

IFMA NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2009

Dear IFMA Newsletter Subscriber,

Please forward this Newsletter to anyone you think could be interested in attending the congress.

For best results please view this newsletter in HTML.

17TH INTERNATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT CONGRESS

"Agriculture: Food, Fiber and Energy for the Future"

Sun. 19TH-Fri. 24TH July 2009, Bloomington/Normal, ILLINOIS, USA.

****JUST 5 WEEKS TO THE END OF THE 'EARLY BIRD' BOOKING PERIOD****

I do hope you are making plans to attend this year's congress. The organisers are completing their plans and checking that all is in place for an interesting, enjoyable and smooth running congress.

Based in the heart of the USA's major agricultural production area, and therefore a major world centre of innovation and technology, this congress provides a unique opportunity to hear, and talk to, the scientists, technicians, and to the farmers who utilise and test production developments before they make their way to the rest of the world. To all involved in farm management this is a great opportunity to get a personal insight into new and future solutions for feeding the world population, and for providing energy, in an environmentally sustainable way. The current worldwide financial crises maybe taking all the interest right now – but there is still a massive job to be done to provide food for all those who need it. Your personal knowledge and vital skills are a major part of the solution – so this is your chance to fine tune your understanding and skills to secure success in what is the most important industry of all!

The Plenary Speaker Program

To open the program and set the scene for the week **Prof. Bob Thompson** will be providing the background to world agriculture in his paper *"The World in Perspective"*. Bob is undoubtedly "The Expert" on world agricultural policy and is in high demand around the world for his insight into the world's agricultural economy, and he sits on several high ranking councils on agricultural policy. He will be followed by **Dr. Prabhu Pengali** who will be talking on *"Towards World Food Security"*. Coming from India, with past experience as Director of the Agricultural and Development Economics Division at the FAO, a past President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, and having worked in many parts of the world on major projects, including a period at the World Bank, and now in his new role with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Prabhu is in an ideal position to discuss the issues of what all world governments aspire to attain – and that is the seemingly insurmountable problem of providing food security for all.

From these two contributions we move on to practical "delivery" solutions with a mix of expert corporate speakers and panel sessions of practical farm management where we will be looking for knowledge and inspiration from our speakers and panellists alike. And talking of inspiration - do make sure you stay on for **Lowell Catlett's** presentation on the Friday afternoon.

The Contributed Paper Sessions

With over 100 contributed papers and posters covering the 6 major themes under the overall theme of the congress there will surely be much of interest to all delegates. The papers come in two forms – 'academic peer reviewed' and 'practical case studies' – mixed together by theme and presented in parallel sessions. These will be presented during the afternoons of Monday and Wednesday. (Authors – please remember you need to register for the congress by the 1st May.)

Day Tours – Farms, Agribusiness and Research

With 8 different tours repeated over the 2 tour days (Tuesday and Thursday) there can rarely have been so much to choose from at a congress. Each tour day has 3 separate visits so that delegates and accompanying persons will have varied and interesting days out – from family farms and family businesses to large research and development facilities, from various agribusinesses to university facilities - and not least an opportunity to see the world famous Chicago Board of Trade in action. The really difficult job will be choosing the best 2 days of tours for you. As always at our congresses this is a unique opportunity to see, listen and speak to a group of people you just could not get to meet any other way.

Social Program

“You can not be serious” – well not all of the time! To help you relax and enjoy your stay in Illinois there will be at least 3 formal nights of entertainment and refreshment during the congress including the Welcome Reception in Miller Park, Bloomington in the evening of Sunday 19th July (the organisers promise an evening to remember!). But ‘social’ is what we like to be in IFMA and the week will provide great opportunities to meet new people and forge new friendships.

Accompanying Persons Program

2009 is the bi-centenary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. Born a Kentucky farmer’s son in 1809, the Lincoln family came to live in Illinois in 1830, and to Springfield (the Capital of Illinois) in 1842 at the time of his marriage. It is no surprise then that Lincoln will feature in elements of the congress and no less so than with a “Lincoln Day” as part of the accompanying persons tour. Accompanying Persons can choose their own 2 days of farm tours and will have another day visiting a variety of contrasting sites in and around Bloomington/Normal.

Pre and Post Congress Tours

The Pre Congress Tour starts in St Louis, Missouri on Sunday 12th July and will proceed over the week across the southern part of Illinois with a mixture of farm, research, agribusiness and tourist / educational visits (including a visit to an Amish farming community) before arriving in Bloomington/Normal on Saturday 18th July.

The Post Congress Tour leaves Bloomington/Normal on Saturday 25th July and heads, with visits, for Chicago. Sunday is available for personal tourism (lots to see in Chicago) and the tour starts again with a visit to the Chicago Board of Trade and the High School for Agricultural Sciences. The tour then travels across the northern part of Illinois to the John Deere Factory in East Moline before returning to Chicago on Friday 30th July, with further visits to farming, horticultural and agribusiness enterprises.

If you are planning to go on one of these two tours now would be a good time to register to be sure of your place – there is still room on both of these tours.

CONGRESS INFORMATION – www.ifma17.org

All the information you need is available to you on the congress website including downloadable PDFs – but if you would like to download a “brochure” of the assembled information click [here](#) and select the brochure that covers your interest (in the right hand column)

Congress Registration

Registering for the congress is straight forward – it may look complicated to start with, but once you are underway - having flowed the link from the IFMA17 congress website to the Illinois State University conference booking website - you will find a range of options and selections available to you. Most brands of Credit Card are accepted.

Remember to decide your choices of Day Tours for the 2 days before you go to the website – and you should read the introduction section on the website before selecting your options. Start with the delegate registration and then add the other options available to you as you require including Accompanying Persons, the Pre and Post Tours, IFMA Membership* and if you want a hard copy version of the proceedings (CD version is included in the delegate package). (*IFMA Membership is a requirement for all delegates attending the congress and this can be purchased either on the ISU Conference website at the time of congress registration or by going first to the membership section of www.ifmaonline.org.)

We all know that money is tight in these difficult times but when considering the costs remember that once you have registered for the congress, paid the flights and accommodation, you will have very few additional expenses. The hotel rates include breakfast, all lunches are provided and you only have 2 evening meals (3 if you stay over to Saturday) to pay for.

Accommodation – Lodgings

YOU must book your own accommodation for the congress, but this has been made easy for you with preselected hotels and special congress rates to choose from. You have a choice of accommodation options in Bloomington/Normal from University Residential Hall and 6 good hotels. You will find information and the costs for all the options visit the ifma17 website or click [here](#). To book the University Residential Hall make the selection on the ISU Conference website whilst registering for the congress – or later. You can visit the hotel websites to see their amenities before making your choice. Please note that the shuttle coaches to and from the Congress venue (ISU’s Bone Student Center) will only run from the listed hotels and hall. (Also note that the Best Western University Hotel is not within easy walking distance of the Bone Student Center).

USA Entry Visas

Only 27 countries have Visa Waiver arrangements with the US. Information about obtaining US Visas is available towards the bottom of the Travel Information page of the IFMA17 website [here](#). Those who are eligible for Visa Waiver should also check this page as there are requirements to complete and an online ESTA form before travelling. Do not delay in assessing the requirements for entry to the US.

Promoting the Congress

As friends of IFMA you are by far the best agents for promoting the congress! Please spend a few minutes thinking of colleagues, friends and organisations that you can send this email onto. Or alternatively please let me know who I should send information about the congress to.

Questions?

For questions about the Congress program, venue, and related facilities - contact Carroll Merry at cmerry@countryside-marketing.com

For questions relating to contributed papers and posters – contact Harold Guither at hguither@uiuc.edu

For problems with, or questions about, Congress Registration – contact Amber Patterson at ampatt3@ilstu.edu

For questions about IFMA Membership (including ID number and renewal codes) – contact me at ifma@tonyking.info

Best Regards,
Tony.

Tony King
Hon. Secretary
International Farm Management Association
Email: ifma@tonyking.info
Phone: +44 (0)1223 839707

IFMA Website - www.ifmaonline.org

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