

IFMA NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2008

17th IFMA Congress - Registration Now Open

Announcing that Registration for the 17th IFMA Congress is now open.

Sunday 19th to Friday 24th July 2009 in Bloomington / Normal, Illinois, USA

Congress Theme *"Agriculture: Food, Fiber and Energy for the Future"*

Main congress venue – Illinois State University (ISU) – Bone Student Center.

Congress Website – www.ifma17.org

The organisers of the 17th International Farm Management Congress - The Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ISPFMRA) – are proud to announce that Registration for the Congress is now open to receive registrations. [Carroll Merry](#), the Executive Director of ISPFMRA, who has done a great deal of the ground work for the congress program and tours, extends a very warm welcome to all who wish to attend and participate in the activities of the congress.

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IFMA17 website developments

The Congress website has seen a great deal of development in the last few weeks and now contains most of the detailed information about the congress that anyone needs to decide to attend. It will be developed further as the plenary sessions are finally confirmed – with more information about the strong line-up of speakers that are committed to the congress. See below for the many individual elements that go to make up our congress – for which information is available on the congress website.

Downloads of many of the pages are available - you will need Adobe Reader software on your computer to be able to download and "read & save" the documents.

Congress Prices

The Full Delegate Early Bird booking price for the Congress is US\$ 895. This price includes the full program from Sunday registration through to Friday afternoon. Included are all the sessions with a CD of the proceedings, 2 days of tours (choice from 8 different tours each containing 3 visits), the welcome reception plus 2 evening banquets, daily lunches and daily refreshments, and all transport from the nominated hotels to sessions and on day tours. The Early Bird Rate will end on **1st May 2009** – after which the rate will be US\$ 995.

Lodgings (accommodation) is not included so delegates need to reserve their own accommodation from the selection of nominated hotels or ISU Residence options.

All full delegates must be Full Members of IFMA at the time of the congress. This can be done by paying the membership fee (join or renew) at the same time as registering for the congress – a 2 year between congresses membership – or by joining or renewing their 1 year membership via the ifmaonline.org website.

A hard copy of the proceedings can be ordered at an additional cost of US\$ 100.

See below for more details about the registration process.

Accompanying Person Program for the congress week is US\$ 750. This price includes all of the social program as above, 2 days of special tours, 2 days of Day Tours as for full delegates, daily lunches and refreshments during the tours, the option of attending the plenary sessions on the Friday (includes New Zealand Congress presentation) plus transport from the nominated hotels. Shopping shuttles from some venues may also be available. Lodgings should be arranged along with that for the full delegate.

Pre and Post Congress Tour prices – see below.

Plenary and Contributed Paper / Poster Sessions (a pop out tab from "Congress Program")

Currently all but 2 of the invited plenary speakers are indicated in the speaker section on the website. As soon as the timings and details are confirmed the organisers plan to have the actual daily presentation program available on the website. In addition at this congress there will be 3 plenary panel farm management sessions with 4 inspirational farmers per session.

Contributed papers will be presented in concurrent parallel sessions on the afternoons of Monday and Wednesday. A large room has been set aside for Poster display during the congress and there will be a specific poster session with authors in attendance.

Call for Papers – submission dateline 15th December (a tab from “Congress Program”)

The “Call for Papers” has gone out for contributed papers and posters. There will be two forms of paper – peer reviewed and case study (non-peer reviewed). The period for submission of full papers and poster abstracts is fairly tight – only full papers will be accepted for submission (no pre-submission of paper abstracts) and both full papers and poster abstracts need to be submitted **by Monday 15th December 2008**. There is a limit on the number of papers and posters that can be accepted for presentation at the congress. Submission of papers and poster abstracts is via a specialist website – details available in the Call for Papers document. Papers will need to be clearly marked “Peer Review” or “Case Study”. Please read the “Call for Papers” document – which is available in PDF format for downloading – carefully.

The organisers are particularly keen to receive “Case Study” papers from farmers, managers and consultants. If all goes to plan those who submit papers will be notified of acceptance by 15th February 2009, in good time to register before the cut off date of the 1st May (end of Early bird rate)

Lodging – Accommodation nominated hotels and ISU Residence options.

Delegates have a choice from 7 hotels – some with suites - as well as student accommodation in a university residence hall to choose from. The congress website lodgings page outlines the choice and prices. Note that in normal US style the hotel prices are **per room** not per person, whereas the Residence price is per person.

Once you have decided which hotels to look at you can find out more about the hotels by using the links – **but be sure to come back to the Lodgings page** to click the links for the special rates negotiated for IFMA17 delegates.

If you want to book into the Student Residence Hall (it will be out of term time) you can book single or double shared rooms – either with an accompanying person or with another delegate you wish to share with. Note that the rooms are not ensuite and that there are communal washrooms with toilets, showers and basins (single sex, same floor). We will not know which Residence will be used until nearer the time of the Congress. A cafeteria is available in the building or nearby for breakfast and other meals during much of the day.

Day Tours (a tab from “Congress Program”)

With 8 different tours repeated on the two tour days – Tuesday and Thursday – the difficulty will be choosing which ones to participate in. When registering for the congress you will be asked for 3 preferences in order for each day. Accompanying Persons will also be on these tours – but can choose different ones from the delegate if they wish.

So do plan these before going online to register. All but one of the tours includes a visit to a family farm – some have two – with a mix of commercial supply companies and other organisations with research interests. Lunch and refreshments are included in the program.

Accompanying Persons (APs) Program (a tab from “Congress Program”)

This program has been devised for spouses, partners, children or anyone wishing to accompany a delegate to the congress. Two days of special visits have been organised for APs to take place when the full delegates are in sessions all day on Monday and Wednesday. APs are included in the two days of tours (see above - as for the full delegates) and can choose which one's they want to participate in. Alternative options for children maybe available dependent on numbers – but there is much on offer in the locality.

Pre and Post Congress Tours

The Pre Congress Tour starts in St. Louis, Missouri on Sunday July 12th and has a program touring around the southern part of Illinois, finishing in Bloomington/Normal on Saturday 18th July. There is much to see and learn during the 6 day tour – a good mix of visits including research, beer and wine making, dirty boots farming, learning about the Amish community ways of farming, and calling in at the Abraham Lincoln Museum in his bi-centenary year.

The cost per person for this tour is US\$ 1,500 for single room occupancy, US\$ 1,100 for room sharing (twin or double).

The Post Congress Tour starts on the Saturday after the congress (July 25th) with a program that includes Chicago and the northern part of Illinois, finishing back at Chicago's O'Hare Airport on the morning of Friday July 30th. After a weekend in Chicago there is a visit to the Chicago Board of Trade and School of Agriculture, followed by a varied program of farms, seed production, horticulture, wine making, ethanol production and John Deere's headquarters and combine manufacture in Moline.

The cost per person for this tour is US\$ 1,800 for single room occupancy, US\$ 1,300 for room sharing (twin or double).

Registration - process details

When you click to register you will be transferred to the ISU (Illinois State University) Conference Services website. Here you will find IFMA17 at the bottom (currently) of the list of events in the right hand column. Click on IFMA17 and you will be taken to the introduction page – please read this carefully as it contains important information.

Online Registration – preferred.

Once you have read the introduction you will see you have 10 options – start with the first as that is the full delegate registration. You are asked to supply a number of bits of information including your choices of Day Tours. You will not be asked your address details until you go to Check Out - but before going to Check Out you can click on the other options to add additional items such as Accompanying persons, IFMA Membership, ISU residence (if you require it), Pre and Post Congress Tours, and a hard copy of the proceedings. At the end of each option you will have a summary of your registrations and then the option to go to Check Out to finalise your registration and make payment using a credit card. Should you decide later on that you wish to add to your registration – an extra

accompanying person for instance – you can come back and register for that extra item(s) separately – and Check Out again and it will be added to your existing registration.

Offline Registration – using downloadable registration form.

If you need to use a different method to register – perhaps to pay by using Bank or Wire Transfer – then you can download the “IFMA Registration Form” using the link in the Introduction section. This form can be used for both Bank Transfer and Credit Card payment. The form has been set up so that you can type in your details and make your selections using your computer – to do this you will need to have Adobe Reader **Version 8** (or above) on your computer. If you have not got this version you can use the link to download the latest version from Adobe – but be aware it is a sizeable download at 33.5MB and may take several minutes. (If you are unable to do this you can request a basic form – details are in the Introduction.) You can use the “email” and “print” buttons at the top of the registration form to send the form to ISU Conference Services and to print a copy for you records.

Travel Information and US Entry Visa Requirements

In the travel information section on the website you will find different options for getting to Bloomington / Normal - and about shuttle buses and day tours during the congress.

Below that is important information and hyperlinks to the US Government websites that outline what you need to know about for obtaining a **US Entry Visa** should you require one. Even those who are nationals of **Visa Waiver Countries** (there are 27 of them - listed on the webpage) should carefully check what is required to enter the US as there are specific requirements both for passports and for the new pre-flight online authorisation to fly (ESTA). If you intend coming to the congress you should get on with checking out the information and taking the necessary actions as soon as you can. You are advised to do this prior to registering for the congress.

Previous attendees of the congress will know that Carroll Merry and his team of organisers for the congress have done particularly well to have so much information available so far ahead of the congress – they are to be congratulated for doing so. Everyone therefore has plenty of time to organise their attendance – **but remember that contributed papers and posters must be submitted in full by December 15th 2008.**

A final plea – please circulate this Newsletter (or the attached PDF version) to everyone you know – both home and abroad – who you think could be interested in attending – or who might have contacts who would be interested. If you would like me to send out information – please let me have the names and email addresses.

My Very Best Regards,
Tony.

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