

Comments by the IAM President



Alan Peterson,
IAM President

Dear Irrigators,

On Thursday, February 20th, 2014, we will be holding the 40th annual meeting of the Irrigators Association of Minnesota. Forty years ago a group of irrigating farmers and extension personnel decided irrigators in the state needed a unified voice. They sought a way to get the latest news and information about irrigation out to all irrigators. Research on ways to improve irrigation in the state was another high priority and they wanted a presence in St. Paul on issues pertaining to irrigation.

Forty years later that's what IAM is still doing. Your state board of directors, who are made up of irrigators and industry representatives from around the state; meets three times a year. Your state board recognizes the value irrigation has to the state of Minnesota. Our legal counsel, Lee Hanson, has been with IAM since the beginning helping draft bylaws. Lee grew up in the Brooten area and saw the value irrigation had on his home farm and in the community. IAM appreciates Lee's continued involvement in irrigation.

For this year's annual meeting we are putting together a very informative program for all irrigators. We have the DNR scheduled to present about the preliminary well construction approval process. The DNR will also bring us up to date on proposed groundwater management areas in the state (there are three.) We also have Warren Formo

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40th IAM Annual Convention

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20TH, 2014

Freeport Community Center – Freeport, MN

8:30 A.M. – REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS

\$25 at the Door (\$30 non-members) – includes noon lunch

— REFRESHMENTS —

9:30 A.M. – WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Alan Peterson, IAM president

MN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jason B. Moeckel, MDNR

STRATEGIES TO INSURE THE FUTURE OF IRRIGATED CROP PRODUCTION AMIDST GROWING REGULATORY THREATS

Warren Formo, MAWRC

— BREAK TO VISIT EXHIBITORS —

NEBRASKA IRRIGATION PRACTICES FOR CONSERVATION OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Dean Eisenhauer, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

— NOON BUFFET LUNCH —

"The Preacher and Teacher" (more information on page 5)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERVICE AWARD

UPDATES by Bruce Kleven, Ag Lobbyist

MDA PROJECTS by Bruce Montgomery

— BUSINESS MEETING —

CASH DRAWINGS \$250 & \$100 at End of Meeting

"MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN"

2:30 P.M. –

* LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS *

AND

SOCIALIZING WITH NEIGHBORS AND EXHIBITORS

Cash Bar Open after Meeting Closed

Featured Speaker IAM 40th Convention



Dean E. Eisenhauer
Professor,
Department of
Biological Systems
Engineering,
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln

Former Minnesota Area Extension Irrigation Engineer and now Professor Dean E. Eisenhauer from the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln will share at the convention what irrigation practices are being used by irrigating farmers and other stakeholders to conserve the water resources of Nebraska. Dean started his early irrigation career in the Bonanza Valley of Minnesota back in 1974 serving as an Area Extension Irrigation Engineer housed in Brooten, MN.

He returned to Nebraska in fall of 1975 to work with the University of Nebraska Extension as an Assistant Professor and Extension Irrigation Specialist, at the South Central Research & Extension Center in Platte, Nebraska. In 1989 Dean moved to the Lincoln campus and became a teacher and researcher of irrigation and hydrologic engineering in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering.

Nebraska has more irrigated acres than any state in the United States with an estimated 9.1 million acres. While Nebraska sits on one of the largest aquifers in the world, water shortages do exist across the state, with at least 35% of the irrigated acres having a limit on how much irrigation water can be pumped. Effects of the 2012 drought continue to challenge producers.

Reported in a recently released 2013 Agriculture Water Management Impact Study that participants indicated they reduced water application by 2.4 inches per acre for corn and 2.2 inches per acre for soybeans. Ninety three percent (93%) of participants indicated the Nebraska Ag Water Management Network equipment or information influenced them on the amount of irrigation water applied. The Nebraska Ag Water Management Network continues to grow and now has over 1050 participants statewide. Participants In another study on the value of irrigation to Nebraska found that without irrigation in 2012, Nebraska would have had 31,221 fewer jobs, with more than 1/3 of those jobs outside of crop production (2013 UN Agricultural Water Management Impact Summary webpage.)

Welcome to the Winter 2014 Newsletter



Jerry Wright,
Membership Secretary

This newsletter comes to you thanks to the support of the enclosed advertisers and the current IAM irrigator and industry membership and those extra mile supporters listed in the newsletter.

The IAM Board of Directors' invites you to become a member if you have not already joined.

We all need each others ideas, experience and support to continue the IAM activities into the

coming year especially in keeping a watchful eye on our irrigation water rights as well as represent the interests of irrigation practices across the state.

To become a member return the application form on the last page of this newsletter with a check made payable to the "IAM". There are many benefits in belonging to IAM with the best one being simply knowing that you have joined in partnership with your neighboring irrigators in supporting your IAM officers and the board of directors' legislative and agency contact activities. As a member you can also be placed on the IAM email alert list if you submit your email address.

If you have a topic that you would like to see discussed in a future newsletter issue, drop a note to IAM president, Alan Peterson at <alpetefarm@frontiernet.net> Articles for the newsletter are solicited and gathered by the IAM officers and Membership Secretary, Jerry Wright whom can be contacted at <wrightsj@charter.net> Crow River Press, in Hutchinson, MN manages advertiser space and edits, prints and mails the newsletter.

If you are not interested in receiving future mailings from Irrigators Association of Minnesota (IAM), please send a note to: wrightsj@charter.net or IAM, c/o Fletcher, 24 S. Edquist St., Appleton, MN 56208

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

from MAWRC. His presentation is titled “Strategies to Insure the Future of Irrigated Crop Production Amidst Growing Regulatory Threats.” Our third speaker will be Dean Eisenhower from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will talk about Nebraska’s irrigation water concerns and conservation experiences. We have some light entertainment for your noon hour because we all need to laugh once in a while.

During our business meeting our lobbyist, Bruce Kleven, will update members about issues at the capital. This year we will discuss the possibility of raising membership dues. The state board of directors has approved a motion to propose a dues raise from \$60 per year to \$100 for 2015. With the added costs to IAM’s budget for lobbying and legal expertise, IAM’s balance sheet has started to slowly go down. Membership and convention sign up form on page 8.

I hope you will mark this date on your calendar and join us in celebrating this forty year milestone. We will be at a new location; the Freeport Community Center in Freeport, MN. I look forward to seeing you on February 20th.

Alan Peterson, Irrigators Association of Minnesota President
alpetefarm@frontiernet.net
or 320-743-2551



IAM MEMBERS

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL IAM CONVENTION FEB. 20TH AND CONSIDER THE CLINIC, CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP COMING UP IN FEBRUARY 2014. DESCRIPTIONS, DATES, TIMES ON THIS PAGE AND PAGE 5.

Free Irrigation Clinic–February 4th

BENTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

They are hosting a **FREE IRRIGATION CLINIC on February 4, 2014 at the Sauk Rapids Government Center Community Room in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota** 250 Summit Avenue, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

The clinic will provide the knowledge, tools and technology to make informed management decisions that can minimize negative environmental impacts while working towards increased profitability.

This clinic is designed for current irrigators, those who are interested in becoming an irrigator, and those who work

with irrigators. The clinic will feature presentations and discussion on identifying crop stress with emerging technology, nutrient management with nitrogen inhibitors, project updates on Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s City of Rice Nitrogen and Chemical Leaching Project and University of Minnesota’s Sand Plain Research Farm – Field Connect System. There will also be an update from MN Department of Natural Resources on changes within the groundwater appropriation world.

The day begins with registration and a complimentary light breakfast at 9:30 AM, presentations begin promptly at 10:00 AM

and will conclude at 3:00 PM. Lunch is free of charge but preregistration is required for accurate meal counts. Please RSVP to Katie Winkelman, Benton SWCD by 4:00 PM, January 31 at 320 968 5300 Ext 120.

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BY Pat Gehling, District Conservationist,
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www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov
www.soilandwater.org

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Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Chemigation

The following is a list of items that are REQUIRED PER THE MINNESOTA CHEMIGATION RULE as you plan for the next chemigation season:

- 1. Chemigation Permit Applications:** If you plan on applying a fertilizer or pesticide via chemigation you need to apply for a chemigation permit with the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture (MDA). Remember that each legal entity operating a chemigation site must have its own permit. If a legal entity rents the site to another legal entity that uses the site, both entities are required to have a chemigation permit.
- 2. Substantial Alteration Permit:** If you plan on making any changes to the anti-pollution equipment on the system you need to apply for a substantial alteration permit with the MDA. This is required even when replacing like equipment with like equipment.
- 3. System Inspection:** An inspection of the system's anti-pollution equipment must be completed prior to chemigation and a copy of the inspection records must be maintained. The MDA suggests at a minimum that the check valve(s), vacuum relief valve, low pressure drain, chemigation injection system, water low pressure shutdown/injection system interlock and system calibration all be checked and inspected prior to chemigation. Inspection and maintenance records are required to be retained by the permit holder for five years.
- 4. Application Records:** Chemigation application records must be maintained for each permitted system on forms approved by the MDA. Application records are required to be retained by the operator for a period of five years from the date of application.
- 5. Well Setback and Chemical Tank Safeguard Requirements:** Safeguarding containment of chemical supply tanks is required if two of the following three conditions occur: 1) the tank is greater than 1,500 U.S. gallons, 2) the tank is in place for more than 30 consecutive days, and/or 3) the tank is located closer than 100 feet to the well.

Information regarding the MDA Chemigation Program can be found on the MDA's website at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/fertilizers/chemigation.aspx>. At this website you can find the forms required for permit applications, substantial alteration permits, inspection records, application records and chemigation fact sheets and links to the Minnesota Chemigation Rule 1505. Also, if you have any questions related to chemigation you can contact the following individuals at the MDA:

*MDA Chemigation Program Staff:
Jim Freilinger 320-243-7382 and
Jeffrey Lorentz 320-223-6547*



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Thursday - February 20, 2014

2014 Annual IAM Convention
40TH CONVENTION

Community Center at Freeport, Minnesota

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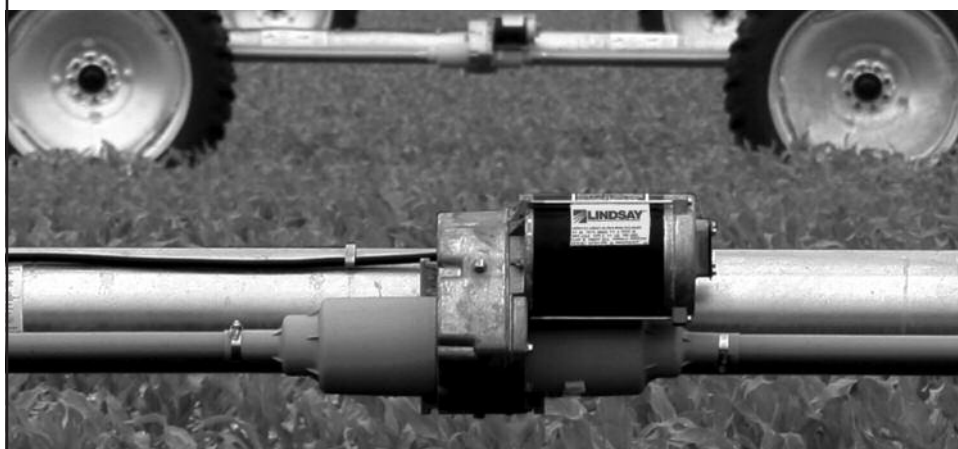
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40th Convention Entertainment



Finding the humor in life through stories is the focus of **"THE PREACHER AND THE TEACHER"** entertainment during the noon-time buffet at the **40th IAM Convention**. Marilee Bergerson is a full time Lutheran Pastor and Cindy Bigger is a retired Extension Educator. These two women serve up laughter through stories about growing up and living life in rural Minnesota! They hope to inspire their audiences to share the stories in their own lives with those that matter most to them!!

Sixth annual Crop Nutrient Management Conference February 11th – Mankato

A great program, free lunch, and available CCA education credits – what's there not to like about the sixth annual Crop Nutrient Management Conference on February 11th at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato?

Industry, university, and state agency presenters will cover the latest in crop nutrient management research and technology that promote nutrient use efficiency and protect water quality.

The program runs from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Although there is no charge for the conference, registration is requested for planning purposes. Full conference details and on line registration is available at www.mda.state.mn.us/nutrientconference

Registration can also be done over the phone, 612-209-9181, or email nutri.conf@state.mn.us. When calling or sending an email, provide your name, organization, address, phone and e mail.

Central MN Irrigation Workshop to be held February 25th

The East Otter Tail SWCD and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture invites the irrigation producers of Central Minnesota to attend a free irrigation workshop that will be held on February 25th from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The event will be held at the Thumper Pond Resort in Otter Tail MN. Lunch will be provided.

The clinic will focus on producers who are using irrigation as a management tool and want to review soil moisture monitoring techniques. This workshop will provide updates on recent state agency reports and plans that may have implications for irrigating growers in central MN. In addition, recent UMN plot research on nitrogen rate recommendations for sandy soil and an overview new tools and technology available from the irrigation industry will be covered.

MAIN TOPICS

- The MDA Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan*
- Recent UMN Nitrogen Rate Research for Sandy Soils*
- Cover Crop Benefits for Central MN*
- The Pilot DNR Groundwater Management Areas*
- New Tools & Innovation from the Irrigation Industry*

In addition, several demonstrations will be given illustrating soil moisture assessment, nitrogen water testing, groundwater flow, the web soil survey, WI irrigation scheduler program, soil quality, and cover crops.

We will also be offering free Nitrate testing for those producers who bring along a sample of their drinking water.

This workshop is supported by the **Clean Water Fund** (created by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment) with funding appropriated to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The workshop is also sponsored by the East Otter Tail SWCD with support from NRCS staff.

This workshop is offered free of charge including lunch and refreshments.

PREREGISTRATION IS NEEDED BY FEBRUARY 14TH

Please contact the East Otter Tail SWCD at (218) 346-4260 to R.S.V.P.

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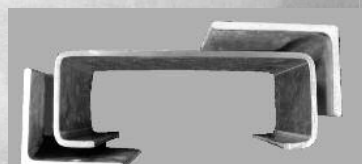


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New Extension Irrigation Specialist Position - Search Update

By Jerry Wright, IAM Membership Secretary

In the 2013 fall issue of the Minnesota Irrigator, Bruce Montgomery from Minnesota Department of Agriculture announced that thanks to funding from the Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Amendment, the state is once again moving forward with having an Extension Irrigation Specialist. Bruce indicated last fall also that he was hopeful that the position would be filled before the end of the year.

In September a University search team was organized to find candidates. This committee was chaired by Professor Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Extension Climatologist with four others including Professor Gary Sands, Extension Educators Brad Carlson and Paulo Pagliari; and Jerry Wright, Retired Extension Engineer.

Twenty individuals applied for this position and in December the Search Team selected four individuals to be interviewed.

SPECIALIST continued on page 8



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**Contact Kasey Stratton
605-270-1311**

MN-DNR is Seeking Your Input on their “draft Groundwater Strategic PLAN”

The Minnesota DNR released their latest “Draft Groundwater Strategic Plan” back in October 2013, which will guide them towards their goal of sustainable groundwater use for all Minnesotans, as stated in a article listed on a webpage called “Know The Flow” (www.KnowTheFlow.us) This website is a product of a water resources management initiative to provide public information and coordination among Anoka County agencies, communities and water management organizations.

This Plan currently is just a draft, but as a draft, it has an open comment period. Your IAM Board of Directors urges you to print it off and read through it. The draft Plan can be found on the MN DNR webpage: <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/gwmp/gwsp-draftplan.pdf>

There is information within this “DRAFT” that will have impact on Irrigation pumpage as DNR continues to review and refine their approaches to approving Irrigation permits, granting new or changing past water appropriations, monitoring, etc. This topic will be discussed at the IAM annual convention on February 20th in the Freeport Community Center.

The DNR would especially like your input on this draft and one simple way is via an electronic SURVEY they have on their website. IAM Board encourages you

to also complete this survey so irrigators’ voices are heard from across the state. You can simply go to DNR’s website to find the survey or by using this link: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/listening.html>

The Minnesota legislature created groundwater management areas as a tool for the DNR to address difficult groundwater-related resource challenges in specific parts of the state.

The DNR is currently developing three pilot groundwater management areas plans. They will be launched at different times.

The first one in operation already is the North and East Metro area; the other two are in just in the process of getting their advisory committees organized and the scheduling of public meeting in the respective areas of the Straight River area (Hubbard & Becker Counties), and the Bonanza Valley (Pope, Stearns and Kandiyohi Counties.)

These 3 pilot manage areas can also be following on the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/areas.html>

If you would like to share your comments with the IAM Board as well, please send to Alan Peterson at alpetefarm@frontiernet.net

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Grant Anderson to represent IAM on Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council

A change of IAM representation on the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) recently took place with the departure of former Council member Norman Krause (Staples.) Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson endorsed IAM's selection of Grant Anderson (Belgrade) to replace Krause as their representative on the Council through June 2015.

The Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) is a farmer-led program working to advance soil fertility research, technology development, and education. The Council consists of 12 members who are either farmers or agricultural professional service providers, such as crop retailers or consultants. The state program is funded by a \$0.40 per ton fertilizer sales surcharge administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Since 2008, numerous research projects have been funded by AFREC focusing on corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat, a number of which included sites under irrigation. An irrigation-specific project funded in 2013 is exploring the use of polymer-coated urea for irrigated potato production and its possible effects on nitrate leaching. Additional irrigation related projects are expected in 2014 and future funding cycles since the Council has identified soil fertility management on coarse-textured, irrigated soils as a long-term priority funding area.

The 2014 Request-for-Proposals process resulted in 28 research project applications totaling more than \$4.7

million in requested funding. The annual research budget available to AFREC is \$800,000, emphasizing the importance of the role of Norman Krause and now Grant Anderson in assisting the council in deciding the best use of available funding. An announcement naming 2014 selected projects is anticipated at the end of March.

Look for in-depth interviews with departing Council member Norman Krause, who represented IAM on the Council since 2008, and newly appointed Council member Grant Anderson in the next IAM newsletter.

More information on AFREC is available at www.mda.state.mn.us/afrec



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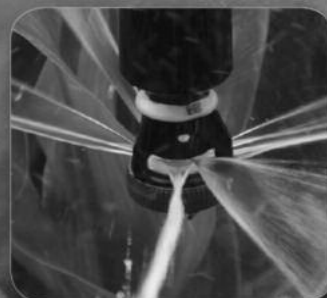
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SPECIALIST continued from page 6

Interviews are currently taking place as this newsletter is being printed. The Search Team hopes to make their recommendations to the Extension Administration by early February. Hopefully within a month or two someone will be in this new position. This person will be expected to interact quickly with many irrigating farmers and other interested folks to understand their concerns and needs to help in the development and direction for new educational initiatives and management tools to assist irrigation managers.

This position will be responsible for helping irrigators adopt the latest technology, promoting sound water and nitrogen management practices and developing irrigation management practices. With the large surge in new irrigators, there will be plenty of work to do.

Funds for the position will be routed through the Department of Agriculture to the University of MN Extension. The position will be housed on the St. Paul Campus within the Department of Soil, Water and Climate.



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