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To: [IFMA Non Member Newsletter Recipients](#);
CC:
Subject: IFMA NEWSLETTER - JULY 2008
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Attachments:

IFMA NEWSLETTER – JULY 2008

Dear IFMA Newsletter Recipient,

For best results please view this newsletter in HTML. In this Newsletter a preview of the:

**17th International Farm Management Congress - IFMA17,
Sunday 19th to Friday 24th July, 2009 – Less than a year away!
Theme - “Agriculture: Food, Fiber and Energy for the Future”
To be held in Bloomington / Normal, Illinois, USA.**

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW

Bloomington City and the township of Normal are situated side by side about 2hrs drive south of Chicago in the middle of Illinois, in an area known as the Midwest of the United States of America.

Bloomington & Normal are the home of **Illinois State University** where many of the Congress activities will be held.

The 17th Congress will be run in the standard format for IFMA congresses –

Basic Details:

- A 6 day Congress from Sunday 19th July to Friday 24th July inclusive – with registration and welcome on the first day, 3 days of plenary and parallel sessions interspersed with 2 days of farm, research and agribusiness tours.
- A Pre Congress Tour in southern Illinois meeting on Sunday 12th July in St. Louis, Missouri and finishing in Bloomington on Saturday 18th July
- A Post Congress Tour in northern Illinois starting on Saturday 25th July from Bloomington/Normal and ending at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport on Friday 31st July.

- There will be the usual Accompanying Persons package including tours on two of the days. Children will be welcome.
- The Congress website is at <http://www.ifma17.org/> Expect a big increase in the amount of information available on the website in the next 2-3 months – but currently you can download a general information flyer about the congress from the website - go to Congress Program > and click on Agenda.

Following my visit to Bloomington / Normal with the Congress organisers in June together with **Jim McGrann**, Vice President of IFMA, I can assure everyone that plans are well in hand for an excellent congress, and that there will be a very warm welcome for all who attend. Both Jim and I were very impressed with the many people that we met from the university, the hotels, the farms and the businesses – in particular for the positive “can do” attitude by everyone towards the congress. We were also very impressed with the amount of detailed groundwork already carried out by the organisers – in the most part by **Carroll Merry** the principal congress organiser – in planning every stage of the congress in detail.

The Congress:

The congress plenary and contributed paper sessions will be held in the University’s Bone Student Centre and Schroeder Hall respectively. Both have excellent meeting facilities and are just across the road from each other with easy access.

- As normal the **congress sessions** will be held on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with the mornings in plenary sessions on all 3 days, and the afternoons in parallel contributed paper sessions on the Monday and Wednesday. A full program is planned till 3.00pm on the Friday saving some of the best till last.
- The program of speakers for the **plenary sessions** is well underway with some formidable presentations, farm case study panel sessions and a debate planned. More information on these will follow as they become firmed up, but some announcements are already on the IFMA17.org website.
- The **Call for Papers** will be made in the next few months and will be for two categories of paper (as for IFMA16 in Ireland). These will be known as ‘**Peer Review**’ and ‘**Farm Case Study (non-peer review)**’ papers. Posters will also be accepted. The organisers are particularly keen to encourage ‘farm case study’ type papers from farmers, managers, advisors and consultants as well as the academic papers in the ‘Peer Review’ category. Details for paper submission, including the themes, will be announced with the Call for Papers.
- On the Tuesday and Thursday delegates and their accompanying

persons will have a large range of '**farm tour**' options available to them - some 12 different day long tours visiting a mix of family farms, agribusinesses, research and education facilities. If you think that 'corn and beans' is all that exists in the Midwest – you would be wrong, very wrong! However Illinois is a major center for crop research and so technology in a variety of forms will be a major feature.

- A variety of reasonably priced **accommodation** options will be available from low cost student rooms (not ensuite) at US\$30 per person, hotels from US\$80 to \$120 per room and Suites from US\$124 (all plus tax). A free shuttle service between the recommended accommodations and the University will run at appropriate times.
- The organisers hope to have **Registration** up and running early in the autumn - and whilst exact fees have not yet been decided upon, they intend to be able to offer the full congress at a very reasonable price.
- The **Accompanying Persons Package** is also being planned with two days of tours during session days. 2009 will be the bicentenary of Presidents Lincoln's death, and as he lived 'just down the road' in Springfield, Illinois – expect a strong Lincoln theme for at least one of the days. Options for children are also being planned both for younger and older children and include a visit to the Explorer Education Centre where groups can plan their "mission into space". (Visits subject obviously to sufficient numbers). AP's will also be able to select from the range of farm tours on the Tuesday and Thursday.
- As normal there will be a **social program** with a warm welcome on the Sunday evening in Bloomington's Miller Park, and evening occasions on two of the nights including the formal Banquet. Bloomington & Normal have an excellent range of restaurants for the free evenings.

The Pre and Post Congress Tours – details will be confirmed later.

- The **Pre Congress Tour** will gather together in St Louis, Missouri on Sunday 12th July and visit a range of farms and agribusinesses there and in the Carbondale - Effingham areas of southern Illinois before heading to Bloomington via Springfield - the State Capital of Illinois and President Lincoln's home town (2009 will be Lincoln's bicentenary year). The tour will end at your accommodation on Saturday 18th July.
- The **Post Congress Tour** will start from Bloomington on Saturday 25th July heading with visits to Chicago where the weekend will be spent (free time) and incorporating a visit to the Chicago Board of Trade on the Monday. The tour will then progress westwards across the north of Illinois to the Quad Cities again visiting farms and agribusinesses including John Deere in Moline and then returning further south to Chicago O'Hare airport on Friday 31st July.

- From what we heard of the plans both tours will have an interesting and enjoyable mix of farm, farm tourism, research and agribusiness visits. Tours are expected to be limited to 50 participants each and again will be reasonably priced.

Looking forward

- Please note the dates and make sure you keep up with developments on the IFMA17 website (hyperlink below).
- **Plan now to be there if you are at all interested – ‘be a part of it’ and don’t miss out on a great opportunity to meet up with like minded people from around the world!**
- I will keep you informed of all major developments including the Call for Papers and when registration starts - and provide advice on US entrance visa issues in good time.
- **The success of the Congress depends on you** – there is nothing as good as recommendations from those that know – **so please pass this Newsletter email on to everyone you think would or could be interested in attending the congress.** In particular to farmers, farm managers and consultants who are doing good work around the world as we especially need more of them to attend. Please suggest they sign up to receive future IFMA Newsletters by contacting me or by doing so on the IFMA website home page (see the hyperlink below – they don’t have to be members to receive the newsletter, but members receive priority information).

As you can see from the above I am very enthusiastic about the prospects for next year’s congress – I hope you will be also.

My Very Best Regards,

Tony.

Tony King

Hon. Secretary

International Farm Management Association

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IFMA Website - www.ifmaonline.org

17th IFMA Congress, USA website - www.ifma17.org