

**SEIARA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**March 7, 2019**  
**Johnson County Extension Office, Iowa City**

- Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Ellis at 10:02 a.m.
- Secretary's minutes:** The minutes of the March 1, 2018 meeting were distributed. There were no additions or corrections.
- Treasurer's Report:** Ryan Drollette provided the treasurer's report (attached in secretary's book). The report was accepted unanimously.
- President's report:** Ellis presented a "Fund-an-Acre" plaque to Bill Furlong and a plaque to Greg Brenneman in honor of his many years of service to the association and farm.
- Farm Report:** There is more and more sharing of personnel and equipment between the Muscatine Island Research and Demonstration Farm and the Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm. Rotated corn averaged 235 and continuous was 225. Soybean yielded 55. New for 2019 will be an ISA soybean date of planting study, a new planter, a tractor with RTK technology, and aerial imagery. The farm bought a new sprayer. There is now a Facebook page for the farm.
- Farm Bill:** Drollette provided an overview of the new farm bill. Rules and regulations are still to come.
- Soil Fertility:** Antonio Mallarino addressed nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilization and liming with low commodity prices. Grid sample and do not apply fertilizer to High and Vey High testing soils. While prices are low, do not lime if pH is above 6.0.
- Lunch:** Hills Bank and Furlong Family Farms sponsored lunch.
- System Update:** Tim Goode shared updates from research farms across the system. There is a youth oriented theme to activities on the farms.
- Tillage:** Mahdi Al-Kaisi addressed tillage as related to soil properties, crop yields, and crop profitability. Yields tend to be comparable across tillage systems and profits go up if tillage is reduced. Less tillage is beneficial to soil organic matter and, by extension, soil health. The correlation between organic matter and CSR2 is 74%. More tillage results in more runoff. The correlation between organic matter and soil water holding capacity is 70%.
- Profits:** Charles Brown reviewed the farm economic outlook. Land prices are holding fairly steady, which helps balance sheets. Operating costs have declined but not as much as commodity prices. There is some refinancing of debt taking place to improve working capital.
- Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virgil Schmitt, Secretary