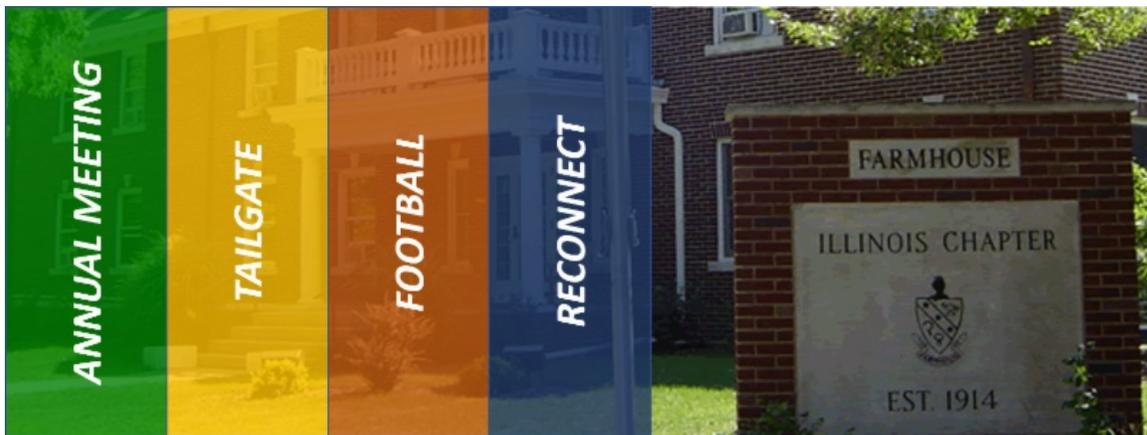




FarmStead Newsletter

Illinois FarmHouse Association News



Annual Meeting and Come Home Weekend Save the Date: September 14th

Please join us for our 2nd Annual Come Home weekend. This is a chance to learn about current events in the chapter and association as well as have some fun while reconnecting with fellow FH alums. All alumni are invited, but we'd like to send a special invite out to our featured decade and classes that are having graduation anniversaries.

Featured Decade: 1980's

Anniversary Classes: 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014

Annual Meeting Time: TBD

Game: vs. Eastern Michigan

Alumni Connection: Matt Helms ('93)

Graduated: 1996

Degrees:

- B.S. in Agronomy University of Illinois
- MBA from Washington University (St. Louis)

Family: Michelle – wife; Lily – daughter (10)

Current Town: Webster Groves, MO

Current Company: NewLeaf Symbiotics

Current Position: Vice President, Marketing

Career Path:

- Sales Rep - Ciba-Geigy / Novartis – (1996-1999)
- Consultant – Deloitte (1999-2001)
- Various Roles - Monsanto (2001-2019); My career was focused on marketing and product management with more recent roles as the Marketing and Product Lead for North America and then for the Global Crop Protection business. My last role was at the intersection of the business and R&D as the Global Ag Productivity Technology lead in our R&D Organization overseeing crop protection and biologicals.
- Vice President, Marketing – NewLeaf Symbiotics (2019-present)



Favorite FarmHouse memory:

This is difficult as there are so many, but just a few highlights would include:

- Saturday football games and football blocks with sororities
- Ranking 1st in Fraternity Grades while on campus
- Dinners with Fay Sims
- All the times just hanging out with fraternity brothers – evenings, weekends, visits to their homes and families – that has created many special and unique life memories!

How has FarmHouse helped you reach your career goals?

FarmHouse was a key component of my development during such a critical growth stage of life. The character, confidence, social and intellectual development from FarmHouse led me to various internships and my first job out of college. An Illinois FarmHouse alum was key in my move from Ag to Deloitte for a few years, which was a key moment in my life to learn, grow and reflect on what I was passionate about professionally. It was also where I met my wife, Michelle! Today, I continue to use the network of relationships and connections from FarmHouse, both professionally and personally.

What do you believe is critical for the future of FarmHouse?

For the Illinois Chapter, we have a tremendous opportunity to communicate what our vision and plans are for the future, and I am happy to see this as an area of focus for our current Alumni Association.

We have a huge untapped potential to grow as a fraternity of alumni and active members by activating our alumni base in new, different ways. Leveraging traditional and modern communication tools and forums, creating programs and linkages and having in-person events are great ways to start!

Young men in college now have different needs and wants versus when most of us were in college, and we must be in tune with what these needs are. Mobile phones are now as much of the “bricks and mortar” as what 809 was during my day on campus. Finally, the last area comes down to recruiting for the future. The Illinois Chapter of FarmHouse must be deliberate and aggressive at recruiting young men with different backgrounds, demographics and perspectives versus what we have had in the past. The bottom-line is there just aren’t the numbers of men who grew up in farms or major in Ag for FarmHouse to thrive and offer the experience of the future.

One interesting fact about yourself?

Michelle, Lily and I have started a new venture with our family farm in Belleville, IL – Ella & Ollie Popcorn (www.EllaOlliePopcorn.com). It has been a great way to connect our farm to independent business owners and consumers.

Master Builder Harold Steele ('41) Passes

It is with heavy heart I share that Harold Steele (Illinois '41) passed away on Friday, February 1, 2019. Since many of you

knew Harold during his time as a brother and alumni, I want to share this news with you.

A Master Builder, Harold made major contributions to agriculture across the state of Illinois, the United States and the world. He was Chairman and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration in Washington, D.C., appointed by President George H.W. Bush and served from 1989-1993. Prior to that, he was appointed by President Reagan as Chairman of the National Commission on Agriculture Finance, serving from 1987-1989. Harold served as President and CEO of the Illinois Farm Bureau from 1970-1983. Harold was a highly decorated Army veteran of World War II and met his wife, Margery, while stationed in Vienna, Austria. At the time, Margery worked as an OSS cryptographer for the War Department, which later became the CIA.



For FarmHouse, Harold served as a Foundation Trustee from 1998-2002 and in his earlier years was active with the Illinois Chapter and Association. He received the Master Builder Award in 2004 and the Philanthropy Laureate Award in 2008. Harold was very generous to FarmHouse, including naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a significant gift of life insurance, which will become an endowment fund for leadership conferences of the Fraternity.

Harold was also well-known for his robust collection of antique farm tools and household items, including creating a museum at his farm outside of Princeton, Ill. He proudly called his collection "Little Smithie" with over 1,000 antique pieces from places all over the United States. He and Margery, a perfect pair, were married for nearly 67 years before her passing and together they had four children and two foreign exchange daughters.

Harold was the epitome of a Master Builder for his service and dedication to our country, agriculture, FarmHouse, friends, family and others for each of their betterment. In accepting the Philanthropy Laureate Award in 2008, Harold addressed Conclave attendees about the importance of leadership by saying, "Our great country is in dire need of leadership. I believe this need can be filled by our FarmHouse brothers. Some of the brightest minds, best skilled, most determined and outstanding leaders are FarmHouse men. Our Fraternity has the capability to lead the way for our future."

This still rings true a decade later, and Harold was always articulate about his passion for young leaders. He was also kind, witty, charming and wildly intelligent. He will be missed. Thank you for keeping Harold and the Steele family in your thoughts and prayers.

Illinois Foundation Council Update

The success of the Illinois FarmHouse Foundation is measured in two aspects - first is the ability to raise funds through alumni and friends of FarmHouse; the second is the Foundation funding chapter programming and academic scholarships. This 2018-2019 academic year has been extremely successful with both categories.



In this past two years, the FarmHouse Foundation Council worked with active members of the chapter and developed a plan to raise funds to be focused towards scholarships for new members who joined in the Fall of 2018 and we have been able to continue it for Fall 2019. The plan was developed to make new member scholarships competitive with other fraternities. The plan went into action during the annual phone-a-thon, which raised over \$20,000 specifically for new member scholarships. Prospective members are invited to fill out an application, and are then interviewed prior to receiving the scholarship.

In addition to \$20,000 raised for new member scholarships, many donations were made to pre-established endowment funds, 29 in total, for educational chapter programming and scholarships for active members. These endowments were created by alumni as investments to provide an ongoing source of funding for the Illinois Chapter. Each fiscal year, the Illinois Foundation Council receives an annual spending allowance based off the

interest gained on those investments. Currently, there is over \$100,000 accumulated in our spending allowance.

The most impressive use of Foundation funds came through scholarships to chapter members which totals \$27,975. This is a total of \$33,104.81 that the Illinois Chapter used to improve chapter programming and eventually win the Chapter of the Year award.

Over the past year I've had several alumni ask where a donation to Illinois FarmHouse will have the most impact. Below is a brief listing of what happens to donations made to specific places.

Illinois Foundation Council via the FarmHouse International Foundation – These funds are distributed by the Illinois Foundation Council in whatever way you designate them to be used and are tax deductible.

- **Specific Endowments** – Used for scholarships or chapter programming per the restrictions set forth on that endowment. (I can provide a list of these if you are interested).
- **General Fund** – “Unrestricted” funds that can be used for any educational expense that the Illinois Foundation Council sees fit. If you do not designate how you want your donation used, it goes here making it the most widely available.
- **Building Fund** – Utilized to cover building expenses for educational portions of the chapter house (*e.g. computer lab, library, conference room*).

Illinois Alumni Association – These funds will be used to maintain and renovate the chapter house, but are not tax deductible.

Illinois Active Chapter – These funds will be used by the active chapter to cover their day to day expenses and improvements that exceed house bill and that cannot be considered educational (*e.g. social activities*). This is also not tax deductible.

If you wish to donate to Illinois FarmHouse, but are still unsure as to where your donation can make the most impact, please reach out and we will help you in your decision. If you have any further questions regarding Illinois FarmHouse Foundation or would like to become involved with the Foundation Council I would be glad to hear from you.

Fraternally,
Darren Riskedal, Chair
Illinois FarmHouse Foundation Council
driskedal@gmail.com

Alumni in the news: Don Uchtmann ('66)

Those Who Served | Changing plans in a time of war

Don Uchtmann served in the Coast Guard, started law school while in the service and became a professor at the University of Illinois. Lt. Uchtmann, now 72, grew up in Sparta, Ill., not far from...[Read more](#)



Alumni reaching new heights:

Jeff Beavers ('92) - Recently accepted a position as President and CEO of [Illinois BIS](#).



Dave Gilmore ('86) - Recently promoted to Senior Vice

President, Global Marketing, Agriculture & Turf Division at [John Deere](#).



Daren Havens ('92) - Recently promoted to Director, Product Marketing, Agriculture & Turf Division at [John Deere](#).



Matt Helms ('93) - Recently accepted a position as Vice President, Marketing for [NewLeaf Symbiotics](#).



Ryan Schaefer ('01) - Recently promoted to Senior Director, North American Sales at [CNH Industrial](#).



Know any potential recruits?

Things are on the upswing at Illinois FarmHouse. Know any guys that want to join the fun. The chapter is looking for high character men that would be a great addition to a future pledge class at Illinois FarmHouse. Please email our VP of Recruitment, Chase Clausen.

Email Chase!



What's Happening?

If you know a fellow brother that has had a recent promotion, major family event, significant life experience, etc., please let us know. We would like to let other alumni, active members, and potential recruits know the great things that our members are doing.

Let us know!

Join us on Facebook!

