

LICA NEWS



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Iowa LICA is one of the sponsors of the Midwest Construction Expo & Field Day to be held on July 27 & 28, 2011 at the LICA Farm east of Melbourne, Iowa. As a sponsor, many Iowa LICA members are planning on attending the event.

Here are just a few of the associate members who have already signed up to be at the Expo:

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| Agren | Agri Drain Corp. | |
| Altorfer | Burchland Manufacturing | Fratco |
| | LDJ Manufacturing, Inc. | MidWest Trailers Plus, |
| Inc | Mid Country Machinery, Inc. | Moyson Resources |
| Prins Insurance, Inc. | | |
| Port Industries, Inc. | Riverland Expressions, Inc. | |
| Rueter's | RWF Bron | |
| Timewell Tile | Winthrop Welding Works, Inc | |
| Wisconsin Plastic Drain Tile Corp. | | |

The past field days have had over 100 pieces of construction equipment on site to perform all types of construction work. Nowhere else in the Midwest will you be able to see more equipment and other products displayed that help you become a successful contractor.



Get your reservations Midwest Expo and Field Day now. Marshalltown is very busy during the summer months so don't delay in getting your room reservations.

I have contacted a few motels in Marshalltown letting them know that we are coming during the week of July 25th. Below are the rates that the motels provided.

Hampton Inn	641-753-6795	\$94.00	+ tax
AmericInn	800-634-3444	\$79.90	+ tax
Comfort Inn	641-752-6000	\$69.99	+ tax
Super 8	641-753-3333	\$50.00	+ tax

Antique Construction Equipment:

If any of you have any antique equipment that you would like to display at the Conservation Expo and Field Day, let me know. Call me at 319-240-2420 and let me know what you have.

Associate Members:

Please get signed up to attend the Midwest Construction Expo and Field Day on July 27 & 28, 2011. Associate Member information on web site: www.ialica.com

Northwest/Southwest LICA District Meeting—Saturday, June 4, 2011

The NW & SW Iowa LICA Districts will hold their meeting on Saturday, June 4, 2011. Times and location will be announced later.

Erosion Demonstration

The district plans to have a program that demonstrates the erosion process. A new Conservation Education Trailer shows erosion processes through short, easy demonstrations. "This trailer gives people a better understanding of long term environmental effects on rivers, streams, and ground water," said Maria Sieck, Pottawattamie County Resource Planner. "It allows us to see a lifetime of change in just a few minutes!" The Conservation Education Trailer has two demonstration units:

1. Stream Table shows riverine processes and channel evolution (such as meandering and channel instability) on an accelerated time scale. This shows us why streams move and teaches how we can stabilize streams and protect water quality.
2. Rainfall Simulator demonstrates how different types of soil cover (such as grass, crop residue, bare soil, etc.) can protect soil from erosion and reduces the amount of sediment in runoff. It teaches the importance of proper ground cover and good soil structure in preserving soil and retaining water quality.

The combination of these two demonstrations at once exhibits a wide range of watershed processes from upland runoff to stream flow.

Northeast/Southeast LICA District Meeting – Saturday, June 11, 2011

The NE & SE Iowa LICA Districts will hold their meeting at **XL Specialized Trailers** manufacturing plant in Manchester, Iowa. The tour of XL Specialized Trailers will begin at 10:00 a.m. (bring your own hard hat & safety glasses)

If any is not interested in the tour there is a lot of great in Manchester.



places to shop

**HEARTLAND
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT**

Lunch will be sponsored by **Heartland Construction Equipment and Riverland Expressions**. The lunch will be served at Schram Park Rotary shelter located adjacent to XL Specialized Trailers.

Following the meal, we will have an informative meeting with an update on plans for the 2011 Expo and Field Day at the LICA farm near Melbourne, Iowa.

Agriculture not primary reason for river sediment

Urban dwellers, even some of my rural neighbors, often tell me of their concerns about large-scale farming ruining our rivers “because the rivers are muddy.”

Certainly, the rivers in the world’s farming areas run brown. Muddy rivers generally mean that surrounding soils are good enough to farm. The mountain streams produce not food – even though the water coming down the mountainside travels at much higher and more dangerous speeds and runs crystal clear. Why? The soil from the mountainsides has mostly eroded long since.

Fortunately, you don’t have to just take my word for that. A research team sponsored by Minnesota corn and soybean farmers just carried out an air borne laser scanning study of the Minnesota River above Mankato. The study found that 56 to 85 percent of the sediment in the river came from the natural erosion along the riverbanks, which has been going on for centuries.

Dr. Satish Gupta of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water and Climate and lead author of the study said: “Some of these (river) banks are 150 feet high. They are very steep, not very stable and slough into the river.”

Gupta also emphasized that the sediment load in any farm-country river will be a combination of bank erosion and runoff from the farm fields. The proportions vary with the soils, slopes, rainfall patterns, and farming systems.

Gupta notes that in addition to bank erosion, the Minnesota River has also been impacted by the Corps of Engineers dredging program. The dredging makes the river flow faster and straighter. So does the extra water from urban rooftops, streets, parking lots, and airports running into the river.

Even though the Minnesota River study shows 86 percent of the sediment coming from bank erosion, best farming practices are still helpful in minimizing crop and soil losses.

Continuous research and innovation has made today's farmers the most sustainable in history. Their crops yields mean they need to farm less cropland to supply food demands. But don't expect to see crystal clean rivers in good farming country.

Source: *Waterways from Iowa Drainage District Association,*

Denis Avery, reprinted from Farm Bureau Spokesman. Avery is senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and is an environmental economist.

From Executive Director:

As many of you know I have been spending a lot of time in Des Moines at the Capitol this past winter and now spring. The session was officially over on April 29, 2011. Well, I don't know if that was the way to say it. April 29 is the last day legislators will be paid mileage and per diem to be in Des Moines. Also, April 29 is the last day the legislator's clerks will be paid. Many of the legislators will have to pay their clerks themselves or learn to work without one.

When will the session really be over? I don't believe anyone knows that for sure. I have been around long enough to know that most of the predictions don't come true. Last week I was told that we would be working all week and then we came home on Wednesday. Same for this week. We will be going back on May 2 and who knows when we will come home. Such is the process.

As a member of the Iowa House, we have passed all the budget bills and many policy pieces and sent them to the Senate. For whatever reason, the Senate is having a lot of trouble passing the bills. Of course, the Senate is controlled by the Democrats and the House is controlled by Republicans. The most important bills that have to be determined are the budget bills. We can't get the job done without coming to some kind of agreement on the money we spend. We have even found out that when the Democrats and the Republicans have agreed on a bill and sent it to the Governor the process is not over. The Governor refused to sign a budget bill and line item vetoed another important piece of legislation that has got the legislature back to the drawing board.

As frustrating as we sometimes get with this legislative process, I continually remind myself that this is the best place to live in world.