

WALCE PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC)

2007 REPORT

Penny Pohle, Committee Chair

WALCE Scholarships:

The PIC was pleased with the increased interest in WALCE Training Scholarships during the past WALCE budget cycle. In the previous budget cycle, there were only two scholarship recipients and six have been awarded so far. The PIC attributes the surge of interest to increasing the compensation rate to 100 percent of eligible expenses with a maximum of \$500 per applicant per event with a maximum of \$1,000 per applicant per WALCE budget cycle (April 1-March 31) and the increased notification of scholarship/training opportunities. In the future, we plan to continue to facilitate notification of workshops and training events. If you have been a WALCE member for the past two years, you are eligible to receive scholarships and are encouraged to apply. There is approximately \$1,700 available. The following individuals received scholarships during the current April 1-March 31 WALCE budget cycle:

- Justin Everson, Barron County-2007 Soil, Water & Nutrient Management Meeting
- W. Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County-2007 Soil, Water & Nutrient Management Meeting
- Kevin Flyte, Waushara County-WI Fertilizer, Aglime & Pest Management Conference
- Jeremy Freund, Outagamie County-NASECA Annual Conference
- Patty Benedict, Portage County-Microsoft Access Workshop
- Chris Murphy, Adams County-2008 Wisconsin Grazing Conference

Guidelines and Policies:

Over the past year, the PIC developed two guidelines (conference speaker/presenter guideline and conference cancellation guideline) to ensure consistency and fairness for future conferences.

In addition, the PIC assisted with proposed revisions to the WALCE By-laws which included increasing the number of members on the PIC from each WALCE area. This By-law change will be submitted for a vote during the Business Meeting at the 2008 WALCE Conference. If this is approved, the PIC invites you to join our committee! Please contact one of the individuals below if you are interested.

PIC Committee:

The main purpose of the Professional Improvement Committee is to plan and organize the WALCE Annual Professional Improvement Conference. Our committee is composed of the following members and advisors:

Western Area - Penny Pohle, Sauk County (Chair); Cyndi Eggers, Iowa County (Vice Chair); Pete Jopke, Dane County

Central Area - Mary Fagan, Juneau County; Patrick Gatterman, Adams County

Eastern Area - Keith Marquardt, Winnebago County; Geoff Schramm, Sheboygan County

Northern Area - Marie Graupner, Langlade County

WALCE Board Liaison - Ed Hernandez, Waushara County & WALCE Treasurer

Advisors - Patty Benedict, Central Area; MaryJo Gingras and Greg Cleereman, Northern Area; Patrick Murphy, NRCS; Christine Schultt, WLWCA; Terry Lohr, DNR; John Exo, UWEX; Coreen Fallat, DATCP

Technical Committee Representatives - Brian Goepfert, Juneau County; Dan O'Connell, Portage County

The 2009 Conference will be held at the Comfort Suites in Green Bay from February 18-20. Come and celebrate the 30th Anniversary of WALCE and 30 years of conservation!