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# THE LICA CONTRACTOR

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Volume 15, Number 1

Spring 2022



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Passion Started at an Early Age

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Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction

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What to Expect from the  
Infrastructure Act

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# THE LICA CONTRACTOR

The Land Improvement Contractors of America

The LICA Contractor is the official publication of the Land Improvement Contractors of America, dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water. LICA was founded in 1951 and is today comprised of twenty-four chapters across the continental United States.

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The LICA Contractor welcomes letters, subject to editing for accuracy and brevity. The LICA Contractor also welcomes articles relevant to the land improvement industry. Include your name and daytime phone number for verification purposes. Deadlines are the twenty-first of the month preceding issue date. All unsolicited material must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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# A Message from the President



Hello Fellow LICA Members,

I am thrilled about what this year will bring for LICA. We are excited for the 2022 National LICA Winter Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Hundreds of members from across the country have registered and we are excited to see everyone. The meeting will be a fantastic exchange of ideas and I know every attendee will go home with something new they have learned.

I am honored to be on the board for the LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans. As a Veteran myself, this is a cause close to my heart. The First Annual Fundraising Golf Outing is May 2, 2022, in the suburbs of Chicago. Visit [LICAveterans-foundation.org](http://LICAveterans-foundation.org) to register for golf or to be a sponsor. Cantigny Golf looks like a stunning course to play on and I am eager to hold our first event.

I have been proud to be National LICA President over the past year. This is truly a wonderful association and I thank everyone for their support.

Work Safe!

Bob Clark II, National LICA President



New York LICA has been a great resource for continued education.

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# Passion Started at an Early Age

By MAURA DIBBLE, New York LICA Executive Director

Andrew Aupperle's passion for construction started at a young age when his father, a structural engineer, would bring him along to many construction sites. From his early experience, he was inspired to pursue an education in construction management. Andrew spent 2 years at Hudson Valley Community College where he majored in Construction and Engineering Technology. After Hudson Valley, he went on to Purdue University and graduated in spring of 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in Construction Management. Andrew returned to Syracuse where he worked for a local general contracting firm, as a project manager.

While working on a job, he met Jim Gamble, a contractor and a long time New York LICA member and past president. Andrew was intrigued with Jim's projects and started conversations with him about construction site work. Jim was gracious enough to let Andrew work with him on a couple projects on the weekends to see if this was a career he wanted to pursue. It didn't take long, after only a few weeks Andrew was sure that he wanted to get into the site work business. Andrew bought Jim's equipment and started Siteworks, Inc. in the spring of 2004.

In the beginning he took on any work that would come his way, but knew his passion would be in the commercial line of work. In 2004, Jim also introduced Andrew to New York LICA and all the benefits that were included with his membership.

Andrew and his company have integrated a wide variety of site projects, including: storm water ponds, structures and piping, site grading, parking lot preparation, retaining walls, site utilities, site concrete including sidewalks and curbs, foundation excavation, septic systems and trucking.



“New York LICA has been a great resource for continued education.”



Over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to fill qualified operator positions. They teamed up with Milton Cat also a NYLICA member and updated several dozers and larger excavators with GPS. This has helped to increased production to keep up with clients' difficult schedules while providing an even higher quality product. Siteworks, Inc. has collaborated on a number of exciting development projects throughout central New York and beyond. Some of the projects they have completed include:

- 25 Byrne Dairy stores
- 12 Dunkin Donuts
- NAPA facilities
- A variety of car dealerships
- Churches
- Animal hospitals
- McDonalds
- Burger King
- Syracuse University
- Dollar General
- Hampton Inn
- Red Robin
- Bank of America
- Wendy's
- Dairy Queen
- Multi-unit housing
- Stewarts
- Gas stations
- Hafner's Garden Center

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*Byrne Dairy, Geneva, NY*



*Retaining Wall, Tipp Hill, NY*



*Storm Replacement*

### Current Projects

Andrew and his company are currently working on a number of projects which include, 3 brand new Byrne Dairy gas stations in Endicott, NY, Rochester, NY, and Syracuse, NY. These sites, average approximately 2 acres. They include all storm water structures and piping, storm water ponds, water and sanitary sewer installations, site grading, parking lot preparation, building and sidewalk slab preparation, Department of Transportation right of way work, light pole bases, and subcontracted the asphalt paving.

They are building a new four-acre storage facility in Clay, NY. It began by clearing 4 acres of woods, site grubbing, balancing site with onsite material, storm water ponds, parking lot prep and stoning the entire parking lot.

### Community Involvement

Siteworks, Inc. is a loyal, patriotic company. They are very thankful for our active military and veterans for giving them the opportunity and freedom to go to work each day to provide professional services to their clients. They do not want to take this for granted, so they fly a huge flag at the office to remind them each day how lucky they are to be in this beautiful country. They have been a part of the Wounded Warriors program since 2015 and have donated every month since joining.

- Siteworks, Inc. also makes an annual donation to the Jessica's Hero's, First Tee - Syracuse, and the [www.tracizimmermemorialfund.com](http://www.tracizimmermemorialfund.com)
- In 2014, Siteworks, Inc. donated material and labor for new softball dug-out foundations for Marcellus High School. This project was also part of a local students Eagle Scout project.
- In 2016, Siteworks, Inc. donated 50% of the material cost for concrete and block for the playground foundation plus labor to K.C. Heffernan Elementary School in Marcellus, NY.
- Siteworks, Inc. also purchased two tasers for the Town of Cicero Police Department after they recovered a Bobcat 335 that had been stolen from a Siteworks job site.



*Milton Cat visit to Caterpillar plant Peroria, IL. Ron Fesko - Milton Cat - Andrew Aupperle - and Andrew Booth - Siteworks.*

### The Aupperle Family

Andrew's wife Beth was a 5th grade school teacher. After their second child, she gave up teaching to focus on Siteworks and their real estate business. She helps each week filing documents and running the office. Their 4 daughters, Anna 12, Sophia 10, Emma 7, and Ella, 7 come to the office every Sunday for a half day to help out with office work, while Andrew does payroll and catches up on invoices. Andrew loves spending time with his wife of 15 years, Beth, and their four girls. They do pretty much everything together. One of their favorite things to do as a family is to travel. They vacation in Florida each winter, visit Boston for Christmas break, and Ocean City, Maryland with his brothers and their families every August so the cousins can spend time together. They also have a camper and take about 3 trips a year with a large group of friends and family. They also enjoy snowmobiling and four-wheeling.



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## New York LICA

Andrew commented on his membership in NYLICA “It has been a great resource for continued education and keeping on ever changing rules and regulations. We have been involved with erosion and control certification training, CPR training, Competent person training, NYS DOT police seminar, and many other very useful classes. More importantly, the annual convention gives all members a chance to catch up. A lot of ideas are shared and great camaraderie amongst colleagues. It is truly a great group of American Citizens.”

New York LICA President David Rule commented “It is always nice to see Andrew and his employees at our meetings and trainings classes. Throughout the years, I have only heard positive comments regarding his work and ethics. NYLICA is fortunate to have a member like Andrew; his reputation helps to make our organization stronger. Andrew is a great example of what LICA contractors are.” ■

Andrew’s 4 daughters *Sophia (Left Front), Emma (Left Back), Amma (Right Back) and Ella (Right Front)*.



Lafayette NY, Byrne Dairy



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# UPDATE: The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Field Laboratory—A Unique Solution to a Widespread Problem



By DR. LAURA GENTRY

In the Fall of 2016, a team of contractors and tile drainage specialists from The IL Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA) and other drainage industry experts from across IL met at a harvested soybean field in Macon County, IL, outside the town of Blue Mound, on the family farm of Pete Pistorius, to complete a project that had begun over a year before. The project had come to be called the IL Corn Growers Field Laboratory, but, in reality, this world class research infrastructure was only made possible as a result of this team of land improvement specialists' devotion to the agricultural industry. The ILICA team, along with technical assistance from University of IL agricultural engineer, Dr. Richard Cooke, and administrative assistance from the Illinois Corn Growers Association, worked steadily through the preceding fall and winter months of 2015 thinking through the siting and drainage requirements needed to measure the effectiveness of various in-field agricultural practices for reducing the nitrate-N and phosphorus loads leaving fields through tile drainage systems. After sifting through dozens of potential field sites across the state, ILICA members selected the Macon County site and, in September 2016, the ILICA team brought together tile drainage contractor members, a fleet of equipment, and truckloads of material through the contributions of a number of ILICA associate members. The team spent the next two days installing the subsurface pattern-tile drainage system according to the design of ILICA member, SeEVERS Farm Drainage, Inc., to represent real-world tile drainage industry standards while also incorporating research design elements and monitoring capabilities that meet the demands of the most rigorous peer-reviewed scientific journals. The result was 37 independently monitored lateral tiles placed alternately with non-monitored "buffer laterals", requiring over 110,000 feet of drainage tile on 40-foot spacings, and fitted with Agri Drain water level control structures to access the drainage water for monitoring.



*Fall 2016 field lab installation demonstrating telemetry and pump controls, as well as the underground tubing system designed to transport water samples from the control structures to the nutrient sensor. The equipment allows for a fully automated pass-through sampling system, a first-of-its-kind in the country for field agricultural research. Image courtesy of Waterborne Environmental.*

The partnerships and innovative drainage design were not the only one-of-a-kind components of this field laboratory. Typically, university research-led studies depend on technician and student labor to collect and test samples. However, this research site is located over an hour's drive from the University of IL or the IL Corn Growers office. It was apparent that year-round water quality monitoring would require a different approach. The field lab team turned to Waterborne Environmental, Inc. to provide a monitoring solution. After consideration of various approaches, the Waterborne team, led by Senior Agricultural Engineer, Greg Goodwin, devised a novel instrumentation design. The fully automated pass-through design included electric water pumps, thousands of feet of protected underground tubing, water level sensors, nitrate sensors, radio and cellular telemetry communications, a weather station as well as a tipping bucket rain gauge. In addition to instrumentation design and installation, Water-



**Waterborne Environmental technician, Scott Cleary, installs instrumentation at the field laboratory. Image courtesy of Waterborne Environmental**

borne's team of engineers, technicians, and data analysts have performed site maintenance (which has ranged from typical upkeep and instrument calibration to "rodent management") as well as statistical analysis for treatment assignment and summaries of tile flow rates, nitrate concentrations, and nutrient loads.

### Why a Field Laboratory?

The substantial planning and effort that went into the creation of this research infrastructure was all in response to the release of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) in July 2015. At that time, the IL Corn Growers Association (ICGA) committed to identifying the most effective and cost-efficient practices to address nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) losses from agricultural fields. There was a general, but largely unspoken, understanding that farmers were losing N through tile drainage systems, but "how much?" and "when?" were far less understood. Aside from applying stabilizers to fall-applied N and not applying manure or fertilizers to frozen and/or snow-covered ground, there was little else farmers knew to do to reduce N and P losses in a practical way.

At the time that the NLRs was released in 2015, cover crops were gaining awareness as a good soil health practice and one that was effective at reducing soil erosion. Newer research from Midwest Land-Grant Universities, including the University of IL, was also finding that overwintering cover crops could be very effective at reducing N and P losses from agricultural fields, making them a slam dunk solution from a water quality and soil health perspective. However, cover crops also added labor, costs, and risk. Farmers said again and again that there were a lot of issues related to growing cover crops that simply had not been sufficiently researched in IL.

The other set of in-field management changes farmers could employ to reduce their N losses to meet the objectives of the NLRs were to adjust their N fertilizer management. Nitrogen fertilizer application may seem like a straight-

forward and well-understood system but, actually, there are many facets to consider and decisions to make – factors like N application rate, timing, placement, and type of N fertilizer all contribute to how much N ends up in a corn plant versus runoff and drainage water. These challenges – agriculture's footprint on water quality and farmers' options for addressing it – were the motivation for the partnerships that resulted in the creation of the Illinois Corn Growers Field Laboratory.

### Field Lab Research

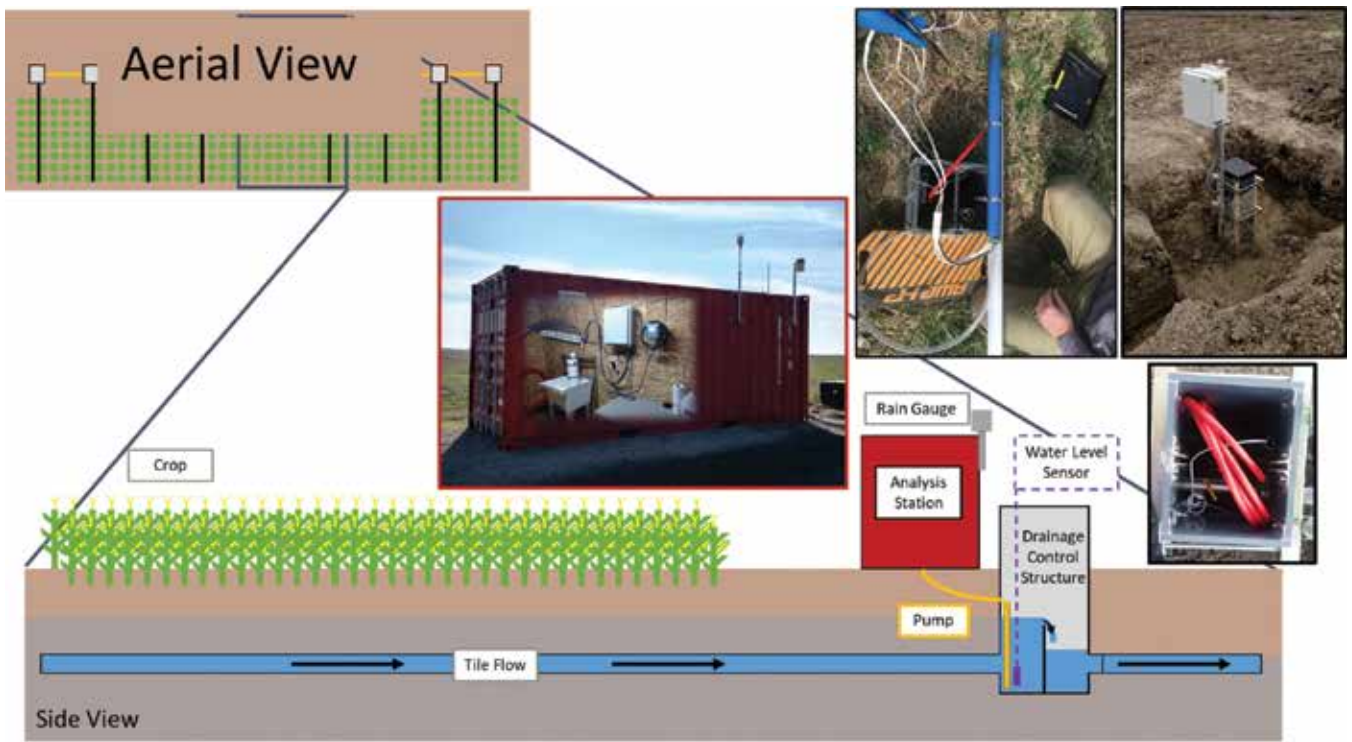
In Spring 2018, Pete Pistorius planted corn across half of the field lab; he would plant soybean across the other half later that week. Six weeks later, he side-dressed N fertilizer across the corn according to a most curious application map provided to him by the field lab's first research team led by Dr. David Bullock, an agricultural economist from

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*Schematics of how tile drainage water samples are transported from drainage control structures to belowground tubing and directed to the nitrate sensor. Images courtesy of Waterborne Environmental.*

the University of IL. Laid out on the computer screen inside Pete’s tractor cab, Dr. Bullock’s map looked less like your normal variable rate fertilizer application map than your great grandmother’s patchwork quilt. Pete used his fertilizer sprayer to apply anhydrous ammonia across 8 corn rows, going just 30 feet at a time before the equipment changed to a different rate; the rates varied by over 100 lbs N/a creating dozens of “rate stamps” across the field that would help determine the soil’s capacity to provide N to the corn plant naturally. The point of the research was to develop a N fertilizer response curve for the field that would generate a customized N fertilizer application map for future years that considered the soil’s natural ability to provide N, thereby reducing excessive N fertilization and minimizing N losses from the field, increasing N fertilizer use efficiency.

Among the other distinctions of this facility’s research design structure, it should also be noted that the field has provided research opportunities to additional research teams. Dr. Bullock’s team opened up the field lab to the research teams led by Dr. Andrew Margenot, a soil scientist, and Dr. Nico Martin, a bioinformatics professor. These two researchers bring new questions about soil health and remote sensing that they layer on top of Dr. Bullock’s nitrogen fertilizer management treatments. The results have the potential to bring even greater understanding of the impacts of nitrogen management on corn fields across the U.S. Dr. Margenot explains his research below:

“We are evaluating how soil health relates to water quality and yield in the Illinois corn context. Current soil health indicators were developed for different cropping-climate conditions, and thus may not necessarily be applicable to

Illinois conditions. Furthermore, water quality outcomes of soil health practices are largely unknown, though we know that farmers in the Midwest conceptualize a clear positive link of soil health with improved water quality. And – of course – this must be grounded in agronomic outcomes: yield and farm financial return. We’re working with ICGA to integrate these three goals of Illinois corn production systems.”

### Field Lab Outcomes

To date, the field laboratory has provided 4 growing seasons of data on crop yield, soil health-related changes, and tile nitrate losses in response to different nitrogen fertilizer rates for corn. The Data-Intensive Farm Management project team led by David Bullock are still analyzing the full data set, but their preliminary analysis suggests that site-specific N management strategies could increase farm profits. The 2018 growing season, for instance, was a year when the most profitable N application rate was approximately 50 pounds per acre lower than the grower’s usual N rate. There was also some statistical evidence that a site-specific application strategy would lower total N application on the field. The Margenot and Waterborne research teams have generated 2 posters and have submitted for peer-review a manuscript detailing the impacts of nitrogen application rates on soil health indicators in a corn rotation. The posters were presented at the American Society of Agronomy annual meetings in 2019 (titled, “Evaluating Nitrogen Effects on Current Soil Health Metrics for Illinois Maize Production”) and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2020 (titled, “A Novel Approach for Estimating Flow During Submerged Tile Conditions”). We anticipate additional research findings and educational

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Drone image of fall 2016 drainage design. Image courtesy of Waterborne Environmental.

outcomes based on the Bullock team's research which, in addition to the field laboratory, included nitrogen rates experiments across the country and in other key corn-production countries, within the next two years.

The future for the field laboratory is promising and exciting. Beginning this fall, staff from the Illinois Fertilizer

and Chemical Association will be partnering with IL Corn Growers staff and Pete Pistorius to measure the effects of cover crops and nitrogen management on crop yields, tile nitrate losses, and net farm return. The expectation is that this research will be on-going for at least 4 growing seasons and will produce practical, much-needed information for farmers in Illinois and across the Midwest related to cover crop and nitrogen fertilizer management. Stay tuned! ■

*Dr. Gentry has served as Director of Water Quality Research for the IL Corn Growers Association and IL Corn Marketing Board since 2014. She also maintains an adjunct faculty position in the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the U of IL in Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Dr. Gentry received her Ph.D. in Soil Science from N.C. State University in 2005 and worked in academia from 2006-2013 before joining IL Corn. In 2016, Dr. Gentry helped established the 160-acre agricultural research facility called the IL Corn Growers Field Laboratory to monitor nutrient losses from tile-drained corn and soybean fields under various agronomic management scenarios. Dr. Gentry also established a farmer service program called Precision Conservation Management (PCM) in 2015 that assists farmers with adopting conservation practices in a way that minimizes financial and management risks to the farming operation.*



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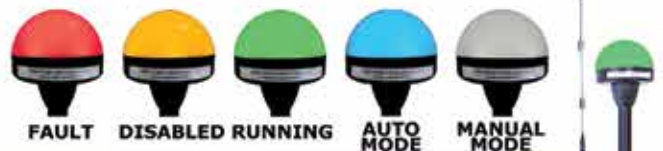
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# PLANNING Tips

## *Drain Tile Planning Tips from the Drain Tile Safety Coalition*

Don't take chances, rely on second-hand information or make assumptions regarding the location of underground infrastructure. Place the call to 811 during the planning phase for a safe install.

### **Request a "Meet Ticket" or "Design Ticket"**

You are encouraged to call 811 and request a "Meet Ticket" or a "Design Ticket" when you are starting to **plan** a drain tile project.

A "Meet Ticket" initiates a meeting request. When you call 811 and request a "Meet Ticket" the One-Call Center in your area notifies pipeline and utility operators with facilities near your project that you are requesting a meeting to discuss project details and determine how their facilities may impact your project.

A "Design Ticket" or "Planning Ticket" initiates a request for maps or other preliminary information regarding the location of underground pipelines and utility lines near your project. When you request a "Design Ticket" or a "Planning Ticket" the One-Call Center will provide a list of pipeline and utility operators with underground facilities near your project.

Individual practices may vary between One-Call Centers and not all One-Call Centers regularly process "Design Tickets" or "Planning Tickets." When you call 811 during the planning phase, ask the One-Call agent if they can process both a "Meet Ticket" and a "Design Ticket."

### **Share Project Details**

It is important for you to provide accurate and detailed information regarding the location of your planned drainage project and details regarding the size and scope of the project. Location information can be provided as GPS coordinates. You should also provide details about the tile you plan to install and the depth of installation.

Operators may ask general questions about your project. For example, larger diameter drainage pipe will require different clearance allowances than smaller diameter drainage pipe, and a new installation project will be different from a maintenance or repair project.



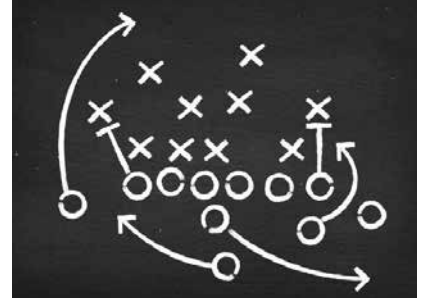
### **About the Drain Tile Safety Coalition**

Founded in 2018, the Drain Tile Safety Coalition is a non-profit dedicated to sharing best practices in safety to reduce the number of accidents resulting from drain tile installation on farms. Learn more at [www.draintilesafety.org](http://www.draintilesafety.org).

Photo courtesy of Clark Farm Drainage



# It's An Old School Block and Tackle Industry Outlook



By NICK YAKSICH, LICA Director of Government Relations

Without a doubt, some of the best coaches I had playing youth sports were the ones that stressed the fundamentals. While there were trick plays thrown in, distractions from opposing teams or a calculated gamble to try a new approach, in the end sticking to the core and executing on the fundamentals proved to be the best path for success. In looking at the agriculture and construction markets in the coming year, focusing on the fundamentals – while acknowledging the challenges of new climate regulations, the continued battle with COVID and supply chain and workforce challenges – is key. The construction and agriculture markets are strong and the private sector and federal government are applying record levels of funding in the coming year.

## Optimism From Contractors

In a recent survey conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America, construction contractors expect increasing demand for numerous types of projects in 2022 despite ongoing supply chain and labor challenges, as most firms plan to add workers this year. *Expecting Growth While Coping with the Lingering Impacts of the Pandemic: The 2022 Construction Hiring & Business Outlook*.

“Contractors are, overall, very optimistic about the outlook for the construction industry in 2022,” said Stephen Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “While contractors face challenges this year, most of those will be centered on the need to keep pace with growing demand for construction projects.”

Contractors are most optimistic about the market for highway and bridge construction. They are similarly optimistic about transit, rail and airports projects and water and sewer projects. These segments all stand to see increased federal investments because of the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure bill.

An important policy shift in the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill that should be a benefit to LICA members is more funds are directed to cities and rural communities with less of an influence by the state department of transportation. An early confirmation of this policy shift is that the initial round of discretionary grants – the Secretary has a record amount of funds to distribute – shows more of a willingness to give directly to cities.

Another strong indicator of the federal commitment to invest in infrastructure is the recent announcement that an estimated 15,000 bridges nationwide will receive \$27 billion in funding to help improve, replace, preserve, and build highway bridges. All 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will see the funding distributed over a five-year period, with a record \$5.3 billion being made available in fiscal 2022.

While states generally must match federal dollars with up to 20 percent of state or local funding, the Bridge Formula Program funds can be used for 100 percent of the cost of repairing or rehabilitating locally owned off-system bridges.

Contractors were also optimistic about multifamily residential construction and manufacturing construction. Expectations were more subdued, however, for public buildings. Including schools and lodging, Only two categories received negative findings: retail and private office construction.

Optimism about growing demand for many types of construction projects is leading many firms to plan to hire workers this year. Seventy-four percent of respondents expect their firms will expand headcount in 2022, compared to just 9 percent that who expect a decrease. Forty-seven percent of firms expect to increase their headcount by 10 percent or less. However, 22 percent say their headcount will grow by 11 to 25 percent and 5 percent anticipate an increase of more than 25 percent.

The pandemic continues to impact the construction industry, association officials noted. Eighty-four percent of respondents report costs have been higher than anticipated, while 72 percent say projects have taken longer than anticipated because of the pandemic. As a result, 69 percent have put higher prices into bids or contracts, while 44 percent have specified longer completion times.

### Ag Strong Amid Global Pressures

Many of the same challenges facing construction contractors are also facing American ranchers and farmers. Despite these pressures, signs of global economic recovery are evident, with world gross domestic product projected to increase 5.9 percent in 2021 and 4.9 percent in 2022, according to USDA.

President Joe Biden recently assured the American Farm Bureau Federation that his administration is addressing farmers' concerns about rising production costs and supply chain disruptions, while Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said China would be pushed to fulfill its purchasing commitments under the "phase one" trade agreement.

The President also underscored the administration's plan to spend \$1 billion to expand the nation's meat processing capacity, and he hailed bipartisan legislation aimed at bringing better price discovery to the cattle industry.

"This isn't about Republicans or Democrats, red states or blue states, it's about making sure that your contributions are recognized and your challenges are addressed," he told the annual Farm Bureau gathering.

Vilsack announced that USDA seeks to double the nation's cover crop acreage. That plan was announced by way of a partnership with Farmers For Soil Health, an initiative of the United Soybean Board, National Corn Growers Association and National Pork Board, as well as with the National Association of Conservation Districts, Soil Health Institute, and The Sustainability Consortium. The groups will work

with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to see about 30 million acres of cover crops by 2030.

"It's an opportunity for us to use our collective resources, our innovative solutions, and USDA resources to expand significantly the opportunity for cover crops," Vilsack said.

### The 2022 Playbook

So, let's make that old coach proud in 2022 by tightening up those shoelaces, buttoning up that chin strap, take a deep breath and a long stretch and go out there and do what you have always done the best! ■



# National LICA Presented with a Remarkable Opportunity

By ALLISON HACK

Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA), has been presented with a remarkable opportunity. Illinois LICA was contacted by Senior Producer, Liz Logan, from "Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid." The award winning Viewpoint produces documentaries on a variety of topics that air on public television. They were interested in doing a piece on the "building trades" and demonstrate the job opportunities available to young people. As we all know, skilled operators and employees, around the country, are in short supply, and young adults often aren't aware of the career opportunities in the construction industry.

The Viewpoint team spoke to Allison Hack, Director of Communications, and National LICA C.E.O., Jerry Biuso, about the history of LICA, goals of the association, the membership itself, and the new LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans. The producers loved the LICA story and felt that our goals aligned with their concept for the documentary. LICA State Chapters have been partnering with schools and universities for many years to educate young adults about a construction career path. The producers also identified with goals of the newly formed Foundation for Veterans, training out-of-work Veterans in construction work.

Viewpoint has been producing social and educational programming for 18 years. Their extensive portfolio includes segments on: aviation, diversity in skilled trades, and medical services. All with the goal of educating the audience and changing lives.

The public television piece will be a five-minute short-form documentary, hosted by actor, Dennis Quaid. This

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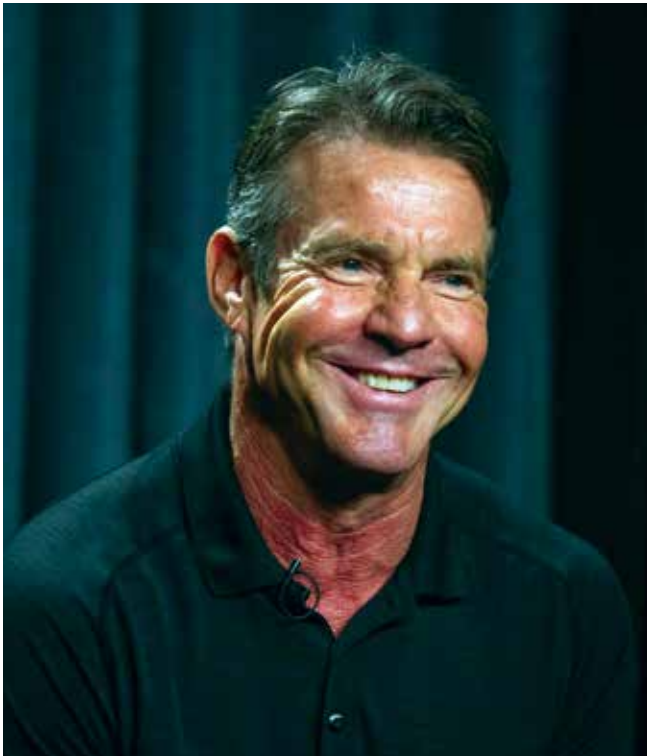
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will air for a year, in every state, bridging the gap between shows that air on public television. This piece will reach 60 million viewers across the United States.

In addition to the short-form documentary, they will film a behind-the-scenes profile of LICA, and email it to 1 million viewers. They will narrow the distribution by specific demographics, provided by us. There will be a call-to-action in the email directing them to LICA's website.

Finally, a one minute "commercial/PSA" spot that will air 400 times in the top 100 cities during primetime hours, on networks like Fox Business, CNN, and the History Channel.

National LICA is currently collaborating with the Viewpoint team on narrative and filming locations. "LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans First Annual Fundraising Golf Outing" at the Cantigny Golf Course, in the suburbs of Chicago, will be just one location the team will be filming.

This project will showcase LICA and our contractors to a vast audience. Our goal is to educate the millions of viewers about our Association, our contractors' work and the Foundation. ■

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# What LICA Members Should Expect from the Infrastructure Act

By CRAIG MARTIN, Construction Attorney with Lamson Dugan and Murray

**T**he Biden Administration has signed into law the Infrastructure Investments & Jobs Act (IIJA). According to the White House, the IIJA will help rebuild and improve roads, bridges, rails, ports and airports, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, and more. Of the \$1.2 trillion budgeted for the IIJA, \$550 billion in new federal spending is slated for infrastructure projects over a five-year period. Below are some highlights of the IIJA.

## IIJA Funding

Of the \$973 billion in infrastructure funding over five years, \$550 billion is considered “above baseline”, meaning it is for new investments in addition to what the federal government already spends on infrastructure programs. Of the \$550 billion, 52% is directed towards improving all modes of transportation as follows:

### Roads & Bridges: \$110 billion

- Transit: \$39 billion
- Rail: \$66 billion
- Safety: \$11 billion
- Airports: \$25 billion
- Ports & Waterways: \$17 billion
- Electric vehicle chargers: \$7.5 billion
- Electric buses: \$7.5 billion
- Reconnecting Communities: \$1 billion

## Local Oversight

While some projects will retain federal oversight, there is a significant effort to allow states and municipalities to manage projects. Most of these projects will be through the use of discretionary grants and are not likely to be “shovel-ready” until local entities apply for funding, plan and design the project, and then send it out for bid. So, it could take a few years for these projects to get off the ground.

## Wage and Hour Considerations

Davis-Bacon wages will play a major role in these projects. Contractors not experienced with Davis-Bacon wages will have to familiarize themselves with the Davis-Bacon Act

and the significant wage reporting requirements to the Department of Labor, including certifying weekly payroll. One often overlooked aspect of Davis-Bacon is the need to track the various jobs a single employee may perform, such as laborer and carpenter. If these jobs have differing pay rates, you will have to track the time each employee spent doing each job and pay them accordingly.

## Alternative Contracting Methods

The IIJA also allows for alternative contracting methods, including project bundling, bridge bundling, design-build contracting, 2-phase contracting, and the use of “any method tested, or that could be tested, under an experimental program relating to contracting methods carried out by the Secretary.”

## Buy-America Sourcing

The IIJA emphasizes the importance of domestic materials being used on federally funded infrastructure projects. It also states that “taxpayers expect that their public works infrastructure will be produced in the United States by American workers” and that “United States taxpayer dollars should not be used to reward their operations, investment dollars, and jobs to foreign countries or foreign factories, particularly those that do not share or openly flout the commitments of the United States to environmental, worker, and workplace safety protections.” The IIJA specifically requires that iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials for these projects must be produced in the United States.

The IIJA may prove to be a tremendously beneficial to LICA members across the country. It is a historic, long overdue investment in the Country’s infrastructure. I’m sure LICA members are looking forward to the potential for more work and the challenges the IIJA will bring. ■

*Craig Martin is a construction attorney with Lamson Dugan & Murray, LLP law firm in Omaha, Nebraska, and a member of the collaborative Johnson Team. The Johnson Team consists of a group of specialists serving LICA members on matters of significance – planning, protection, and preservation of their businesses and families. If you have any questions, Craig’s e-mail is cmartin@ldmlaw.com.*

# LICA Looking to Partner with ASABE



By DARRIN DROLLINGER, Executive Director of ASABE

The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) and LICA are discussing a number of potential areas for collaboration including standards and guidance practices, and building on the history of the ASABE Drainage Symposia, which have been held every five to six years since 1965. The 11th International Drainage Symposium will be hosted jointly by ASABE and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

ASABE is an international professional society devoted to agricultural and biological engineering. It was founded in December 1907 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison as the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) and is now based in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Today the organization has 6,000 members in nearly 100 countries. ASABE serves many functions: it provides a forum for communication of research findings through conferences, scientific journals, and a magazine; it develops standards of practice; it provides opportunities for members to network.

ASABE and agricultural and biological engineers ensure that we have the necessities of life: safe and plentiful food to eat, pure water to drink, clean fuel and energy sources, and a safe, healthy environment in which to live. Specifically, agricultural and biological engineers:

Devise practical, efficient solutions for producing, storing, transporting, processing, and packaging agricultural products.

Solve problems related to systems, processes, and machines that interact with humans, plants, animals, microorganisms, and biological materials.

Develop solutions for responsible, alternative uses of agricultural products, byproducts, and wastes and of our natural resources and drainage systems -- soil, water, air, and energy.

More details to come as LICA and ASABE advance collaboration discussions. ■

A promotional poster for the 11th International Drainage Symposium. At the top, it says "SAVE the DATE" in blue and white text. Below that is a photograph of a grassy field with a small stream or drainage ditch. Overlaid on the bottom left of the photo is a green box with white text that reads "11th International Drainage Symposium". At the bottom of the poster, it says "AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2022" in green. Below the date are the ASABE logo (a blue octagon with a globe) and the text "Des Moines, Iowa" and "www.swcs.org/22IDS". To the right is the logo for the Soil and Water Conservation Society, which features a stylized figure holding a staff and a banner.

NRCS-SWCS photo by Lynn Berry



# National LICA Benefits

Exclusive Benefits for LICA Members!

## Heavy Equipment Benefits

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- Powertrain covered up to 3 years or 5,000 hours.
- Covers parts & labor for powertrain component failures, caused by defects in materials or workmanship.
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- Free to Contractor Members
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### The LICA Safety Portal



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Tracking software for field & office employees

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## Industry News

### LICA Contractor Magazine

- Free to LICA Members
- Published 6 times/year
- Stories about contractors
- Industry Updates



## LICA Benefits From Machinery Trader

### Buy & Sell Equipment with the Inventory Management System

- List & sell on LICANational.org for FREE
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**50% OFF first 2 months of advertising**  
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Use Inventory Mgmt. System to sell on:

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- Free FutureCasting predicts equipment values

### LICA Beef Benefit



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- Premium roasts
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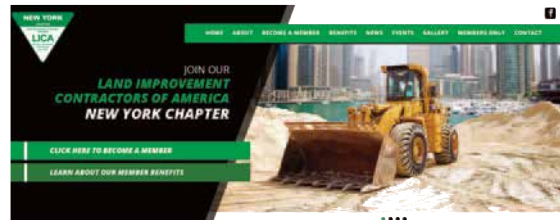
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- Legal Protection
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## The LICA Benefits Platform

*Not just “one benefit,” it’s a website with a variety of programs & discounts designed for our members.*

**Go to [LICA.Benefithub.com](http://LICA.Benefithub.com) • Use Referral Code: Q63W9J**

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# National Membership Drive

January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

Insurance	<b>Arkansas</b>	2	Unidentified	<b>Minnesota</b>	1	Insurance	<b>Ohio</b>	2
Mack	<b>Delaware</b>	1	Jim Bledsoe	<b>Missouri</b>	1	Mack		3
Matt Palmer	<b>Florida</b>	5	Cory Phillips		1	Website		1
	<b>Illinois</b>		Isaac & Paul Unterbrink	<b>Nebraska</b>	1	Unidentified		1
Ryan Arch		1	Matt Japp		1	Joanie Micsky	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	4
Brent Breedlove		1	Insurance		1	Insurance		1
Bob Prose		1	Unidentified	<b>New Jersey</b>	5	Mack	<b>South Carolina</b>	1
Jon SeEVERS		2					<b>South Dakota</b>	
Training		4	Apprenticeship program		70	Chris Emme		1
Web		1	Caruso	<b>New York</b>	1	Jerry Heiser		1
Unidentified		4	Insurance		6	Web		1
	<b>Indiana</b>			<b>North Carolina</b>			<b>Texas</b>	
Web		1	Maura Dibble		1	Mack		3
None		2	Insurance	<b>North Dakota</b>			<b>Virginia</b>	
	<b>Iowa</b>				6	David Gallahan		1
Web		1	Mackw			Ginny Gordon		1
	<b>Kansas</b>				1	Mack		2
Insurance		1	Insurance			Web		1
	<b>Michigan</b>					<b>Total</b>		<b>155</b>
Website		1						

## Market Watch

### Landoll Introduces the 860-CE Trailer



Landoll Corporation is pleased to announce an all-new non-ground bearing detachable trailer designed for heavy hauls. The 860-CE Construction Detachable trailers' standard features include 120,000 lb. capacity within 14 feet, 102" wide, hydraulic quick couplers, Grote wiring harness and LED lighting. The trailer has full air with spring brakes on three axles and ABS 4S/2M sensors.

The gooseneck features a patented design with seven ride heights to choose from. The operator can lower the deck

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The Model 860-CE comes standard with three axles and provisions for an optional fourth axle flip or add a single axle nitrogen stinger. The Model 860 CE has a heavy-duty neck that comes with dual king pin setting at 90" & 108" and provisions for an optional 36" flip extension. Take this trailer configuration up to an eight-axle combination and gross 160,000 lbs. in some states.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> CR  | Crane Service  | <input type="checkbox"/> OSW | On Site Waste Treatment           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DI  | Drainage/Irrigation  | <input type="checkbox"/> PA  | Paving                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EC  | Erosion Control  | <input type="checkbox"/> PD  | Ponds or Dams                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMC | Earthmoving/Land Cleaning  | <input type="checkbox"/> R   | Reclamation                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXG | Excavating/Grading   | <input type="checkbox"/> SEP | Septic Systems                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GR  | Gravel/Rock Production   | <input type="checkbox"/> SP  | Site Preparation/Development      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HD  | Hardscaping  | <input type="checkbox"/> SWU | Sewer/Water/Underground Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LL  | Land Leveling  | <input type="checkbox"/> TH  | Trucking or Hauling               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS  | Landscaping  | <input type="checkbox"/> TW  | Terraces or Waterways             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODW | Open Ditch Work  | <input type="checkbox"/> WM  | Water Management                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SA  | Dealer, Service Co., Government Agency, Consultant, Insurance Agency |                              |                                   |

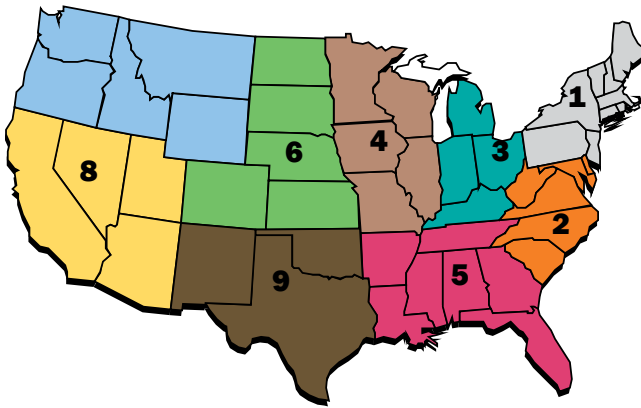
## Application is for (Check One)

- Active Contractor Member (Annual Dues)..... Vary by State Chapter  
*Active Land Improvement Contractor.*
- Company Associate Member (Annual Dues)..... Vary by State Chapter  
*Person or companies manufacturing or selling materials, equipment or services to active contractor members.*
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*Person(s) or associations interested in LICA.*
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- Member-At-Large ..... \$195.00  
*Contractors in state without chapters*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please contact your state chapter for annual dues and additional information. See page 30.**

**To become a national associate please contact:  
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Email: [nlica@aol.com](mailto:nlica@aol.com) • Website: [LICANational.org](http://LICANational.org)**



Executive Directors Workshop Fall of 2019

Executive Directors meet twice a year during national meetings. In 2020 and 2021 they had a series of zoom meetings focusing on a wide variety of topics.

**STATES WITH MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

- California
- Delaware
- Massachusetts
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Texas
- Wyoming



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