



NEWS LETTER OF THE IOWA PLOWING ASSOCIATION

6/5/21

Greetings and Salutations Members:

I hope this letter finds each of you well. The year of COVID is over for Iowa and your board of directors has been working hard all winter and spring to provide one of the most exciting state and national plowing competitions we have had in years. It has been a long time since we planned something this special and we hope each of you will plan to attend, compete and help.

The Iowa Plowing Association is hosting the Marshall County Ag Expo. We created the Ag Expo in an effort to draw more spectators to watch our plowing competition and perhaps, stir up some new interest from potential plowmen. The board of directors has been busy securing sponsors, advertising, lining up food vendors, banquet tent, porta-potties and one of the most awesome plow sites on the planet. We have vendor/displays coming from John Deere, Case IH, New Holland, Kubota and LS tractors, Ford, Dodge, GMC/Honda and hopefully Chevrolet. We are currently contacting antique tractor clubs for displays by their club members and hope to draw the Central Iowa Mustang Club for a car show too. On top of all this, we have our state and national plow competitions. It is going to be a show for the record books!

The participating states of the USA Plowing Organization have informed us that they are planning to attend our national matches and will be well represented in each class. At present, we are planning to hold the following competition classes: Antique, Open, Small Plow, Roll Over, Youth Open, Kverneland Challenge and believe it or not, Horse Plowing. How long has it been since you saw horse plowing at a state or national match? We are asking that all Iowa plowmen, planning to compete in the state matches, please contact Ray Elsberry or Mike Fitz by Aug. 1st so we can plan the correct number of pots.

We have heard from a plowman in California, who recently moved here from Ireland, and would like to plow in our national matches. We have heard that one or two Canadians might like to participate in our nationals if the boarder is open by show time. There might are also be a few new plowmen from Illinois and Iowa that would like to try their hand at plowing in our state or national matches. Everyone had better sharpen those shares! There's some competition out there!

Here's the part where we really need your attention. The board of directors has worked hard to create the Marshall County Ag Expo. We need help from everyone to push the show over the top and have things ready on time. This is a large undertaking but the work and number of tasks are more easily achieved when everyone lends a hand.

We don't expect anyone to come and spend the whole week, although you are certainly welcome to. Those of us who live close to the competition field will layout the headlands and scratch furrows on the weekend before the matches, August 7th and 8th. Monday the 9th and Tuesday the 10th is when we really need your help. We'll need to measure and stake plots for state and national competition, practice plots, spectator vehicle parking, plowmen and vendor trailer storage and vendor display areas. The vendors will set up the banquet tent and porta-potties so we don't need to worry about those items. Laying everything out isn't hard but there are many areas to mark and using several teams will make things easier for everyone.

We are telling the vendors to bring their displays on August 11th and 12th. The state matches are on the 11th and the national plowmen will be arriving on both days for practice. These two days will be very busy.

If you enjoy telling people where they can go, we have the perfect job for you. We need a few people willing to sit at the banquet tent and direct vendors to the display area, plowmen to the trailer storage area, plowmen to the practice plots and spectators to the plowing plots. We might even give you a radio, which we all know is a sign of importance! Please consider helping at the matches. We can all take turns doing things so everyone has time to practice, compete and watch the fun.

Tentative schedule of events for the week.

Date	Description	Time
Saturday Aug. 7 th	Plot Layout and Scratch Furrows	
Sunday Aug. 8 th	Plot Layout and Scratch Furrows	
Monday Aug. 9 th	Measure and Stake Plots Marking Vehicle Parking Area Marking Vendor Display Area	
Tuesday Aug. 10 th	Tent Setup Show Prep	
	State Plowmen Practice	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Wednesday Aug. 11 th	State Small Plow Match	9:00 AM
	State Open Plow Match	1:00 PM
	State Antique Plow Match	3:30 PM
	State Plowmen Awards	5:00 PM
Thursday Aug. 12 th	Minn. IA. Horse Plow Matches	10:00 AM
	National Plow Practice	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM
	National Plowmen's Banquet	6:30 PM

Friday Aug. 13th	Official Ag Expo Start	6:00 AM
	National Small Plow Class	9:00 AM
	ISU's Iowa Learning Farm Conservation Station	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
	National Antique Plow Class	1:00 PM
	Kverneland Challenge	3:30 PM
Saturday Aug. 14th	National Small Plow Class	9:00 AM
	National Open Plow Class	1:00 PM
	National Youth Open Class	3:30 PM
Sunday Aug. 15th	Rain Day Extension	
	Guest Plow Day	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
	Help Plowmen Load Up	
	Vendor Removal of Displays	
	Clean Up	
Monday Aug. 16th	Rental company will remove tent.	
	Vendor Removal of Displays	
	Clean Up	

Show and Plow Site Information

Show Address:

Marshall County Ag Expo
1198 Underwood Ave.
Conrad, IA. 50621

Written Directions

The show and plow site are located just North of the corner of Hwy 96 and Underwood Ave in Conrad, IA. Another form of direction would be 8 miles North of Marshalltown on Hwy 14 and 2 Miles East on Hwy 96 to Underwood Ave. Turn North on Underwood for 200 yards and it's on your right side. The ground is beautiful, flat, seeded with Rye and almost too nice for plowing.

Hotels

Best Western Regency
3303 S. Center St.
Marshalltown IA. 50158
641-752-6321
Current price \$79 per night
No trailer parking available

Hampton Inn and Suites
102 Iowa Ave. East (Behind Casey's General Store)
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-753-6795
Current price \$100 per night
No trailer parking available

Holiday Inn Express
102 Iowa Ave. West (Behind Casey's General Store)
Marshalltown, IA. 50158
641-854-2900
Currently under renovation. Should be open by Plow date.
No trailer parking available

Super 8 By Wyndham
3315 S. Center St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-753-3333
Current price \$65 per night
No trailer parking available

Baymont by Wyndham
115 Iowa Ave. West
Marshalltown, IA. 50158
641-752-4844
Current Price \$75 per night
No trailer parking available

Comfort Inn
2613 S. Center St.
Marshalltown, IA. 50158
Current price \$90 per night
Some trailer parking available at hotel
Strip Mall across the street for more over night parking only.

Food and Restaurants

We are planning to have food vendors on site Wednesday through Saturday for lunch. We are planning to have food trucks, the Pie Lady and the Tama, County Pork Producers so you have a choice of menu items. Dinner is up to you and Marshalltown has many restaurants to choose from; Smokin G's Barbeque, Applebee's, Legends, Culvers, Burger King, McDonald's, Hardee's, Taco Johns, El Portal Mexican and a couple Chinese restaurants too.

Smokin G's Barbeque will cater the National Plowmen's Banquet on Thursday, August 12th and we anticipate an approximate cost of \$20 per person.

Officers

Ray Elsberry (President)
Mike Fitz (Vice President)
Brianna Williams (Secretary/Treasurer)

Board of Directors

Chad Adelmund
Lyle Grimm
Dick Pedersen
Ray Willhoite

We wish all of you a wonderful Summer. Be safe, stay healthy and plan to attend, compete and lend a hand at the Marshall County Ag Expo.

Sincerely,

Ray Elsberry

Iowa Plowing Association

The following story is about our friend, Dick Pedersen. Dick wrote this about his plowing career and life as a participant, officer of the Iowa Plowing Association, USA Plowing Organization and World Ploughing Organization. Dick is a great person and exemplifies the qualities of a true sportsman and plowman. I am proud to call Dick Pedersen my friend, as I am sure we all are.

Pedersen on Plowing

A next-door neighbor, Lyle Mason, was my introduction to plowing. The first US National Plowing Contest was held in Mitchellville, Iowa, in 1939 and was sponsored by WHO Radio with Herb Plambck, the farm broadcaster, as the driving force behind it. Lyle Mason won the Junior Division of that event and continued to compete in the "Level Land" division until he was 18 years old. He later competed in contour plowing. Our family moved to a farm adjoining theirs in 1948 and it seemed as if my dad, my three brothers and I spent a lot of time helping the Masons with their farming. This was OK with dad because always willing to help people and he had boys that he liked to keep busy. Lyle tried very hard to convince my dad that he could teach me and /or my brothers the art of plowing. My dad tried to convince Lyle that we had neither the time, desire nor the money to waste on such an endeavor. However, my youngest brother and I finally got him to let us give it a shot. We would use our John Deere 1948 "B" and 44 plow. To get started, Lyle tore our plow apart, reversed the frame and added more parts. Then he laid out several plots for our practice. This only gave proof to my dad as to why we often had to help the neighbors get their work done. Nevertheless, we started plowing. Our county contest – "Pilot Rock" was the largest county contest in the state. My youngest brother won the Junior Class in 1954 and I, as a senior in high school, won the Level Land. I won the 1954 state contest in Bedford, IA with the highest score ever recorded in a state contest, 94.7 points. I think that record still holds, all-be-it we don't use the 100-point scoring any more. I competed in the national contest in Olney, IL. I competed the following year too, then went to college and had to quit plowing. The rules stated that, "Plowman must be bona-fide farmers".

I went to work in the bank in my hometown, married a beautiful home economics teacher and was ready to be a spectator only at plowing matches. In 1965, my wife and I decided to quit our jobs and get more education. We moved to Des Moines so my wife could get more degrees from Iowa State University and I could likewise attend Drake University. In 1966, I was invited to attend the Agri-Rama USA, along with all former state contest winners. We were inducted into the Iowa Plowmen's Hall of Fame – a creation of Herb Plambeck. At this time in history, Herb was working at a savings bank, which was in the same block downtown as the bank where I worked. Somehow, he became aware that we were neighbors and we started communicating. He was, at that time, the secretary/treasurer of the Iowa Plowing Association. He would come to my office and talk plowing in an attempt to get me to join the IPA and it worked. I joined the IPA and he soon came to my office seeking help with his secretary duties. He had no assistants in his office and I had a good staff, which did all his typing, stuffing envelopes, etc. for IPA. My bank also paid for all supplies as well as postage. That was how Herb always got things done. When he died several years later, he still owed Bill Pearson and me for numerous cups of coffee and pastries that we had been nice enough to buy for him at the plowing matches. He never had any money- so he said. I was soon elected to the IPA board and given Herb's jobs. I was later given the same jobs when I went on the USAPO board. I was the secretary/treasurer of these organizations for over forty years. I had resigned from those positions but I enjoyed them until I retired from the bank and had to start doing all the things my secretary, Sue, had on bank time.

In the early 2000's, I became the US representative on the World Ploughing Organization and continued until 2019. What a great time Mother and I enjoyed during those years. You need to know that during all my "plowing" escapades, I worked at the big bank in downtown Des Moines and a much smaller family-owned bank in a smaller suburban community for a total of 47 years. Both banks were proud to have representation in the agricultural environment and I was glad to do it. My wife and youngest daughter went to all state and national matches with me for many years and loved every one of them and the lasting friendships created-plus the shopping excursions. Today, my daughter Betsy, her husband and three young sons go along to all state and national matches and have a great time, just as Mother and I have always had. Kevin Holl always seems to have a 4-wheeler or side by side available for their use and the boys love it.

Plowing contests are not always a snap. Not every landowner has ground we can use and finding towns or organizations that are willing to sponsor a national contest can be a tough sell. I recall one year in particular during the many years Jack Law was the IPA president. Jack was a good president and he won many antique contests. He did his usual good job and arranged a meeting with the Sioux City Convention Bureau, as they wanted to host the national contests. I don't remember the year. Jack and I made three trips to Sioux City to make arrangements – all good. At a crucial time, something changed and Sioux City said the Airport Authority, who owned the ground, said "No Deal". We really had to scramble. Over the next couple of months, Jack and I met with folks in Atlantic, Council Bluffs, Oakland and Winterset. Good meetings, but no takers. Time was running out and Jack was getting frustrated until he got a call from Laurene Huber offering some alfalfa ground, and good ground it was. Jack was elated and we had an outstanding national match. I think Jack kissed Laurene when we were done.

For 65 years, I have enjoyed being involved with great friends all over the world whom I will never forget. I have the utmost respect and admiration for all the folks involved in keeping competition plowing

moving forward. It takes a bunch of time and money to keep the programs going. The first plow competitions in the U.S. were held in Ohio and Illinois during the late 1800's. Foreign countries have been plowing in competitions for 300 years or more. How long can we keep it up?

U.S. world representatives are getting better. I remember a plowman from Norway telling me many years ago that he thought our competitors were the best people to work with – always ready and willing to assist anyone in need. In answer to my question, “What do we need to do to get better scores in the world competition”, he said, “You plow like farmers”. We have had wonderful representatives for 50 years and our scores are improving -- including one 1st Place win in 2018. It is a lot more fun to look at the final scores when you can start at the top of the sheet as opposed to starting at the bottom.

We are who and what we are because of the many great friends and co-workers – Bill, Jack, Darlene, Jim, Lawrence, Monroe, Sonny, Russell, Cliff – to name a few who are don plowing. A few of us are getting closer to the time when we need to make our “Finish Round” in the next decade or two.

I am glad Lyle convinced my dad to let me use our “B” and 44 plow, tear it apart and go wherever we had to go to do our thing.