



Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education

Promote education in and about agriculture.

Address the changing needs of agricultural education to strengthen its viability and competitiveness to serve industry.

Develop investment opportunities involving human and financial capital for the benefit of all groups having interest in agricultural education.

ILCAE Meeting - September 2, 2020 - Virtual via Zoom

In attendance: *ILCAE Member(19)

Luke Allen
Patrick Barry
Casey Bolin
*Allyn Buhrow
Mindy Bunselmeyer
*Dave Cattron
Megan Coy
*Al Dietz
Dean Dittmar
Jesse Faber
Doug Falk
Mary Fischer
*Jeff Galle

Susan Graham
*Doug Hanson
*Kim Haywood
John Heiser
*Russ Higgins
Annie Johnson
*Karen Jones
*Chris Kendall
Lucas Maxwell
*Don Moffitt
Nolan Moss
Ann Piotrowski
Jay Runner
*Karen Schieler

*Aimee Shasteen
*Kay Shipman
*Haley Siergie
Steven Still
Terry Stroh
*Tyler Strom
*Dan Swanson
Trenton Taber
Jennifer Waters
*Greg Webb
*Kaitlin Weitekamp
Wyatt Williamson
Penny Haase Wittler
*Michael Zecher

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Hanson at 2:00 p.m.

Several teachers(Trent Taber, Ann Piotrowski, Nolan Moss, Kim Haywood) were invited to speak about the current classroom situations they are facing. There are a variety of school plans, from fully in person with precautions to fully virtual, and hybrid models. All are feeling the challenge of providing valuable lessons and learning tools while remaining flexible to changing rules and protocols. Many students seem to be adjusting well to the new learning environment, and some are thriving with the opportunity to learn in an alternative setting.

The FFA state officer team is conducting both small group in person leadership training sessions as well as virtual. They have recorded opening ceremonies and the FFA Creed. Working on creating some “conference in a box” materials for fall events.

FCAE has added a virtual learning toolkit to their website that teachers can access. Ag in the Classroom also has virtual tour videos. ISU and SIU have virtual campus tours available and are working on additional tours of their respective farms. Teachers are looking for those types of activities that they can incorporate into their lessons as live field trips are not happening right now.



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A new slate of officers was proposed to the group by Dave Cattron:

Chair: Allyn Buhrow

Vice Chair: Greg Webb

Secretary: Michael Woods

Dave Cattron moved and Al Dietz seconded the new slate of officers, and the motion was approved. They will take over at the conclusion of this meeting.

Dean Dittmar presented Doug Hanson with an appreciation plaque for his four years of service as ILCAE chair.

Future meeting dates were discussed. The scheduled date of November 12 now has some conflicts. Allyn Buhrow will look into a meeting location – possibly Triple M Farm in Clinton, where the group can be semi-outdoors and socially distanced – and a new date. The January meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with the Illinois FFA Alumni meeting (January 22-23) if that event takes place in person.

The July 1 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by Al Dietz and seconded by Jeff Galle. Motion to approve passed.

Karen Schieler's appointment to ICAE was mentioned as pending.

The Ag Ed 365 program is behind on contributions, likely due to COVID. The July and August payments have not yet been made.

Doug Falk gave an update on MyCAERT. They are currently working on materials for a new marketing CDE and updating ag business curriculum. Material usage is up. A YouTube channel is planned for the near future.

They are currently not where they would like to be with ISBE. They are more than 60 days behind schedule and Doug asked ILCAE members to help encourage ISBE to take action.

The royalty fund is currently housed at Parkland College.

Dave Cattron moved to create a five member curriculum committee of ILCAE and ICAE members to advise and assist with the process. Allyn Buhrow seconded, and the motion passed. Doug Hanson will chair the committee. Michael Zecher and Jeff Galle volunteered for the committee. Doug and Allyn would fill the remaining two seats.



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Dean Dittmar and FCAE field staff shared the annual report and highlighted some of their work on various projects.

Jesse Faber gave a brief legislative update. He reminded the group that the IAVAT legislative committee is always welcoming new interested parties.

Two pieces of legislation this group is interested in are: the proposed changes to ICAE membership and statute changes to allow ag classes to count for college entrance requirements at public universities in Illinois. Both items may come up in the fall veto session, depending on how that looks with COVID precautions in place. Other items likely to come up in the veto session are ethics review, minority issues and police reform, and the progressive tax.

Jake Butcher has taken on a new role as Chief of Staff for Senator Don Harmon. Our new legislative contact is Patrick Barry of DBP Team, LLC.

It's time to nominate deserving individuals for our annual awards. A list of past recipients will be shared and any ILCAE member is welcome to make a nomination. The leadership team will review and make selections, with the goal to make the awards at the November meeting.

Don Moffitt thanked Doug Hanson once again for his leadership of ILCAE.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m. by Jeff Galle and seconded by Don Moffitt. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jones
ILCAE Secretary