



2026 Iowa Plowing Association Newsletter

Greetings Iowa Plowmen:

I hope everyone is doing well. I suppose it is actually normal but the month of January felt extra cold to me this year. Warm thoughts of plowing this summer have kept me going.

In January, the IPA board members met at Nick Olinger's house to discuss the events that will take place in 2026. Thanks to Nick and Tammy for hosting and providing a wonderful lunch.

Antique Acres in Cedar Falls has graciously offered to host our 2026 USA national matches. We only have 30 acres to work with so we have to be careful how we lay out plots. Two items that we are doing to conserve acres are:

- Shorting the Vintage Small Plow and Kverneland plots from 328 ft to 264 ft. This will make them the same length as the Antique and Open classes.
- The board also decided to have the Vintage Small Plow class compete for one day instead of two. The Vintage class is not competing to plow at the World matches which is the only reason the Kverneland class plows for two days.

Here are the dates and activities for the USA national plowing matches.

1. Antique Acres in Cedar Falls, Iowa will be hosting our USA national matches for 2026. The dates are Aug. 19 -23 and here is how we are planning the activities.
 - a. Aug. 19, layout and mark plots, unload plowmen as they arrive.
 - b. Aug. 20, practice, unload plowmen and USA dinner banquet.
 - c. Aug. 21 National Antique, Vintage Small Plow and Kverneland class matches.
 - d. Aug. 22 National Open, second day of Kverneland matches, awards.
 - e. There are a large number of hotels in both Cedar Falls and Waterloo for plowmen to select from. Nick and Tammy Olinger are going to see about reserving 10 rooms for the Iowa plowmen so we can stay together. I'll send more information on this as it becomes available.
 - f. Antique Acres has a dinner hall or meeting room large enough to hold our national dinner banquet. We are looking into vendors and prices for the food. We hope to select the vendor by our spring plowmen's lunch in a few weeks.

The 2026 IPA lunch is set for March 7th, 2026 at Smokin G's restaurant in Marshalltown, Iowa. We'll plan to meet about 11:30AM, eat at noon and start our meeting around 1:00 PM. We will discuss our plowing events for the year. We are currently waiting on a reply from Belmont's Prairie Homestead and Antique Show regarding state matches. We got rained out last year and thought we would see if they have room for us again this year.

Here is a list of Iowa plowmen by class, for the 2026 national matches. We are allowed [4] plowmen in the antique, open and Kverneland classes because we had an Iowa plowman on the podium for each of these classes at the Ohio nationals in 2025. This is likely the same list we'll use for state matches this year.

| Antique Class | Open Class | Vintage Small Plow Class | Kverneland Class |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lyle Grimm | Dean Miller | Ben Fitz | Mike Fitz |
| Dick Opthal | Justin Adelmund | Chad Adelmund | Ray Elsberry |
| Joel McQueen | Nick Olinger | Craig Warner | |
| Tryston Adelmund | Brianna Brown | | |

The last note I have for this newsletter is that the 2026 World Plowing Matches are being held in Croatia. Haley Gruber is the USA conventional plowman, Kevin Albrecht is the USA reversible plowman and Gene Gruber is the coach. From what I saw last year in Ohio and the Czech Republic, I believe we could see either or both of these plowmen on the podium this year. Good luck team USA!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March 7th lunch in Marshalltown.

Sincerely,

Ray Elsberry

President of the Iowa Plowing Association

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