

## ACWA Kicks Off 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Re-Elects Officers at Annual Meeting

At their annual meeting in February, ACWA board members and representatives reviewed the accomplishments of the past year, and set work plans for the next fiscal year. Included in the meeting were updates from partners including Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council (INREC), and Bâton Global.

Members also kicked off FY2024, which is ACWA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The three committees, comprised of board members and ag retail representatives, will be preparing special events and activities throughout the year to commemorate this milestone.

At the meeting, the ACWA board re-elected Harry Ahrenholtz as chair, and re-elected officers for the year. The ACWA officers are: President Dan Dix, NEW Cooperative; Vice-President Molly Toot, Landus Cooperative; Treasurer Thomas Fawcett, Heartland Co-op; and Secretary Chris Petersen, Gold Eagle Cooperative.

Wrapping up FY2023-24 includes the annual report, which highlights the accomplishments from the past year. The [ACWA 2023 Annual Report](#) is available on the ACWA website and is chock-full of information and updates. We encourage you to read the report, and share with your staff and customers to spread the knowledge of the great work being done with your support!

## Syngenta Joins ACWA as Associate Member

Syngenta is the most recent associate member of ACWA, joining in February. Syngenta is a world market leader in crop protection that helps farmers to counter pest threats and ensure enough safe, nutritious, affordable food for all – while minimizing the use of land and other agricultural inputs. The company collaborates with many organizations like ACWA to ensure agriculture productivity continues for generations. The goals of ACWA align with Syngenta's sustainability initiatives, which makes the partnership a good fit for Iowa farmers and landowners. Welcome aboard!

## Making Conservation Retail Real: Successful National Event

The national meeting, **Making Conservation Retail Real**, was held in Des Moines in February. The two-day event brought together more than 100 leaders in ag retail and conservation from across the country to advance conservation agronomy in the private sector.

The meeting included fast-paced presentations from more than 20 speakers as well as small group discussions about the current state of agricultural conservation and why it is important to advance ag conservation. Speakers and attendees shared ideas on scaling-up conservation adoption through innovative ways that could be done in Iowa as well as across the country.

To launch the discussions, key guest speakers included Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Grant Menke, and Robert Bonnie, USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. They shared their thoughts on the need for conservation and how ag retailers have an important role in increasing conservation.

“The goal of this initial meeting is to begin the thought process of scaling up conservation in agriculture — finding our true North,” says Roger Wolf, ACWA Executive Director. “We need the stakeholders that were at the meeting as well as new ones, including those not directly involved in agriculture, to actually make Retail Conservation Real.”

This unique meeting was presented by ACWA, the Iowa Soybean Association and the Soil and Water Conservation Society, with support from the Walton Family Foundation.

## **Upcoming events:**

### **Thursday, June 6**

#### **ACWA Board Meeting and Educational Session**

*DMACC FFA Enrichment Center, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny*

10:00 am-12:00 pm – ACWA Board Meeting

12:00-1:00 pm – Lunch

#### **1:00-3:00 pm – Education Session**

##### **Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) Tools; Edge-of-Field Batch and Build Programs and Models**

Learn how the ACPF tool can identify and enhance the best decision-making solutions from a watershed scale down to the farm. Also, understand the Batch and Build process; learn how to encourage awareness, assist in participation, and collaborate with partners and landowners from start to finish.

### **Wednesday, June 26**

#### **Networking Event at Iowa Cubs**

*Principal Park, Des Moines*

#### **11:30 am-3:00 pm**

Let’s get together, network with colleagues and friends, and cheer on the Iowa Cubs! Enjoy lunch at the ballpark and watch the baseball game in our own box suite (start time is 12:08pm), while networking beyond the boardroom. More information and registration coming soon!

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*Agriculture’s Clean Water Alliance (ACWA) is a non-profit association whose mission is identifying and advancing solutions that reduce nutrient loss, build healthier soils, and improve Iowa’s waters. ACWA is recognized for its ability to build upon its members’ extensive relationship with farmers across Iowa.*

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