

Officers:
President
Paul Sickler, AFM

President-Elect
Brian Gatzke, ARA

Secretary
Paul Reisch, ARA

Treasurer
Adam Nelson

Past President
Terry Leibel

Directors:
Jack Davis (2022)
Jim Dunlap, ARA-AFM (2020)
Jerry Hulm, ARA (2022)
Paul Joerger, AFM (2021)
Dave Koenigshof (2021)
Don Threadgold, AFM (2022)

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Kim Larson

Social: Jeff Barker, ARA

East River Breakfast:
Tamara Joerger

West River Breakfast:
Norm Edwards, ARA &
Justin Uhrig

Fishing Social
Jeff Barker ARA &
Don Threadgold, AFM

Auction Social
Terry Leibel
Jim Dunlap, AFM / ARA

Education: Travis Shaykett

Nominating: Terry Leibel

Communication:
Paul Reisch, ARA
Newsletter – Curtis Brooks
Website – Adam Nelson

NE-SD 2020 Summer Meeting:
Dave Koenigshof

Government Relations:
Paul Sickler AFM &
Jim Dunlap, AFM-ARA

Mentor: Allan Husby, ARA

Assessors Conference
Don Zacher

SDSU Relationships:
Brian Gatzke ARA
Career Fairs – Barb Hegerfeld
Network Event–Ryan McKnight
Scholarship – Keith Newman
Student Involvement
-Rick Gullickson, AFM

YPN: Ryan McKnight

Kjerstad Member Scholarship:
Paul Sickler AFM



American Society of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers

THE MOST TRUSTED RURAL
PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER www.asfmra-sd.com

11/2019

Enhancing Our Members' Ability to Succeed in Their Rural & Agriculturally Related Professions!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

December 13: East River Breakfast Meeting – Sioux Falls-All Day Cafe
January 15-16: Winter Education & Joint Meeting W/PAASD -Chamberlain
February 25: SDSU Ness School of Management & Economics Career Fair
July 15-24: Education Week – Des Moines, IA
August 26-27: NE-SD 2020 Summer Meeting – Yankton
September 14-18: Leadership Institute – Washington, D.C.
November 7-13: ASFMRA Annual Meeting – San Antonio, TX

CHAPTER MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Member	Join Date	Years
Jack Davis	12-21-2001	18
Brad Johnson	12-17-2012	7
Ryan McKnight	12-14-2016	3
Tyler Radke	12-01-2017	2

WINTER EDUCATION SCHEDULE

By: Travis Shaykett

Wednesday January 15, 2020

Morning Seminars –

- Understanding Surplus Soil Nutrient Tax Deduction and Its Impact on Value presented by Tony Hagen with Land and Leaf Data Labs
- How Soil Health, Carbon, and Crop/Soil Productivity Can Impact Value presented by Anthony Bly SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist

Afternoon Seminar –

- Understanding the Equivalency Ratio to Value – Instructor John Widdoss, ARA, MAI

Morning and Afternoon are pending approval for appraiser continuing education and real estate broker continuing education. More information will be coming soon.

Thursday January 16, 2020

2020-2021 7-Hour National USPAP Update – Instructor Craig Steinley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Paul Sickler, AFM

I had the awesome opportunity to attend the ASFMRA 90th Annual Conference last week in Louisville, KY. It has been several years since the last time I had attended. It was a great time, interesting topics, and very apparent that countless hours of planning and work were involved to put together this conference. The staff at the Denver office, as well as the current leadership of ASFMRA, are top notch and put together a very high quality conference. For any of you that have not attended this National event, I encourage you to give it some consideration. You will not be disappointed.

While visiting with other members /attendees, I was reminded of the deep sense of “belonging” by ASFMRA members from across the United States. Friendships were renewed and the networking opportunities were endless. The group of people at this year’s conference are committed to the success of ASFMRA and the leadership is determined to handle the issues that ASFMRA faces. You can read about many of the different facets of the week long meeting elsewhere throughout this newsletter.

On Tuesday, the day started out with the annual membership meeting and installation of the new officers. This is an impressive ceremony to be a part of. It is apparent that our leaders take their responsibility seriously. Following the membership meeting, the first ever Membership Advisory Group Meeting has held. I was honored to be the representative from South Dakota. You will recall that last year we voted to change the management of the society from a board of directors to this membership advisory group. It consists of members from every chapter and our role is to provide feedback to the executive council as they lead our organization.

There were four unique topics that were discussed for the rest of the day:

- Growing Our Organization: Identifying and Implementing Effective Membership Development Strategies
- Regulatory and Policy Changes on the Horizon: Proactive Responses for Farm Managers and Appraisers
- 21st Century Tech Topics: Converting Challenges into Opportunities
- Education Needs of Today and Tomorrow: Rethinking Learning for the Next Generation

The membership advisory group was broken up into about 10 different tables, each consisting of about 5-6 members. We would first hear a presentation on each of these topics. Then, our facilitator, Peter Houstle, would solicit key ideas and information from each table which would then be reviewed with the group. The results from the discussion was summarized and share with all participants for the benefit of individuals, chapters and the national organization.

We followed this procedure for each the 4 topics listed above, each time changing tables and discussing with different people each time. The presenter on the first topic, Effective Membership Development Strategies was none other than our own Paul Reisch. Paul did an excellent job outlining how our South Dakota chapter has effectively grown our membership from 32 in the year 2000 to our current membership of 104 members, 18 years later. This was done by our earlier leaders having a plan and our chapter following that plan each year.

Our South Dakota chapter again was recognized as “Patron Chapter” for the second year in a row. We were the only 2 time winner of this award. There are several criteria that have to be met in order to achieve this award and let me say THANK YOU to every member of our chapter for your part in making this such an excellent chapter. You can read about this some more elsewhere in the newsletter.

After a mostly full day of hearing these thought provoking presentations, discussion in the small group tables and then summarizing the results for the rest of the group, I was worn out. It was a long day, but I feel a productive day. The conclusions from each table will be summarized and shared with all members on the ASFMRA website as well as used by Council in directing our organization’s future. Most everyone I visited with felt like it was a very worthwhile day, although exhausting by the end of the day.

Again, the South Dakota chapter was referred to on numerous occasions throughout the week. We were praised for the efforts and accomplishments we have obtained, especially in membership growth. I am very proud and honored to be your President and representative for the week in Louisville!

CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AT SDSU RECEIVES NEW FUNDS!

By Chapter Secretary Paul Reisch, ARA

President Paul Sickler and Lawrence Madsen of the SD Association Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers recently signed a letter of intent request to merge their two separate existing endowments into one single endowment titled **SD Chapter of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Scholarship Endowment**.

The fund will distribute up to \$1,000 annually until the endowment reaches \$50,000. After that time, the fund would revert to the endowment spending plan. The current values of the existing endowments are:

- SD Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Scholarship in Economics (Fund #10617)
\$9,458.89 (market value)
\$1,086.08 (cash)
- SD Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Scholarship (Fund #11080)
\$25,339.98 (market value)
\$1,308.10 (cash)

Today's equivalent to what the chapter \$1,000 scholarship covered when fully implemented in 2008 is about \$2,000. Currently, it is estimated that a \$50,000 endowment balance is needed to fully fund a \$2,000 scholarship.

The merged endowment with over \$30,000 is a major step in building the endowment fund to \$50,000. Chapter members are encouraged to consider a scholarship donation. **Now is the time for 2019 tax deductions!**

Make checks payable to SDSU Foundation. **Please write "SDASFMRA Scholarship" in the memorandum section of the check. Mail check to:**

SDSU Foundation
815 Medary Ave, Box 525
Brookings, SD 57007

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CANDIDATE SLATE FOR 2020

Nominating Committee Chair Terry Leibel and committee members Jerry Hulm and Jim Hollenbeck have secured nominations for the 2020 elections to be held on January 15th at the chapter membership meeting at Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain beginning at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Chapter Officer Nominations:

- President – Paul Sickler
- President Elect – Brian Gatzke
- Secretary - Paul Reisch
- Treasurer - Adam Nelson

Board Member Nomination: Kim Larson

2020 Nominating Committee Member: Jim Hollenbeck - Will join Terry Leibel as Chair and a member to be appointed by President and / or board.

Other nominations can be made at the meeting on January 15th.

WEST RIVER BREAKFAST

By Justin Uhrig

The West River Breakfast Meeting was held 11/14/2019, at Marlins Family Restaurant. Those in attendance were Patrick Wyatt, Betty Wyatt, Russell Wyatt, Jerry Hulm, Justin Uhrig, and Loy Matthes.

The members shared good comradery. As well, professional conversations were centered around sale details, market observations, upcoming land auctions, and value observations on government lease lands. A congratulations was also given to Patrick Wyatt, for his recent completion of the appraisal certification process. Well done Patrick!



ASFMRA/PAASD “AUCTION” SOCIAL

By: Terry Leibel

Hey, everybody; our annual membership meeting and joint educational offerings with PAASD is coming up quickly. Of course along with this is the joint social that our chapter has continued to do with PAASD. Last year we had our very first “live” auction for our social night. Both our chapter and PAASD have decided that it was a huge success last year, and have decided to go with it again at the 2020 gathering in Oacoma (Chamberlain).

The same as last year, our chapter has committed \$500 towards purchasing items for the auction. PAASD has also committed an amount towards it. Again, we are asking for auction items. Whoever donates the item, the proceeds from the sale will go towards their chapter affiliation. Thus, if our chapter or an individual member of our chapter donates an item, the proceeds would then go to our chapter and the same for PAASD. If the individual donating the item was a dual member (belonging to both organizations) the proceeds from that item would be split 50/50 between the organizations, unless it is otherwise specified by the individual.

Again, this will be a great joint function to get everyone involved. Our chapter will be supplying the auctioneers and ring-men. Our chapter and PAASD will be jointly clerking the auction. We are also asking any members that feel so moved to please donate items. The more items the better the auction and subsequent fundraising event it will be.

Also the same as last year, any funds raised by our chapter will be going to the Kjerstad Member Scholarship. This scholarship has always been and continues to be a great source of funds for members of our chapter to help with expenses related to educational offerings for obtaining licenses or certification for appraisers, as well as accreditation or for accrediting exams. It can also be used by farm managers for educational offerings and for achieving accreditation. So, when bidding, remember **the “cost of the item” is secondary to the “value of the donation”**.

Although we all know there are other educational offerings out there---remember---this is the “BIG ONE”, the joint education that has been offered for twenty plus years in the central portion of the state. And the one huge plus is that this has a great networking event that you cannot get at any of the rest of them----think about that! We look forward to seeing you all there!

If you have any questions please contact either Jim Dunlap at 605-332-3146 or email at jim@dunlapappraisal.com, or myself at 605-280-8664 or email me at midstateaprs1@aol.com

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NEWS

By District VI VP Paul Reisch, ARA

Several topics were discussed at the Monday November 18 Council meeting and at the first ever Membership Advisory Group meeting on Tuesday November 19. Below is a summary of the information presented with power points at these meetings.

Where We Are Today

- Economically sound
- Strong Membership @ 2,177
- Developing New Appraisal Seminars
- Conducting Research for Online Education Needs
- Selling Textbooks (400 sold)
- Researching Demand for Online Education

2019-2020 Focus:

- Updating Core Education for Appraisers
- Building New Educational Seminars
- Offering On-Demand Chattel Class
- Moving Ethics to On-Demand
- Building Forestry Valuation / Management Class
- Governance Change Implementation
- Digitalizing Valuing Rural America

Executive VP/CEO Brian Stockman Says: The Sun is Shining –So let's make hay!

- Lots of new technology tools
- Land turnover
- Strong culture
- Solid financial condition
- Great education content
- Successful events
- Strong staff

Making Hay:

- Know our customer and end user
- Accept the culture of constant change
- Be open to new tools and technology
- Look down the road on impacts of policy changes
- Maximize the Customer & community experience
- Get faster
- Make more data driven decisions

What Does This Mean For ASFMRA?

- Expand listening
- Advisory Group
- Chapters
- Technology / Disruptors
- Education needs
- Education -from concept to delivery faster
- Adjust events

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER MEMBERS PRESENT AT LOUISVILLE ANNUAL MEETING

**By James Dunlap, AFM / ARA, Rick Gullickson, AFM
Paul Joerger, AFM, Tamara Joerger, Paul Reisch, ARA**

Thirteen chapter members attended activities at the ASFMRA meeting in Louisville November 16-22.



Front: Paul Reisch, ARA, Jack Davis, Tamara Joerger, Paul Joerger, AFM
Back: Ron Dunker, Brian Gatzke, ARA, Jim Dunlap, AFM, ARA, Paul Sickler, AFM, John Widdoss, ARA Rick Gullickson, AFM, Matt Gunderson, AFM Not Pictured: Mark Elder, Terry Longtin AFM

On Sunday, Brian Gatzke, ARA attended the Appraisal Education Committee meeting. On Monday, Paul Reisch, ARA participated in the Executive Council meeting (see page 5) and Brian Gatzke ARA, attended the USPAP Update class. The Government Relations Committee also met on Monday with Jim Dunlap, AFM / ARA and Matt Gunderson, AFM in attendance. Committee members discussed many items affecting both the appraisal industry and managers, but most of the issues were on the appraisal side. Discussions included the raising of deMinimis levels, the North Dakota request for waiver of requiring certified appraisers, and evaluations.

Our ethics and standards specify that Standards Relating to Appraisal / Appraisal Review are the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) as promulgated by the Appraisal Standards Board of The Appraisal Foundation, as from time to time amended. A criteria of being a sponsor of the Appraisal Foundation is adoption of the current edition of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

Standard 2-2 conveys that a written report must be an Appraisal Report or Restricted Appraisal Report. That is at the heart of the issue. The banks want the report to be labeled an evaluation, not an appraisal. It appears that if Standard 2 allowed the option of calling a report an evaluation, the issue could be resolved.

Continued

LOUISVILLE ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED

The committee reviewed a letter the ASFMRA will be sending regarding our position on evaluations. The proposed letter notes that the Interagency Guidelines' definition of evaluations closely resembles the definition of a restricted use appraisal report.

If appraisers can complete “evaluations” by complying with USPAP under the restricted appraisal format, and the only change needed is to allow the report to be labeled an “evaluation,” then the letter urges ASB to update the Section 2 reporting standard to allow for this. The letter also urges ASB to not wait for the completion of the next two-year USPAP cycle, which would delay implementation until January 1, 2022, but to issue a mid-cycle revision effective as soon as possible.

SD ASFMRA President Paul Sickler, AFM and District VI VP Paul Reisch, ARA attended Tuesday’s Officer Installation and Member Advisory Group meeting. The South Dakota chapter was recognized for its significant membership growth over several years by 2018-2019 ASFMRA President Tim Fevold, AFM in his remarks at the Tuesday November 19 installation of Officers and Executive Council installation.



Later that day, the chapter’s success was highlighted at the Membership Advisory Group Meeting in District VI VP Paul Reisch ARA presentation on Growing our Organizations: Identifying and Implementing Effective Membership Development Strategies. In the presentation, Paul discussed the SD chapter 18 year journey covering actions taken by the chapter that led to this success.

SD Membership Growth Review

- Built a solid Mission / Operations Statement
- Built a Plan That Included Active Committees
- Scheduled Breakfast Meetings
- Started Monthly Newsletter
- Increased Social & Networking Activities
- Enhanced University Relationships
- Promoted Kjerstad Member Scholarship
- Always Focusing on Retention/ Recruitment

Continued

LOUISVILLE ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED

Wednesday's schedule offered attendees several options. While most chapter members participated in the Pioneer Ag Tour (see pages 11-12), Tamara Joerger attended the Rapid Fire Case Studies and Paul Joerger, AFM and Paul Reisch, ARA attended the AgWare Update For Appraising Rural America presented by SD chapter members John Widdoss, ARA and Mark Elder. Later that day, the SD chapter and chapter members had a presence at the Accreditation and Awards ceremony.

Rick Gullickson was recognized for achieving his AFM designation. Rick conveyed his thoughts on achieving this milestone and attending his first annual meeting.

“The highlight of my week, both personally and professionally, was receiving my accreditation at the National ASFMRA annual meeting the week of November 18th. Personally, knowing that I achieved my AFM by passing the required criteria needed to do so and knowing that I am now part of something bigger.



Professionally, I got to meet others and have conversations about the industry as a whole. I also got to learn more about other ASFMRA members and their backgrounds. It was funny in conversations that we had; we both knew the same person from previous employment or a friend of a friend. I am glad to have the work behind me as far as getting my accreditation, and I look forward to being a part of ASFMRA.”

Norm Edwards, ARA, was recognized for 40 years as an ASFMRA member. Paul Sickler received the Chapter Patron Award on behalf of the South Dakota Chapter. This is the second year this award has been available and the South Dakota Chapter has earned it both years!!



Ron Dunker of Bayer Crop Science presented the Early Career Award. Bayer Crop Science has been a proud sponsor of this award for many years.

Continued

LOUISVILLE ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED

On Thursday morning, there were presentations on:

- The Application Of Blockchain In Agriculture
- Appraisal Breakout: The Future Of Valuation
- Management Breakout: Putting Data To Work

Blockchain is a distributed ledger technology that enables transactions to take place in a secure manner among anonymous parties. Ruairi Hanafin conveyed if you answer yes to the five questions below, then blockchain could be of benefit to you.

- Do you need a shared common database?
- Are multiple parties contributing data?
- Do parties involved have conflicting incentives or mistrust?
- Is ownership / control of data important?
- Date records, once written, can be used as proof of an event / trade?

It is noted that one can say yes to all five questions when considering some type of sharing land sale database, a concept that would be of benefit to ASFMRA members.

During the Future of Valuation appraisal breakout session, LeeAnn Moss, PhD, ARA noted that machine assisted valuation will occur but is human directed in development, training, and testing. Appraisers need to change processes to have this help them in their work. Larry Disney notes that client risk, bifurcation in the appraisal process, and big data will mean different levels of analysis and reporting on different valuation assignments.

Paul Reisch, ARA and Tamara Joerger attended the Leadership Institute alumni luncheon, a combined group of farm managers and rural appraisers. This year the luncheon was led by George Baird from Memphis, Co-Vice Chair of the committee. He reviewed the events of the 2019 Leadership Institute held this past September in Washington, DC. His presentation included the highlights of the event that included 29 farm managers and rural appraisers.

Dennis Reyman resigned his appraisal leadership role with the Government Relations Committee since he is the Vice-President Elect of ASFMRA. His appraisal replacement is Brian Fields from Minnesota. As Co-Vice Chair, he will be focused on legislative issues related to appraisers. Brian asked members to reach out to him and our government officials if we have any appraisal concerns. The ASFMRA has always had an active Government Relations Committee and they have been instrumental in guiding legislation for the benefit of farm managers and rural appraisers.

On Thursday afternoon, there were presentations on:

- Policy Impact 2019
- Climate Change & What It Means For Ag
- U.S. Economy: Have We Reached Bottom Yet.

Jason Henderson, PHD, Associate Dean and Director of Extension for Purdue University's College of Agriculture shared his insights regarding the agricultural economy. Considering historical cycles and current conditions, he believes we have hit bottom, but are entering a 10 to 15 year plateau period that will be evident in all crops with an example of \$4 per bushel corn give or take \$.25 per bushel. He felt it would take increasing trade to get out of the plateau.

Continued

LOUISVILLE ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED

Plateau features:

- Low cost producer and economies of scale will dominate.
- Land value increase of 2% +/- annually plus inflation.
- Emerging niche markets with value-added enterprises.

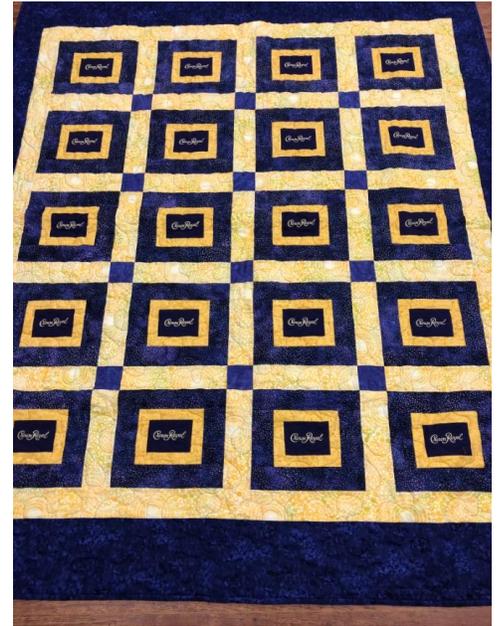
Farmer response strategies will include:

- Consolidation
- Diversification
- Off farm jobs

On Thursday evening, members attended a fun and very successful Education Foundation Auction fundraising event. The focus of the Education Foundation is to enhance the quality and quantity of education for farm managers and rural appraisers. The auction generated over \$40,000 with almost \$36,000 at the live auction.

The SD chapter walleye fishing trip sold on the live auction to District IV VP Corey Prins, AFM from Marshall, MN for \$800. The trip has a \$500 value and is a 1 day – 2 person guided fishing out with one night lodging and meals at the Old 16 Lodge in Kimball, SD to be used in 2020.

Ron Dunker's company (Bayer Crop Science) contributed a hunting / fishing trip to the Education Foundation Auction. The final bidder District IV VP Corey Prins, AFM paid \$3,250 for the Gregory County, South Dakota hunting / fishing trip.



The Crown Royal quilt made by Nancy Reisch and donated by Paul and Nancy Reisch sold for \$400 on the live auction to 2018-2019 ASFMRA President Tim Fevold and his wife Phyllis.

Paul Reisch, ARA, who serves on the Education Foundation Legacy Funding Committee as Executive Council Liaison helped clerk the live auction.

PIONEER FARM TOUR

By James Dunlap, AFM, ARA

In spite of a cold and rainy day, Pioneer won the Kentucky Derby with its tour of the Tucker Tobacco Farm and the Undalata American Standard Farm. What a Day!

Our first stop was the tobacco farm. We able to watch workers separating the leaves of Burly tobacco from the stalk, while separating the leaves by quality. The bottom third of leaves goes to filler in the final product; the middle third is commonly utilized in most cigarettes, and the top third is for premium tobacco products.



Tobacco is still a very labor intensive crop to grow, but is also the most profitable of the crop in the corn, soybeans and tobacco rotation on this farm. Most of the tobacco crop is hand work, & the Tuckers employ a family from Nicaragua, which comes every year on H2A green card permits to work on their farm.

Owner pays wages, provides lodging, transportation and any tools necessary to the work. Worker pays for his own food and medical if not work related accident. Typically they stay from March through mid-December, depending upon weather. Tuckers grow 200 acres of tobacco; 1 acre of tobacco seed stock and about 2,700 acres of corn/soybean rotation. Baled tobacco is put up at slightly under 24% moisture where it is stored until the leaves are separated and shipped to Phillip Morris for making their products.

Seeds are planted for about 6 weeks in four greenhouses on the farm starting in March. After initial growth, it takes a crew of 6 to transplant the plants into 40 inch rows with 20 inch spacings between plants. This is done with a four row planter that looks much like tree planters used by NRCS in our area...therefore the 6 person crew necessary for setting the crop. Planting 200 acres will take 10-15 days to accomplish. Greenhouse planting is staged to have the maturity they want when transplanting over the 15 days.

The crop can be irrigated, but even irrigation is very labor intensive, no pivots!. Irrigation pipe is hauled to the field, put together and ground impact nozzles put in place. Typically this is not necessary unless it turns dry right at the flowering stage, and as Stephanie stated, they put the pipe together this year because it was dry in mid-summer...then it rained! This crop is susceptible to bugs and fungus which will require spraying. Weed control is from cultivating twice in the row, plus hand removal of weeds in between plants in the row. Plants are also sprayed with a growth retardant to grow larger leaves after removing the seed they set. Larger leaves are more valuable.

Harvesting is also by hand using the same hatchet utilized a 100 years ago plus a pointed steel piece used on the stalk. Stalks are hung 6 plants to a “stick” which are taken from the field after this process, much like shocking grain used to be in the Midwest.



Continued

PIONEER FARM TOUR CONTINUED

However, these “sticks are then hung in a drying barn to cure and dry. Humidity is very critical during the curing phase in these barns, since if it gets too dry, the leaves will shatter and fall off. Once cured, the tobacco is baled until the leaves are stripped and shipped. A field worker typically can harvest 90 to 110 sticks per hour, at \$0.13 per stick. Most they can usually work at this is 11 hours per day for 5 days. Whole season is hard work, but rewarding to the grower that watches all the details.

Next stop was an American Saddlebred farm, Undulata Farm. We were seated at tables in the middle of their arena where we visited with a state senator about the tobacco buyout 14 years prior and how that changed the industry in Kentucky from many small operators under a quota system to the open market system today. But this and other problems in the tobacco industry has resulted in the state going from 17,000 growers of tobacco in 2004 down to 3,500 today.

In addition, he sponsored a hemp bill in the state allowing its growth. Now, nationwide there are too many growers and market price is already suffering. Their climate is perfect for the growing of hemp for oil, since they have more rain and a cooler growing season, not much is typically destroyed for too much THC, the psychoactive component commonly smoked. After this discussion, we had an excellent meal, served by “Two Chicks”, a local catering service.

Once lunch was done, Hoppe Bennett, the farm owner and an American Saddlebred breeder in Shelby County spoke. This breed was founded 1891, and was commonly known as the “Saturday Night Horse” or the “Kentucky Saddler” and was utilized by officers in the American Revolution. It is a mix of Canadian Pacer; Narragansett Pacer; Morgan and Thoughtbred horses as well as Arab and many other breeds.

This has produced a very fancy riding horse that has five gaits. Normally, a horse has three gaits, the walk, trot and canter. With the American Saddlebred, two additional gaits are taught, the slow gait and the rack, both very showy with high stepping and neck arching.

With the basic three gaits, a horse moves its legs diagonally, right front with left rear leg, etc. With the added two gaits, the horse moves front and back legs on each side forward together, which changes the ride, and is considerably more comfortable for the rider. It takes about a year to teach these two additional gaits, with some horses going more naturally to them than others.



Premium for five gaited American Saddlebred horse can be \$50,000, but is commonly much less. Mr. Bennett had a top stallion, “Nut Cracker”, that sired champions in all divisions of show and even at age 19 this horse is still garnering an \$8,500 stud fee. These are beautiful horses as well as providing a special ride for the rider.

When we were done with demonstrations of the horses, we were allowed to tour the first two floors of their beautiful period mansion home. Home is complete with a large kitchen, a butler kitchen, formal dining and living rooms, sitting rooms, and large bedrooms on the second floor. Almost all of the rooms had stunning period chandeliers; leaded glass windows and hardwood floors, plus grand staircase from the main floor to the second and third levels of the home. This was a brick house with large pillars that is very classy.