

ICAE/ILCAE Meeting

January 13, 2009

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Massie/Miller at 9:08 AM after technical difficulties were resolved.

Attending (whole/part) at IAA were: Dave Cattron, Harley Hepner, Don Meyer, Bill Schreck, Brandy Biros, Gordon Ropp, Jim Craft, Jay Runner, Karen Fraase, Mike Massie. Attending (whole/part) by telephone were: Andy Baker, Curtis Miller, Heather Miller, Al Dietz, Tammy Miller, Mark Meurer, Mary Bush, Stacy Stremsterfer, John Kabat.

A motion (made by Schreck/Cattron) to approve the agenda passed.

Massie led discussion on two questions below (summary responses follow minutes):

- How can ILCAE/ICAE best help meet the "10x15" Goal in Illinois (Grow from the current 320 Ag Ed programs to 442 Ag Ed programs by 2015.)?
- How can I best help with the 10 X 15 goal?

[participants were asked to review the summary to insure their comments are contained]

Following the question discussion the business meeting proceeded according to the agenda.

Agricultural Awareness in Education - Jay reported :

- There is funding in FCAE projects to solicit teachers for St. Louis Conference. 36 teachers have applied to date.
- Steve Newman has retired from his role with IAA Foundation but his successor has been named.
- A five year summary spreadsheet was shared showing the funding provided to IAITC projects. In the current year 20.4% of the FCAE line is supporting IAITC, including an estimated 16% of FCAE staff time and related costs charged to the IAITC.
- Discussed video/web projects to promote Ag careers – plans are underway but no funds available yet.

Secondary Agricultural Education Programs – Harley reported:

- Have made incentive grant changes as discussed
- ICAE new appointments are in process
- Have requested Ag Ed line increases as well as a Growing Ag Science Teachers (GAST) line. At present no new line as well as level funding are in the ISBE budget today
- Discussed GAST program and applications, due dates and process for selection. He sought 3 volunteers from ICAE to review the applications. Dick Treat was suggested as one nominee and other ICAE representatives will be asked.
- Harley indicated that if there are changes to be made in the grants that a meeting between ILCAE/ICAE representatives and ISBE might be wise. Consensus was to hold a meeting.
- Incentive grants for university formulas were discussed. Harley suggested that additional "X" values items might be included for support of Collegiate FFA and PAS programs. Motion made by Massie/Cattron to include the "X" vales for Collegiate FFA and PAS activities. Passed.

Jay also shared an update related to this agenda section:

- Invited all to join a bus group attending MARRS Conference in Indianapolis on March 27, 2009. It should be an opportunity to see some top ag education programs and career fair.
- Elite Conferences held this year – most recent was last week at JJC with 98 participants from secondary and community colleges. Good format with both age groups involved.
- Teaching Ag.NET website was shared with the group. It was launched last week at the Elite Conference and is similar to a successful site from California. In includes the use of a new logo "Inspiring Minds to Grow" with that theme carried beyond the website into other ag career programs.
- Asked for input into upcoming Ag Legislative Breakfast. Consensus was to continue with the informational card stapled to a soynuts or candy corn bag.
- IL Ag Ed website – plans for a new layout should be finished by July 1.

Agricultural Careers Exploration – Jim Craft shared:

FFA –

- Written report from State FFA officers was shared and indicated their current trip to China and are back Friday.
- Convention is June 9-11, 2009. ILCAE/ICAE recognition will correspond to their 6/11 meeting scheduled.
- Membership Goal for this year is 17,500, but there were 120 late or missing chapter rosters.

IAVAT –

- Working with UI on EZ Records revisions
- State and American FFA Degrees are now easily printed from EZ Records
- Agri-science book now a part of EZ Records system
- Several other states are now using the system
- Convention plans underway, Andy Armbruster invited to kick-off

FFA Alumni –

- State meeting planned January 30/31, 2009. Many door prizes available
- Need to ask Alumni for input into the 10 X 15 initiative
- Barn restored at Reddick with financial support from Campbell Soup. Will be traveling to Nashville to restore a barn on the Hermitage National Historic site near Nashville, TN.

SAE Workshops have been underway in each section and will continue into next year.

Postsecondary Agricultural Education Programs – Tammy reported on ICAE/ILCAE Symposium in April and the integration of articulation conference with it.

Baccalaureate & Graduate Education in Agriculture – Heather shared:

- Distance Education successes shared in Crop Sciences, Ag Education, Natural Resources, and others. Activity has doubled and tripled in some cases.
- Food Science sections may be on-line at some point,
- Seems to be some adults switching careers from ag industry to Ag Education.
- BS program in horticulture at Chicago on hold (for the future) due to budget constraints
- Discussed opportunities to reach “non-traditional” science teachers with ag ed courses. Interest is developing
- A question was asked about Dairy Science programs discontinuing at UI but was referred to Animal Sciences.

Adult Education in Agriculture Programs – Don shared

- An electronic listing of planned statewide ag Extension programs has been shared from Dale Baird (IEAA Association) to Jay. Perhaps explore widely posting of those educational programs linked to the Ag ED website?
- Program Fees are a part of many ag workshops to cost recover what state funding used

State Leadership Team for Agricultural Education –

Jill/Jay will be meeting in Indianapolis to show IL recruitment efforts to national FFA and explore possible collaborations with them. Ideas for this came from meeting at Monsanto last fall and the need to link ag better to the Food Science community.

Old Business: Membership/committee assignments were discussed and a few members shared interest in moving committees. Don reiterated relinquishing his fill-in role of ICAE Vice Chair at the upcoming election.

New Business: ICAE/ILCAE Symposium will be April 2/3 in Springfield. IACCAI is revisiting scheduling for articulation. There is a conference call tomorrow afternoon to further discuss. Ag Industry has aligned with an initiative called “Vision for IL Agriculture” and the desire to carry this theme into the Symposium.

At the April meeting selections will be needed for the IL Ag Ed Advocacy Award winners. There will be 6 winners (1/ per district and 1 from Urban group in District 2). Looking for nominees from those promoting agriculture at the local, district, or state levels.

Other Items:

Jay shared current concerns over the state budget and its possible impact.

Bill Schreck complimented the State FFA officer presentation to ISBE recently. He also shared about last week's IL Ag Legislative Roundtable meeting. He reported that Ag Ed was included with Extension, C-FAR, Soil and Water and others as a continued priority for support state and national legislative efforts.

Karen shared the Ag Legislative Breakfast date as March 26, 2009.

Next meeting dates will be April 2/3, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield.

The meeting adjourned (motion by Cattron/Schreck) at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Meyer, recording secretary

How can ILCAE/ICAE best help meet the “10x15” Goal in Illinois ?

- Make students more aware of opportunities in teaching agriculture
- Retention of teachers is still of utmost priority, strong professional development, conscious of time of teachers (revise expectations to ease job stress)
- Organize a platoon (adults and youth) to reach potential schools and share the story
- Recruit students with a heart for teaching – use FFA Leadership Camp, Elite, other venues
- Offer additional Scholarships to attract teachers
- Need for a Master’s Degree program
- SAE plan development – incentives needed for teachers
- Conduct high school marketing campaign (“Ag Ed for Every Student”)
- Publicize success stories – public and professional organizations
- Identify specific schools to target
- Need to understand what schools are looking for and match what we have to what they need
- Reach urban schools to share “applied” world of agriculture with “basic” world of learning standards
- Share the vision of food and fiber careers with urban students and minimize the “production” side of ag
- Challenge to reach urban potential teachers – may not work to take “rural” teachers to “urban” settings
- Can’t have quality programs without quality teachers
- Twelve month contracts for all ag teachers (like California, Kentucky, Missouri)
- Need to assist in sharing with urban teachers how ag can help meet state goals
- Create a target list of schools and rank them
- Broaden what constitutes an Ag Ed program (do we need to loosen the “3 circles” goal?)
- Scholarships for Ag Ed recruits (Industry is doing this)
- Elite Conferences should be continued for answering students’ questions (maybe 2-3 per year?)
- Red flag programs to prevent future losses of programs
- New Junior High program involving additional teachers at existing locations
- More people “on the ground” talking to school officials
- Focus on “green initiatives” as part of ag classes (Pat Quinn is a proponent of “green”)
- Need to talk broader than “ag” and relate it to careers in food, sciences, and business
- Get foot in the door with Life Sciences teachers
- “Stay in School” and Discipline Problem Prevention” with ag classes as an approach to new schools
- Must talk about how Ag Ed can help improve test scores
- Workforce must be there (the need for ag teachers in general)
- Hospitality, Rural health, Homeland Security and their relationship with ag ed as a possible focus
- Are there “fast track” programs available for future Ag Ed students
- Farm Bureau helps recruit rural medical professionals – are there plans we could do that for Ag Ed?
- Collaborate with large employers (John Deere, ADM, Growmark)
- Incorporate Ag Ed questions in state testing
- Show School Boards how Ag Ed can help them meet goals
- Rural/Urban exchanges can help market Ag Ed
- Share specific careers available to high school students, not just “Go to College” message
- Target pocket areas of state without Ag Ed (like Dixon area)
- School consolidations can hinder this goal–may need to focus on students and not just new schools
- Connect Kids to regular classes (Why am I studying Calculus?) – Ag can do that!
- Connect FFA Foundation campaign to expansion of Ag Ed – not just fund raise, but promote Ag Ed
- May try to get state to adopt a Career Technical Education mandate for all students
- Identify how many schools don’t have and find out why they don’t

How can I best help with the 10 X 15 goal?

These were on the list as discussed, but some may better belong above)

- ICAE/ILCAE can help advise, nudge, recruit funding, legislative impact
- Adults need to accompany youth in recruiting new schools
- Scholarships and Masters programs more available
- Publicity
- Dollars to set up programs (FCAE grants)
- GAST – Growing Ag Science Teachers grants available
- Local connections and local support
- Ag awareness that ag is not just cows and plows, relating to consumers (Food and Fiber)
- Work on Ag Ed perception Problem
- Look at school structures (such as charter schools) to allow flexibility of programs
- Know our customers – (students and schools)
- Opportunities for development (find or provide grants)
- Curriculum content – be sure it is current and relevant
- Help to spread the word to make contacts to build programs
- Support the funding for Ag Ed
- Work to identify potential target schools through Ag Awareness programs
- Try to get on School Board Convention agenda to share possibilities
- Make presentations to schools NOT currently offering Ag Ed