ILICA NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

November - December

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Stacked Collab. Hosts Field Day in Piatt County

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Area 3 Trap Shoot & Golf Outing Skirts Rain

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Convention & Members' Mtg. Jan. 13-15, 2027

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The *ILICA News* is the official publication of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc. at 112 Exchange St., Ste. 2, Galva, IL 61434. (309) 932-1230.

Subscription price is $50.00/year, issued bi-monthly: Jan.-Feb.; Mar.-Apr.; May-June; July-Aug,; Sept.-Oct.; Nov.-Dec., and also includes one annual directory.

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President's Message



Networking: *verb, net·work·ing*

The exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions; *specifically*: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business.

A few weeks ago, we completed the largest project of our company's 51-year existence. It was the sub-surface drainage portion of a large solar farm that was supposed to start in May, but due to permitting delays, didn't start until mid-July. This posed a huge problem with being able to complete our scope of work prior to the remaining work being performed by the other contractors following us. We considered renting and/or purchasing additional tiling equipment, but this would have required hiring additional employees who likely would have lacked the knowledge and skills to operate the specialized equipment. Instead, we elected to use 5 local Illinois Land Improvement Contractors that already had the equipment, experience, and expertise to meet this demand. We gathered every morning in our conference room at 6:00 AM for a safety meeting and to review that day's scope of work with everyone involved. Thanks to the help of our fellow IL LICA contractors, we completed our portion of the project on time and within budget!

When I think of the benefits of networking in LICA, I always think of a story from a couple of decades ago. At a national LICA convention, I spoke with former national LICA president Doug Hey, an earthmoving contractor from New York. He shared with me a story of a challenging project where they had to prepare a seed bed on a very tall and steep earthen embankment they had constructed. Another LICA contractor with a similar project told him to get a large log chain, connect a dozer to the chain at both the top and bottom of the berm, and drag the chain horizontally along the berm. Eureka! Doug said that this little bit of friendly advice saved him thousands of dollars on that project alone, which was way more than his annual LICA dues.

Collectively, our LICA "network" represents thousands of years of experience. Many members, including me, think of our association as "family." Having the business networking benefit combined with the personal caring of a family makes our association unique. This is, by far, the best benefit that LICA membership provides. This is also the benefit, when used, that is the hardest to put a financial figure on.

"Technology is nothing. What's important is that you have faith in people, that they're basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they'll do wonderful things with them." - Steve Jobs

Jon Seevers

2026 Board/Members' Mtg. Attendance

A = absent P = present C = cancelled meeting

Area / Director	Jan	March	May	July	Sep	Nov
Pres: Jon Seevers	P	P	P	P	P	
VP: Tyler Seals	P	P	A	A	P	
1st VP: LaVerne Weber	P	P	P	P	P	
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P	P	P	A	P	
Area 1 - LaVerne Weber	P	P	P	P	P	
Area 2 - Steve Anderson	P	P	P	P	A	
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P	A	P	A	P	
Area 3 - Grant Curtis	A	A	A	A	A	
Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter	P	P	P	P	P	
Area 4 - David Kennedy	P	A	A	A	P	
Area 4 - Lee Bunting	P	P	P	P	P	
Area 5 - Rick Maguire	P	P	P	A	A	
Area 5 - Earl Mast	-	-	P	A	P	
Area 6 - Scott Day	P	P	A	A	A	
Area 6 - Bill Dean	P	A	P	A	A	
Area 8 - Tom Beyers	A	P	P	A	P	
Area 8 - Tyler Seals	P	P	A	A	P	
Associate Director: Amber Bosma	P	A	P	A	P	

Board & Members' Meeting Schedule

Unless changed by the Board during the year, the ILICA business meetings are scheduled as follows:

Nov. 7, 2026 - Regular Meeting of the Board: Virtual & IP - ILICA Office, Galva

Jan. 15, 2027 - Final Board Mtg. & Annual Members' Mtg.: Embassy Suites, E. Peoria

Exact location, meeting times & other details will be published in the ILICA News and sent to members via mail and/or email.

New Members

Contractors

Heath Clodfelter
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Calhoun, IL 62419
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Associates

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Website: antheminsurancegroup.com



Prins Insurance, which has been working with the LICA program for more than 30 years, has teamed up with Grinnell Mutual to write LICA business for its members. All members* are eligible to be considered for this benefit, which has even more expanded coverages to meet contractor customers' needs.

Grinnell Mutual, based in Grinnell, Iowa, has been around since 1909, and works with thousands of independent agents in the 12 states of its territory. The company is excited to work with LICA members and the opportunity to add the LICA program to its industry-leading contractor coverages.

The Grinnell Mutual program will be available to LICA members in the following states: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, South Dakota, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

LICA members can access the state LICA insurance program in three ways:

1. Talk to a local Grinnell Mutual agent and ask for a quote inside the state LICA insurance program.
2. Visit grinnellmutual.com/find-an-agent and search for a Grinnell Mutual agent in their area.
3. Ask their non-Grinnell Mutual agent to contact Prins Insurance directly for a quote.

Administered by PRINS INSURANCE

*Being a state LICA member does not guarantee issuance of a policy in this program. Each account is individually underwritten.

GRINNELL MUTUAL

LICA Participates in Coalition Seeking H-2B Visa Cap Revisions



https://www.ecoportal.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/visa-2.jpg

LICA has joined in a coalition that is seeking to expand the existing cap on H-2B visas for seasonal workers which many LICA members utilize to meet workforce shortages. The current H-2B cap has consistently fallen short of documented workforce needs during periods of strong economic growth and low unemployment. For FY 2027, the 33,000 first half cap was met on September 12, 2025, and the 33,000 second half cap was met on March 10, 2026. While the H-2B program continues to have limitations and does not fully address the construction industry's broader workforce shortages, expanding the cap would provide employers some relief.

The coalition has been successful in getting a provision in the House version of FY 2027 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill that would allow employers that have successfully received H-2B labor certifications within the past five years to access those same visa positions in FY 2027 without the visas counting against the annual statutory cap. The subcommittee-passed bill includes bipartisan H-2B language that would establish a cap exemption for Certified Seasonal Employers, defined as a seasonal employer that received an H-2B labor certification from the Department of Labor annually during fiscal years 2022-2026. The cap exemption would apply to the highest annual number of H-2B workers that employer was certified to hire during the last five fiscal years. If the employer wants to request additional workers on top of this number in 2026, those requests will count against the cap. H-2B workers with companies seeking to use the H-2B program for the first, second, third or fourth time all continue to be subject to the annual 66,000 cap. While this provision does not solve workforce shortage problems for all construction businesses, access to at least a historical level of visas without having to compete in the annual visa lottery and cap process would be beneficial in the short term for many employers.

LICA is joining our construction industry partners, such as the Associated General Contractors (AGC), and other industry groups through the coalition in support of this provision as a practical and responsible policy that recognizes employers with a proven history of using the program legally and reliably while maintaining a lawful workforce. LICA members impacted by the visa cap are encouraged to contact their Senators and Representatives to support this common-sense provision. The coalition is also seeking broader reforms in the H-2B visa program to make it more useful to employers unable to address their workforce needs on a regular basis.

Source: LICA -
https://www.licanational.com/lica-participates-in-coalition-seeking-h-2b-visa-cap-revisions/?X8zT2LpQrS=8A72A6AC54C6F1448F091887DDD6A4E8



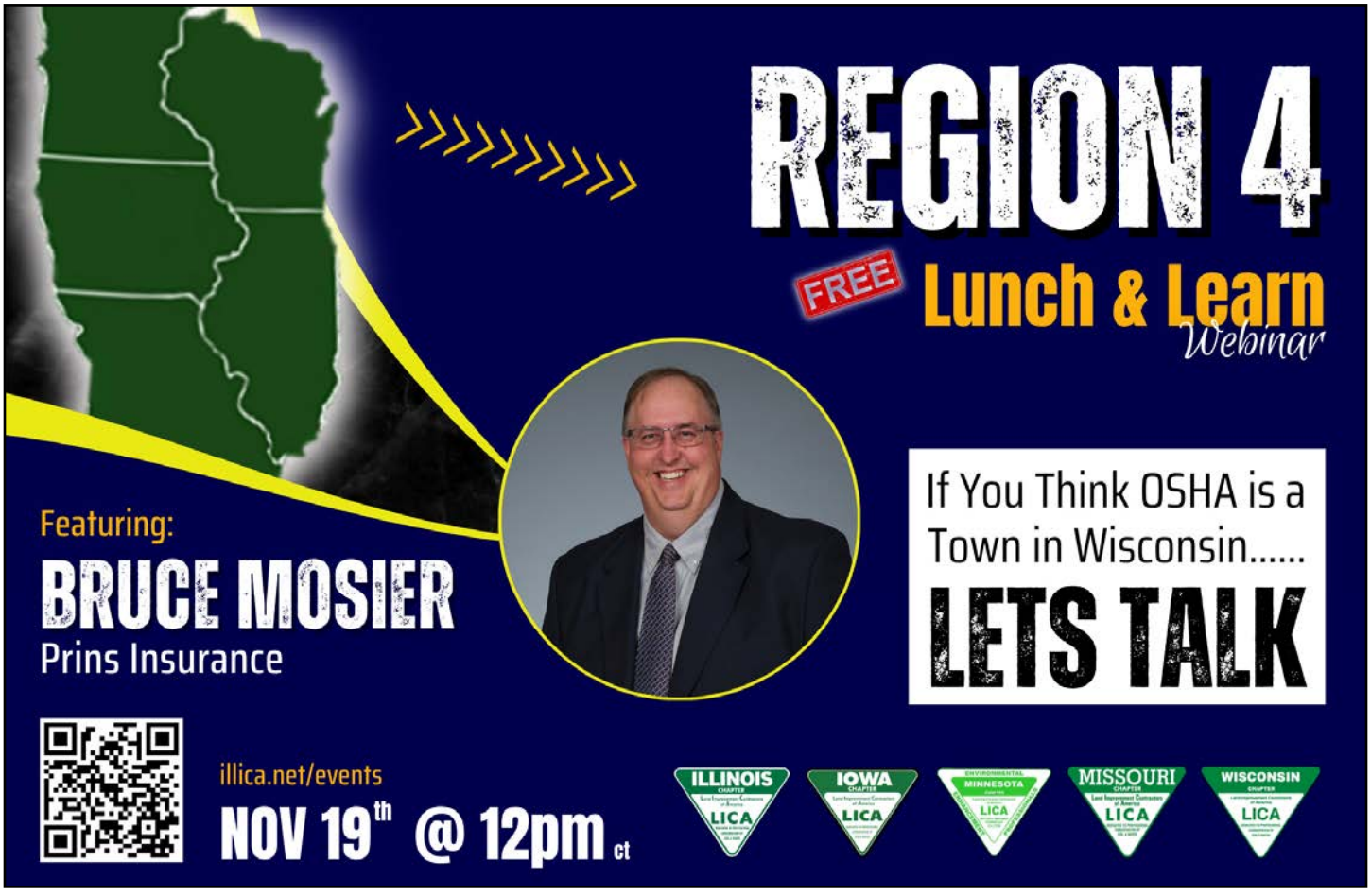
UFG Insurance and Prins Insurance Announce State LICA Insurance Program 2025 Dividend Results

UFG Insurance is pleased to announce a 5.5% policyholder safety dividend has been earned for 2025 by qualifying members of the State Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) Insurance Program.

UFG strives to uphold its policyholder promise to ensure businesses are financially prepared to overcome losses with its trustworthy insurance protection. The carrier is proud to have fulfilled this important promise for the members of the program last year.

The State LICA Insurance Program has been a trusted pillar for LICA members for more than 25 years. While UFG proudly served as the recommended insurance company for the State LICA Insurance Program in partnership with Prins Insurance, UFG has made the strategic decision to no longer serve in this capacity effective December 31, 2025.

UFG will continue to have a strong appetite for insuring grading, site preparation and excavation contractors with a dedicated construction business unit committed to delivering deep expertise and specialized capabilities for the construction industry.





REMINDER:

FREE Classified Listings for Contractors!

Contact the ILICA Office for More Info: 309.932.1230

ILICA Ladies' Page

There's nothing quite like an experience gift! You get the anticipation of the experience, the experience itself, and then the happy memories of that experience that last forever! That's a lot of bang for your buck! A few weeks ago, I asked on Instagram for suggestions for experience gifts and you all CAME THROUGH! There were so many terrific ideas for experience gifts for kids, adults, or anyone at all! If you're looking to gift someone a memorable experience this year, I hope you'll find this list of experience gift ideas helpful!

Experience Gifts for Kids

Annual Passes to Children's Museum, Wildlife Park, Zoo, Aquarium, Water Park or Amusement Park - This is a gift that keeps giving all year long. If you have any of these places nearby, it's a perfect way to get out of the house and not feel like you have to "get your money's worth" because you can come back any time.



The Best Experience Gifts for Kids & Adults

Adventure Gym Outing - There is nothing more active and exhilarating as an outing to a rock climbing gym, a Ninja Warrior course, or a trampoline park.

Bowling - Bowling is one of our favorite easy family activities. It's inexpensive and we go all the time!

Skating Rink - Make it an entire day of fun at either an ice skating rink or a roller skating rink, whichever you have in your area.

Gift Cards to a Fast Food Restaurant (you don't normally visit) - We don't eat a lot of fast food, so this would be a special treat for my girls.

Horseback Riding Lessons - My girls have been horseback riding a few times and I know they would absolutely love to go again.

Music Lessons - This is a no-brainer gift for the musical child or a chance for them to try something new. You might even get a little concert out of it to celebrate their accomplishments.

Tickets to a Performance - A few years ago, my parents gave us tickets to Disney on Ice for Christmas and it was the MOST fun family outing. Whether it's Harlem Globetrotters, Disney on Ice, or a Monster Truck show, there is nothing better than a live show!

Arcade Date - My girls would think they'd died and gone to heaven. This is the kind of thing we'd rarely spend money on but it'd be so fun as a gift!

Art Lessons - There are so many types of lessons out there to fit the interest of any creative child. Think classes for cupcake decorating, sewing, tie dye, hair braiding, painting (my girls loved this), calligraphy, etc.

Date Night with Parents - I think there is something special about one-on-one time with a single child. It's a great way to build your relationship and I bet they will secretly think it is the greatest gift too.

Build-a-Bear - I don't know many children who can walk by a Build-a-Bear on a trip to the mall and not ooh and ahh, and beg and plead. This would make their wildest dreams come true.

A "Yes Day" - If you are not familiar with this concept, there is a Netflix movie called *Yes Day* where a mom and dad who always say "no" to their kids, decide to give their three children a "yes" day. 24 hours of "yes" to their children's' wildest requests, with some ground rules, of course. What child would not LOVE the thought of this idea!

Mini Golf - There isn't a more whimsical game than mini golf. You will for sure score a hole-in-one for gifting a round or two of mini golf.

Trip to a Candy Store - To say they would be like a kid in a candy store would be a cliché, but really, they will be like a kid in a candy store.

Limo Ride - I don't know what it is about limos, but they instantly exude cool to any child. Add in a drive to a fun spot and you've got yourself an unforgettable gift.

Laser Tag - My big girls are OBSESSED with laser tag, so being able to play at an upcoming date would be a dream come true.

Go-Karting - If they have a need for speed, you can't go wrong with gifting go-kart racing. They will not want to stop racing around every twist and turn.

Bedroom Makeover Coupon - Talk about another gift that keeps on giving! Help make their room shine and match their personality by letting them help design it.

Get Out Pass - If there is a Get Out Pass in your area, this would be a fantastic way to explore your own state and try out some new activities. I highly recommend, we have used ours a ton and love it!

New Board Game - This gift is a little tricky because technically it is a physical gift, but I would say it creates an experience. I count it because you already know we love love love games around here.

Experience Gifts for Adults

Food Tour - A food tour is a lot like a pub crawl but for restaurants where you can try out the best dishes from each restaurants. There are companies that organize this, but you could also give gift cards to several closely located restaurants.

Class at the Local College - You are never too old to learn

something new. Whether you are in your 20s or 90s this is a gift that keeps on giving. Bonus if you live close enough to do it together (my mom and I took a cake decorating class together years ago and it was such a delight!).

Streaming Network Subscription - This is such a great, useful gift. To make it extra personal, write down a few of your favorite movies or shows in the card to get them started!

Subscription to Storied - The basic concept behind Storied is the recipient gets a personal question every week. They can email a response to the question and then their story is sent back to you. A year later, the whole series of stories is printed in a gorgeous book that you can easily add photos to if you'd like or customize in various ways.

Subscription to Pandora/Spotify - I was so dubious about a music subscription and then it turns out we use it ALL the time and it's super fun for kitchen dance parties or errands or . . .basically any time. Make a special playlist to get them started!

Private Yoga Class - Gift the perfect present for the yogi in your life, or inspire a new yogi to get started.

Kayak Tour - We love renting kayaks and taking them out on the reservoir. There is no better way to get to know a body of water than in a kayak.

Massage - Is there anything more indulgent than a massage? Encourage a little self-care and stress reduction with a gift certificate to a local spa.

Subscriptions to Letters from Afar - I hadn't heard of this company before but it's such a fun idea. Every month the recipient receives a letter in the mail with field notes, illustrations, maps following a world traveler. This would be a fantastic gift for someone who loves travel, and it's quite affordable.

Indoor Skydiving - If real skydiving is a little daunting, indoor skydiving gives the sensation of flying in vertical wind tunnels. Perfect for the thrill seeker.

Shooting Range / Axe Throwing - How exhilarating is taking aim at a target and hitting it? This would make such a fun outing for anyone!

Wine / Liquor Tasting - Let them taste their way through some local beverages. Bonus, usually wineries and distilleries are absolutely gorgeous.

Experience Gifts for Anyone

Cooking Class - This is an amazing gift for someone who loves to cook. Help them learn a new skill and get busy in the kitchen. Plus, there's always a guarantee of food afterward!

Dinner at a Restaurant - Whether it's to an old favorite or for a new fun option, this is a gift that will for sure get used.

Tickets to Plays or Concerts - You can't beat live theater / music and having tickets for a great production or a favorite artist is a really fun thing to look forward to.

Ski Passes - If you have a skier on your hands, this is the IDEAL gift that will keep them going all ski season. Even if they are still learning, like me.

Candle / Soap Making - Give the perfect gift of custom fragrance in the form of a candle or soap. Let them take charge by smelling and mixing up their own personal scent.

Spa Day - I don't know who wouldn't refuse a little relaxation and time to wind down. What a great gift for anyone on your list!

Tickets to a Sporting Event - Whether it's a professional team or a college team, it's so fun to go cheer on a sports team! (My pick would be basketball, Bart's would be football. My girls don't care as long as we get some concessions).

Medieval Show - Have you seen these dinner show events filled with a medieval feast and a jousting tournament? Talk about a unique gift!

Movie Theater Tickets - I love a movie at home on the couch as much as anyone, but you just can't beat the fun of going to an actual movie theater!

Short Weekend Trip / Day Trip to City Nearby - There is nothing like getting away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Adding in a gift certificate to a restaurant and an activity wouldn't hurt.

Immersive Art Experience - I have seen events like the Van Gogh Experience or special light installment shows locally and it would be such a unique outing.

Ropes Course - If you know someone with an appetite for adventure, the sky is the limit with the exhilarating obstacles at a ropes course.

Top Golf - Even if you aren't a golfer, this is such a fun activity to get out and get active.

Escape Room - This is such a different and unique activity. If you aren't familiar with an escape room, the basic idea is that a group of you, usually between 4 and 8 people, are locked in a room and you have sixty minutes to solve a bunch of clues and puzzles in order to escape the room – the door usually has a key or a code that you have to find in order to get out.

Water Activity Rental - We are huge wake surfers over here, but hydro bikes and paddle boarding are also extremely fun. This is a great gift to look forward to an upcoming summer.

Camping - Whether it's a coupon for an upcoming camping trip or even a National Parks Pass. This is the perfect gift for anyone who loves to explore the outdoors.

Cat or Dog Café - I have been seeing these pop up more and more. If you know someone who is an animal lover, they will love these little cafes where they can pet and interact with cats/dogs. This is the perfect, or should I say purrfect, gift for them.

Pottery Experience - A pottery spinning class or an outing for pottery painting can bring out anyone's secret creative talent.

Any other favorite experience gift ideas? I'd love to hear!

Source: Reprinted with permission from author, Janssen Bradshaw, "The Best Experience Gifts for Kids & Adults" - https://everyday-reading.com/the-best-experience-gifts-for-kids-and-adults/

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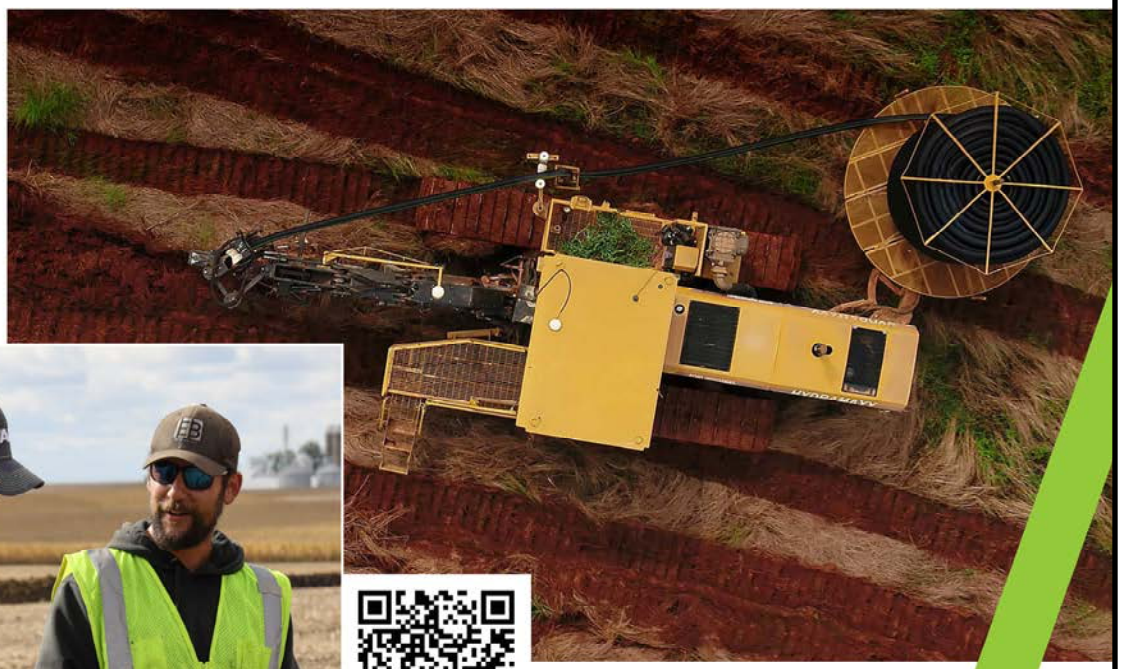
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Drainage Water Management Helps to Reduce Tile Flow and Nitrate Loss

By Rabin Bhattarai, Jacob Wood, Richard Cooke

While subsurface drainage has greatly enhanced agricultural productivity across the U.S. Midwest, it has also contributed to environmental and public health concerns. Nitrate losses from tile-drained cropland are a major source of nitrogen loading to the Gulf of Mexico, where they contribute to the formation of the annual hypoxic zone. Elevated nitrate concentrations in water have also been linked to health risks, including methemoglobinemia ("blue baby syndrome") and certain cancers. Illinois alone contributes approximately 17% of the annual nitrogen load and 13% of the annual phosphorus load to the Gulf, due in large part to the extensive use of tile drainage (Alexander et al., 2008).

To address nutrient losses from agricultural landscapes, a variety of conservation practices have been developed. One such practice is drainage water management (DWM), an edge-of-field strategy that uses adjustable stoplogs within water control structures to regulate the water table. DWM is most suitable for flat, uniformly drained fields requiring subsurface drainage. Previous field and modeling studies have shown that DWM can reduce drainage volumes and nitrate losses while maintaining or improving crop yields. For example, Skaggs et al. (2012) reported reductions of 18-80% in annual drainage volumes and 18-79% in nitrate loads across 20 research sites. Although field studies have reported variable yield responses due to differences in weather and site conditions (Cooke and Verma, 2012; Skaggs et al., 2012), long-term simulations suggest modest yield benefits (Thorp et al., 2008). These benefits have led to the inclusion of DWM as a cost-share practice under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program administered by the Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Despite these promising results, important knowledge gaps remain. Most research has focused on field-scale performance and factors affecting drainage and nutrient reductions (Cooke and Verma, 2012; Skaggs et al., 2012). Less is known about the fate of water retained by DWM, including the extent to which it is removed through biological processes, deep seepage, or lateral movement to adjacent drainage systems. This uncertainty has limited confidence in the effectiveness of DWM at watershed scales and contributed to its exclusion from the recommended edge-of-field practices in the Illinois

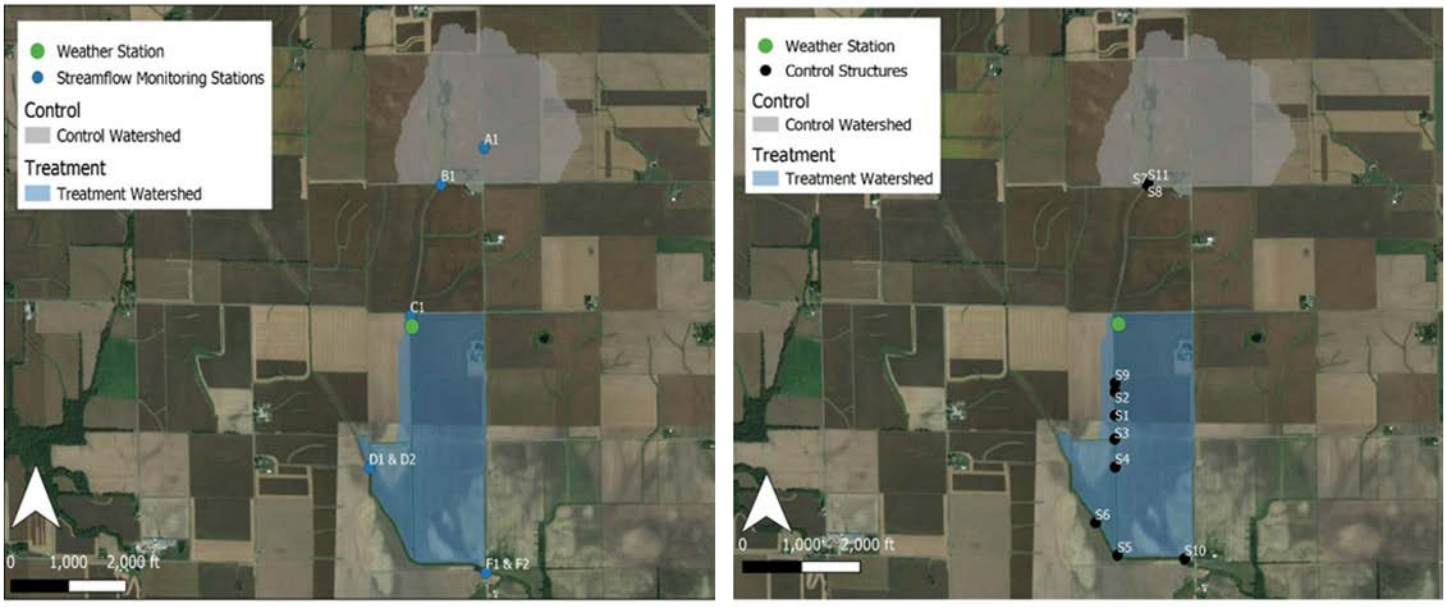


Figure 1. *Streamflow monitoring location map (left) and subsurface control structure map (right) for control and treatment watersheds*

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (IL NLRS, 2015).

We recently completed a research project in Strasburg, Shelby County, to evaluate the performance of drainage water management (DWM) at both the field and watershed scales. The study used a paired-watershed design, with a 244-acre control watershed and a 255-acre treatment watershed. Following a USDA-NRCS drainage water management plan provided by the landowner, the research team installed several control structures in both watersheds (Figure 1). Each subsurface drainage control structure was equipped with a V-notch weir and water-level sensor, allowing flow rates to be calculated from the recorded water-level data.

The research team installed a weather station and multiple streamflow monitoring stations to support field data collection. During the 2020-2021 dormant (fallow) season, the subsurface drainage control structures in both the treatment and control watersheds remained unmanaged. Drainage water management (DWM) was implemented in the treatment watershed during the 2021-2022 dormant season by raising stoplogs after harvest in late October and lowering them before planting in late March.

Field measurements showed that DWM reduced tile drainage flow and nitrate losses by approximately 35% on average during the managed period compared with free-drainage conditions. Figure 2 illustrates an example of the reduction in tile drainage achieved through DWM.

These results demonstrate that drainage water management is an effective practice for reducing tile drainage flow and nitrate losses from tile-drained fields in Illinois and other regions where subsurface drainage systems are widely used.

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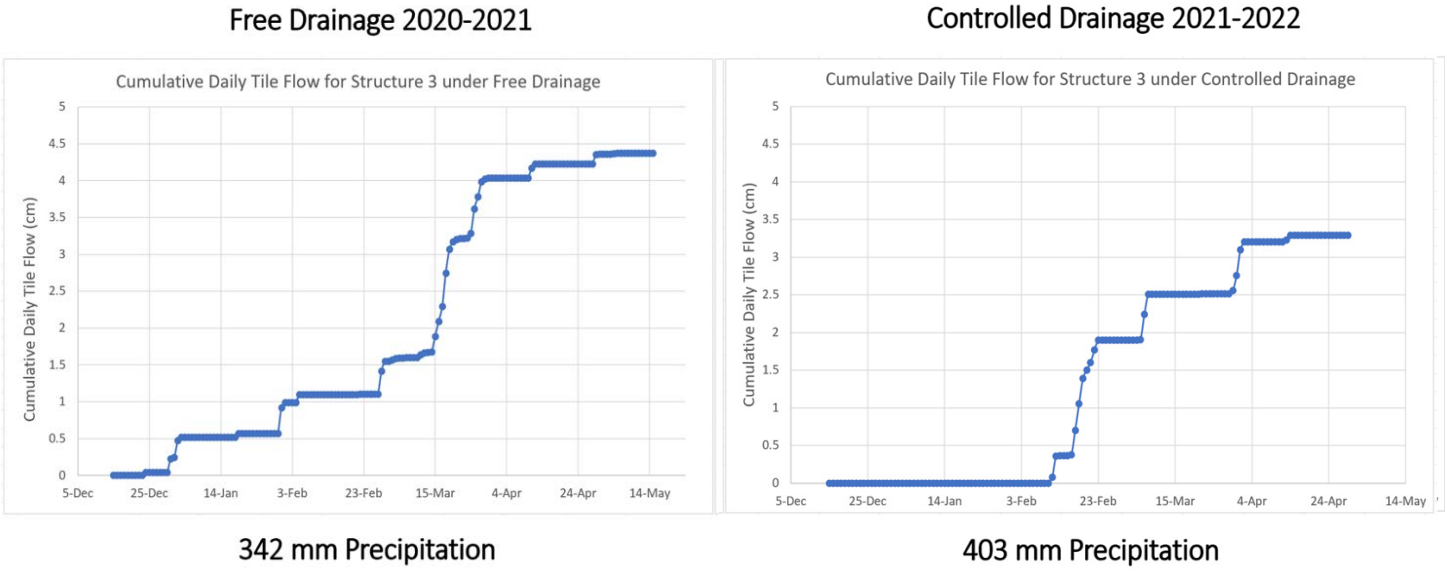


Figure 2. *Cumulative subsurface flow from structure 3 in treatment watershed during free flow condition (left) and controlled drainage condition (right)*

Stacked Collaboration Hosts Conservation Drainage Field Day in Piatt County

On August 13th in the Lake Decatur watershed, three types of edge of field practices designed for water quality enhancement were showcased during a public field day: automated drainage water management, woodchip bioreactor, and saturated buffer. The field day and installation of these tile drainage treatment practices, also known as conservation drainage practices, were made possible through the cooperation and collaboration of a number of different organizations with shared water quality interests and efforts within the watershed.

Through their Lake Decatur Watershed Farmland Conservation Program, the City of Decatur regularly invests in the design and implementation of various soil and water conservation practices as a local leader within the watershed. Supplementing these existing watershed efforts with the help of a new grant, Ecosystem Services Exchange (ESE) has recently been designing conservation drainage practices for landowners at no charge within a seven-county area of Illinois that includes Piatt County to help drive nutrient loss reduction efforts within the Lake Decatur watershed and the greater Illinois River Basin. Joining forces with these entities and their on-going technical and financial contributions within the watershed to help host the field day and implement these showcased practices were the Agricultural Drainage Water Management Coalition (ADMC) and two statewide partnerships (Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership & Saturated Buffer Partnership), comprised of Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA), Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service (ILNRCS), University of Illinois (U of I), and Southern Illinois University (SIU). A very unique and coordinated effort that emphasizes the commitment of both the conservation and ag industries in helping Illinois meet its nutrient loss reduction strategy goals.

The field day, held tour bus stop style, began at the Cisco Center (Cisco, IL) with opening remarks from supporting partners before visiting the conservation drainage practices nearby. Two of the practices (woodchip bioreactor and saturated buffer) were under construction during the field day, while the automated drainage water management practice had been installed previously in the year. At each site, visitors learned about the nitrate removal processes and benefits of each of the practices. Being onsite, they were able to see what the practices and materials looked like installed, as well as experience where the practices fit best on the landscape.

Treating approximately 27 acres, the woodchip bioreactor on the Clarkson farm near Cerro Gordo measured 12' x 48' (104 cu. yd.) and was installed on an 8" tile main; one of two bioreactors being installed that week between the various partners' initiatives in the watershed. Around the corner, the automated drainage water management structure installed earlier in the year manages 85 acres across the road from the Clarkson woodchip bioreactors on an 18" tile main. Closer to Monticello on the Stoddard farm, the saturated buffer was installed within an existing CRP buffer strip alongside a ditch running 1,300 linear feet. With its dual lateral design, the saturated buffer treats nearly 110 acres that drain through a 15" tile main. Similar to the Clarkson farm activities, a woodchip bioreactor was also under construction that day on the other side of the ditch as a result of the partners' combined efforts within the watershed.

Illinois LICA would like to thank Seevers Farm Drainage, WRS Earthworks, and Magsamen Backhoe for completing the woodchip bioreactor and saturated buffer installations on behalf of the Association, as well as all the partners and volunteers involved with the projects and the field day. Thank you also to Agri Drain, Xylem, Springfield Plastics, JCG Midwest Drainage Products, and ADS who supported the installations with donated and discounted materials. Additional construction and field day photos may be found online at: https://www.illica.net/projects.



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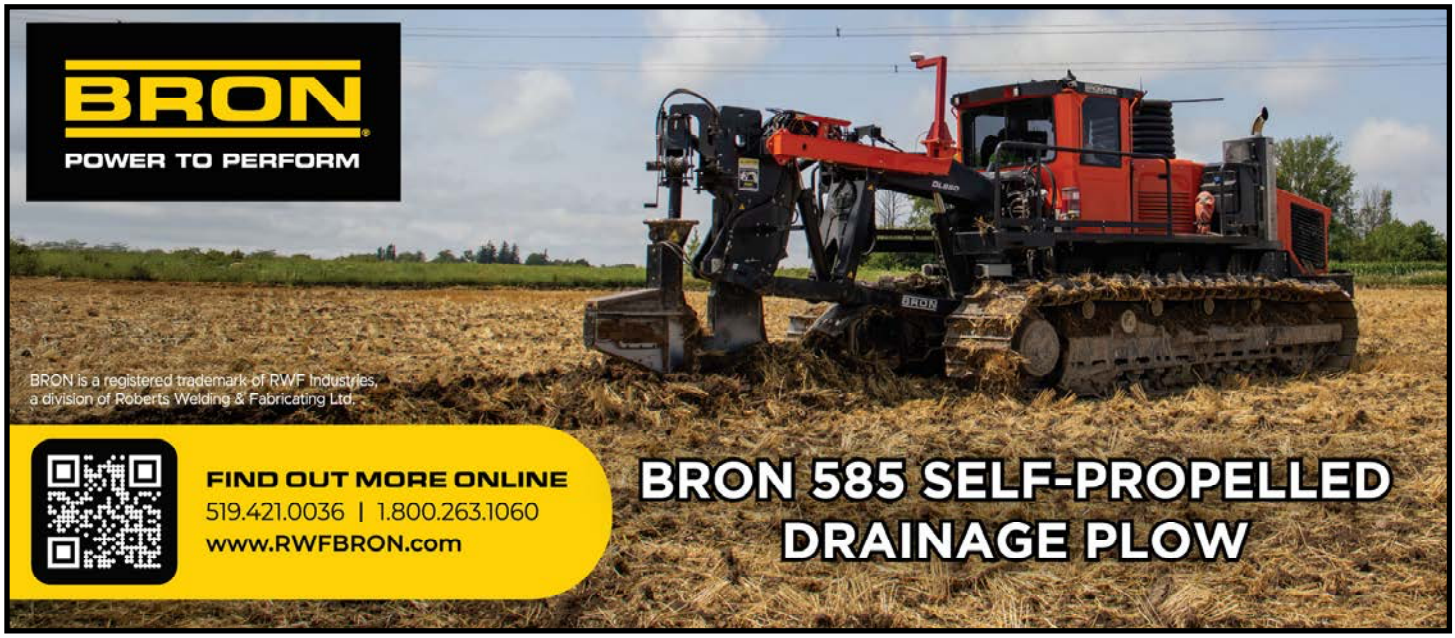
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Area 3 Trap Shoot & Golf Outing Skirts Rain

Held on September 18 in Kewanee, the Area 3 Trap Shoot & Golf Outing gathered members and friends together for a leisure day of friendly competition, relaxation, and socialization. In a year with average amounts of rainfall, at least for the upper two thirds of the state, dodging rain showers the day of the outing was somewhat anticipated. Luckily, with only a couple of pop up rain showers timed to move through the area at the start of golf, members were able to enjoy dry conditions for trap shooting prior and skirt the rain almost entirely with roughly a 20 minute tee-time delay.

Nearly a dozen shooters first gathered at the Izaak Walton League Trap-Skeet Grounds in the morning to bust 50 clays each from the 5-stand trap site. Thanks to our generous sponsors, every shooter took home door prizes, but only one took home the title of "Top Shot." Wes Lehman, Springfield Plastics, earned the title this year with a score of 46 out of 50 which won him an ILICA range bag. By late morning across the street at Baker Park Golf Course, members were able to grab a boxed lunch sponsored by BRON as incoming weather conditions were being questioned and assessed. A brief amount of rain later and an extended lunch break was all that was needed to allow teammates the opportunity to join up and hit the course for an 18-hole scramble as planned. With strong support from our Associate members, all golfers took home registration gifts and door prizes, while a talented few also scored $50 cash from multiple hole prize opportunities. The Lowest Scoring Team earned $100 collectively, and the Most Honest Team received a special certificate in recognition of their efforts.

Longest Drive: Peter Moyemount

Closest to the Pin: Art Bunting

Longest Putt: Jacob Waterman

Lowest Scoring Team: Art Bunting, Peter Moyemount, John Moyemount, Jim Wahls

Most Honest Team: Wes Lehman, Craig McCoy, Kelby Hartman, Tyson Kullerstrand

After golf, members grilled steaks and enjoyed drinks on the patio overlooking the 18th green as the sun set, thanks to beverage and dinner sponsors Martin Equipment of Illinois, Fratco, and Roland Machinery.

Our sincere thanks to outing sponsors, Springfield Plastics, Courson & Associates, Envision Insurance Group, and PIP Marketing Signs & Print, and to everyone who supported the event including sponsors, volunteers, shooters, golfers, and the ILICA Golf Outing Committee!

For a complete listing of sponsors and to view pictures from the event, visit: https://www.illica.net/golf-outings. A fun video recap can also be viewed via the QR code below.






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JANUARY 13-15, 2027

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TRADE SHOW | EDUCATION | LIVE AUCTION | TOUR | MEALS HOSPITALITY | TRIVIA NIGHT

Wednesday, January 13

- **Committee Meetings:**
  - Convention, Nomination, Awards
- **Trivia & Hors D'Oeuvres**

Thursday, January 14

- **Tour:** Komatsu Plant Tour
- **Education:**
  - Septic Training (3 CEUs)
- **Trade Show**
- **Awards Banquet**
- **Live Auction**
- **Hospitality Room**

Friday, January 15

- **Trade Show**
- **Committee Meeting:** Associates
- **Education:**
  - Positive Response & JULIE's New Software
  - Big Picture Drainage & Water Management Design
  - Preparing the Business, the Owner, & the Next Chapter
  - Tax Updates
  - A Contractor's Guide to the IL Works Bid Credit Program
- **Final Board Meeting**
- **Dinner, Members' Meeting & Election of Officers**
- **Hospitality Room**

We hope you can join us for the entire event!



DAILY
DEVOTIONS, LADIES' ACTIVITIES, MEALS, & ASSOCIATE HOSPITALITY ROOMS!

*tentative schedule

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TRADE SHOW | EDUCATION
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Full Participation: Jan 13-15
(all meals, activities, & trainings, except septic)

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Tour	**# ____**	
		Total = ____

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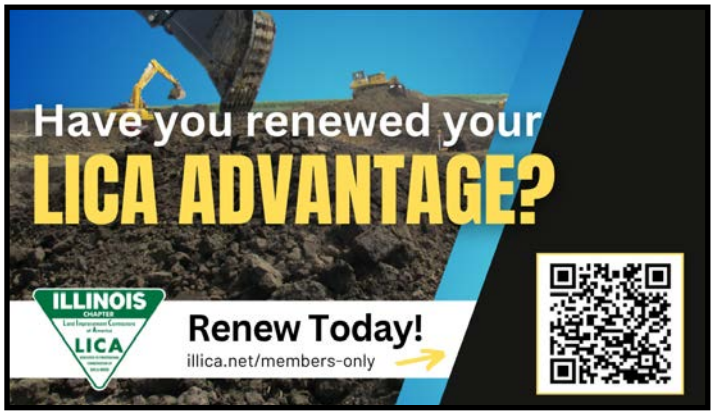
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ILICA TRIVIA

What year did Duck Dynasty take over the Illinois LICA Convention?

ILLINOIS CHAPTER Land Improvement Contractors of America LICA



Be the first to submit the correct answer to michelle@illica.net

One lucky winner will receive a prize!

Sep/Oct Answer: 2 Acres

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Board of Directors Meeting (hybrid)
Nov. 7, 2026
Galva, IL
Committee Meetings: 8 am - 12 pm
Board Meeting: 1 pm

In-person:
ILICA Office: 112 Exchange St., Ste. 2, Galva, IL 61434

Virtual:
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Or call: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 975 954 7353
Passcode: 0000

Region IV LICA: Lunch & Learn Webinar
Nov. 19, 2026
12 - 1 pm
Register via QR code on page 7:
https://form.jotform.com/232894600540050

Contractor Training Store & Illinois LICA Virtual Septic Training
Nov. 24, 2026
8 - 11:30 am
Registration opens 10/29/26
Register: https://form.jotform.com/210405973758159
or via QR code on page 22

2027 ILICA Convention & Annual Mtg.
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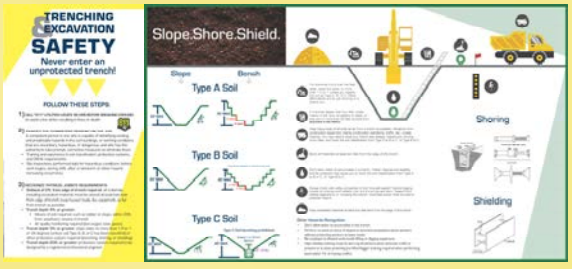
Let's examine some of the trenching and excavating rules by the numbers:

1. The 18-inch rule—In situations where sloping is being used in combination with protective systems, but the protective system does not reach ground level, shoring or shielding must extend a minimum of 18 inches above the vertical side of the trench.
2. The 2-foot rule—Those working around a trench must keep soil piles and heavy equipment at least 2 feet away from the edge of trenches. This helps to prevent cave-ins and crushing injuries.
3. The 4-foot rule—For your safety, access and egress to all excavations will be provided, including ladders, steps, ramps or other safe means of exit for employees working in trench excavations 4 feet or deeper. These devices will be located within 25 feet of you at all times to ensure you can exit a trench quickly in an emergency.
4. The 5-foot rule—Trenches 5 feet deep or greater require a protective system, unless the excavation is made entirely in stable rock. Protective systems are determined by the designated competent person and refer to sloping, shoring and shielding. If the trench is less than 5 feet deep, a competent person may determine that a protective system is not required. If you have questions regarding who the employer-designated competent person is, ask your supervisor.
5. The 20-foot rule—Trenches 20 feet deep or greater require protective systems designed by a registered professional engineer.

While it's the competent person's responsibility to do formal inspections of the trenches, employees should speak up if they notice worksite issues.

For questions related to trenching safety, speak to your supervisor.

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