



# Missouri LICA NEWS

March/April, 2002

## What Happened In Birmingham?

If you missed this year's National LICA Winter Convention, held in Birmingham, AL, you missed a great one! Here are some highlights:

### Hall of Fame Inductees

This Convention marked the formation of the National LICA Hall of Fame to recognize LICA members who have "gone above and beyond." Missouri is especially proud because the very first inductee was Len Bestgen, Missouri LICA. Len was one of the founding fathers of Missouri LICA and the very first National LICA president. Len's son, John Bestgen, and his daughter and son-in-law, Lynette and Tex Brannon, made the trip to Birmingham to represent their father and accept this honor on his behalf.

The second inductee was LD Thousand from Indiana LICA. LD was a charter member of the Indiana Drainage Contractors Association. He has served as both Indiana and National President, as well as being the top membership recruiter on many occasions.

We are truly blessed to have had these members' energy, vision, and commitment as the foundation for LICA. Congratulations!

### National LICA Vice President Elected

Louis McFarland, Ohio LICA, was elected as the National LICA Vice President on Friday, February 22 at the National LICA Winter Convention in Birmingham. "I am proud and deeply honored," McFarland said as he accepted the new position with the National LICA Executive Committee. Over the past two decades, McFarland has served Ohio LICA as a member of the Board of Directors, President of the State Chapter, and Chairman of several committees. He has most recently been serving as Region III's Vice President. Region III includes Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. Darrel Birge of Indiana LICA has been elected as the new Region III Vice President.

### National Award Winners

Every year, several members and one State Chapter are recognized for their excellence. This year's winners were:

#### Top State

Nebraska LICA

#### Contractor of the Year

David Cantrell, North Carolina

#### Contractor Wife of the Year

Nordis Estrem, Minnesota

#### Hancor On-Site Waste Award

John Hack, II ; Indiana

### National 2002 Raffle Winners

Once again, the closing moments of the Convention were a little tense as we eagerly awaited the announcement of the raffle winners. The National raffle is definitely a win-win situation. Even if you don't win one of the great prizes, you are supporting both Missouri LICA and the National LICA with your ticket purchase. This year's winners were:

#### Grand Prize

**John Deere 35ZTS Mini Excavator**

Ton Dungan; Clifton, VA

#### 2nd Prize

**John Deere 6x4 Gator**

John Stanford; Leesburg, VA

#### 3rd Prize

**Spectra Precision 1242 Laser**

Anita Pfauth; Lebanon, NJ

#### 4th Prize

**Laptop Computer from Agri Drain**

Scott Pruss; Dodge, NE



MLICA Summer Picnic  
August 10  
Osage Bluff Lodge



# Welcome Aboard!

We proudly welcome the following individuals and companies to the Missouri LICA family:

## Contractor Members

### **Jeff Blankenship; Mindi**

Jeff Blankenship Excavating  
2729 Plymouth Dr.  
Mt. Sterling MO 65062  
Phone: 573-943-2272  
Fax: 573-437-4640  
Mobile: 573-680-3253  
Email: grlf@fidnet.com  
District: 5 County: Gasconade

### **Doug Davis**

Davis Farms  
3311 County Road 48  
Fillmore, MO 64449  
Phone: 816-487-2031  
District: 1 County: Andrew

### **Tracy Pitts; Nancy**

Pitts Farm Maintenance  
Service, Inc.  
Rt. #1, Box 88A  
Moundville, MO 64771  
Phone: 417-944-2247  
Fax: 417-944-2977  
Mobile: 417-667-1822  
District: 4 County: Vernon

### **Dick Sutton; Candace**

Sutton Construction  
906 W. Ft. Scott Street  
Butler MO 64730  
Phone: 660-679-5663  
Fax: 660-679-9077  
Mobile: 660-679-7575  
District: 4 County: Bates

## With Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with these members in their time of sorrow:

On March 25, Clarence Duce's grandson was killed in an automobile accident. If you would like to send a sympathy card: 3856 SE Hedge Rd.; Maysville, MO 64469.

On April 7, Bob Park's mother passed away. If you would like to express your sympathy: P.O. Box 218; Clinton, MO 64735.

## Help Spread The Word!

The Missouri LICA Auxiliary scholarships are, perhaps, one of Missouri LICA's best kept secrets! These scholarships are awarded once a year and can prove very helpful to a college student.

Here are the required qualifications:

- ♦ The scholarship will be awarded to a student studying Construction Management or Agricultural Engineering with emphasis in Water/Soil Conservation.
- ♦ Recipients of the scholarship shall be in at least his/her junior year and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4 point basis or equivalent.

If you know a student who could use this help, spread the word! (Application on Page 4 of this newsletter.)



### April

**04** Melvin Koechner  
**13** Fred Carron  
**14** Don Scheib  
**15** Mel Kleinsorge  
**18** Violet Corbett  
**25** Ray Daub  
**26** Bob Parks  
**27** Delbert Stoner  
**28** Ed Schmidli

### May

**01** Alvin Kilburn  
**09** Hugh Curry  
**11** N.C. Shelley  
**13** Weldon Tague  
**17** Ann Piffel Rudy  
**22** Joe Stewart  
Brent Limback  
**24** Jim Shobe  
**27** Edward See  
**28** Dave Gossey  
**30** Gerald Bauer



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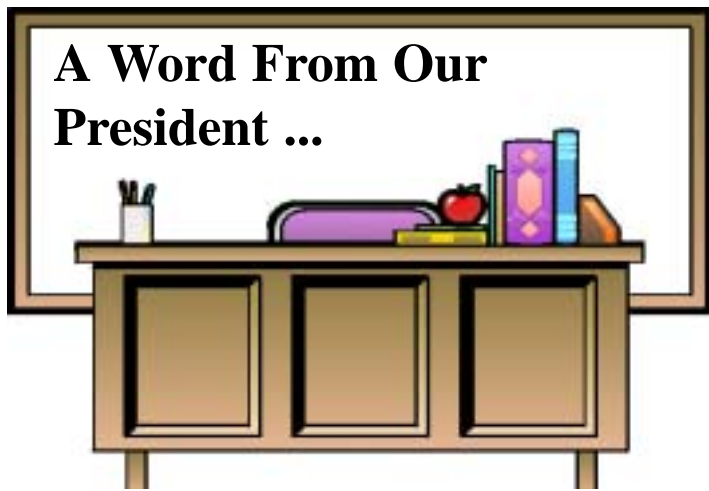


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*Missouri LICA News is a bi-monthly publication of the Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association; Deborah Dickens, Executive Director; 1101 West High Street; Jefferson City, MO 65109; Phone: 573-634-3001; Fax: 573-761-0375; Email: MLICA@aol.com Your comments and suggestions are welcome!*



I hope everyone had a good winter like we had in Northwest Missouri. I want to give you an update on what's been happening in your association:

Missouri LICA had a very good turn out at the National LICA Winter Convention in Birmingham. We had a good time and enjoyed meeting all the diversified contractors from the other states. It really gives you a better idea of how diversified and large the LICA organization is.

One highlight of the NLICA Convention was the induction of Len Bestgen, Missouri LICA, into the LICA Hall of Fame. John Bestgen, along with his sister and brother-in-law, Lynette and Tex Brannon, attended the meeting to accept the honor on their father's behalf.

It is truly outstanding to have an individual from Missouri, who has done so much for LICA at both the state and national levels, be recognized for their achievements. John Bestgen is still an active contractor member of Missouri LICA, making their family the oldest member of LICA! I want to thank the family for taking time to attend. We had a nice visit talking about the history of LICA and how it got started.

One topic of discussion during the business meeting was certifying contractors through NRCS. The proposal being discussed would require the contractor to go to his county office and ask for a letter of competence on terrace layout, checkout, etc. The NRCS would issue a letter of competence which in turn could be sent to the state LICA office. Then, MLICA could certify the contractor. We'll keep you posted.

On March 22, Governmental Relations Chairman, Jerry Koechner, Debbie, and I met with Keith Admire, NRCS, to discuss some issues. First, we discussed contractor certification and the possibility of MLICA contractors being sort of a third party entity, by doing their own layout, design and checkout work and receiving payment for it through NRCS.

We also discussed what they think our role will be with the new farm bill. As of now, it is still too early to tell. The only thing they know for sure is that there will be more money available on the EQIP side. We had an excellent meeting with Keith and I thank him for taking time to meet with us.

I want to thank everyone who attended the March 23 Board of Directors and Committee meetings. They were excellent meetings. Below is a summary of some of the issues discussed:

### **Governmental Relations Committee**

The issues discussed with Keith Admire were shared and discussed with the rest of the committee. The committee addressed getting the 25 mile radius on the Land Improvement Contractor (LIC) license increased to 50 miles and the current bill we have before the legislature to remove some old, outdated language on the LIC tag.

### **Convention/Education Committee**

It was decided that the MLICA Summer Meeting will be in the form of a family picnic at the Osage Bluff Lodge. The official date of the Summer Meeting is August 10th; however, members are invited to come early and spend the weekend camping, fishing, etc. Specific details will be mailed ... so watch your mail for more!

Although there was discussion about holding the Winter Convention in Kansas City, the committee decided to hold the Winter Convention in either Jefferson City or at the Lake of the Ozarks. Because of term-limits kicking in, next year's legislature will be almost brand new. The committee felt it was important for MLICA to have a Legislative Day where we will introduce our issues and ourselves to the new Representatives and Senators. This Legislative Day will be a part of the Winter Convention.

### **Membership Committee**

We have exceeded our goal of 100 contractor members! We can't quit now. Each District has agreed to get two (2) more members before the October Board Meeting. Contact the state office if you have questions about the dues, benefits, etc.

### **Field Day**

We're still working on a mini-field day for later this summer. Watch your mail for details ... or, better yet, call me to volunteer to help!

I hope everyone has a prosperous year and we'll see you at the Summer Meeting!

Jeff Lance, MLICA President

# Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Auxiliary Scholarship Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

College Major Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

College Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

College Advisor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: (Why do you feel you deserve this scholarship?): \_\_\_\_\_

Interest (Indicate what area of conservation interests you): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the following which will contribute to full consideration of your application: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors: \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Participation in Out-of-School Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

**References:** (Please submit two reference letters from a personal friend and an academic advisor who know you well)

**Transcripts:** Please submit a transcript of academic record of college you are now attending, plus transcripts from any college previously attended, including Junior College and/or Trade Schools.

**Submit application to the following address no later than July 1, 2002**

Janet Parks  
301 E. Franklin  
Clinton, MO 64735

I am familiar with the requirements for this scholarship and believe that I qualify.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# National LICA Strategic Plan



**History:** In the December, 2001 issue of the *LICA News*, members were given the opportunity to provide input in revising the 1997 strategic plan. At the 2002 National Convention held in Birmingham, AL, members participated in a workshop to consider the responses from the December mailing, provide additional direction, and revise the 1997 plan. The following Strategic Plan was developed by the membership, adopted by the Board of Directors, and will serve as our association's "road map" until 2007.

## **Goal I Develop better working relationships with governmental agencies.**

Action 1: Host agency meetings for the exchange of information (local, state, and federal levels)

Action 2: Send newsletters to target groups

Action 3: Utilize e-mail for improved communications

Action 4: Prepare and share with members a brief synopsis of legislation that pertains to LICA

Action 5: Engage in lobbying, personal visits, letter writing, phone calls and emails to legislators

## **Goal II Promote and develop contractor certification through educational programs**

Action 1: Form a national certification committee

Action 2: Create a standard certification form

Action 3: Inform LICA members about existing NRCS letter of competency

## **Goal III Target contractors in all areas of land improvement as members**

Action 1: Trade shows

Action 2: Membership drives

Action 3: Publicity campaigns

Action 4: Network with other trade associations

Action 5: Educational workshops

Action 6: Local interest meetings

Action 7: Additional member benefits

## **Goal IV Position Land Improvement Contractors of America in the public perception as a professional land and water conservation organization**

Action 1: Utilize advertising

## **Goal V Provide educational opportunities that help contractors diversify and learn new construction techniques**

Action 1: Provide seminars, field days, and demonstrations that focus on practical application

Action 2: Utilize resource speakers/demonstrators from:

- ... University/research/extension
- ... Associate business members
- ... Contractors using the techniques
- ... Architects, engineers, and others

Action 3: Assign LICA members to identify opportunities and evaluate tangible results through workings of education, new technology and associates advisory committees

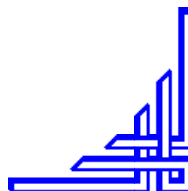
*(Note: This action will be seen as accomplished if 50 to 70 different, diversified construction techniques are presented to LICA members via seminars, field days, and/or demonstrations by 2007.)*

## **Goal VI Develop leadership to market and promote LICA to contractors and the public**

Action 1: Teach public speaking (a type of LICA Toastmasters)

Action 2: Leadership training/development

Action 3: Learn and be aware of other contractor needs through surveys/questionnaires





## 2002 Legislative Days

In March, representatives from several LICA state chapters went to Washington, DC to meet their Representatives and Senators and discuss the issues that impact our industry. Below is a summary of the issues they addressed. [Note: Missouri LICA's Education/Convention Committee is planning a similar event for our state Winter Convention this coming January. Watch your mail for details!]

### **Small Watershed Protection PL 566 and Flood Prevention PL 534**

The President's FY 2003 budget proposes to eliminate the Small Water Program(s) in FY 2003 and suggests these programs "have low economic returns and environmental benefits and are not targeted." That is simply untrue.

The budget attempts to compare watershed program benefits and costs with those of the Corps of Engineers and FDMA. They are not comparing like items at all. In addition, the only complete program evaluation ever conducted of the Small Watershed Programs determined projects have returned \$ 2.20 in benefits for every \$ 1.00 in cost and also recognized that many environmental benefits could not be quantified in monetary terms and had not been counted.

Yet, the President and OMB say the program's benefit-cost (B:C) ratio is only 1:4. How do they get that number? We are not aware that FDMA has any programs that "prevent future damages," but it does have mitigation programs. The numbers used in the budget are not accurate or comparable.

To suggest that watershed projects are "not as well targeted as programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP.) is also false.

What could be more "targeted" than addressing specific problems in a defined watershed?

We propose that \$170 million be appropriated for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations and that \$20 million be appropriated for Watershed Surveys and Planning. We also propose \$25 million be appropriated for Emergency Watershed Protection.

Proposing the elimination of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000 (PL 106-472) ignores a national safety issue where Congress has determined the government does have a role. To suggest there is "no federal responsibility" when Congress has determined there is seems a strange position to take.

Congress should not risk the lives of people living downstream of deteriorating dams by not funding this program.

We propose that \$25 million be appropriated for Small Watershed Rehabilitation

### **Conservation Operations and Environmental Quality Incentives Programs**

As more and more pressure is being placed on our land resources as a result of changes in land use due to urbanization and transportation and the increasing demands for foodstuffs from abroad, it places our soil and water resources at greater risk.

Also, our future population growth will continue to place even greater demands on these resources. We cannot afford to wait until it becomes a crisis before we do what is necessary. We must conserve our land and water resources, now. Our children's well being depends on what we do today.

We propose the Conservation Operations appropriation be increased to \$1 billion and that the Environmental Quality Incentive Program be increased to \$1 billion.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationists do not have the available time to design, layout and check out conservation practices installed under these programs. Many, if not most, LICA contractors are trained and doing this work. One of the problems is that doing it without being financially reimbursed places them at a competitive disadvantage with those contractors for whom NRCS is able to do that work.

We propose that the following statement be included in the appropriations for these programs, as well as RC&D, Watershed and Flood Prevention programs: "The Congress directs that qualified third party vendors be compensated for design, layout and check out of cost-shared constructed permanent conservation practices under this program." [Continued on Page 7]

### **Permanent Elimination of the Estate Tax**

This is the most unfair of all taxes. Death should not be a taxable event.

The "Death Tax" punished people who work hard and save to build an estate. At death, the Government takes \$.55 of every dollar you have saved and on which you have already paid taxes.

Some argue that the Government is leveling the playing field, but why should some parents farm or run a business saving money, while other parents choose not to work hard and save to build their family a future, and then have it lost to the "Death Tax?"

Too often, sales of estate property are at far less than actual value because the sale is forced in order to pay the "Death Tax."

It is simply wrong to break up a family-owned business or farm just because the person who built it dies. Not only does the family lose, but jobs are lost as the business is sold or closes.

We support S 1492 by Senators Gramm (R-TX) and Miller (D-Georgia).

This bill repeals the sunset in General Title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

It also cuts the Capital Gains Tax Rate from 10% to 7.5%, in some cases, and from 20% to 15%, in others.

This means Investment in America will have an immediate positive effect. Investment creates jobs.

We strongly support this bill.

### **S 990 "Son of CARA" (Conservation and Reinvestment Act (S701))**

We strongly oppose this Act. It is a \$600 million per year land grab. While it is much smaller than S 701, it is still too big. Our Nation is founded on the principle of Private Property Ownership and history has shown that in countries where this is not the case, private citizens lose their "stake" in the country. The Federal Government already owns over 30% of the land and is doing a poor job of managing that.

S 990 was sneaked by in the dark of night on the final day of the 2001 session of Congress. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) brought it to an almost empty chamber and asked for a "Unanimous Consent" that the bill be approved on the spot; no debate, no amendments, and no recorded vote.

The bill has no protection against condemnations of private land.

It allows grant money to environmental and animal rights organizations.

It allows the Government to grab land for nearly any reason if land or water is suitable or capable of being made suitable for feeding, resting or breeding by wildlife.

Our taxpayer funds can be used to meet the perceived needs for wildlife and the habitats on which wildlife depend.

We strongly oppose this Act.

### **Ergonomics Rule**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) continues trying to issue ergonomics rules. It has already been determined that we don't have enough information to determine how to deal effectively with the problems attributed to repetitive motion procedures. American businesses should not be forced to implement costly procedures that are questionable, at best, only to have the requirements changed in a few years at an additional cost. It's not the business that will pay for such actions because costs are always passed to the consumer.

We propose that OSHA be prohibited from issuing any rules on ergonomics until sufficient scientific information is available to make intelligent decisions.

### **Ethanol and Bio-Diesel Fuels**

America must work to become more fuel independent. The technology exists to provide a significant part of our auto and truck fuel from our own renewable resources using ethanol and bio-diesel fuels. We must reduce our dependence on crude oil from the Middle East.

We ask Congress to support more production and use of ethanol and bio-diesel fuels.

## **2003 Missouri Legislative Days**

Watch your mail and make plans to attend Missouri's first Legislative Days in Jefferson City this winter!

# Missouri State Technical Committee Report

By Charlie Boyer

*[Editor's Note: The NRCS State Technical Committee met January 24, 2002. This report is related to that meeting. If you've been paying attention to the news, you know the Farm Bill discussion has been shifting, almost like the weather. This Farm Bill update was a snapshot of what was happening at the time of this meeting. The State Technical Committee has not met since the January meeting. The next State Technical Committee meeting will be held May 23rd. These meetings will become more frequent and critical after the Farm Bill is finalized.]*

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

From 1997 through 2001, \$19,512,000 was applied to contracts with 64% going to livestock related projects and 36% being applied to non-livestock projects. The projection for 2002 is \$3,840,000 being dispersed as 69% for livestock related projects and 31%, non-livestock projects. All of these projects are in priority areas.

Current EQIP concerns include:

- 1) Water Quality - Animal Waste
- 2) Water Quality - Pesticides and Nutrients
- 3) Grazing Lands Health
- 4) Soil Quality - CRP Conversion Land, Sinkhole Areas, and Wind Erosion
- 5) Wildlife Habitat

## Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

A total of 91,427 acres encompassing 620 sites in 66 counties from 1992 through September 30, 2001, with a total of \$ 69.6 million obligated.

## 2002 Farm Bill Update

The Farm Bill has made it through the House and gone to the Senate. If it passes, it is possible that a significant amount of money could come into Missouri and NRCS would like to have programs in place to utilize these funds immediately. It is expected that there will no longer be priority areas, but rather the whole state would benefit from the federal funding.

Besides the major concerns of EQIP, the State Technical Committee members were asked for suggestions and/or potential additional concerns. It was suggested that the soil erosion and sedimentation projects that would enhance, but not compete with the cost-share program be considered.

Subsurface drainage and sub-irrigation projects that could help control nitrates in water run-off, thus addressing the water quality issue, could also be a part of the proposed projects funded by the new farm bill. Streambank erosion and riparian corridor management are also possibilities.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

\$ 100,000 has been pledged to support soil, water and wildlife benefits. The goal of the Missouri CREP is to retire 50,000 acres of highly erodible and environmentally sensitive crop land along streams and reservoirs that support rural water supplies.

## Farm Services Agency (FSA)

FSA reported that the agency's major concern is to be ready for the increased funding the Farm Bill might provide.

Discussion of what funding might be available and how those funds will be spent was the major topic of this meeting. It will also be the topic of major discussion at future State Technical Committee Meetings.

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## From The Desk Of ...

### **Koch Pipeline**

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*Whenever you perform excavation work, you are required by law to call Missouri One Call 48 hours in advance, not including weekends or holidays. Because Koch Pipeline Company is a member of Missouri One Call, Missouri One Call will notify us of your planned digging activity, in the event that your project is near our underground pipeline. KPL personnel will further scrutinize your project to determine whether it is near our pipeline. If your project is near our pipeline right-of-way easement, our personnel will mark the location of our pipeline with small flags at no cost to you. Depending on the scope of your project, we may watch over construction work as it takes place near our easement. To further enhance the safety of your excavation crews and the public at large, we at Koch Pipeline Company want to have a representative present when excavation work takes place near our pipeline. Accordingly, we ask that you accommodate us with your excavation schedule so that we can, when necessary or desired, dispatch appropriate monitoring personnel to your job-site.*

*Please call before you dig, wait the required amount of time, respect the marks and dig with care. In Missouri, call Missouri One Call two working days before you dig; 1-800-344-7483*

*If you have any questions regarding the Koch Pipeline Company facility in your area, do not hesitate to call me at 651-480-3936. Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to working with you and to a safe construction season.*

*Sincerely,  
Jennifer Sweney  
Public Awareness Coordinator  
Koch Pipeline Company Northern Territory*

### **Prinsco, Inc.**

The *Used Equipment Classifieds*, Prinsco, Inc.'s newest web site feature is designed to help contractors sell their used equipment or enable them to find the equipment they're looking for. "This newest web site option was created because of numerous customers asking if we knew where they could find used equipment," said Larry Groen, General Manager of Prinsco, Inc.

Keeping equipment updated - selling the old or purchasing new or used - is always a challenge for business owners. They're talking about it with their crews, other contractors, and their sales associates.

At <http://www.prinsco.com/equip.cfm>, contractors fill in a simple form that asks for their contact information (so prospective buyers can contact them directly) and basic data about the equipment they want to sell or hope to purchase. Photos can also be e-mailed to Prinsco or mailed directly to Prinsco's Minnesota office.

After the form is submitted, Prinsco's marketing department puts it online - usually within one to three days. The process is very simple, fast and effective.

Although Prinsco is hosting the *Used Equipment Classifieds* on their web site, they're not in the business of selling equipment. Like the classified ads in local newspapers, all sales transactions are directly between the buyer and the seller. Prinsco is not involved in the sales negotiations and receives no fees or commissions.

If you have questions about Prinsco's *Used Equipment Classifieds*, please log on to [www.prinsco.com](http://www.prinsco.com) or call 1-800-992-1725. Mail your photos to: Prinsco, Inc.; Attn: Lenae; 108 W. Highway 7; Prinsburg, MN 56281 or email them to: [lbulthuis@prinsco.com](mailto:lbulthuis@prinsco.com).

*[Continued on Page 10]*

## From The Bestgens:

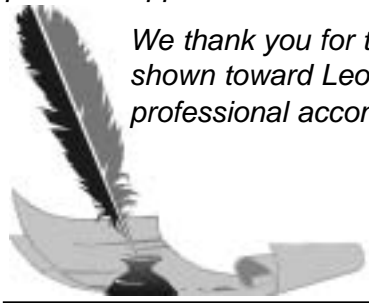
Dear MLICA and Debbie:

*The Leonard Bestgen Family wishes to thank you for the time, consideration, preparation and documentation that was involved in obtaining Leonard's induction into the LICA Hall of Fame.*

*We also wish to thank all those who participated and who were instrumental in bestowing this honor to Leonard. The family certainly wishes to extend its profound appreciation for all your personal efforts.*

*We thank you for the respect you have shown toward Leonard Bestgen and his professional accomplishments.*

Sincerely,  
John Bestgen



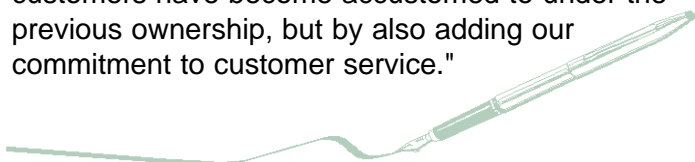
## From The Desk ... (Cont. from page 9)

### The Fabick Companies

The Fabick Companies have announced, effective March 1, 2002, Fabick Southwest Co. has acquired the Caterpillar earthmoving, engine and rental service territories previously covered by E.A. Martin Machinery Company. The Fabick Companies have been a heavy equipment dealer based in the St. Louis, Mo area for over 85 years that has predominantly served mid-and southeastern Missouri and southern Illinois.

Douglas Fabick, Executive Vice President and C.O.O., said, "We are very excited about this new opportunity that will include the service territory in southwest Missouri; Ottawa County, Kansas; and Cherokee County, Oklahoma. We are proud of our reputation for customer service. Our focus is "to ever serve our customers better," which is our company motto and the foundation of our commitment. But even more, our mission as a company.

"We are expending every effort during the days of this transition to make it as easy as possible. We look to continue and expand existing relationships by not only incorporating many of the same faces that customers have become accustomed to under the previous ownership, but by also adding our commitment to customer service."



## New NRCS Chief Announced

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has named Bruce I. Knight as chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Knight will oversee the 11,000-person agency with a budget of \$1.1 billion.

"Bruce Knight brings to USDA a great deal of knowledge and first-hand experience in conservation and agriculture policy from having served as a congressional staff member, a public policy leader for a national trade association and a working farmer and rancher," said Veneman. "I know that he will use that knowledge and experience in administering important conservation programs for USDA."

Knight currently serves as vice president, public policy, for the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) Washington, D.C., office. NCGA is a producer-directed trade association representing U.S. corn growers. Knight previously served on the staff of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, Kan., focusing on development of the conservation title of the 1996 Farm Bill. He also worked for the National Association of Wheat Growers and as a legislative assistant to Rep. Fred Grandy, Iowa, and Sen. James Abdnor, S.D.

A native of Gann Valley, S.D., Knight has been a farmer and rancher since 1976 for a 1,500-acre diversified grain and cattle operation using no-till and rest rotation grazing systems.

Knight succeeds Pearl S. Reed, who has served as NRCS chief since March 1, 1998. Knight will officially join USDA on May 6.



## Mizzou Students Working With MLICA

A team of six Missouri University Masters of Business (MBA) students have selected Missouri LICA as their semester marketing project. They have reviewed our membership development efforts, benefits package and convention/education programs and have contacted some of our Associates and surveyed a sample of our contractor members. We should receive their report at the end of May and are looking forward to their suggestions!

# CRP Clarification On Filter Strips and Riparian Buffers

On March 1, 2002, the Farm Service Agency issued Notice CRP-396 - "CRP Cost-Share Policy Clarification for Water Development and Water Facilities." The notice resolves and clarifies several confusing and nagging issues that have hindered the enrollment of filter strips and riparian buffers in CRP. The complete notice is at [ftp://ftp.fsa.usda.gov/public/notices/CRP\\_396.PDF](ftp://ftp.fsa.usda.gov/public/notices/CRP_396.PDF).

The notice clarifies how water developments and facilities are to be used for practices CP21, Filter Strips, and CP22, Riparian Buffers. Strict cost limits and distances they can be placed from the buffer edge are spelled out to prevent abuse and to simplify planning with producers. However, the dollar limits, especially the \$2000 water facility limit, will discourage larger enrollments where pastures are on each side of a stream and where streams go through several pastures. As only one CRP contract can be entered into each year, such projects may now have to be spread over several years.

The notice specifies that a water development and/or water facility can be cost-shared if certified, as needed, where livestock currently graze or normally graze (crop residue) the marginal pasture land or cropland acreage located adjacent to the acreage enrolled in CRP as a filter strip or riparian buffer. It also specifies that cost-share is available only for the lowest cost option that provides a dependable water source needed to address the resource concerns.

Water developments are any of the following:

- ♦ spring
- ♦ dug, bored, or drilled well
- ♦ pond

Water facilities are any of the following:

- ♦ trough
- ♦ tank
- ♦ fencing, included around the tank or trough
- ♦ hydrants and other necessary piping, excluding pipeline to convey water to the watering facility.

**Distance Limitations** - Water developments and water facilities may be approved for cost-share for CRP if the water development or facility distance from the filter strip or riparian buffer contract acres are either of the following:

- ♦ up to 750 feet from the outer edge of the filter strip or riparian buffer based on County Office Committee (COC) approval
- ♦ up to 1,500 feet from the outer edge of the filter strip or riparian buffer based on State FSA Committee (STC) approval. (Water developments in excess of 1,500 feet from the outer edge must be submitted to CEPD (Washington FSA headquarters) for approval.)

**Cost-share Limits** - The following limitations for cost-share eligibility apply:

- ♦ cost-share for the total of all water developments per contract shall not exceed \$3,000
- ♦ cost-share for the total of all water facilities per contract shall not exceed \$2,000
- ♦ cost-share for the total of all pipelines shall not exceed \$2,000
- ♦ cost-share per foot of fencing shall not exceed the STC- or COC-established cost for a 3-strand barbed wire fence.

**Crossing** - A livestock crossing is only permitted if it is determined to be essential for implementing the filter strip or riparian buffer. Cost-share for all livestock crossings is limited to \$1,500 per contract.

**Fencing** - Cost-share is available for installing fencing necessary to prohibit livestock access to the CRP acres devoted to filter strips or riparian buffers. Fences must be installed parallel and adjacent to the CRP acreage. Cost-share is not to exceed the State FSA or County Office Committee's established cost for a 3-strand barbed wire fence. In all cases, Cost-share is available only for the lowest cost option that provides adequate fencing needed to address the resource concerns.

Although not mentioned in Notice CRP-396, CP21 and CP22 do allow use of electric fences with 2 or more strands. In many cases a two strand electric fence may be the least cost option. This is especially true in floodplains when maintenance is taken into consideration.

Written by: Gene Whitaker  
Farm Bill Network <http://fb-net.org/>

# MLICA Summer Picnic!

## August 10, 2002

### Osage Bluff Lodge

This summer, we will host our first MLICA Summer Picnic on August 10th at the Osage Bluff Lodge. Although our General Membership meeting will take place on August 10th, members and their families are invited to come early and stay late. We'll make it a camping, fishing, story-telling weekend!

As for sleeping arrangements, there are lots of options. Osage Bluff Lodge has hotel rooms or kitchenettes available. Or, you can camp (with a tent or with your trailer) at the Corps of Engineer's Osage Bluff campground.

Specifics will be mailed to you shortly. Please make your sleeping arrangements ASAP because both the Lodge and the campgrounds are very popular and will likely be sold out quickly!



## Small Business Relief

In late March, President Bush announced his small-business agenda to stimulate economic growth in a speech to the National Federation of Independent Businesses. Among the items on the President's small-business agenda:

- ♦ **Tax Relief:** The President's plan calls for making last year's death-tax repeal permanent; it is currently scheduled to rise from the dead in 2011.
- ♦ **More Tax Relief:** Other measures include increasing current small-business expensing limits and allowing more small businesses to use the simpler cash method of accounting.
- ♦ **Affordable Health Care:** Bush supports Association Health Plans (AHPs), which would save Main Street between 15-30 percent on their health-insurance costs.
- ♦ **Business Interest Checking:** The president supports lifting outdated laws and regulations that prevent small businesses from earning interest on their checking account balances.
- ♦ **Fairness In Bidding For Federal Contracts:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will propose changes to make the contracting process more fair for small business and whenever possible, to end the packaging of many smaller contracts together.

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