



Member Update

IFIAI Summer Meeting Ahead

Education, growth and good times all can be found at the Independent Farm Insurance Agents of Illinois (IFIAI) summer meeting. The event promises a chance to network, learn, and swing your favorite driver. Agents and company representatives can register now for the June 17-18 event, scheduled to take place at Bloomington's Doubletree Hotel. Meeting features include:

- The Annual Golf Outing will be held June 17 at the nearby Prairie Vista Golf Course. Participants must register for both the annual meeting and the golf outing.
- Friday sessions begin with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast, followed by the annual meeting at 8:30 a.m. Business will include approval of the officer slate, presented by the IFIAI Nominating Committee. Those nominated include: President, Dwain McAfee; Vice President, Pat VanDeVelde; Secretary-Treasurer, Randy Jacobs; Director, Clark Carroll; Director, James Mickley; and Director, Drew Emory.
- A three-hour CE-eligible ethics course will be offered June 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Firm up your plans to attend by visiting www.ilfarmagents.com.

Ethics: Earn Your CE Credits in June

If your Illinois insurance license renews in 2010, you must complete three hours of classroom ethics study in order to comply with a new Illinois insurance continuing education requirement. IFIAI is helping members meet the requirement, offering a convenient training course during the June annual meeting. House Bill 70, which took effect January 1, 2010, requires that three of agents' 24 hours of continuing education consist of classroom ethics instruction. The course, worth three CE credits, is available June 18, 2010. Register by visiting www.ilfarmagents.com.



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Upcoming Events

IFIAI Annual Meeting – June 17-18, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, Ill. Registration is \$70 for members; \$40 for your spouse. Visit www.ilfarmagents.com to download your registration form.

Ethics Training – June 18, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, Ill., at 9:00 a.m. Ethics-only registration costs \$50. Register at www.ilfarmagents.com.

Annual Golf Outing – June 17, 2010, at Prairie Vista Golf Course, Bloomington, Ill. The scramble begins with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. The \$50 per person fee includes golf and cart for 18 holes. Register at www.ilfarmagents.com before June 5th. For questions, contact Pat VanDeVelde at 217-742-9595 or pat@peakinsuranceagency.net.

July 15th is ACRE Deadline—The deadline to certify production yields for the 2009 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is July 15th. Certification requirements not completed by the July 15, 2010, deadline will render a farm ineligible for 2009 ACRE payments.

Mid-Winter Education Meeting – February 3-4, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL. Mark your calendar now, and plan to attend.

IFIAI Capital Update

Laws Affecting Farm ATVs in Flux – Legislators have been adjusting laws regulating the use of "neighborhood vehicles" and "non-car vehicles" on roads. Provisions allowing farm ATVs to operate on some roadways or crossroads were inadvertently eliminated. Various groups, including IFIAI, are now seeking a reversal. Watch www.ilfarmagents.com for status updates. In the meantime, remember to request and file insurance waivers for any ATVs owned by those you insure.

Standard Reinsurance Agreement – Congress continues to explore changes to the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA), including funding reductions, cuts in payments to deliver the program, and reductions in underwriting gains. The severe cuts proposed by USDA would impact private insurance companies, hampering efficient delivery and potentially exposing farmers to additional risk. A third and final draft of the SRA, which Rain and Hail Society representatives said could be a "take it or leave it" version, is anticipated any day now.

Crop Insurance Advocacy Made Simple – It's critical to support efficient delivery of the U.S. crop insurance program. The task just became simpler. Cap-Wiz, an easy-to-use online letter-writing tool, is now available at www.CropInsuranceInAmerica.com. Simply click the *Show Your Support* button, enter your zip code, name and email address, and the system sends a pre-written letter on your behalf.



Member News in Brief

IFIAI to Launch Cooperative Ads As a new benefit, IFIAI is developing a cooperative advertisement opportunity for member agents. IFIAI is working with Illinois Agri-News to create a generic advertisement promoting independent farm insurance agents. Agencies will have an opportunity to pay an additional, small fee to have their organization listed within the advertisement. Watch www.ilfarmagents.com for more details.

New IFIAI Dues Structure Announced The IFIAI has approved an updated dues structure, providing a more equitable distribution of cost based on agency size. Effective May 1, annual dues are \$40 for agencies with one to four producers, \$75 for agencies with five to ten producers, and \$100 for agencies with eleven or more producers.

Support Your Legal Advocacy Fund Help IFIAI speak out on critical issues affecting your agency by making a donation to the Legal Advocacy Foundation. Several recognition levels have been designated. "Foundation" donors have given \$100; "Gold" level donors, \$250; "Platinum" donors have given \$500; and "Millenium" donors have given \$1,000 or more. IFIAI needs your support, as well. Make your donation soon.

