

U.S.A. PLOWING ORGANIZATION

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WEB SITE FOR USAPO: <http://usapo.org>

2026 National Plowing Competition Newsletter with Director's Meeting Minutes

Hello plow friends! Interesting newsletter today. This newsletter gives details about the upcoming USAPO National in Iowa as well as the minutes of a recent director's meeting. Ray Elsberry was instrumental in writing most of this newsletter which you will learn why when you get to the director's meeting minutes. The officer and director names at the top of the newsletter reflect the changes you will read about below.

We've had a strange winter here in CT, some snow, but I only used the snowblower a couple of times. I don't think the ground ever really froze solid. The snow that was on the ground just kind of disappeared. Sounds like the Midwest had a lot of snow. Hunting pheasants in January it was very, very cold and I ultimately drove home in a blizzard. I plowed my oat and corn fields and plan on planting oats tomorrow with an old seed spreader if it dries out enough from Saturday night rain. And then light disk in.

Here's an update on this year's plowing so you can make plans for the year. I've learned that PA is holding their state match earlier this year in April 28-30 at Boiling Springs on the Jay Wickard farm (likely over by the time you get this). Ohio state match plowing will be August 1st in Mendon. The IA state meet is planned for August 1st and national matches held in Iowa will be August 19-22 in Cedar Falls. SD is holding their state match at the Prairie Village Antique Tractor Show August 27-30. State match plowing will be on Saturday the 29th. MN is

planning to hold their state matches on August 14 and 15th. Except for PA, sounds like August is going to be a busy month. I'll also going to try and get to the Ontario IPM in September.

USAPO National Plowing Match –

The Iowa Plowing Association (IPA) has been busy preparing for the 2026 national matches. We have everything in place and I wanted to get the details out to everyone so you can set up the rest of your summer plans.

The 2026 National Plowing Contest will be held in Cedar Falls, IA from August 19-22 at an antique equipment show called Antique Acres. The IPA has held a number of plowing competitions at this show and they have been very good to us. The soil is a decent black type with light sandy mix.

Location:

Antique Acres
1710 Waverly Road
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
www.Antiqueacres.org

We only have 30 acres this year so we have to be efficient in our use. We have determined that there is enough ground to allow two days of competition for the Vintage Small Plow and Kverneland Classes. If we get more competitors than expected, we may choose to reduce the Vintage Small Plow to a single day of competition.

The Antique and Open class plots will measure 40' W x 264' L and the Kverneland conventional and reversible plots will be 65' W x 316' L. We are asking that all national plow-person planning to attend the 2026 matches call their national director and register their intent to compete by July 15th. This will allow our Iowa team to layout the plots in the best possible configuration. State Directors, please forward the names of your state plow-person to either Ray Elsberry or Chad Adelmund. Our cell numbers are listed below.

Here is a quick reminder of what the rule book says about Antique Class equipment. Please take note of these items so you will know if you qualify. Changing the characteristics of the plow by altering or re-manufacturing pieces of the plow in a way or size that are not of factory design is not allowed. If you believe that you are operating on the fringes or do not qualify according to the following rules from the USAPO rule book please move to the Open Class which allows more freedom to be creative.

- Tractor model must be manufactured in or before 1951 and no hydraulic equipment.
- The plow must be mechanical or clutch lifted.
- North American made with all components of similar characteristics.
- Equipped with blacksmith type shares (I believe the intent of this rule means factory design or similar, as they would have been purchased from the manufacturer at the time the plow was manufactured.
- Equipped with regular straight coulters, no disk type.
- Jointers are allowed, coverboards are not.
- Replacement rubber tires are acceptable.
- No limit to number of bottoms.
- Any appliance not original or factory equipment for the plow or tractor are not allowed (maintain antique vintage) except for weights and a manual landing lever.
- Contestants must be able to prove the age and authenticity of their equipment.

There are two loading docks available at Antique Acres. One is the correct height for gooseneck deck over flatbeds and the second is for semi-trailers. We will have people available with skid steers or loaders to help you unload if needed.

Competition Dates:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday August 19 th | Plot layout, mark plots begin to receive/unload plowmen |
| Thursday August 20 th | Practice and plow-person's banquet |
| Friday August 21 st | Competition, Day 1 (Antiq., Kverneland, Antiq. Sm. Plow) |
| Saturday August 22 nd | Competition, Day 2 (Open, Kverneland) |

Plow-person's Banquet:

- The USAPO banquet will be held at the plow site.
- Banquet date is August 20th at 7:00 PM
- Banquet meal will be smoked pork loin, seasoned potatoes, green beans and dinner roll. Beverages will also be provided with the meal.
- Banquet dinner price is \$25 per plate.
- Please call the following IPA board members to confirm your reservations.
 - Brianna Brown 641-485-5067
 - Mike Fitz 641-751-9500
 - Chad Adelmund 641-750-2310
 - Ray Elsberry 641-485-4011

Hotel Information:

Waverly, IA is directly north of the plow site and I believe it will offer the easiest access to and from the plow site with regards to traffic. It's about 10-12 min straight north of Antique Acres via Waverly Road, which runs directly north from the plow site, or via the 4-lane, Hwy 218.

Quality Inn, Waverly

319-526-1074

404 29th Ave. SW

Waverly, IA 50677

Super 8 by Wyndham, Waverly

319-318-2449

301 13th Ave SW

Waverly, IA 50677

Cobblestone Inn & Suites, Waverly

319-462-8160

208 E. Bremer Ave

Waverly, IA 50677

I tried to find the direct phone numbers for each hotel but they are making it very difficult to identify these numbers online.

That's all I have or now. If any changes arise or new details become available, I'll pass them along in the summer newsletter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of our Iowa representatives listed above. We'll do our best to get you an answer.

Sincerely,

Ray Elsberry

641-485-4011

relsberry61@gmail.com

USAPO Director's Meeting Minutes –

A USAPO Director's Meeting was held on April 11th 2026 at 8:00 AM Central Time. As you can tell by the top of the newsletter the officers of the USAPO have changed a bit with the with resignation of Mike Rhoades. Attendees of the USAPO meeting are: Mike Fitz, Dale Dirksen, Kevin Albrecht, John Gaard, Mike Penas, Joel Wagner, Conrad Gruber, and Ray Elsberry.

The agenda items for the meeting include election of directors, World Plowing Plow persons, discussion the USAPO National, Election of USAPO Officers, WPO report, and the state paid National Fee to USAPO.

Election of Directors:

Ohio nominated Dale Dirksen to be a director on the USAPO board. MP moves to accept DD as Director and JW 2nd. Motion passed.

World Plowing:

Conrad Gruber reports that Kevin Albrecht will be the reversible plow person and Hailey Gruber will be the conventional plow person, with Gene Gruber as the Coach/Judge. JW moves to accept these plow-persons and coach/judge, MF 2nd. Motion passed.

USAPO National:

The 2026 USAPO National will be in Cedar Falls, IA at the Antique Acres Show. Thirty acres are available for the matches so there will need to be efficient use of the land. IA would like to have a list of each state's competitors by Mid-July. Iowa also needs to submit fill out and submit the USAPO National Contract.

Election of USAPO Officers:

JW moves Mike Penas as President. MF 2nd. Motion passed.

JW moves Ray Elsberry as Sect/Treas. DK 2nd. Motion passed.

JW moves Mike Fitz as Vice President, DK 2nd. Motion passed.

JW moves Sec/Treas need not be a USAPO Director. Motion passed.

WPO Report:

CG reports that

2026 WP in Croatia, end of August

2027 WP in Kenya, 1st and 2nd week of December

2028 WP in Netherlands, August 19-27

2029 WP in New Zealand, 1st week in March

Need US National early in the year to enable shipping

2030 WP in France

JW to check if WP dues paid. Confirmed.

USAPO National Fee:

The USAPO National fee of \$4000 was discussed. In light that OH last year was unable to pay the amount due to insufficient funds, the fee amount was discussed. i.e. could it be lower. CT has no way to get \$4k so would never be able to hold a national. In addition, states are struggling to get the funds to pay the fee. It was noted that the IA and SD organizations use their own \$s to pay the \$4k national fee.

The directors discussed the USAPO finances. Currently there is about \$20k in the checking account (including the sale of the invested CD). When the finances for the USAPO moved to CT, there was approximately \$8.5k sent to JW to put in the Bank of America account.

Therefore, from the discussion, KA moves to form a committee of RE, DD, and JW to review the year-by-year finances of the USAPO. DK 2nd. Motion passed and JW follow-up. I tabulated all income and expenses in an excel sheet from the beginning of my tenure thru March 2026 and sent to the committee plus KA, and JG.

Done Klehm moved to adjourn, Kevin Albrecht 2nd. Motion passed.

That's all the information we have to share at this time. We look forward to seeing everyone at the national matches in Iowa this August. If you have any questions regarding the USAPO meeting, please feel free to contact your state's USAPO representative. If you have any questions regarding the 2026 national plowing competition, feel free to contact any of the Iowa representatives listed above.

Best Regards,
Joel Wagner
USAPO