

IFMA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016 – IFMA20 CONGRESS NEWS

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It is a long time since I last sent out an IFMA Newsletter - my apologies if you thought you were no longer on the distribution list. For some of you it will have been a nice rest from all the newsletters sent just prior to the Congress in Québec.

A big welcome to all the new Subscribers who joined us in the last 6 months!

To make up for the lack of Newsletters there will be a few in a fairly short space of time as there are a number of things to bring to your attention.

This Newsletter concentrates on the items that arise from the IFMA20 Congress.

IFMA20 Congress News

As planned the IFMA 20 Congress took place in Québec City, Canada from the 12th -17th July. Québec was a great city to hold our congress in – not too large, a beautiful city with easy access between the old town and the Université Laval where the congress was held. With the Summer Music Festival taking place in the same week, the city was a lively and colourful place to be. Some 'rock-on' delegates even enjoyed seeing the Rolling Stones who were in town for the festival.

353 people attended the congress from 31 different countries, of these 228 were full time delegates, 79 were local delegates, and 46 were accompanying persons. They attended a very full programme of plenary session, contributed paper and poster session, had a choice of 7 different field trip options on 2 days of the congress, and were entertained royally on 3 evenings of the congress. 30 people participated in the Pre Congress Tour of Ontario, and 37 the Post Congress tour of the Maritimes. What was particularly pleasing at the congress was to see a discernible increase in the number of young people attending.

Both Farm Management Canada (FMC) and CRAAQ (Centre de référence en agriculture et agroalimentaire du Québec) are to be congratulated on a well organised, educational, entertaining and very friendly congress. Particular thanks go to Heather Watson and Mathieu Lipari of FMC, Bridgette Dumont, Sophie Gendron, and Audrey Hamel of CRAAQ, and Pascal Thériault of McGill University, for all their hard work. We also thank Gaetan Lussier for his heroic effort of Chairing all of the Congress Plenary Sessions – all with great authority and humour.

The post congress evaluation survey once again gave the congress a very high rating with 92% of the respondents giving the congress a rating of 70/100 or above for meeting their expectations. The comments made by the respondents were highly complementary – particularly from those who were attending the congress for the first time. You can see the IFMA20 Congress Evaluation Survey Report on the ifmaonline.org website in the Articles section by clicking [here](#). Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey.

IFMA20 Papers, Posters and Plenary Presentations – Available now on the ifmaonline.org website

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that all the Contributed Papers and Posters are now loaded onto the ifmaonline.org website. The Peer Review papers are in Vol. 1 of the Proceedings, the non- peer review papers and posters are in Vol. 2, and copies of the available Plenary Presentations are in Vol. 3. You will find these on the Congress Proceedings page [here](#).

Please note the following when accessing the papers:

- *In each volume of papers the papers are listed in alphabetical order of the title following the prefix.*
- *Each paper, poster or presentation is given a prefix – PR for Peer Review, NPR for Non-Peer Review, PO for a poster and PL for a plenary presentation. The latter are also given numbers depending on when during the programme the presentation was made. Peer Review papers are in IFMA20 Vol.1 (3rd one down) which has the ISBN No: 978-92-990062-3-8, and Non-peer Review papers are in Vol.2 which has the ISBN No. 978-92-990062-4-5.*

- You will see that each paper has a blue box indicator denoting which country(ies) the author(s) are from. If you click on the country box you will get a list of all the papers from that country that are in the database (from all 8 congresses' proceedings).
- Authors are listed in alphabetical order – not by lead author. Again – each author has a hyperlink, so when clicked the list of papers that that author has presented will be listed (again across all congresses). However there are some anomalies as it depends on the author's name being listed in exactly the same way each time – so whether one or two initials were used on the paper will give different listings. I am hoping over time that I can correct this.
- Organisations in the same way are hyperlinked so that you can find all the papers presented from authors from that organisation. As with the authors this does depend on the organisation being listed in exactly the same way each time. In earlier listings of proceedings I tended to add the department as well as the organisation – so this is far from fool proof, and again I hope to correct this over time. So for IFMA20 only the University or top title of an organisation has been used – department names have not.

These new forms of listing and increased facility to explore the proceedings were introduced with the latest update of the ifmaonline.org website last year (2015).

You can also use the search facility on the Congress Proceedings page to find authors, organisations, countries, title and abstract (inc. keywords) for the whole database of papers & presentations.

Please do publicise the Congress Proceedings to anyone you think will be interested and find the resource useful. We now have nearly 1,000 papers stored on the website – surely a valuable resource to all those including students involved in or studying farm or rural management! Remember these papers have open access to all – no membership requirements or payment involved.

The Congress Proceedings page is [here](http://www.ifmaonline.org/proceedings/). (<http://www.ifmaonline.org/proceedings/>)

IFMA Council News

The IFMA Council meets twice during a congress – firstly before the congress starts on the Sunday, and then at the end of the Congress on the Friday afternoon.

There are normally around 18-20 people representing different countries or regions on Council.

The Executive of IFMA are elected at the first council meeting of a congress – which for the next two years will be Trevor Atkinson (President, UK), Damona Doye (Vice President, USA), David Hughes (Vice President, Argentina), John Alliston (Immediate Past President, UK), Malcolm Stansfield and Rob Napier (The Patrons), and Tony King (Hon. Secretary / Treasurer, UK). Rob Napier was previously a Vice President and he has been a member and served on Council since the 1980s being elected to Vice President in 1997. IFMA is heavily indebted to Rob's great insight to farm management expertise, and the enthusiasm for IFMA that he brought to our meetings. In appointing him as a Patron it is hoped that he will continue to bring his knowledge and understanding to the benefit of IFMA. David Hughes takes over as a Vice President strengthening our links with South America – a fast developing part of the agricultural world.

John Gardner stepped down from being the IFMA's Journal representative on the International Journal of Agricultural Management (IJAM) board and Dr. Eric Micheels was invited to take his place. We owe John a great deal for without him stepping up to the plate and taking on the role of Editor of the Journal of International Farm Management (JIFM) and resurrecting the old Journal as an online journal when the opportunity arose with the new IFMA website in 2005 we would not be involved in IJAM today. Once again, many thanks and congratulations to John and we hope he will continue to enjoy his retirement in N.Z. Eric Micheels joins Council as the IJAM Representative, having been on the Editorial Board of IJAM he now becomes a Deputy Editor where he will assist the new Editor of IJAM – Matt Lobley – with continuing to develop the Journal. Eric is an Associate Professor at the University of Saskatchewan.

Also joining Council is Tricia Macfarlane as the New Zealand representative following John Gardner's retirement. Tricia was one of the magicians who saved the IFMA18 Congress following the devastating earthquake that hit Christchurch two weeks before the congress was due to start there. It was mainly down to Tricia and her small team that all 400 people involved in the congress were found accommodation in the little town of Methven just 60 miles from Christchurch. Tricia will also bring her experience in Accompanying Person Programmes and Pre and Post Congress Tours to IFMA Council.

Each Congress has a representative from the local organising committee – so we welcome Tim Brigstocke as the representative of our next congress – the 21st Congress (IFMA21) which is to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland from 2nd – 7th July 2017 (please put the date into your diary / system, and plan to be there). See below for the congress website link.

Also co-opted onto Council is Richard Cooksley who joins IFMA Council as the Hon. Secretary / Treasurer Elect. Richard, as the Director of the Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM) in the UK, is very much involved in the organisation of the IFMA21 Congress. He has kindly agreed to succeed Tony King following the 2017 congress. Richard has attended the last 3 congresses and became an enthusiastic supporter after touring and taking part in the New Zealand congress. There are more details on Richard and all the Members of Council on our website.

Leaving Council this year was Terry Betker, the Canada representative. We thank him for his enthusiastic support during congresses and are sorry he has felt it necessary to stand down due to pressure of his business. Terry was awarded the prestigious Wilson Loree* Award last year - the award honours individuals or groups who have made an extraordinary contribution to advancing agricultural business management practices in Canada and is awarded by members of Farm Management Canada. Many congratulations from all at IFMA Terry.

His position, at least for now, has been assumed by Heather Watson. Heather, as Chairman of the IFMA20 Congress organising committee, was already on Council. She has also been asked and accepted the role of taking the Lead on Social Media for IFMA. She has already been very busy establishing IFMA on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. More on this in the next IFMA Newsletter.

IFMA Executive & Council Members are [listed here](#) on the ifmaonline.org website and each one has their own webpage with their details and contact information. Do contact your county / region representative if you need any information or wish to raise any ideas regarding IFMA – I know they would be pleased to hear from you.

During the congress two workshops were held – one led by Damona Doye which looked at the possibilities of “parachuting” a congress into a country where there was no organisation that could take it on – such as China. This issue has seemed intractable for many years as IFMA do depend on a local organisation taking on both the organising and financial responsibility of a congress. A difficult nut still un-cracked! The other workshop, led by Heather Watson, looked at how we can attract more young people to the congress (in fact IFMA20 saw a good increase in the number of young people attending), and also to discuss how we address and manage to get the best out of the modern phenomena of social media.

IFMA Celebrates 40 Years

At this congress IFMA formerly celebrated its 40 years of holding congresses and other activities. The Association was founded in 1974 at the second International Farm Management Congress held in Guelph, Canada - the first congress having been held at Warwick, UK in 1971. A flyer and write up of IFMA's history were given out to all members at the congress. You can see the article and download article and flyer from the website [here](#).

Perhaps a little late in the month – but I wish you a Happy New Year and all the best for 2016

My Best Regards,
Tony.

* Wilson Loree is a former Council Member of IFMA and was instrumental in the organisation of the 1997 IFMA Congress in Calgary.

Tony King
Hon. Secretary
International Farm Management Association