



Illinois  
Association  
of  
Agricultural  
Fairs

December 2004

# TentTalk

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## 'KickStart' the 2005 Fair Season

The ninety-fifth annual IAAF Convention will "KickStart" your 2005 county fair plans. The Crowne Plaza Hotel and Holiday Express Inn will be hosting this event on January 14 to 16, 2005.

The convention will help you and your fair plan for your coming county fair. Please plan to come and enjoy the conference.

A record 102 talent entries representing 185 of our state's most talented and fine young people will be sure to attract a crowd. Sixty-seven County Fair Queens will compete for the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen crown.



*David Ash, of KnowledgeWORKS, will facilitate two presentations at the 95th Annual IAAF Convention. Complete details of Ash's workshops are detailed on Page 3 of this issue.*

Pre-registrations are about 220 ahead of last year's record pace. While pre-registration is encouraged, on site registration is always available.

There should be something for nearly ever fair-minded person to enjoy.

The trade show (on Friday and Saturday) will include several educational displays that might be of significant interest to your fair. Do not forget to check out the hospitality rooms. Many of the hospitality/vendor rooms will be open for business on Sunday. The vendors and associate members appreciate visiting with each of you. The queen and talent contests are always popular events. Do not forget the "Secretaries only" meeting and Mass.

The "Let's Get Acquainted" session on Friday and the Saturday morning Breakfast and general meeting are both designed to help all associates and fair members to make successful steps toward a successful relationship with concessionaires, fairboards and fair patrons. Please see related stories elsewhere in this issue of TentTalk.

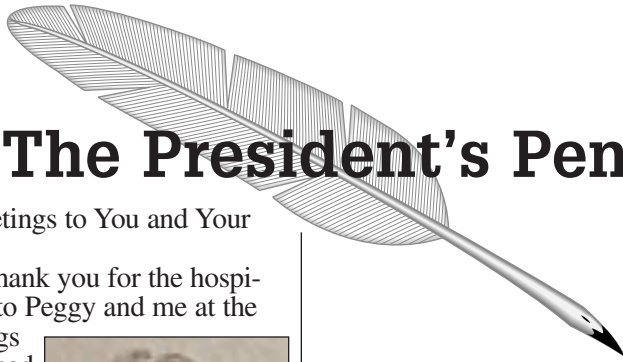
The showcasing on Thursday and Friday evenings promises the opportunity to "KickStart" your entertainment needs.

The Thursday evening mini-showcase will be hosted by the Illinois State Fair and All Star Amusements in the Governor's room on the third level of the Crowne Plaza. The Friday night showcasing will offer a variety of entertainment options for your fair's needs.

Drawings for free three night stays at the 2006 IAAF Convention will be held at the Friday evening showcasing, at the Saturday morning breakfast, and at the Sunday morning table topic event.

Drawing tickets are included with your registration packets which will be distributed at the convention registration desk.

# The President's Pen



Seasons Greetings to You and Your Family,

I want to thank you for the hospitality shown to Peggy and me at the Zone Meetings this fall. We had a wonderful time at each meeting and enjoyed the fellowship.



In conversations with individuals from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, I was told that the vouchers for the remaining premium portion have been sent to the Treasurer for payment.

You will find that the final payment is only two percent less than

had been applied for. I hope that all fairs have received payment by the time you read this letter. Now would be a good time to thank your Senators and Representatives for their support on our behalf.

Now that the harvest is over and winter has made its presence, it is time to look forward to the January IAAF Convention.

We have a great program planned for you and I am sure that everyone will have a wonderful time. We look forward to seeing you in Springfield.

*Tom Ostermeier*

# Name New State Fair Manager

Amy Bliefnick was recently appointed to serve as Manager of the Illinois State Fair. She joined the Illinois Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2004 as Bureau Chief for the Business Services Division.

This area of the Department promotes non-fair use of the 366 acre State Fairgrounds and it's many facilities. She will continue to hold this position as well.



*Amy Bliefnick*

No stranger to organizing events and promotional efforts, Amy's professional strength was honed as Director of Development for St.

Teresa High School in Decatur, IL.

In her multifaceted leadership position with the school she was responsible for fundraising and marketing activities that included planning, development, implementation, as well as enhancing relationships with business and community leaders for cooperative efforts.

Amy also represented St. Teresa High School through public speaking engagements and community involvement. Before this Amy was a broadcast personality on WdZ Radio where she co-hosted a live 2-hour morning "drive-time" program consisting of news, weather, sports and current events.

As she pursued her professional career, Ms Bliefnick, a Decatur native has served on the Board of the Special Olympic Organization of Illinois, and co-hosts the Annual Easter Seal Telethon on WAND-TV. Amy is married and has three sons.

She stands ready to assist and work with the IAAF and County Fairs. Amy, welcome to the world of fairs.

# Dates to Remember

**Declaration of Intent due**

December 31, 2004

**IAAF Convention in Springfield**

January 14-16, 2005

**Zone 5 IAFE Conference**

**in Des Moines, Iowa**

March 4-6, 2005

**Illinois State Fair**

August 12-21, 2005

## Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

### OFFICERS

President .....	Tom Ostermeier, Athens
1st Vice President .....	Bill Jennings, Olney
2nd Vice President .....	Don Bark, Sandwich
Secretary/Treasurer .....	Wm. H. Fugate, Fairbury

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORS AT LARGE

George Fewkes (Southern Zone) .....	Albion
Keith Kesler (Central Zone) .....	Champaign
Marvin Perzee (Northern Zone) .....	Ashkum

### ZONE DIRECTORS

Bill Diller (Northern Zone) .....	Princeton
Pat Yeagle (Northern Zone) .....	Elizabeth
Lynn Freeman (Central Zone) .....	Griggsville
Elizabeth McDevitt (Central Zone) .....	New Berlin
James T. Walsh (Southern Zone) .....	Carmi
John Milleville (Southern Zone) .....	Altamont

### PRESS & PUBLICITY

Kurt Becker .....	Altamont
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### ZONE OFFICERS SOUTHERN

President .....	Russell Vandever, Marion Co.
Vice Pres. ....	Kent Burns, Randolph Co.
Sec./Treas. ....	David Hake, Washington Co.

### CENTRAL

President .....	Tom Moore, Jersey Co.
Vice Pres. ....	Dean Bruns, Logan Co.
Sec./Treas. ....	Evelyn Trimmell, Vermilion Co.

### NORTHERN

President .....	Dave Englebrecht, Ogle Co.
Vice Pres. ....	Ron Meyer, Will Co.
Sec./Treas. ....	Jim Anderson, Winnebago Co.



# David Ash Facilitates IAAF Presentations

David Ash, representing KnowledgeWORKS, a performance improvement company will facilitate two presentations at the 95th IAAF meeting. He is recognized as an enthusiastic, passionate, and straightforward facilitator and teacher.

**"3 C's of Success", an event sponsored by NICA:** Executing a successful agricultural fair requires event planners to engage in creativity, open communication, and collaboration (the 3 C's of Success).

The "Lets Get Acquainted" Session on Friday afternoon will help those involved in fair planning be creative regarding special events and activities that will insure a quality customer experience, along with fostering open communication and collaboration between organizers and event planners.

Ash's workshop, designed for fair directors and associate members, will address three questions that impact the success of Illinois Agricultural Fairs:

- What factors influence positive

joint efforts between agricultural fair stakeholder groups?

- What are the benefits of creativity, open communication and collaboration for fair stakeholder groups?
- How can we foster creativity, open communication and collaboration?

Please plan to be present for this one PM session on Friday. Past attendees at Bob Ash workshops report a very high level of satisfaction and challenge.

**"Objects in the Mirror are Closer than they Appear", sponsored by Luehrs' Ideal Rides:**

David Ash will present this workshop/presentation following coffee break on Saturday Morning.

With an aging and shifting population, the 21st century is earmarked by changing demographics within regional and rural communities. As a result, fair goers (your customers) have a variety of expectations regarding their fair 'experience'. Based on these expectations, come challenges and opportunities for Fair

Boards.

This workshop/presentation will address three fundamental questions that impact the future success of Illinois Agricultural Fairs:

- What are the expectations of your customers?
- What are the implications for Fair Boards, based on your customer's expectations?
- What Fair Board strategies will insure a quality customer experience?

Everybody present will be rewarded with some new thoughts, goals and understandings for their fairs.

## Entertainment and Showcase Options will be Presented

Skinner Amusements will present "He Said-She Said" in the Illinois Room on level three of the Crowne Plaza on Saturday evening.

This group has performed at State Fairs, Las Vegas and many other midwestern events. They present music from the 80's to the present. Pat Skinner also invites all to the same room on Saturday afternoon for a NFL playoff football party with raffles and door prizes.

All Star Amusements and the Illinois State Fair invite everyone to the Governors Room on level three of the Crowne Plaza on Thursday evening for a mini-showcase of potential entertainment for your fair. Everyone is invited back again on Friday for hospitality and on Saturday for hospitality and entertainment.

The IAAF Showcase of Entertainment will be held on Friday evening. Lynn Freeman, Showcase Chairman, has announced the following acts as of this time: Kevin Chalfant and the Storm, The Music City Brass, Koch and Belle, Taylor Ware, T.C. Todd, Eddie Winter, and Young Turk, A Rod Stewart Tribute. Others acts may be added.



*Bill Fugate ( IAAF Sec/Treas) and Tim McKinney congratulate each other. At the respective meetings in Las Vegas, Bill was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Federation of State and Provincial Fair Associations and Tim was elected President of the National Independent Association of Concessionaires*

# Schedule of Events for 2005 IAAF Convention

**95th Annual Convention**  
**Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs**  
 Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Express  
 Springfield Illinois  
 January 13-17, 2005

All events open only to registered guests with a convention badge or hand stamp.

## Thursday January 13, 2005

- 6-8:00 PM Carnival Amusement Safety Board Mtg.-*Winter Garden*  
 6:30 PM Pageant Directors Dinner-*Plaza F*  
 7:00 PM Associate Registration-*Plaza Lobby*  
 8:00 PM Pre Convention Hospitality and mini-showcase-*Governor Room*  
 Hosted by All Star Amusement and the Illinois State Fair

## Friday January 14, 2005

- 8:00 AM Carnival/Amusement Safety Mtg.-*Winter Garden*  
 8:00 AM Queen interviews - *Springfield Room*  
 8:00 AM Queen rehearsals - *Ballroom*  
 9:00 AM Registration Counter Opens—*Plaza lobby*  
 11:00 AM IAAF Board meeting - *Lincoln Room*

1:00 PM "Let's Get Acquainted V" for associates and fairs - *Plaza F&G*

Moderated by Frank Parnell, Parnell Foods

**3 C's of Success**, David Ash, Sponsored by NICA

- 3:00 PM Trade show opens - *Plaza A-E*  
 4:00 PM Fairs and Exposition Fund meeting—*Capital VI*  
 5:30 PM Audit Committee Meeting—*Convention Office*  
 7:00 PM Showcasing-*Plaza H-J* Drawing for Crowne Plaza Package at beginning and end of showcase  
 7:00 PM Trade Show closes for the day

**Associates who have hospitality rooms may host during other hours than those listed for the trade show.**

## Saturday January 15, 2005

- 7:00 AM Registration desk opens

- 7:30 AM "KickStart" breakfast doors open-*Plaza F&G*. Sponsored by Kohler Rental Power and Skinner Amusements Early Bird registration prize for breakfast participants  
 8:00 AM Opening remarks: Wm. Jennings, Program Co-Chair. (Special Drawing for Breakfast Participants) Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation-George Fewkes, Edwards County Fair Look out for Kid Davie—courtesy of Buffalo Run Enterprises  
 8:30 AM **All non ticket fair members and associates are welcome to join the meeting after breakfast.**  
 8:40 AM Welcome & committee appointments:  
 Tom Ostermeier, IAAF President  
 9:00 AM Presentation of "Friend of Illinois County Fair" Awards  
Drawing for "Early Bird" door prize donated by Burnham & Flowers  
 9:20 AM Ag Education and County Fairs. Jess Smithers, Zone 3 Director FCAE, Ashley Harold, Section FFA Pres.  
 9:40 AM Remarks: Chuck Hartke, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture  
 10:00 AM Coffee Break sponsored by McKinney Food Service and O'Brien Food Service

10:20 AM Objects in the Mirror are dCloser Than They Appear: David Ash, Sponsored by Luehr's Ideal Rides.

11:45 PM Drawing for door prizes including package donated by K & K Insurance

All door prize winners must be present to win.

- 8:00 AM Big 10 Colt Stakes Mtg.-*Capital III*  
 8:00 AM Queen Rehearsal-*Ballroom*  
 9:30 AM USTA Officials School-*Winter Garden*  
 11:00 AM 4-H Standardbred meeting-*Capital V*  
 11:00 AM Illinois Harness Association-*Capital VI*  
 12:15 PM USTA Lunch-*Capital III*  
 NOON Associate Rooms & Trade Show open-*Plaza A-E*  
 12:15 PM Jr. Talent Contest—*Plaza H-J*  
 1:00 PM Afternoon Queen Pageant Preliminaries-*Ballroom*  
 1:00 PM ISOBA Horsemen Annual Meeting—*Plaza F*  
 2:00 PM Midwest Amateur Driver Meeting-*Capital V*  
 2:30 PM Fair Secretaries Only Meeting—*Capital VI*  
 3:00 PM USTA Dist. 5 Members Meeting—*Plaza F*  
 5:30 PM Mass and Worship Service-*Winter Garden*  
 5:30 PM USTA Reception, Banquet and Dance—*Plaza F-G*  
 5:45 PM Sr. Talent Contest- *Plaza H-J*  
 6:00 PM Trade Show closes for the day  
 7:00 PM Evening Queen Pageant Preliminaries-*Ballroom*  
 8:00 PM Registration Desk closes

**Associates who have hospitality rooms may host during other hours than those listed for the trade show.**

## Sunday January 16, 2005

- 8:00 AM Egyptian Colt Stakes-*Capital IV*  
 8:00 AM Central Zone Breakfast—*Plaza A*  
 9:00 AM Registration Desk Opens-*Plaza Lobby*  
 9:00 AM ISOBA Breakfast - *Springfield*  
 9:15 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—Ballroom

- 9:15 AM Convene for Round Tables-*Plaza F-G*  
 Sponsored by Illinois Tractor Pulling Association  
 Moderated by Wm. Diller, Bureau Co.

Two Sessions: 9:30 and 10:15 AM

Door prize drawing for Crowne Plaza Package

- **Grandstand Entertainment**-Russell Vandevier-Marion County
- **Tractor Pulls**-Gene Dixon-Brown County
- **Concessions**-Dave Englebrect-Ogle County
- **Increasing Livestock Entries**-Tom Moore-Jersey County
- **New Board Membrs; Helping them get started**-Leora Mayhew-Mercer County
- **Off Season Rentals**-Mike Black-Georgetown Fair
- **Publicity**-Tracy Brenneman-Bureau County
- **Community Support**-Ed Abbott-Whiteside Co.
- **E Coli**-Ken Tyrell-Sandwich Fair
- **Increasing Fair Attendance**-Jim Anderson-Winnebago County
- **Sponsorships**-Mark Verstraete-Bureau County

11:15 AM Annual IAAF Business Meeting - *Plaza F-G*

Please Register for Door Prizes

Welcome - Tom Ostermeier, president

Call Annual Meeting to order - Tom Ostermeier, President

## Committee Reports:

- Secretary-Treasurer report - Wm. H. Fugate
  - Audit Committee report - James T. Walsh
  - Grievance Committee - John Milleville
  - Resolutions Committee - Bill Jennings
  - Legislative Committee - Tom Ostermeier
  - Nominating Committee - Bill Diller
- Election of Directors and Officers

Old Business

New Business

Introduction of New Officers and Directors

Drawing for prize donated by Swyear Amusements and other prizes. All door-prize winners must be present to win.

**Associates who have hospitality rooms may host customers today from 10 AM to 3 PM. There is no trade show on Sunday.**

11:30 AM Queen Devotional & Lunch-*Plaza H & J*  
 Noon Midwestern Racing Association - *Wintergarden*

1:00 PM Thoroughbred Race Meeting-*Governor Room*

1:30 PM Livestock Meeting - *Illinois Room*  
 2:00 PM State Fair Concessionaires Meeting-*Sangamon Room*

2:00 PM Zone Officers Meeting—*Executive Lounge*

3:00 PM Past Presidents Meeting-*Executive Lounge*

5:00 PM Grand March-*Ballroom*

5:30 PM Banquet and Queen Pageant Finals-*Ballroom*

9:30 PM Dessert reception for the new Queen-*2nd floor lobby*

## Monday January 17, 2005

8:00 AM IAAF Directors And Spouses Breakfast—*Ruby Room*

9:00 Am IAAF Directors Meeting—*Ruby Room*

## Volunteer Auction

A Baseball autographed by the 1969 Chicago Cubs (Ron Santos et al.) and a group of White House Presidential Ornaments will be auctioned to the highest bidders during the Queen Pageant finals.

The ornaments are from the White House Christmases during the 80's and 90's. These items have been donated by Jeff Blomsness of All-Star Amusements.

The proceeds will benefit the Volunteer Awards programs of the IAAF.

# Record Numbers Explore the Experience



*Ellen Sietmann, Carole Stokley, Wilbert Hageman, and Kristy Langstraat proudly display the award which the DuPage County Fair was bestowed for having the best "Exhibitor Handbook-Hard copy" at the IAFE Convention.*

Record numbers of people "Explored the Experience" of Las Vegas and of International Fairs and Expositions. Twenty Illinois fairs were represented.

They included: Rock Island, Whiteside, Will, Champaign, Kane, DuPage, Lake, Boone, Fairbury, Winnebago, Sandwich, LaSalle, Sangamon, Iroquois, Heart of Illinois, Georgetown, Knox, McLean, Bureau, and the Illinois State Fair.

Jim Anderson, Winnebago County, Ellen Sietmann, DuPage County, David Tuell, Oak Ridge Ranch of Freeport, and Jeff Blomsness, All Star Amusements all participated in table topic discussions relative to various aspects of the fair industry. Bill Fugate helped lead a workshop, and was chairman of the "Fun Run and Walk."

The DuPage County Fair was recognized for having the best "Exhibitor Handbook-Hard copy."

## IAFE Offers Trip to Australia

The IAFE is offering a unique Australian adventure to all IAFE members from March 22 to April 2, 2005.

Attendees will enjoy the Royal Easter Show, a Sydney Harbor dinner cruise, a Skyrail ride over a tropical rainforest, an outback experience, and a Great Barrier Reef cruise. Accommodations will be in

the Sydney Harbor Marriott Hotel, a premium resort, and a beach club. Price for the trip departing from Los Angeles is \$3,875 per person/twin share.

Interested parties should contact the IAFE at 1-800-516-0313 or go to [www.fairsandexpos.com](http://www.fairsandexpos.com) for more information. Prices will increase on January 3, 2005.

## Bits and Pieces

Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It does not matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle.

—When the sun comes up, you'd better be running.

## Correct addresses

Tent Talk has a continuing need for correct addresses as more and more of you switch from rural routes to "911 addresses". Also, there are some phone numbers that have a new area code that we won't know about unless you tell us.

**Yes, please reserve tickets for the "KickStart" Breakfast on Saturday, January 15, 2005**

**# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**By January 5th. Please make check Payable to IAAF and send this form and check to:**

**Wm. H. Fugate, 24510 E. 1000 N. Rd., Fairbury, IL 61739**

**Tickets will be held at convention registration desk for pickup**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ County or Assoc. \_\_\_\_\_**

# Fall Zone Meetings Were Successful

The Macoupin County Fair brought the most people to the Central Zone meeting at Springfield's Northfield Center on Sunday, October 31, 2004.

They won an American Flag as an attendance prize from Regalia. One hundred fifty-seven people enjoyed showcasing by Kevin Morris, provided by Bobby Baker Enterprises and Dave Engleman, and the Fox Brothers, and provided by Variety Attractions. Mason Sound provided the sound.

Director of Agriculture, Chuck Hartke, noted that "Fairs are showcases of agriculture." IAAF President, Tom Ostermeier, observed that "all fairs do things in different ways but nobody does it wrong."

The Northern Zone convened 319 people at the Pitstick Pavilion, Ottawa, on Sunday November 7, 2004. Sixteen associates set up display tables.

The Marshall Putnam County Fair won the attendance prize after a coin toss with Boone County Fair. Each had thirty people in attendance. Tower Sound provided lighting and sound for showcasing.

One Night Stand, Kevin Morris (Bobby Baker Enterprises), New Odyssey (Variety Attractions), and Woody's Menagerie provided showcasing entertainment.

One hundred eighty-five people enjoyed the hospitality of The Southern Zone Meeting on Sunday,

November 14th at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon.

Bureau Chief, Tex Moats, and Representative Brandon Phelps both visited with the group. The Marion County Fair won the attendance prize. Matt Passalacqua showcased his talent.



*Illinois State Representative, Brandon Phelps, addressed the Southern Zone meeting in Mt. Vernon.*



*Carolyn Rybicki receives a door prize from Miss Richland County Fair at the Southern Zone meeting.*



*"Farmer for a Day" and "Milk Maker" exhibits will be on loan from the IAAF and Events Unlimited at the Illinois Convention. These displays are available on a*



*first come basis from the IAFE. They are a great family learning activity. Come, see, learn and enjoy.*



*Jess Smithers, District III Director for Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education, will headline the KickStart Breakfast. FCAE is charged with improving and expanding agriculture education from pre-kindergarten through adults in Illinois. Ms. Ashley Hanold, Section FFA President, will join him for the presentation..*

## Zone 5 meeting in Des Moines

Iowa is paving the road for a successful Zone 5 meet of the IAFE. The meeting runs from March 4-6 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr Rick Rigsby, Texas A&M, will present the Keynote address. (Editors note: Dr Rigsby is one of the most dynamic speakers I have ever heard.) There will be many valuable workshops and roundtable sessions of interest for smaller fairs.

For more program information, registration and room information, please contact the Iowa State Fair, PO Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317.

## Williams: Win the Heart

"Win the heart and the mind will follow" advised keynote speaker, Roy Williams at the annual IAFE meeting which was recently held in Las Vegas.

He asked everyone "what was the sound of his or her fair?" Williams believes that sounds are more important than either sight or smell when marketing a fair. He encouraged fairs to do the unusual and unpredictable by creating surprises.

Successful fairs do, say and are something people do not expect. This translates into unique radio and TV ads as opposed to printed advertising.

Williams warned fair people to be careful of things that are beautiful and well balanced because they do not move the "who cares meter." Fairs should win the hearts of their customers. When this happens, their minds will follow and they will return time and again. They will call phone or text message their friends about their fair experience and encourage them to come explore the experience.. Instantly the world will know about your unique fair.

He noted that 60% of the population has a need to belong. Children tend to mirror their grandparents generation of values and thoughts more than they do their parents generation. The group learned that a fad is a trend which lasts for 10 years. We need to remember that

everything tends to recycle.

The group was reminded that the younger consumers and fair goers tend to make social statements in their buying habits. The emerging generation wants things to be real and true (no more James Bond and Maddona). The new generation rejects pretense and is bonded by technology. This generation is moving away from the predicted.

Phony is out and real is in. Williams noted that today's six year olds do not recognize Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Successful fair planners will try to stay ahead of the trends and shifts of culture and society. The delegates were reminded that it will be dangerous to change too little too late.

The successful fairs will not stay with what has always worked. They will not do things the same and expect different or better results.

A successful fair knows that the experience they promise better be the promise they deliver. The new goal of promoting your fair should be saying and delivering something powerful.

Williams noted that the future bodes well for fairs and their need for volunteers. He noted the new generation is a civic minded group who will do things, who will volunteer, and who will make the world better.

## Longtime Friends Will Be Missed

A couple of longtime fair friends' faces are going to be missed around the Bureau of County Fairs and Horse Racing and at both the county and state fairs. Norman "Bud" Thompson is retiring after ten years of service.

Norman has served as an equine/county fair investigator for the duration of his service and also as Acting Bureau Chief for a period of time. He was also in charge of the stall/paddock areas at both state fairs for many years.

Karen Amling is retiring after nearly thirty-two years of service. Karen has seen many changes in leadership and duties throughout her long career as head of the Bureau's Standardbred Horse Racing Program. The fair and horse racing industry

will, without a doubt, miss Karen's and Norman's leadership and expertise for many years to come.

Peggy Lowder, also of the Bureau of County Fairs and Horse Racing, reports that the second check for 2004 premiums is in the mail.

While it has been difficult operating because of the uncertainty of the FY05 budget, good news was announced on November 19 that only a two percent reserve cut would take place, not five percent as anticipated.

Most fairs should have received their check by the time this December issue of TentTalk is delivered. Fair and Exposition Fairs, 4-H and Vo.Ag. Fairs, and the Rehabilitation Program will also experience two percent cuts.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mary Freeman**, 88, died September 28, 2004. Mary was a longtime resident of Pittsfield and Griggsville, Illinois. She was the mother of Lynn Freeman, an IAAF Director. Larry of Quincy and Anita Phillips of Jacksonville and many grand and great grandchildren also survive her.

**Benny Whitaker**, 41, of Peoria died November 18, 2004. Ben operated Whitaker's Concessions at many Central Illinois Fairs and Festivals. His Italian Sausage was recognized as the very best.

**Allen Bolte**, 72, of Sandwich, formerly of Warrenville, passed away on November 27, 2004. He was a director of the DuPage County Fair for thirty-five years. Many of these years he was the DuPage Fair's sheep superintendent. He served as a leader of the Naperville Go-Getters 4-H Club. Allen loved farming and animals. His wife, Norma, two sons, Darrell and Rodney and two daughters, Lanette Drendel and Janean Molitor survive him.

**Pete Boecker**, 67, of Naperville, died September 9, 2004. Pete owned and operated DuPage Asphalt Company. He had served on the DuPage County Fair Board and was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church. His wife, Lola and children, Andrew, Katherine Thompson, Carey Peterson, Bonnie Becker and Ryan

Boecker survive him.

**John H. McCaslin DVM**, 86, of West Chicago died Aug 29, 2004. Doc received a Purple Heart Award for his Army service in WWII. He had maintained a large animal veterinary practice. He was instrumental in the inception of The DuPage County Fair and served as a director two different times. He was a breeder and trainer of Standardbred horses. His wife, Eleanor, and children, Elizabeth Lindahl, Mary Persico, and James survive him.

**Dave Meyer**, 62, of Big Rock and formerly of Naperville, died December 6, 2004. He was involved in farming and had owned and managed several golf courses in the area. Dave was a supporter of the various 4-H livestock auctions of the area. He was a 4-H leader. He was a past president of the DuPage County Fair Board. Dave served several terms on the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs Board. His wife, Penny, and children, Bryan, Heather Espe, Austin, and Kara survive him

## Wild and Wacky Competition

One of the more interesting tabletop sessions at the IAFE Convention earlier this month related to the wacky competitions which fairs have successfully experienced. Some of the ideas presented were: animal defecation identification, frying pan throw contest, decorated hats, create a cow from materials provided, build a tractor from straw bales, a cornucopia of anything (size limits), a poster contest with the wining one as a theme for the following year (on premium book cover, t-shirts, advertising, etc.), butter making contest in a fruit jar, ice cream making contest in plastic bags, ladies nail driving contest,

goofball animal showmanship contests, chicken chase for little kids, Decorated diaper contest and baby crawling derby. Home decorated ugly pickup contest, "Not so Newlywed Game" (family oriented), Lip Sync contest for youth and adults, mud volleyball, wild cow milking contest, a water relay derby including filling and emptying jugs using small cups, milk drinking contest out of orphan lamb nurse bottles. Garden tractor obstacle course with husband driving and blindfolded while the wife is directing him from a cart pulled behind the tractor. Dressed up vegetable contest, and a "make a scarecrow" contest.



**Illinois  
Association  
of  
Agricultural  
Fairs**

*WM. H. FUGATE, Secretary*  
24510 E 1000 N Rd.  
Fairbury, IL 61739

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