the United States" that includes all "intrastate waters" and all "activities affecting these waters." Unlike the existing CWA that is based on Congress's Commerce Clause authority to regulate "navigable waters," H.R. 2421 purports to exercise all of Congress's authority under the Constitution including the Necessary and Proper, Treaty, and Property Clauses.

Proponents of the legislation assert that H.R. 2421 "restores" the original intent of the CWA and "clarifies" CWA jurisdiction. It does neither. Instead, H.R. 2421 would:

- .. Grant EPA and the Corps *for the first time ever* jurisdiction over all "intrastate waters" -- essentially all wet areas within a state, including ground water, ditches, pipes, streets, municipal storm drains, gutters, and desert features subject only to undefined constitutional limits.
- .. Grant EPA and the Corps, *for the first time ever*, authority over all "activities affecting these waters" (private or public), regardless of whether the activity is occurring in water or whether the activity actually adds a pollutant to the water.
- .. Change the original intent of Congress in enacting the CWA from the Commerce Clause to the full "legislative power of Congress under the Constitution."

(continued on page 12)



**CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND LET
THEM KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT
THIS PROPOSED CHANGE!!!**

**IF YOU NEED HELP WITH NAMES, PHONE NUMBERS
OR ADDRESSES OF YOUR CONGRESSMEN, CONTACT
THE ILICA OFFICE AT (309) 446-3700 OR VIA
EMAIL @ JANET@ILICA.NET**

FARM PROGRESS SHOW: PIC TENT EXHIBITS DRAW A LO

The 2007 Farm Progress Show opened with a wave of humanity surging onto the streets of Progress City as soon as the gates opened at 8:00 am on Tuesday. It seemed that every square inch of the 80 acre permanent home of the Illinois Farm Progress Show was covered with tractors, wagons, irrigation systems, trucks, farm implements and agricultural gadgets of every description and then some. As the ILICA volunteers arrive around 7:00 am, the quiet streets are a drastic contrast to the sight of hundreds of people that will soon cover this well equipped facility.



Tuesday and Wednesday promised high temperatures with humidity and stayed true to its word. I'd like to think the crowd of people flowing through the Partners in Conservation (PIC) tent were genuinely interested in conservation and not just happy to see those bales of switchgrass strategically located in front of the stock fan circulating air through the shaded tent. Whatever the reason,



there was a steady stream of people visiting each exhibit in the PIC tent and many interested inquires about the conservation practices done at last year's Expo. Many of the agencies in the PIC tent referenced the practices from last year as most had also partnered with ILICA for the event. NRCS had weatherproof signs stationed at some of last year's sites and several people mentioned noticing them on their way in. A large poster hung above switchgrass bales and showed the 2006 practices in both the current growth and shots taken during the excavation. Agri-Drain provided a cut away water control structure to add to the display and the lush greenery and potted trees inside the tent were provided by IDNR. Illinois EPA had a very popular basketball theme and always had a crowd around the exhibit showing off their hoop shooting skills and answering environmental questions to win a prize. Other agencies stood ready to answer any questions and

hand out informational booklets on a variety of subjects related to conservation.

ILICA volunteers spent time explaining last years practices and plans for more improvements to Progress City USA in 2008. The large format pictures including an aerial shot taken the last day of the 2006 Conservation Expo made describing the benefits and locations of the practices even easier.



(Top) ILICA exhibit (Center) Visitors from Argentina take a break on switchgrass bales (Lower left) Illinois EPA exhibit (Above) Gwen Kolb at U.S. Fish & Wildlife exhibit

FARM PROGRESS SHOW: PIC TENT EXHIBITS DRAW A LOT OF ATTENTION (CONT.)



(upper left) aerial picture of conservation practices installed in 2006

(upper right) Early in the morning, streets at Progress City were quiet ... but not for long.

(center left) NRCS display shows several ways they support landowners and other agencies through their various programs

(center right) The streets quickly fill with people soon after the gates open at 8:00 am for the 2007 Farm Progress Show

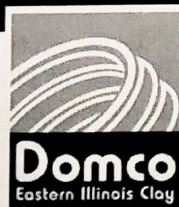
(right) Trees Forever and USDA exhibits inside the PIC tent.



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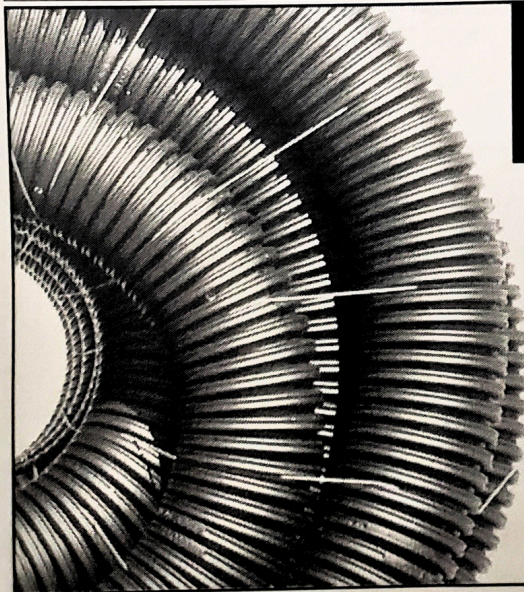
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONT.)

REASONS TO OPPOSE THE "CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT OF 2007," H.R. 2421

- ... Conflict with CWA sections 101(b) and 101(g) which state Congressional intent to "recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of the States" to control the development and use of local land and water resources and to "allocate quantities of water within [State] jurisdiction."
- ... Eliminate the existing regulatory exemptions which were authorized by both Democratic and Republican administrations for prior converted cropland and waste treatment systems.
- ... Place critical regulatory decisions in the hands of constitutional lawyers and result in costly litigation regarding the scope of "intrastate waters," the extent of "activities affecting these waters" and the limit of Congress's authority under the Constitution.

"Savings Clause" Problems: The savings clause of H.R. 2421 does not address the WAC members' concerns with the legislation and, in fact, creates more confusion. The savings clause:

- ... Does not exempt any waters or areas from the broad definition of "waters of the United States" under H.R. 2421. It exempts only certain *activities* from being considered "discharges." For example, *maintenance of an irrigation ditch* would not be considered a "discharge," but the ditch itself would still be a jurisdictional water such that *all other activities affecting the ditch* would be regulated.
- ... Fails to adopt important *regulatory* exemptions for prior converted cropland and waste treatment systems.
- ... Limits the agencies' ability to adopt future regulatory exemptions. By setting forth specific statutory exemptions, many will argue that these are the exclusive exemptions recognized by Congress -- there are no others.
- ... Paraphrases the existing statutory exemptions, unnecessarily raising questions regarding Congressional intent with respect to the full scope of the existing statutory exemptions.

Practical Impacts:

EPA and the Corps of Engineers will exercise **unlimited regulatory authority over all intrastate waters**, including, for example, waters now considered entirely under state jurisdiction. Enormous resources will be needed to expand and defend the federal regulatory program, exacerbating an existing CWA funding gap and leading to longer permitting delays.

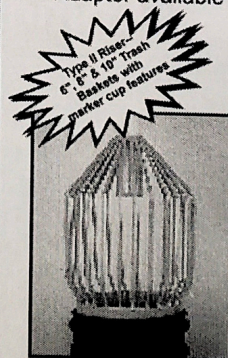
- ... Increased delays in securing permits will **raise costs of and impede many economic activities** -- commercial and residential real estate development, agriculture, electric transmission, transportation, and mining all will be affected. Based upon Coalition members' experiences, it takes on average between 2-3 years to obtain an individual permit. The current backlog for individual permits is estimated between 15,000 and 30,000.
- ... An expanded federal water program would impose an **unfunded mandate on States** by increasing the number of waters subject to water quality standards, effluent limitation guidelines, the setting of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and expanding the permitting workload under various aspects of the state-administered programs.
- ... Expanded federal jurisdiction would **pre-empt traditional state and local government authority** over land and water use decisions and alter the balance of federal and state authority.

Recommendation:

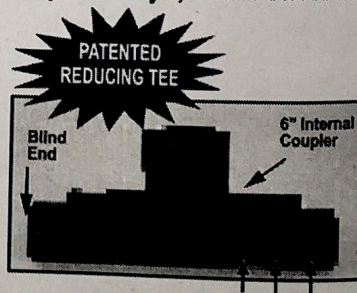
Oppose H.R. 2421. Congress should not expand the jurisdictional reach of the Clean Water Act.

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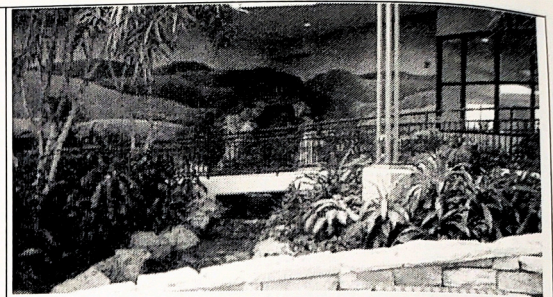
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THANKS TO NEBRASKA LICA FOR HOSTING THE 2007 SUMMER CONFERENCE - OMAHA

Nebraska LICA members went to great lengths to insure the 2007 Summer LICA conference was a great success. Embassy Suites was a beautiful location for the LICA Summer Meeting, July 19 - 21, 2007. Downtown Omaha is a wonderful mix of old town Shoppe's, quaint restaurants and Nuevo art galleries, all within easy walking distance of Embassy Suites. The Union Station building and museum was also close by and had many interesting exhibits to see. The pre-tours on Wednesday and Thursday were enjoyed by those arriving early and a welcome reception was held Thursday evening, sponsored by national associate members. The food was outstanding and abundant, and the exhibits saw a steady stream of visitors as the evening went on. However, the excitement didn't stop there as we were all awakened at around 2 am on Friday by the sound of a woman voice in each room telling us to leave our rooms, use the stairs and exit the building. Looking out to the courtyard below, it was apparent that most guests were taking her seriously. We gathered into groups across the street from the hotel in various types of attire and carrying what valuables were remembered at 2 am after being brought out of a dead sleep. At least it was a nice night, wasn't raining and everyone seemed in fairly good spirits under the circumstances. The fire trucks arrived and within 20 minutes, the firemen discovered a burned out compact florescent light bulb that just happened to be located directly underneath a smoke detector. There were some talking at breakfast the next morning who said when a compact florescent bulb burns out, it burns any dust particles that may have gathered on its top. It appears there may be some merit to that theory, based on our little experiment in Omaha.



Waterfall in the lobby of Embassy Suites Omaha



The hotel's Starbucks café offered discounted coffee the next morning to anyone who was inconvenienced by the evening's stroll, which was typical of the friendly service we received during the conference.

Convention business started on Friday with a cooked to order breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Attendance was excellent and the Illinois Chapter was very well represented with 14 attendees, including spouses and other

family members. Committee meetings went on most of the day Friday and were also well attended. Friday evening ended with an ice cream social which was sponsored by a retired Nebraska LICA couple.

Saturday morning those not involved in meetings were able to enjoy the Farmers Market just across the street from the hotel and then return for lunch before the summer board meeting. It was announced at the meeting that national LICA had voted to simplify their fiscal year end dues structure, eliminating the 1/2 year fee and giving any new member joining after April each year 18 months of national membership for the annual \$125 fee; a benefit to both state and national LICA.

The location of the next summer convention is another decision that is made at the summer board meeting and there were two strong contenders for the 2008 venue. Both Wisconsin and Pennsylvania had solid arguments for why their location would be an excellent choice, however, it was decided to wait until more information on the cost of flights and hotels could be collected before making a final decision. Keep checking the National LICA website for updated information.



(top left) Exhibitors at early bird welcome reception

(above) ILICA members enjoying the night air during the 2 am fire alarm incident.

(left) Outstanding attendance at one of the delicious meals at the Embassy Suites



LICA SUMMER CONFERENCE - OMAHA, NEBRASKA



(above) Summer Board Meeting attendees

(right) Illinois LICA Summer convention attendees with "Jane Deere" at the Embassy Suites

(below) Region 4 V.P., Bruce Barnhart and ILICA Treasurer, Forrest Davis



Why Join ILICA?

See below for a brief description of some of the benefits of joining our organization.

Education and Certification—Our partnerships with U of I, NRCS, SWCD and others give us the opportunity to book the best resources in the business at our convention and workshop educational sessions.

Partnerships—Those same partnerships keep us up to date on new and changing programs, practices and funding sources.

Legislative Representation—Illinois LICA has its own relationships with many agencies and our voice is combined with other state chapters at our Nation's capitol for meetings with many committee members, Representatives and Senators.

Continental Western Group/LICA Insurance Program—Continental Western and LICA have joined forces to provide a simple contractors policy at a very competitive rate, offers a series of safety meetings throughout the year and has a year end dividend potential. Over \$10,000 in dividends were paid out to Illinois LICA members in 2006.



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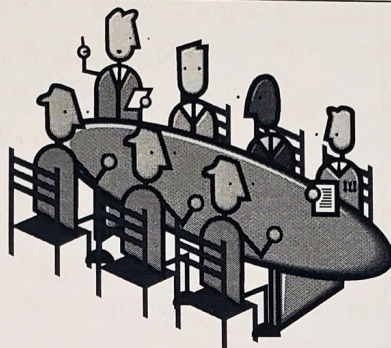
COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT IS KEY AT ILLINOIS LICA

Each January, committees are reviewed and updated as existing members gain new areas of interest and new members come on board.

Committees are one of those places where "more is better", so if you have an interest or even suspect you may have an interest in one or more of the committee's listed on page 16, please let someone know. Talk to one of the current committee members, any of our directors or just call the office.

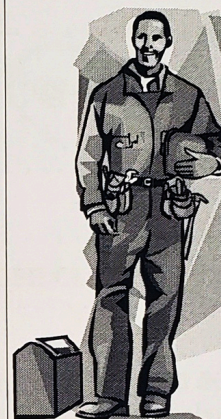
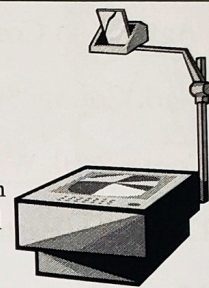
Committee's meet on the same day as regular board of directors and are listed in the meeting notice you receive in the mail.

Please sit in on one and see if you might enjoy committee involvement.



ILICA WORKSHOPS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE

The education committee has been meeting to finalize a schedule for the 2008 workshops. The annual workshop will be held in late February with a traveling 1 day "Basics and Benefits of Drainage" workshop scheduled earlier in the month. The "Basics" workshop will be taught by Dr. Richard Cooke, Jim Evans and Kent Mitchell and we hope to secure Black Hawk College near Kewanee, Richland



Community College in Decatur and Rend Lake College near Rend Lake for the workshop facilities. As soon as we determine the availability of our facilitators, details will be posted on our website, www.illica.net, and listed in the next newsletter. More information will also be available at the 2008 Annual Meeting and Convention in Moline, IL. The regular workshop will follow with a more advanced drainage course and other sessions yet to be determined.

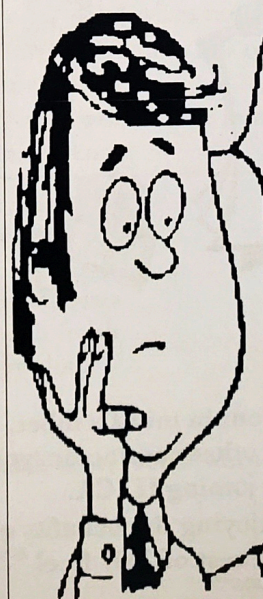
Committee Function, Responsibility and Authority

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 16, please let your Area Director or any member of the Executive Committee know.



Help US Build!



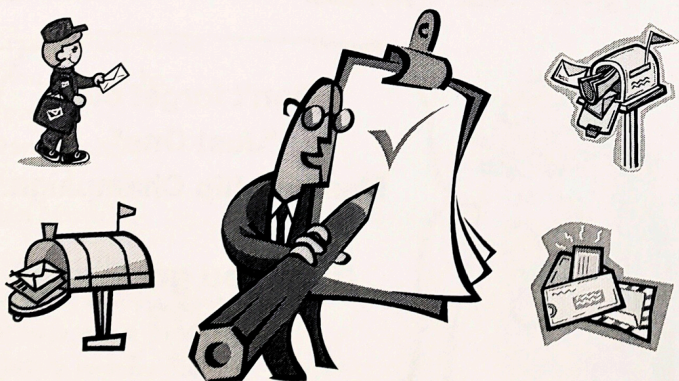
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2008 Membership Dues Notices



2008 dues notices will be mailed out in mid-October. This is a great time to start asking other contractors you know if they might consider joining ILICA. Anyone that joins now can start enjoying the benefits of ILICA membership and get the rest of 2007 free!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

November Board Meeting
LOCATION TBA

November 3, 2007 - 2:00 pm

Illinois LICA 2008 Annual Meeting & Convention
Stoney Creek Inn - Moline, Illinois
January 17 - 19, 2008

National

ICUEE Exposition - Louisville, KY

October 16 - 18, 2007

Kentucky Exposition Center

2008 Winter LICA Meeting—Las Vegas, Nevada
March 9—10, 2008

(Sunday—Monday, prior to Con Expo 2008)

2008 Con Expo / Con Agg—Las Vegas, Nevada
March 11—15, 2008



~ ATTENTION ~

Winter LICA Convention
Las Vegas, Nevada
March 9 - 10, 2008

It may seem like a long time before March gets here, but the hotel rooms in Las Vegas will be gone long before then.

Please review the registration documents you received from Debbie Dickens of Missouri LICA, regarding our winter convention and Con Expo. You cannot get a room during this time without registering for Con-Expo and available rooms will be booked fast.!

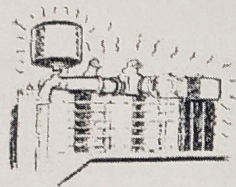
Please notify the ILICA office ASAP if you haven't received your registration packet.

SAFETY FEATURE - HAND SAFETY

Your hands allow you perform a variety of tasks that make you a skilled and valuable worker. Without the use of your hands, you **WOULD NOT** be able to be employed in construction. Just imagine the difficulty of life itself - you **WOULD NOT** even be able to dress yourself, open a door or even pick up a fork to eat. What would it be like?

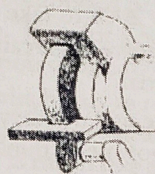
Your hands are an incredibly complex and delicate part of your body that are very difficult or near impossible to repair. As important as your hands are to you, most people are careless in regard to hand safety. Faulty tools or broken equipment may be hazardous, but most often it is lack of attention or human error that is the cause of hand injuries. Hand injuries consistently account for a large percentage of construction related injuries.

The first step to hand safety and preventing hand injuries is **AWARENESS**. To recognize the hazards and dangers involved in your job so as you can avoid or control them. The following is a list of some common hazards that you should be aware of:

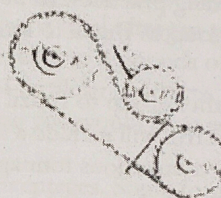


ROTATING MACHINES

PINCH POINTS

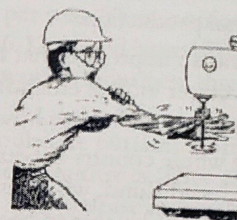


HOT SPOTS



LOOSE CLOTHING & JEWELRY

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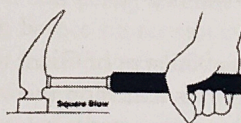


Hand Tools

- Inspect your tools prior to using them, to ensure they are not faulty in any way and that they are the right tool for the job. Root causes for serious hand injuries often are the result of using the wrong tool for the job or using the right tool in the wrong way.

Hammers

- Grip handle tightly with your wrist straight
- Hammer should be 1 inch larger than the face of the object or tool being struck.
- Watch object you are hitting and strike it with a square blow.



Screwdrivers

- Use a vise, or ensure object you're working on is secure or on a flat surface
- Never hold object in your hand
- Use insulated end screwdrivers

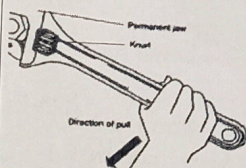


Knives

- Keep blade sharp
- Cut away from your body
- Use retractable knives whenever possible and close when not in use
- Ensure you have lots of room when using a knife
- Never work on the same piece of material with another worker using a knife



Wrenches



- Use boxed end wrenches when ever possible
- Always pull wrench toward you - never push it
- Turn wrench so pressure is against the permanent jaw if using open-end wrench
- Never strike a wrench to gain more force

Personal Protective Equipment

The use of personal protective equipment for your hands include a variety of gloves, barrier creams, hand pads or leathers, finger guards, arm protectors, sleeves etc. Through your initial awareness of potential hazards and safe work procedures, you should be able to choose which PPE is best suited for the situation. The following are some useful guides to selecting appropriate PPE for your hands:

- ... PPE must protect against the hazards of the particular job
- ... Do not wear gloves around the danger zone of tools or machines
- ... The glove should fit snug to your hand

Glove type/material	Hazard Protection
Neoprene, rubber or vinyl	Most chemicals
Heavy leather	Welding, rough surfaces
Nylon, rayon, wool, glass	Heat
Gloves with rough finish	Handling of slippery material
Cotton and terry cloth	Abrasions, cuts
Lead-lined	Radiation
Metal mesh	Knives, other sharp instruments
Insulated material, often rubber worn	Electric shock, burns, vibration under leather gloves



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Giant Miscanthus Opens up Acres of Opportunity

It's become an annual tradition for Eric Rund to travel to Latin America with a group of Midwestern producers to study various farming practices. In 2006, energy costs were on everyone's minds, so he decided to take a group to Brazil to look at how they manage their ethanol production.

He was so impressed that he is leading another group to Brazil in January 2008 to take an even closer look at ethanol production. The trip will include a stop to observe sugarcane being harvested to see how they handle the tremendous tonnage of material.

"The whole country is petroleum independent in large part because of the ethanol they produce," said Rund, who farms 750 acres just south of Champaign. "That got me to thinking: We may not be able to become petroleum independent very quickly, but if we put our minds to it as a nation, we can eventually do it."

Rund puts a lot of stock in Giant Miscanthus as the key crop that may help carry the United States closer to this goal. *Miscanthus x giganteus* is a perennial grass that grows as tall as 12 feet high and can produce an impressive 15 tons of biomass per acre annually, according to University of Illinois research.

So far, however, Rund has only been able to experiment with less than an acre of Giant Miscanthus because the biggest obstacle at this point has been getting his hands on the plants.

John Caveny, a farmer in Piatt County, has the same difficulty in obtaining Giant Miscanthus propagules; as a result, he grows only a little more than an acre of the grass. However, Caveny has been working on the issue with an ag company and said, "We have finally figured out how to get around this problem." He said there should be limited numbers of Giant Miscanthus propagules available this year and larger numbers available in 2008.

The U of I is also actively working on the propagule shortage through conventional and bioengineering solutions being funded by the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research.

"Perhaps growing high-yielding energy crops could become a third crop for Illinois and elsewhere," said Caveny, who planted his first Giant Miscanthus crop in 2002 as part of an AgriFIRST project that he worked on with Dynegy Midwest Generation. "But until miscanthus is readily available, I don't like to disappoint people and say it's the greatest thing since sliced bread." Nevertheless, Giant Miscanthus certainly has its advantages, experts say.

According to Stephen Moose, a U of I corn genetics professor, Giant Miscanthus grows vertically more than horizontally, so he and other researchers have never seen it invade adjoining plots. Also, because the highly productive variety of Giant Miscanthus does not produce seeds, that too limits its potential invasiveness.

Being a perennial, Giant Miscanthus requires low management and needs little nitrogen once it has been established. And as Rund noted, Giant Miscanthus can be harvested with readily available equipment during the winter when producers are not as busy.

The energy content of Giant Miscanthus is similar to that of Powder River Basin coal, Caveny says. One acre of Giant Miscanthus, yielding 13 tons of harvestable dry matter, can produce the same amount of energy as 12 tons of Powder River Basin coal.

Caveny is optimistic about the prospects for cellulosic biofuels from crops such as Giant Miscanthus. "It will absolutely happen," he said. "The only impediment right now is the availability of plants. Once that is solved, Giant Miscanthus will take off."

"Giant Miscanthus opens up new acres and new opportunities," Moose added. "I don't know how this will transpire or how growers will embrace this, but we know it can transform rural society and agriculture."

Source: Doug Peterson, Extension Specialist, News & Public Affairs, dpeters@uiuc.edu



HELPFUL TIPS FROM U OF I EXTENSION FALL TURF CARE

Now is the time to think about fertilizing your lawn for best results and obtaining a fuller, healthier turf for next season. Often we think of fertilizing lawns as a spring and summer event. However the majority of lawns in Illinois are composed of cool season grasses, which do most of their growing during the fall and early spring. From a management perspective, encouraging ideal grass growth for the cooler months of the year will help lawns stay green longer during the heat of the summer next year.

For most of south central and southern Illinois, this season's drought and heat quickly put cool season lawn grasses into natural summer dormancy. With recent rainfall and cooler temperatures of early September, cool season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass and fescues are beginning to grow and come out of dormancy. This new growth is an indicator that it is time to apply fertilizer. By fertilizing now, plant roots will rapidly take up the fertilizer in warm soils, grow quickly to cover bare areas, and build reserves for next spring.

For our region, the month of September and again in late November (when growth stops), are the two best fertilizer application periods. A third timing in early May, after the spring growth flush, is often recommended depending on growth, conditions and turf type. Fertilizer recommendations are based on many factors. Usually a range of total nitrogen per season is given. Depending on grass species and the degree of management intensity desired, this can range from 1 to 4 pounds of actual nitrogen per year. Three nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK) comprise a percentage of fertilizer products. For example 18-6-12, would have 18% nitrogen, 6 % phosphorus, and 12% potassium. Thus for a 50 pound bag you would have purchased nine pounds of nitrogen, three pounds of phosphoric acid and 6 pounds of potassium.

Fertilizer comes in an array of formulations which vary in nutrient percentages. Some formulations are of only one nutrient. Formulations also vary in release rate, either fast or slow. Slow release fertilizers are specially coated to gradually release nutrients. They are more expensive, but risk of burning the grass is much less compared to water soluble fast release materials. Slow release materials are a preferable choice for the late spring and early fall application times. However if applied correctly, high nitrogen analysis and fast release materials (such as ammonium and urea products) can be used. Their advantage is less expense, and because of relatively high nutrient percentages, less material is needed per area treated.

When fertilizing your lawn, the most important things are correct timing and applying the correct amount. The most common mistakes are applying too early and too much in the spring, and not fertilizing in the fall. Early fall is by far the most critical timing as cool season grasses make significant growth before winter sets in. Nitrogen is the nutrient taken up in the greatest quantities by plants. It should be applied at no more than 1 pound per 1000 square feet of lawn area at any given timing. Phosphorous and potassium are also important nutrients for the lawn. Application rate of these nutrients is ideally based on soil test. In lieu of a soil test, an N:P:K ratio of 3:1:2 up to 5:1:2 is recommended when selecting fertilizer materials. The fertilizer 18-6-12 is an example of a 3:1:2 material. In general, a range of 1 to 4 pounds of phosphorus or potassium per 1000 square feet should be applied depending on soil status. For the November application, potassium in particular should be included to "winterize" the turf, and build root reserves.



Nitrogen is usually the nutrient used to calculate the amount of a particular fertilizer applied, while phosphorus and potassium "ride along". Since fertilizer formulations vary in percentage nitrogen, some quick and easy calculations are needed to help determine how much fertilizer material should be applied for a given lawn area. This involves knowing:

The desired nitrogen rate (1 pound nitrogen per 1000 sq feet)

The fertilizer percent nitrogen

Your lawn area in square feet (measured as length times width).

Applying the resulting amount of fertilizer evenly over entire area. (see examples on next page)

Fertilizer spreaders are either one of two types, a drop or band spreader, or a rotary broadcast spreader. Drop spreaders can be more easily calibrated to place an exact amount of fertilizer in a narrow band. Broadcast spreaders are more imprecise, throwing a broad, circular, overlapping pattern. Most spreaders can be set at a range of flow rates, and some come with pre-set calibration notches for various fertilizer types. For situations in which calibration is difficult, such as most broadcast spreaders, a practical approach is to set the spreader on a very light setting, and apply in several directions until the entire amount calculated for the area is used.

When making fertilizer applications, make sure that the grass is dry so the material does not stick to the leaf and burn it. After fertilization, the area should be well-irrigated. Fertilizing ahead of an upcoming rain event is a good practice for large turf areas that are difficult to water. Fertilizing your lawn this fall is a good first step to ensure a healthy, vigorous lawn for next year. Proper care will help lawns stay green longer and better withstand the heat and drought of the upcoming summer. For more information on turfgrass establishment and care visit the University of Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Extension Turfgrass website at: <http://www.turf.uiuc.edu/extension/extension.html>.

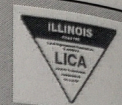




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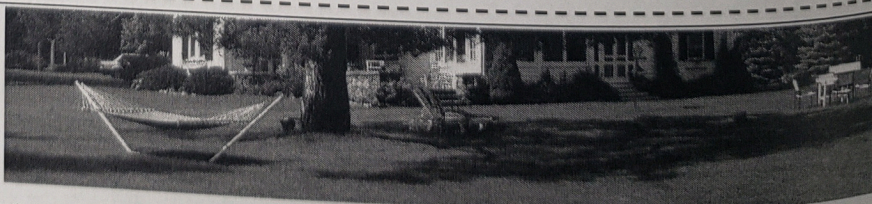
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FALL TURF CARE (CONT)

Let's use this example. A fertilizer with the analysis of 12-12-12 is being used. This is a common garden and lawn grade material with 12% nitrogen. The grass area to be fertilized is 30 feet wide by 100 feet long, which is 3000 square feet (30 x 100).

First calculate the amount of this type of fertilizer that needs to be applied to 1000 square feet. This is the desired nitrogen rate (1 pound) divided by the percentage nitrogen (12), then multiplied by 100. This calculation is: $1/12 \times 100 = 8.3$ pounds of 12-12-12 material needed per 1000 square feet to apply 1 pound of nitrogen.

Next figure the amount of material for the lawn area you want to fertilize, in this case 3000 square feet. Divide the pounds material needed per 1000 square feet by 1000, and multiply this by the area to be fertilized. This calculation is: $8.3/1000 \times 3000 = 24.9$ pounds of 12-12-12 needed for the measured area. Thus about one-half of a 50 pound bag needs to be spread evenly over the 3000 square feet area.





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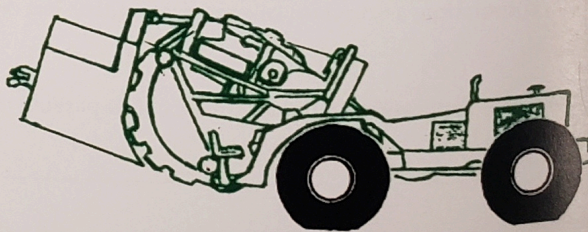
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