

Iowa Farm Business Association News

Fall 2002

The following article was written by Ron Stone. We wish to express our gratitude to Ron for his dedication to the Association and his members during the past 29+ years. We'll truly miss you Ron.

Ron Stone - Dedicated To Farming And It's People

I started the morning of October 27, 1969 making my first farm visit near Ellsworth in northern Story county doing pre-adds. FBA consultant work continued for nearly nine years. Then came a 3+ year sabbatical followed by another 20 years of consultant work.

The sabbatical of County Extension Director in Creston and Management & Real Estate in Des Moines along with knowledge gained from tremendous teachers such as James Almquist and Lester Mealiff was so helpful in the 80's and 90's with FBA members.



Ron Stone, Retiring Central Iowa Consultant

A very high impact event that brought me to consultant work was that in the late 60's I was in the Atlantic, Iowa JC's and chairman of the Outstanding Young Farmer award program. After going over all the applicants, one knew the cost to produce a bushel of corn and beans and cost per pound of gain. I was impressed. He was a member of the Southwest Iowa Farm Business Association.

I wish to thank William K. Easter of Winterset for his foresight in hiring me that evening in Boone in 1969. I wish to thank Pete Tallman from Atlantic for his encouragement. I wish to thank Duane Bennink for being there most of my last 20 years. I wish to especially thank Doug Meline for his assistance, advice and friendship as senior consultant. I wish to thank Gayla Ellyson for her outstanding work and dedication.

The work of being a consultant was demanding, but to work with all of you wonderful people and staff these years seems paramount—above everything else.

New Central Iowa Consultant In Ankeny Area

Virginia Berger is the new consultant who was hired to fill the shoes of Central Iowa Consultant Ron Stone. Virginia Berger grew up on a corn/soybean/cow-calf operation near Anita, Iowa where, in addition to helping on the family farm, she played basketball and was active in 4-H. Following high school, she attended the University of Minnesota Technical College at Waseca, MN, studying Animal Health Technology. After several years working as a veterinary technician she accepted a position with the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine as a veterinary technician in the Large Animal Clinic. While in Tennessee, she completed her Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics with a minor in Animal Science.

Following graduation, she moved back to Iowa to work on a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics at Iowa State University. While at ISU, she had the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant and lecturer in undergraduate commodity marketing classes. After completing her degree, she moved to Wray, Colorado to take a position with Morgan Community College teaching Farm/Ranch Business Management.



Virginia Berger, New Central Iowa Consultant in Ankeny.

This position allowed her to combine her farm and economics backgrounds in teaching record keeping and business analysis to farmers and ranchers in eastern Colorado. While she enjoyed this position, after 10 years in Colorado she felt it was time to come home to Iowa. Virginia is excited to provide financial consulting to our Iowa members.

We welcome Virginia and we know she is looking forward to working with the Central Iowa Farm Business Association members.

New Central Iowa Consultant In Ames

The Central Iowa Farm Business Association has another new consultant and his name is David Loupee. David started his position on July 10th taking over for Heath Houge.



David Loupee, New Central Iowa Consultant in Ames

At the suggestion of the CIFBA, he moved the office from Ankeny to Ames. The office is in the southeast corner of the Iowa Farm Business Association State Office building at 226 SE 16th Street. We trust this new office location will be more convenient for his members.

David grew up north of Newton, Iowa and graduated from Newton High School. He then went on to graduate from I.S.U. in 1969 with a degree in Farm Operations. For three and one half years he worked for DeKalb Seed Co. as a District Sales Representative in Northeast Iowa. He then worked for Farmers Savings Bank in Beaman, Iowa for eight and one half years and most recently worked for F & M Bank - Iowa for the last 21 years as a loan officer involved in making all types of loans.

David's wife, Mary, is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and works in the Principal's office at the Roland Story High School. They have two married daughters—Kristin Beckman and Janel Cary. David and Mary have lived in Story City for seventeen years.

We are excited to have David join the Central Iowa Farm Business Association and we know he is anxious to learn about his members' farm business operations.

IFBA President Receives Plaque

The Iowa Farm Business Association State Board held their quarterly meeting August 29, 2002 at the Starlite Village in Ames, Iowa. This was the association's annual meeting at which time election of officers is held. Randy Mather of West Liberty was elected to the office of President and Mark Schmid of Everly was elected to the office of Vice President.

The Iowa Farm Business Association State Board consists of local directors representing the six associations within the state of Iowa. Each association is allowed one director on the state board per every 250 members of that association. The six associations include—Cedar Valley, Central Iowa, Mississippi Valley, Northwest Iowa (Sheldon area), Northwest Iowa (Spencer area), Southwest Iowa and Northeast Iowa. There is also a representative from the consultants group along with a member-at-large from the IFB Accounting, Inc. Board.

We hope you get to know your association's directors, as they are the working force of your organization. If you don't know who your association's directors are, ask your local consultant.

Retirement Celebration Held For Longtime Central Iowa Consultant

An informal retirement dinner was held at the Crossroads Ag west of Dallas Center on August 17th for retiring Central Iowa consultant Ron Stone. Longtime members, friends, consultants and family attended the party to wish Ron well in his retirement and express their gratitude for his many years of dedication and service.

Central Iowa President, Gregg Hora, presented Ron with a plaque, which expressed the feelings of the Association and its members. Ron expressed his thanks to many people and shared memories and happy times with the Association.

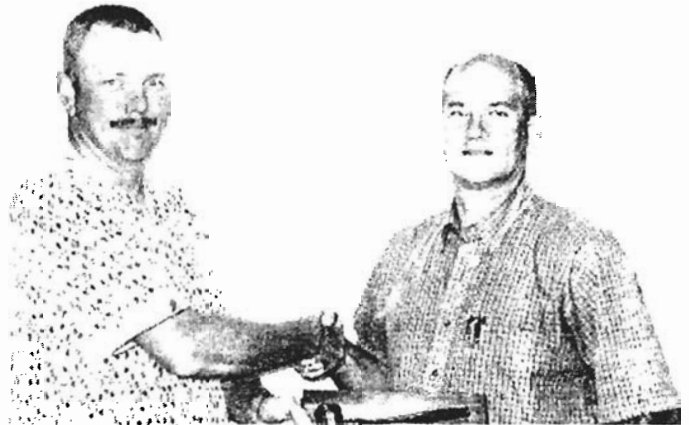


Central Iowa President, Gregg Hora (R), presents to retiring consultant Ron Stone (L) a plaque expressing the gratitude of the association

IFBA Exhibits At Farm Progress Show

Be sure to visit the Iowa Farm Business Association booth in the Varied Industries Tent at the Farm Progress Show in Alleman. This year the show will be held September 24-26 and runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Also listen for our ad on KWMT 540 AM radio before and during the Farm Progress Show.

Stop by and see what's new with your association or the PC Mars accounting program. If you don't have the program, pick up a free demo or learn how to download one off the Internet.



Newly elected IFBA President Randy Mather (L) presents a plaque to retiring President Jim Wright (R) in gratitude for his two year commitment as president of the State Board of Directors

Fall Workshop Held In Cedar Rapids

The Iowa Farm Business Association consultants group held their annual fall workshop in Cedar Rapids September 3-5. The three day session included presentations from Gary Edwards & Gordon Anderegg on "Agribusiness in Brazil" and David Miller, Director of Commodity Services, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation on the current "Farm Bill and Ag Economy".

The second day included a conference given by Dr. David Kohl, Professor of Ag Finance & Small Business Management, Virginia Tech. This all day session was attended by all of the consultants in order to get a better glimpse into the economy, interest rates, economic health, stock market and land values. Also to learn about the new 2002 Farm Bill strategies and the changes in payments, base acres, conservation, payment limitations, etc.

The last day of workshop had presentations given by several associates of Moyer & Bergman, PLC. and final committee reports were given. Fall and Spring workshops are held every year and gives the consultants a chance to meet, discuss new ideas to help improve their abilities to serve their members and also new technologies to improve their abilities as consultants.

Montezuma FFA Chapter Claims 1st Place Honors

Montezuma FFA team consisting of Savanna Morse, Danielle Alexander, Brant Ver Meer and Matt Mann again claimed first place in the Iowa FFA Farm Business Management Career Development Event held at Veterans auditorium in Des Moines on April 11, 2002. Their agricultural instructor is Mr. Rick Swenson.

The second place team consisted of Nels Overgaard, Kurt Olsen, Doug White and Anthony Wadle of the Newell FFA with agricultural instructor Mr. Marlyn Hogrefe.

Participants in the event demonstrated their knowledge and abilities in applying economic principles to agriculture and agribusiness. Members had to complete a written test and carry out situations dealing with solving farm analysis problems.

The Iowa Farm Business Association sponsors money for the top team to represent Iowa in the National FFA competitions plus a plaque for the reserve champion team, ribbons for the top teams and the champion individual's trophy. This was the 14th year the IFBA has sponsored this event.



Iowa Ag Development Authority representative Kristie Bray is shown presenting first place honors to the Montezuma FFA chapter team.

Farm Income Tax Schools Begin

Starting October 31 and running through December 19 will be the 2002 Farm Income Tax Schools. Your consultant will be attending one of these two-day schools, which have been approved for continuing education credits.

The consultants will also hold their own tax session on December 20th. It will be a full day with Roger McEowen as the speaker for that day. It will give the consultants a chance to ask specific questions and any tax problems they have encountered.

Farm Business Association Foundation Appoints Three New Board Members

Janet Brown of Rockwell, Robert G. Riley, Jr. of Des Moines and James Thomas of Rockwell have been appointed to three-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Farm Business Association Foundation.

Brown is a family life field specialist with Iowa State University Extension, working from the Cerro Gordo County Extension Office in Mason City. She also is the national trainer for statewide family life programs. Previously, she worked for Lutheran Social Services Rural Empowerment program. Brown has an MS degree in adult education from Iowa State University.

Riley is president and CEO of Feed Energy Company with world headquarters in Des Moines and plants in Des Moines, Pacific Junction and Sioux City. Feed Energy manufacturers and blends fatty acids from mammal, plant and marine origin and produces high energy and specialty feeding fats for the livestock trade. Riley has a BA degree in philosophy from Monmouth (IL) College.

Thomas farms approximately 947 acres of row crops and has a 100 farrow-to-finish sow operation near Rockwell. He has been a member of the Northeast Iowa Farm Business Association, served on the local coop board of directors and has been active in his local church and county pork producers.

The Farm Business Association Foundation serves as a catalyst for programs, actions and resources that support rural communities. It is affiliated with the Iowa Farm Business Association.

Birth Notice

A 6 lb. 4 oz. baby boy was born to Andy and Amy Thompson of North Liberty. They named their first born son Hayden Parker Thompson.

Andy is one of the Farm Business Association consultants located in the Murk-N-T office in Swisher, Iowa. We congratulate Andy and Amy on their new addition to their family.

Mississippi Valley Consultant Purchases 4-H Hog Ribbons

Part of the festivities of the Jackson County Fair was the second annual Hog Blue Ribbon Auction. The Jackson County Pork Board decided two years ago that instead of auctioning off the 4-H hogs after the show they would give each 4-H exhibitor a blue ribbon to be auctioned.



Tim Gradert, Consultant with the Mississippi Valley Farm Business Association, purchased two ribbons this year. One ribbon from Jessica Lane and another one from Lynn Schmidt. Both girls are from Spragueville and are the granddaughters of long time Farm Business Association members Leland and Jeanette Lane.



Mississippi Valley consultant Tim Gradert is shown with 4-H exhibitors Jessica Lane and Lynn Schmidt after purchasing their blue ribbons at the Jackson County Fair Hog Blue Ribbon auction.

Visit the Iowa Farm Business Association web site. Our address is:
"www.iowafarmbusiness.org or email us at: iafmbus@netins.net.



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