

THE LICA CONTRACTOR

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Summer 2024

**Mike Cook: Farm Drainage,
LICA and Family**

**LICA Supports Celebration of Modern
Agriculture on the National Mall**

**Highlights from the 3rd Annual
Foundation Golf Fundraiser**



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THE LICA CONTRACTOR

The Land Improvement Contractors of America

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A Message From the President



Hello and happy almost-summer,

As the school year comes to a close, I'd like to acknowledge the winners of the 2024 National LICA Scholarships. Congratulations to Alexa Anglemeyer, Ellie Janda, Kaden Kraft, Lindsey Rehtus, and Carter Riessland on your well-deserved awards.

With the LICA Water Management Forum right around the corner, I want to share my thoughts on drainage and water management. It's crucial that we, as contractors and associates, emphasize to both current and prospective clients the importance of these practices. We're all aware of the significant impact they have on yields and the bottom line. In my area, which is mid-north Indiana, we've experienced several bouts of rain. I suspect that much of the Midwest and many grain-producing states have encountered similar conditions. Some rains have been substantial, while others have been more moderate, occurring every 3 to 5 days. It's evident to see the difference between well-drained fields and those that are not.

Things are looking promising for the LICA Water Management Forum, scheduled for June 13th and 14th at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, IN. We have support from many of our wonderful members and associates, and some great education lined up. Please check the website for details.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.



Tony Cain, National LICA President

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Table of Contents

Feature Articles	Departments
Mike Cook: Farm Drainage, LICA and Family 4	Legislative Landscape..... 12
Highlights from the 3rd Annual LICA Educational Foundation Golf Fundraiser 10	Market Watch 15
Now Offering: Introduction to Heavy Equipment Courses 11	Legally Speaking..... 16
	National Benefits 21
	Membership Drive 24
	Regions & State Chapters 26

Mike Cook: Farm Drainage, LICA and Family

By CAROLINE KRUG, Editor

In the realm of farm drainage, innovation has been key to improving agricultural productivity. Mike Cook, a visionary in the field, played a pivotal role in revolutionizing farm drainage techniques and equipment. Let's explore Cook's significant contributions, focusing on the equipment enhancements, the onboard reel, and his pioneering use of GPS technology. These advancements have transformed the industry, enhancing efficiency, precision, and sustainability in farm drainage operations.

Early Career and Collaboration

In 1979, after graduating from Ferris State University with a degree in surveying, Mike Cook joined Hancor, Inc.'s design and customer relations department. At the time, Hancor, Inc. was the world's largest producer of corrugated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and related drainage products. Cook's understanding of surveying principles and the challenges faced by farmers became invaluable in his later innovations. In 1981, Cook transferred to the Findlay, OH facility, where he collaborated with James Fouss as a "contractor input", on product development. During this period, Cook's work represented significant advancements in farm drainage.

The Onboard Reel

In collaboration with Jim Fouss and Hancor, Cook's expertise contributed to the introduction of the arch pipe, which offered superior hydraulic efficiency, durability, and load-bearing capacity compared to traditional drainage materials. Together with Hancor, Fouss, Cook, and Worthy Hassan submitted a patent application for the "onboard reel," a mechanism that discharged drainage conduit horizontally to the tile boot behind the plow. The patent for the onboard reel, approved in 1983, further improved installation efficiency by allowing contractors to install drainage tile faster and with greater ease. As

the arch pipe was difficult to feed into the boot and required positive backfilling, the cutter and disc blinders were also developed at that time.

Focus on Subirrigation and Continued Innovation

In 1985, amidst the grain glut and commodity price drop, the arch pipe was discontinued due to budget constraints and the high cost of modifications. As there was a shortage of steel grain aeration pipes to store grain, Hancor went to work developing plastic pipe to meet the demand. Cook was given the task of working with engineering, purchasing, and manufacturing to finish the product. Within a month they had it ready, and Hancor sold around \$10 million worth of the product that year. Mike received an employee award for his contributions. Cook then shifted his focus to promoting subirrigation and creating innovative designs, such as the stair-step field pattern. He collaborated with Bill Altermatt and utilized the Drainmod program developed by Wayne Skaggs of North Carolina to optimize drain spacing. Through continued research and development, Cook and his team created a comprehensive manual, enabling contractors to install subirrigation systems efficiently. Cook traveled across the country providing instruction to contractors on designing subirrigation systems. Cook's dedication to finding new and improved methods of drainage installation continued to shape the industry.

Founding Mike Cook's Soil and Water Management Systems

In 1987, Cook purchased Gene Platte's drainage business and established his own tile installation contractor business, joining MLICA as Mike Cook's Soil and Water Management Systems. Starting with minimal equipment—a wheel machine Steiger plow and a backhoe—his business grew exponentially over time.



Cook's Steiger Plow



Drainage plow with onboard reel

Boot Optimization

Redesigned in 1991, the cutter/crusher boot became a key component in Cook's drainage system. With assistance from a local welding company, Cook designed the cutter/crusher boot to cut off the tile and crush it at the top of the boot during the installation of drainage tile. As with most of Cook's ideas, this attachment was designed to improve the efficiency and speed of the tile installation process. In 2002, with the introduction of smooth-lined pipe in sticks, Cook collaborated with the local welding shop to construct one of the first boots for installing 12" pipes behind a plow. The new boot design incorporated a push cylinder to connect and push the pipe until it exited the ground. Due to its massive weight and length, Cook encountered difficulties in pulling the boot with his Bron 350. To address this issue, he added a vibratory shaker to the sides of the boot, greatly enhancing its pulling ability.

Integration of GPS Technology

As technology progressed, Mike Cook embraced its potential for improving farm drainage operations. In 1994, Cook met Mark Williams, who had a computer system capable of rapidly collecting 3D data points using a Geodimeter Robotic Total Station. Recognizing the opportunity to expedite topographic surveys, Cook partnered with Williams to incorporate this system into his drainage designs.

In 1996, Cook collaborated with GeoLogic Computer Systems to develop a system that controlled his drainage plow using GPS technology. This system utilized a combination of DGPS for position and an interface box engineered to read the shuttle position of the Spectra Analog laser mast for elevation. Through extensive field testing and software programming by

Mark's cousin, Alan Williams, the drainage plow could survey tile lines and calculate proposed profiles, controlling hydraulics with an electric over hydraulic control box. After countless hours of field time spent by Cook and Williams in an RV camper "mobile office" the new "Pipe" software was born.

Advancements in GPS Technology

Over the years, advancements in GPS technology continued to enhance farm drainage operations. In 1999, Cook adopted the NovAtel RTK rover and portable base station, eliminating the line-of-sight limitations of laser systems and improving accuracy in elevation measurements. GPS also allowed a single base station to service the entire job, rather than multiple laser transmitters to accommodate rolling terrain and limited receiver mast range.

In 2005, Cook Co-founded Advanced Geo Positioning Solutions, Inc. (AGPS) as a distribution channel focused on sales and support in the GPS agricultural water management market. The company incorporated the "Vertical Curve Technology" into separate programs for surface ditching and surface shaping, allowing for precise and efficient land forming. AGPS collaborated with Martronic Engineering Inc. (MEI) to create a GPS slope control box that automatically adjusted slope percentages using computer calculations. This collaboration significantly enhanced efficiency and accuracy in drainage operations. Furthermore, AGPS and Cook developed a feature in the software that enabled contractors to install pipes either uphill or downhill. This innovation eliminated the need to backtrack to every connection hole and resulted in increased installation progress per day.



The Cook Family

Acknowledgments



I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the incredible people who have crossed my path and made a significant impact on my life. I feel truly blessed by the presence of these influential individuals, and though I can't possibly name everyone, I want to acknowledge their importance. If I've unintentionally overlooked anyone, please know that your support means a great deal to me.

First and foremost, I am incredibly grateful for my amazing Mother and Father. Their unwavering support has been a constant source of strength. I'll never forget the time when I was just 13 and my dad surprised me with a riding lawnmower. I was overjoyed at the prospect of making some money, but then he handed me the loan payment schedule, and reality set in! And who could forget the time when I was only 10 and my dad told me to operate the Speicher wheel trencher? I was so careful to follow the stakes and grade correctly, but looking back, it was all uphill! Those experiences taught me valuable lessons. At the 1979 winter LICA convention in Nashville, I remember riding in the elevator with my mother and father when they proudly said to me "you won't believe what's going to happen". After that elevator ride, I met Fred Smith and Dale Bash. Little did I know that this encounter would change my career. They offered me a job at Hancor, and that's when I learned to go beyond what's right in front of me.

Jim Fouss played a pivotal role in shaping my mindset. He always said, "There's nothing that can't be invented to

improve the industry." I'll never forget our casual meals together, where we would scribble concepts on napkins at the restaurant. I used to wonder why he kept those napkins, and he explained that they were proof of our ideas for patent rights. I'm so grateful for his guidance. And let's not forget about Bill Altermatt, Fred Kramer, and all the other amazing folks at Hancor who taught me so much. They made a lasting impact on my life.

The Bower family, especially Jack and Tom, have always been there to offer advice and support in my various ventures. I can't thank them enough. A special shout-out goes to Mike Thorne, the Hancor salesman who introduced me to Gene Platte. We sealed our deal with a handshake at the 1987 LICA convention in Las Vegas, and Gene immediately upgraded his room to a suite! I'm forever grateful for that connection.

I must also express my appreciation to GeoLogic and the Williams family for turning my dream of machine control into a reality. Their support and belief in my vision have been priceless. And to all the contractors I've had the pleasure of meeting along the way, thank you for your friendly demeanor, wealth of knowledge, and mutual respect. I truly value our interactions.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank my sons and their families. Their unwavering support, even during tough times, means the world to me. I'm incredibly blessed to have them by my side.

In conclusion, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every person who has played a role in shaping my life's journey. Your guidance, support, and belief in me have made a profound impact. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

- Mike Cook

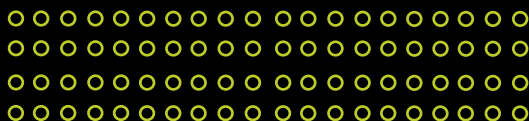


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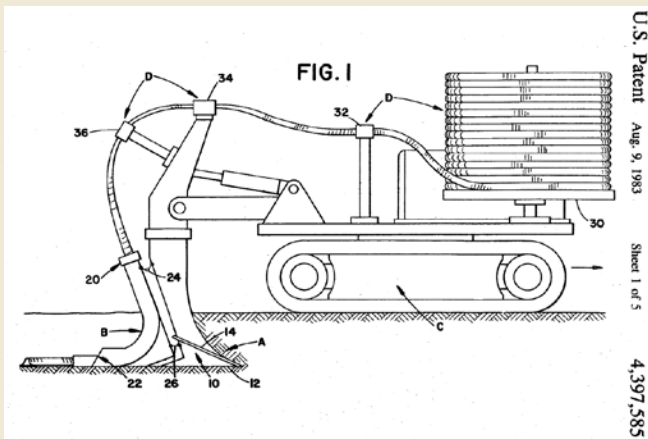


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Onboard reel patent image

The Bron 360 and Autosteer Innovations

In 2008, Mike Cook's Soil & Water MGMT Systems, Inc. partnered with RWF/Bron to introduce the Bron 360, a self-propelled plow equipped with advanced grade control technology developed by AGPS. The Bron 360 featured main frame rotation, a revolutionary feature that improved efficiency during pre-ripping and minimized ground damage. Cook's involvement in the design and development of the Bron 360 contributed to its state-of-the-art features and precise grade control capabilities.

In 2010, AGPS and MEI collaborated once again to develop a control system for autosteer on a self-propelled plow. Cook's testing and feedback played a crucial role in refining the system, which utilized electronic connections to the drive pump controller for precise turning. This resulted in the program being enhanced so that the contractor could set "grid lines" at any angle or spacing for the machine to follow, eliminating the need to flag where the operator drove the machine. It didn't end there. The "Guide 2d" program was created for the connection hole operator to drive to the same grid line the tile installation operator saw, thus eliminating the need for flagging altogether. Many other enhancements have been added over time. To this day, more features and enhancements are being added to keep up with technological changes.

Overcoming Business Challenges

GeoLogic eventually filed a lawsuit against AGPS for utilizing programs developed by GeoLogic. In 2015, AGPS directors made the decision to shut down the company and cease operations instead of engaging in a legal battle. In 2017, Cook acquired AGPS to protect his customers' interests and worked with GeoLogic to ensure the continued distribution of their software in the agricultural market under the AGPS brand. Currently, Mike's son Nate manages the company and vast improvements have been made.

LICA and Family

Mike Cook is a third-generation tile contractor, beginning with his grandfather working for Sanilac Drain Tile and tiling his own farm ground, followed by his father John, who owned and operated Cooks Drainage in Peck, MI (ownership now belongs to Mike's brother Larry and nephew Ben). Mike Cook is also a second-generation LICA member with a lifetime invested in research and development within the water management industry. John served as National LICA president in 1999 then Mike served as National LICA president in 2018 and continues to be involved in the organization today. He enjoys attending Michigan and National LICA events, participating in panels, and encouraging his sons, Nate and Adam, to carry on the Cook family legacy. When asked about their father's influence, Nate and Adam are proud of the footprint he has left on the industry. Nate developed a passion for GPS technology as it relates to farm drainage and has moved through the ranks to become president of Cook's AGPS. You might say his interest in the industry started as early as two and a half years old, when he attempted to join Mike on a business trip for Hancor by sneaking into his suitcase. Now, Nate's wife Sarah does the company bookkeeping and in 2015 took over Mike's duties as Michigan LICA's Executive Director. Adam has always demonstrated an aptitude for field work, equipment operation and tile installation, and even his nine-year-old daughter Alexis has shown the same interest in farm drainage, often picking up a shovel and begging to "go to work". Adam serves as the current president of Soil and Water Management Systems, Inc. and was recently elected as Region III VP of National LICA. Adam has always admired his father's tireless work ethic and is proud to honor him and his grandfather by embracing his new leadership role with National. Adam even proposed marriage to his wife Nicole at the 2013 LICA convention in Savannah, GA. Mike has always stressed the importance of family and is thrilled to see his children and grandchildren carrying on the Cook family legacy.

Mike Cook's influence on the farm drainage industry is far-reaching. His contributions, from the development of the onboard reel and various equipment enhancements to the integration of GPS technology, have revolutionized farm drainage operations. Cook's relentless pursuit of innovation, collaboration with industry experts, and hands-on involvement in the design and testing of new equipment have transformed the efficiency, accuracy, and sustainability of farm drainage practices. Today, his legacy lives on as farmers around the world benefit from his pioneering spirit and dedication to advancing the field of farm drainage. ■

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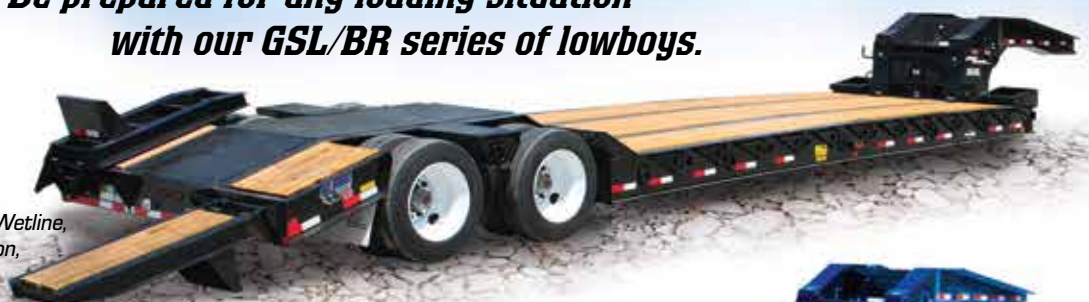
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Highlights from the 3rd Annual LICA Educational Foundation Golf Fundraiser



By CAROLINE KRUG, Editor

On May 6th, 2024, under the sunny skies at Cantigny Golf Course, the 3rd annual LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans golf outing fundraiser unfolded, bringing together supporters for a day of golf and goodwill.

Cantigny Golf Course, with its rich military history, served as the perfect venue, echoing the mission of the LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans. Against this backdrop, golfers took to the greens, not just for a game but to make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans.

The event was made possible through the generous sponsorship of CASE Construction and the CNH Foundation. Their support laid the groundwork for a day filled with camaraderie and compassion. Gratitude flowed for all of our tee sponsors and golfers as well.

Amidst the friendly competition in contests like Longest Drive and Most Honest Golfers, special guests added to the event's significance. Representatives from St. Joseph's College and the town of Rensselaer, Indiana, including Mike Vane, Dennis Black, Ernie Watson, and Bryce Black, were honored guests, heralding the future home of the LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans training facility.

A heartfelt tribute was paid to Mr. Joseph "G. I. Joe" Delusant, a recently retired Army Master Sergeant from New Jersey, who was warmly applauded for his service to the nation.

As the day transitioned into a Chicago-style dinner and an exciting live auction conducted by BigIron, the spirit of giving continued to thrive. Auction items donated by organiza-



tions like The Chicago Bears sparked excitement, with every bid bringing the foundation closer to its vision of empowering veterans through training and career opportunities.

The success of the event emphasized the power of collective action in making a difference. It was a reminder that support for veterans extends beyond words, into tangible acts of kindness and generosity.

The 3rd annual LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans golf outing fundraiser demonstrates the strength of community and compassion. With each swing of the club and bid in the auction, attendees reaffirmed their commitment to honoring and uplifting those who have bravely served our nation. ■

Now Offering: Introduction to Heavy Equipment Courses!

Are you a veteran looking to transition into a fulfilling career in the construction industry? Look no further! The LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans is thrilled to introduce our brand-new series of Heavy Equipment Operation 16-Hour Introduction Training Courses. This “groundbreaking” program combines classroom theory with hands-on field training, equipping you with the essential skills and knowledge needed to safely operate heavy equipment and kickstart your career journey.

Overview

Our comprehensive program offers a dynamic blend of classroom instruction and practical experience. From mastering safety protocols to learning basic operating procedures, you’ll receive top-notch training from industry experts. Each course will focus on a specific type of equipment including Backhoes, Compact Equipment, and Excavators.

First Course

The first Backhoe course will take place during the LICA Water Management Forum at St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, IN. Starting on Wednesday evening, June 12th with orientation, and concluding on Friday, June 14th with a task performance evaluation and certificate award upon completion.

Skills Tested to Earn Certificate of Completion

Following the course, you’ll undergo an evaluation to ensure mastery of essential skills. Here’s a glimpse of what you’ll be tested on:

- General Safety:
 - Identifying the location and use of equipment safety features
 - Surveying site for potential hazards
 - Recognizing and following standard hand signals
- Backhoes:
 - Determining capabilities/capacity of backhoe
 - Excavating a straight trench on grade
 - Loading a truck with the backhoe and loader portions of the machine



Program Support

We are proud to have the support of the National Land Improvement Contractors of America, the Indiana Chapter of the Land Improvement Contractors of America, the American Legion, and the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water.

At the LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans, we are committed to empowering veterans with the tools they need to thrive in the civilian workforce. To learn more about this program, contact Executive Director Eddy Mayen at emayen@licaveteransfoundation.org, or #908-285-8322.





LICA Supports Celebration of Modern Agriculture on National Mall

By BRUCE BARNHART, Chairman, National LICA's Government Relations Committee

Along with National LICA's Director of Government Relations, Nick Yaksich, I recently had the chance to spend a few days in Washington, DC, meeting with agriculture industry leaders, equipment manufacturers, association partners, and elected officials at the Celebration of Modern Agriculture.

One of our first visits on the National Mall was with Bill Hurley, Vice President of Global Government Affairs for AGCO Corporation and Chairman of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) Agriculture Sector Board. This event, organized by AEM, showcased the technology in farm machinery that's helping to feed and fuel a growing global population. Most importantly, it directed policymaker and elected officials' attention to the agriculture industry's significant contributions. Exhibiting companies shared how advanced technology is helping farmers not only increase production but also protect the environment with improved sustainability. Hurley told elected officials how technology enables farmers to apply precision practices to individual plants in a field to increase productivity. Hurley also expressed the importance of associations like LICA in helping to build awareness of the role that agriculture plays in the nation's economy. One of his key points was that agriculture serves as a premier steward of the land and uses advanced technology to preserve the land and increase productivity.

Farm Bill Hot Topic

Almost as hot as the weather was the talk of the farm bill negotiations currently taking place on Capitol Hill. It is no exaggeration to say that the farm bill impacts every one of us in how our food is produced and our land is protected. Passing a new farm bill this year is still a long shot, but the House Agriculture Committee's plan to mark up a bill later this month could provide relief for some vulnerable Republicans while also putting additional political pressure on a handful of Democrats facing close re-election races. Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) is reported to want bipartisan support for his bill, but there have been no signs of Democratic backing to some of its provisions yet. Thompson acknowledged in an interview with Agri-Pulse that reporting a bill out of committee would help Republican members in swing districts, but in a subtle jab at Democrats suggested they too could gain from supporting it.



Bruce Barnhart, chair of LICA's Government Relations Committee, and Nick Yaksich, LICA's Director of Government Relations first visit on the National Mall was with Bill Hurley, VP of Global Government Affairs for AGCO Corporation and Chair of AEM's AG Sector Board.



Bruce and Nick meet with Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) to discuss farm bill, WOTUS and workforce issues.

What Else We Heard on the Hill

On the Hill, we met with my Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), who, in her second term, demonstrated a deep understanding of issues important to LICA members. She discussed the status of the farm bill, expressing optimism that House and Senate Committee leaders are moving the bill forward for consideration this year. In addition, she noted our



Bruce visits with Kate Fox Wood, AEM's Director of Government Relations.



Bruce meets with Darrin Drollinger, CEO and Dana Porter, Texas A & M Extension of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE).



Modern Agriculture on the National Mall was supported by most of the commodity associations, including the Rice Association.

concerns with the back-and-forth on Waters of the U.S. regulations and the challenges our industry – and most industries – have in securing skilled workers to meet the growing market demands.

What We Heard from Industry Representatives

The benefit of the Celebration of Modern Agriculture is that it truly was a gathering place for the entire agriculture industry over three days. Here's what else we heard from our visits with industry leaders:

Commodity Associations: Negotiations for the farm bill are underway, and commodity groups are positioning to safeguard their sectors in the final bill. I visited corn, soybean, rice, and even the Hemp associations. The bill is a major challenge in balancing regional and political differences. Overall, there was

optimism that a multiyear farm bill will gain bipartisan approval in Congress.

Roadbuilders: Farm-to-market infrastructure was a critical component of the massive infrastructure bill signed into law four years ago. With the next Congress facing reauthorization

An advertisement for O'Connell Drainage by Legacy Equipment Co. The top part features a large yellow logo of a stylized 'A' with the text "O'CONNELL DRAINAGE by LEGACY EQUIPMENT CO." and "Since 1983". Below the logo, there are three images of yellow agricultural equipment: a front loader, a trailer, and a large wheel loader. To the right of the equipment, the text "Deer Creek, IL" and "309-369-2248" is displayed. At the bottom right, there is a QR code with the Legacy logo and the website "LegacyEquipmentCo.com" below it.

of the infrastructure bill, and it is crucial for the industry to demonstrate its benefits.

Equipment Manufacturers, Dealers, and Rental: I had a chance to visit with the entire supply chain of the equipment sector that all of us own and maintain. The good news from the equipment side of the business is that the demand is still high, but there is uncertainty on the horizon due to continued inflation and high interest rates.

Academia: Our visit with the leadership of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers gave us the opportunity to talk about a shared concern: how do we attract skilled and technical workers into the industry? Just looking at the new technology enhancing the farm equipment on the Mall makes you wonder how we will compete with all the other industries looking for skilled workers.

I always leave Washington after one of these visits with mixed emotions. I am somewhat baffled and overwhelmed by the complexity of the issues and frustrated by the pace of finding solutions. However, I mostly leave humbled by the dedication of our industry and elected officials. Despite challenges, they devote their time and energy to making our country the greatest producer of energy and food on this planet. ■



Industry organizations like the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) were also well represented at the event. Bruce pictured with AED CEO, Brian McGuire.

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Market Watch

Loftness Expands Product Line With Stump Grinder Attachment for Skid Steers



Loftness has added a stump grinder attachment to its line of vegetation management equipment. Compatible with skid steers and compact track loaders. The Stump Ax is engineered for high productivity and superior control.

Featuring a rigid mount, the Stump Ax offers a practical, reliable design capable of working faster than articulating stump grinder attachments by simply repositioning the power unit instead of swinging the cutting wheel. It has an angled hitch and forward-reaching boom to give the operator exceptional visibility and control on the job.

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Let's Hope Your Next Drainage Project Doesn't Drain Your Wallet

By CRAIG MARTIN, Construction Attorney with Lamson Dugan & Murray

What happens when you are hired by a landowner to implement a drainage plan that ultimately causes damage to a neighboring landowner's property? Are you responsible for that damage? Can you get the landowner who hired you to pay? Obviously, you would hope so, but what does your contract say?

The Project

You know the situation. A landowner calls you to do some work to improve drainage on a parcel of property. Maybe there are engineered plans, or maybe the work is based on a walk with the landowner across the ground to be improved.

The Fall Out

After your work is complete, possibly following heavy rainfall or a spring thaw, you receive a call from the land-

owner for whom you did the work. He informs you that his neighbor is upset because the work you did is causing damage to the neighbor's land. Perhaps the neighbor's land is not draining as it did before, or maybe it is draining too quickly, causing erosion. You then receive a call from the neighboring landowner's attorney, asking about your plans to fix the problem.

Your Contract

What does your contract say about claims raised by neighboring landowners? What does your contract say about your scope of work and who is responsible for ensuring that it is engineered correctly? If your contract doesn't address these issues, perhaps it should.

Scope of Work

I recommend that contracts clearly explain the scope of work and that all work is being done in accordance with the plans provided by the landowner. If the project does not have plans, then the scope of work should explain that the work is being done in accordance with the landowner's request and direction.

Indemnity

I also recommend including an indemnity clause in all contracts, requiring the landowner, your client, to indemnify you for any claims arising from your work. Indemnification means that the landowner will cover the costs of your attorney and any claims that arise from the work you were directed to do.

In the situation above, a contract clearly defining the scope of work that you are to perform, and that the landowner would have to defend and pay you for any claims raised by neighboring landowners, would solve the problem easily. You could inform your customer that you did the work as instructed and any associated problems are their responsibility. You could also advise the neighboring landowner's attorney to address the matter with the landowner who hired you, as this is their problem, not yours. This resolution would be favorable for all parties involved. ■



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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.

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Safe Fueling at the Worksite

By THE LICA SAFETY PORTAL, Zywave Resource Library

Refueling trucks, cars, machinery or other vehicles is a familiar activity, but it can be an extremely dangerous job if done incorrectly. Not only can improper refueling cause burns, fires or explosions, but the gasoline or diesel itself is also a hazardous substance with the potential for leaks and spills.

Always refuel your equipment in a way that keeps yourself, others and your vehicle safe from damage. Here are some tips to follow when refueling on the job site:

- Always concentrate on the task at hand. Do not try to complete other tasks while refueling.
- Stand by the tank so you can act quickly if something goes wrong.
- Do not refuel while smoking, while others are smoking or near any other open flames.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank – 95% full is a good guideline for any type of vehicle.
- On hot days, allow room in the tank for the fuel to expand.
- Turn off the engine and chock the wheels if there is a possibility the equipment or vehicle could roll.
- Do not top off the tank.
- Use only the hold-open latch provided on the pump.

Refueling Machinery With a Portable Container

- Place the container on the ground when refueling, never on the bed of the work vehicle.
- Keep the nozzle in contact with the fuel tank's inlet tube.
- Do not refuel in areas with heavy vehicle or foot traffic.
- Do not refuel in areas that have the potential for spills or fuel ignition.



- Use only approved fuel containers.
- After filling, wipe off the container and ensure the cap is secure and the air vent is tight.

In the Refueling Area

- Clearly mark refueling areas to avoid the possibility of accidents, including spills or inadvertent ignition.
- Clean up all spills immediately. If you have to leave a spill unattended, mark off the area to reduce to possibility of slips.
- Make sure there is a fire extinguisher available in the area before you begin fueling and that you know how to use it.
- Keep the entire area unobstructed, making sure equipment can enter and exit the area smoothly and that it is free of garbage and debris. ■

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2024 NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

City of Steel

JULY 9 - 13
OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

Tuesday, July 9

7:00 am - 7:30 am

7:45 am - 5:30 pm

Registration
Flight 93 Memorial
& Falling Water Tour

Wednesday, July 10

7:00 am - 8:00 am

8:45 am - 4:30 pm

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Registration
Duquesne Incline, &
Carrie Blast Furnace Tour
Executive Committee

Thursday, July 11

7:00 am - 8:00 am

7:00 am - 5:00 pm

12:30 pm

Registration
Committee Meetings
Lunch

Friday, July 12

7:00 am - 7:30 am

8:00 am

9:15 am - 10:30 pm

10:45 am - 12:45 pm

1:00 pm

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Registration
Breakfast
"Leadership Panel"
"Beneath the Surface"
Lunch
Executive Directors'
Meeting
Associates' Committee
Associates' Night
(Exhibition)

Saturday, July 13

7:00 am - 7:30 am

8:00 am

9:30 am-10:30 am

Devotions
Breakfast
Board Meeting

What Does Registration Include?

Summer Meeting registration includes all meal functions, Associates' Night, Educational Seminars, Committee Meetings, and the Board Meeting. All registered members will receive meal tickets, a name badge, and a program when they check-in on site and are welcome to ... even encouraged to, attend any of the Committee Meetings and the Board Meeting. For a list of committees and their functions, visit LICANational.org.

2024 LICA Summer Olympics

Associates' Night - Friday, July 12

Get ready to channel your inner Olympian as we debut the LICA Olympics in celebration of the 2024 Summer Games in Paris! Select your squad of 4 champions strategically and aim for that shiny Gold medal! With games ranging from ring toss to memory challenges, every team will battle it out to clinch the ultimate victory based on points earned. Let the games begin!

Omni William Penn Hotel

Members will delight in the architecture and history as they walk through the grand lobby of the Omni. It's centrally located in downtown Pittsburgh, near a variety of attractions. Enjoy enhanced dining in the hotel's bars and restaurants, including The Terrace Room. Enjoy shareable plates and gourmet snacks at Palm Court, sip cocktails in the Tap Room or relax in the Speakeasy inspired by the Prohibition era.

Scan Code
to Register



Calling All Contractors: Share Your Expertise in The LICA Contractor!

Have you ever wanted to share your insights, experiences, or innovative projects with the broader LICA community? Now is your chance! The LICA Contractor magazine is calling for submissions from our valued readers like you. Whether you're a seasoned professional, a passionate newcomer, or an industry enthusiast, we invite you to contribute your article ideas and photos for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.

Why Submit to The LICA Contractor Magazine?

1. Showcase Your Expertise: Share your insights, experiences, and best practices with fellow land improvement professionals across the nation.
2. Gain Recognition: Get your name and your work in front of a dedicated readership of industry insiders, contractors, and enthusiasts.
3. Contribute to the Community: Help cultivate a vibrant exchange of ideas and knowledge within the LICA community.
4. Inspire Others: Your stories and photos have the power to inspire and educate others in the industry, sparking new ideas and approaches.

What We're Looking For:

- Feature Articles: Share your expertise on topics such as best practices, industry trends, project highlights, and innovation in land improvement.
- Case Studies: Dive deep into specific projects, challenges faced, solutions implemented, and lessons learned..

- Photo Submissions: Capture the beauty and complexity of land improvement projects through striking photographs.
- Success Stories: Inspire others with stories of triumph, innovation, and collaboration in the field.
- Tips and Tricks: Offer practical advice, tips, and tricks to help fellow contractors excel in their work.

How to Submit:

- Article Ideas: Send in a brief outline or description of your proposed article.
- Photos: Share high-resolution images capturing the essence of LICA
- Contact Details: Include your name, contact information, and a brief bio.

Email Your Submissions to:

Caroline Krug, Editor, cnational.lica@gmail.com

Subject Line:

The LICA Contractor, Article Submission or
The LICA Contractor – Photo Submission

Selected submissions will be featured in upcoming issues, so don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to be part of The LICA Contractor magazine!

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At LICA we pride ourselves on offering our members a plethora of benefits that help your business and family. The National LICA website, LICANational.org, is a benefit within itself - and is available 24/7.

- Sell & purchase used equipment
- Legislative Updates
- Upcoming event details
- State Chapter contact information
- And of course....full list of National Benefits







Scan the QR Code with your phone’s camera to see the National LICA Benefits. Each benefit has a downloadable flyer that contains details on the benefit and contact information to get started.



Land Improvement Contractors of America
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Phone: (630) 548-1984 Email: anational.lica@gmail.com

THE MADNESS IS HERE.

State Chapters & Contractor members are diving head first into the Madness! LICA is already almost halfway to our goal of 200 new members. Seize the Madness...Recruit a Member!

State Chapter	Recruiting Member	New Members
	Insurance	1
	Jim Group	1
	Matt Japp	8
	Apprenticeship	44
	Insurance	1
	Jerry Biuso	4
	Maura Dibble	4
	Allison Hack	4
	Bill Hatch	4
	David Rule	4
	Nick Bower	1
	Convention	1
	Steve Gerten	2
	Larry Gossard	1

80 NEW MEMBERS!

Membership Application

Company Name _____

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Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Fax (_____) _____ Email: _____

LICA Sponsor _____

Contractor (Type of Business)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CH Concrete/Hardscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> PD Ponds/Dams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CR Crane Service | <input type="checkbox"/> RP Roads/Paving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DB Directional Boring | <input type="checkbox"/> SP Site Prep./Demolition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DW Drainage/Water Mgmt./ Irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> SS Septic Systems/
Onsite Wastewater Treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EM Earthmoving/Grading/Land Leveling | <input type="checkbox"/> TH Trucking/Hauling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EX Excavating/Land Clearing | <input type="checkbox"/> TW Terraces/Waterways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GR Gravel/Rock Production | <input type="checkbox"/> UU Underground Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS Landscaping/Seeding/Sod | |
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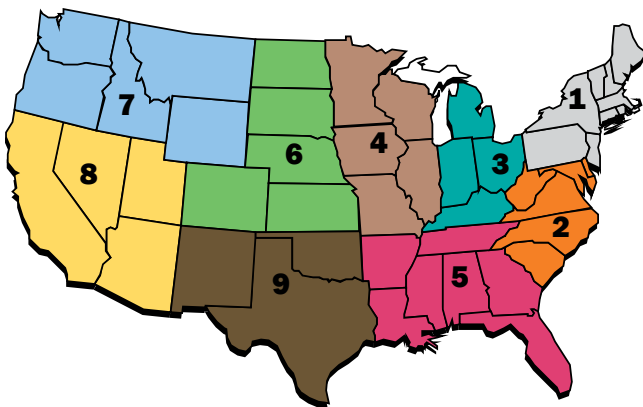
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Contractors in state without chapters

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Please contact your state chapter for annual dues and additional information. See page 26.

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