

## IFAJ 2019 Pre & Post-Congress Tours

### NORTHEAST IOWA PRE-TOUR (July 23-25)

**Tour Lead: Harlen Persinger**

**This tour will include Monday night hotel by airport (MSP), two nights in farm family homes (Tues./Wed.), hotel on Thursday night in Congress headquarters, all meals, and transportation. Plan to arrive in Minneapolis no later than Monday July 22.**

**Cost: SINGLE: \$575.00      DOUBLE: \$430.00**

This three-day tour, limited to the first 12-15 foreign journalists who sign up during early registration, begins July 23, leaving early morning from the Congress hotel site. The group will travel to Northeast Iowa, which lies in one of the top three production areas in the world because of deep, fertile soil. For example, the corn suitability ratings measure, 84.7 percent out of a possible 100, highest in the Hawkeye state.

This tour, which allows each guest to overnight and enjoy breakfast on a family farm for two evenings, will showcase great diversity—small to large farms, grain and livestock production, grain storage facility, tractor manufacturing, seed production, fish farming and local foods. Plus, you'll visit Harlen's farm!

#### July 23

- Visit a state-of-the-art 6.5 million bushel capacity grain elevator constructed in 2018 that can receive 55,000 bushels of grain per hour (50 loaded semi-trucks). The site has six, 750,000 bushel bins plus a 565,000 bushel wet holding capacity and three dump pits.
- Visit a small farm that prides itself in award-winning American Aberdeen Lowline cattle, a breed originally developed in Australia. The family had the 2017 U.S. National Champion, markets 20 head of breeding stock and slaughters 25 animals annually. Processed meat is available in the local grocery store.
- Visit a large 4,000-acre family farm that grows corn and soybeans and feeds 800 head of Holstein steers plus 2,500 hogs from feeder pigs to slaughter weight annually.
- Enjoy a traditional evening barbeque prepared by county beef producers, while mingling with area farmers and Loren Kruse, county native and retired editor of *Successful Farming* magazine.
- Spend the evening with your host family farm.

#### July 24

- Tour the John Deere Tractor Cab Assembly Operations and nearby museum.
- Visit a family dairy farm that emigrated in 1864 from Germany. Their registered Holstein herd totals 175 cows and 190 heifers. Activities include a ride around the farm, feeding calves, making homemade butter, milking a cow by hand and petting kangaroos and goats.
- Visit a seed corn production plant and enjoy an evening cookout with a local Pioneer hybrid seed dealer/farmer where each journalist will rejoin their host family before spending a second night with them.

#### July 25

- Visit the Fran-Cell and Hickory Curve Farms, owned and operated by Harlen Persinger, an AAEA member for 45 years. Learn all about his top management practices teamed with up-to-date technology that helped him average 250 bushels/acre for corn and 63 bushels/acre on soybeans during 2017-2018. A local co-op representative will fly a drone over both farms to monitor how crops are progressing in late July.
- Visit a father/son registered Suffolk sheep farm that received recognition in the USSA Hall of Fame in 2013.
- Visit a fish farming enterprise that produces over 5 million pounds of Tilapia, the largest operation in the U.S.
- Visit a 60-head registered Angus cattle farm.

- Visit a 200-sow farrow-to finish pork production facility, run by a family farmer who also serves on the board of the National Corn Growers Association.
- Bus back to Congress hotel – arriving by 8:00 p.m.

### **CALIFORNIA POST TOUR (July 31-August 3)**

**Tour Lead: Steve Werblow**

**This tour will include a one way flight from MSP to San Francisco, bus transportation throughout the tour, meals and three nights hotel. The tour will end at San Francisco airport approximately 4 pm on Saturday, August 3. You will have enough time to take flights out that evening or we will assist you with hotel suggestions in the area. Note when making your travel arrangements to the U.S. that you will not be in Minneapolis for your departure.**

**Cost: SINGLE: \$980.00      DOUBLE: \$730.00**

Welcome to California! From its sandy beaches to the snowy peaks of the High Sierra mountains, California is a state of remarkable beauty and diversity. The same can be said of its agriculture—graced with great soils, a favorable Mediterranean climate and an extensive system of canals for irrigation water, California farmers produce more than 200 commercial crops worth over \$50 billion in 2017.

Our post-Congress tour will take us to beautiful San Francisco, California's financial hub, through the salad bowl of the Salinas Valley, and into the state's magnificent Central Valley, an agricultural powerhouse. We will see crops and livestock, but we'll also talk about the issues behind the farming: capital, labor, water, environmental issues and innovation.

Meals will celebrate the diversity of California's people (and will surely include California's famous wine). We'll pack a lot of touring into four days. Our trip will conclude back at San Francisco International Airport in late afternoon on Saturday, August 3. From there, participants can catch overnight flights home, stay in the Bay Area for a chance to explore San Francisco and the famous wineries of the Napa and Sonoma valleys, or hop a quick flight to Los Angeles for a visit to Hollywood and Disneyland.

Here's a sketch of what we'll see:

**Wednesday, July 31:** Fly from Minneapolis to San Francisco (flight included in tour price). Tour highlights of the beautiful City By The Bay. Discussion with finance experts on investment and innovation in California agriculture. Night in San Jose/Salinas area.

**Thursday, August 1:** Tour a strawberry farm in the Salinas Valley. Visit an innovation center developed by a leading farmers' association to nurture new technologies in fruit and vegetable production, where we will learn about some of the cutting-edge tools in development. Travel to a key reservoir in the 550-mile (880-km) irrigation supply network that is the lifeblood of Central Valley agriculture for a discussion with irrigation officials of the state's water supply. Night in Merced County.

**Friday, August 2:** Visit a 6th-generation, 10,000+ acre farm where almonds, tomatoes, cotton and other crops are proving grounds for next-generation agricultural technology. Then we will visit a dairy farm with an innovative manure management system, enjoy lunch at a cheese plant, and travel south to a leading diversified farm that includes beef, vegetables, almonds and agritourism. Night in Coalinga.

**Saturday, August 3:** More innovation at a local college Farm of the Future, followed by a visit to a large dairy farm and a look at aerated drip irrigation systems. We will then head back over the mountains to San Francisco International Airport for return flights home...or to further California adventures.

## **MINNESOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA/IOWA POST TOUR**

**Tour Leads: Karen McMahon & Lora Berg**

**This tour will include three nights hotel (Wed., Thurs., Fri.), bus transportation, meals and end in Minneapolis near the airport. There will be enough time to fly out of MSP on Saturday, August 3 and we will assist you with hotel suggestions in the area if necessary.**

**Cost: SINGLE: \$640.00      DOUBLE: \$505.00**

The post-IFAJ Congress Livestock and Crops Tour will visit the thriving crop and livestock areas of western Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and northwest Iowa. This area is well known for diversified family farms and you will see many of them. You also will experience rural life here in their cafes, shops, homes and even a few historic sites. This area is several hours away from a large metro area.

The tour starts on July 31 near the border of Minnesota and South Dakota for visits with livestock and dairy producers as well as crop farmers. After spending the night in Watertown, SD, the group will head south through Brookings, SD, for a visit at the university, as well as other crop and livestock stops. Overnight is spent in Sioux Falls, SD. On Aug. 2, the tour will drive through the northwest corner of Iowa to check out livestock operations (beef & pork) and end the evening back in Sioux Falls. On our last day, Aug. 3, we will be making stops in southwest Minnesota while headed back to Minneapolis.

**Wednesday, July 31** - Morris, MN, to West Browns Valley, SD

- Visit 9,500 cow dairy
- Visit marketer for Angus/Holstein dairy calves
- Stop at Hutterite hog operation
- Visit organic crop farmer
- Dinner at prominent crop farmer farm with neighbors

Overnight – Watertown, SD

**Thursday, August 1** - Brookings to Sioux Falls, SD

- Visit South Dakota State University's new swine and cow-calf research farms
- Visit organic crop farmer
- Stop at offices of major US producer
- Visit historic Pipestone National Monument
- Overnight – Sioux Falls, SD

**Friday, August 2** - Akron, Iowa, to Sioux Falls, SD

- Visit precision technology company
- Visit 8,500-head cattle feeding operation
- Stop at business doing embryo work, cloning and invitro fertilization
- Visit cow-calf operation

Overnight – Sioux Falls

**Saturday, August 3** - Sioux Falls, SD, to Minneapolis

- Visit agricultural equipment manufacturing plant
  - Visit precision crop and hog farmer at Mapleton, MN.
- Return to Bloomington, MN

## **WISCONSIN POST TOUR (July 31 – August 4)**

**Tour Lead: Mark Moore**

**This tour will include four nights, bus transportation, meals and end in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Please see note at end of this tour description for details on travel.**

**Cost: SINGLE: \$790.00      DOUBLE: \$590.00**

There's a reason Wisconsin is called America's Dairyland, and on the Wisconsin post-congress tour, you'll be provided a snapshot of just why we proudly wear this label.

**July 31:** depart Minneapolis. Visits include two 1,000+ dairy operations, a locally-owned cheese shop, and a large custom heifer-raising operation. Evening at the Leinenkeugel Brewery.

**August 1:** Day starts with a visit to a dairy farm/cheese manufacturing operation (gouda). Visit 500+ cow dairy with outstanding genetics and owner of the cow that holds the world's record for milk production. Visit to a 5,000+ cow dairy operation. Evening at a Wisconsin Supper Club.

**August 2:** Visit to the National Dairy Shrine, the Hoard's Dairy Farm, offices of Hoard's Dairyman, a genetics farm, and a special evening at a nationally recognized food company that produces a variety of meats and sausages.

**August 3:** Visit to large integrated dairy that produces award-winning cheese, another local cheese plant, and a local dairy that makes its own artesian cheese (and is nationally recognized for its conservation efforts). Evening at the Wisconsin State Fair.

**August 4:** Departure FROM MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

The Wisconsin Post-Congress tour begins in Minneapolis on July 31 and will end IN MILWAUKEE on August 4. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE for making your travel arrangements FROM MILWAUKEE. There are many flight options out of Milwaukee. Bus transportation is also available to Chicago (Chicago is a larger airport and has more options for direct flights).