



THE SANGAMO *Farmer*

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



*Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through Education
and Grassroots Legislation*

Phone: (217) 753-5200 • www.sangamonfb.org • farmbureau@sangamonfb.org

Springfield, IL • Volume MMXVI Number 1

Upcoming Committee Meetings & Events

January

- 1st: Office Closed - Happy New Year!
- 4th: Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 12th: Young Leader CPR Class
- 9th-12th: American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
- 18th: Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19th: Hunter Lake Meeting, 2:00 p.m. Sugar Creek United Methodist Church
- 21st: Women's Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

February

- 1st: COUNTRY Crop Insurance Seminar, 8:30 a.m.
- 1st: Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 6th: Young Leaders Harvest for All Food Drive (Location TBA)
- 8th: Young Leader Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15th: Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 18th: Women's Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 25th: Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Roadshow, Noon
- 27th: Young Leader Recruitment Dinner & Team-Building Outing (Location TBA)

All events take place at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau unless otherwise noted.

THE SANGAMO FARMER

Published bi-monthly by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau James Birge, Editor Periodical # 481320 SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU Office: 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 President: Larry Beaty Vice-President: Ben Ladage Secretary: Phil Sidles Treasurer: David Ray Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Jason Pickrell Periodical Class Postage Paid at Springfield, Illinois	Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Sangamo Farmer 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF Manager: James Birge, FBCM Assistant Manager: Jennifer Webb Finance/Membership: Arika Mason Farm Bureau Tel. 217-753-5200 E-mail farmbureau@sangamonfb.org Individual membership fee of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau includes payment of \$2 per year for a subscription to the Sangamo Farmer.
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DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2015		J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
District 1	Wayne Benanti	X	X	X	-	X	X	X			
	Tim Kinner	X	X	X	-	X	X	X			
	Jason Komnick		X	X	-	X	X	X			
District 2	Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Randy Krone		X		-		X	X			
	Tyler Sloan	n/a		X	-	X	X	X			
District 3	Dale Edwards		X		-	X	X	X			
	Jason Pickrell (Ass't Sec/Treas)	X	X	X	-	X		X			
	Phil Sidles (Secretary)		X	X	-	X	X	X			
District 4	Bryon Muench	X	X	X	-	X	X				
	David Ray (Treasurer)	X	X	X	-	X		X			
	Paul Rice			X	-	X	X	X			
District 5	Cathryn Ayers	X		X	-	X	X	X			
	Larry Beaty (President)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X			
	Matt Heissingner	X	X	X	-	X	X	X			
	Marty Fairchild	n/a		X	-	X	X	X			
District 6	Colleen Carney-Harms	X	X	X	-	X		X			
	Ben Ladage (Vice-President)	X		X	-	X	X	X			
	Tim Seifert			X	-		X	X			
GAC Chair	Allen Entwistle	X	X	X	-	X	X				
MPR Chair	Diana Beaty	X	X	X	-		X	X			
YL Chair	Katie King	-	-	-	-	-	-	X			
Women's Chair	Toni Krone						X	X			

2016 CROP INSURANCE SEMINAR

Co-Sponsored by COUNTRY Financial and the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Marketing Committee

Please join us to learn more about Federal Crop Insurance. Enjoy a presentation on Crop Insurance, ARC/PLC, Precision Ag Technology, and Marketing for 2016.

Monday, February 1, 2016

8:30 a.m. – Registration & Refreshments

9:00 a.m. – Noon – Presentations

at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Building
2631 Beechler Ct.
Springfield, IL 62703

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT NOON
DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAYS***

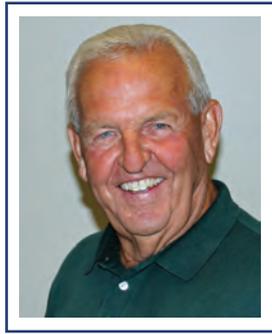
Please RSVP by January 27th to (217) 753-5200

Do you live in a pre-civil war farmhouse?

The Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission and the Sangamon County Farm Bureau have joined to locate and certify all pre-Civil War farmhouses in the county that are on operative farms, including the oldest extant home on an operative farm.

Download the entry form at
www.sangamonfb.org
or stop by our office to pick one up.
2631 Beechler Ct. in Springfield

Questions? Call Jerry Jacobson at 836-1551
or email jake@springnet1.com



LARRY BEATY

This is my favorite time of year. I love Christmas and everything it brings with it: the bright lights, Christmas shows on T.V. that I have seen a dozen times, Christmas music, and the smell of cookies and candy baking. Christmas morning is my favorite time. It always has been and will be until the end of time. I love the smell of the kitchen as Diana prepares Christmas dinner; the anticipation of family gathering to see the twinkle in the eyes of our grandkids as they open their gifts, such excitement warms my heart. As I think of the baby Jesus lying in the manger and what his birth means to each of us, I realize how blessed we are to live in this great country; where we have freedom of speech to worship and have so many liberties that we take for granted. We are truly blessed.

This time of year brings our Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago. We had 40+ Sangamon County Farm Bureau members in attendance and I really appreciate all who went to our Annual Meeting. The participation from so many members really shows how much we care about our organization. I want to thank Dale Edwards, Ben

Ladage, David Ray, Phil Sidles, Jason Komnick, Colleen Carney-Harms, Mark Reichert, John Beatty, Allen Entwistle, and Andy Goleman all for being delegates. I worried about having enough people to fill our delegate body, but I shouldn't because I always know I can count on the faithful members of Sangamon County Farm Bureau. Thank you for always being there when SCFB needs you! It is always good to go to the Annual Meeting and see old friends and meet new folks. I have met folks from all over the state who have become good friends and have the same love of agriculture that I have. The process we go through in open session always amazes me. We always start with submittals from counties and go through the resolution process. At the end of the day, we have a policy book that is made up of ideas from members such as ourselves and it is the policy which we give to our staff and lobbyists to use to govern our association. It is sometimes a long and tedious process, but in the end it works really well.

We tried something new this year thanks to a suggestion from my wife. We had a reception in our county suite and invited our legislators to come and talk to our county members who were present. We had a great turn out and I have nothing but good comments about the reception. I am sure we will do this again in years to come. I want to thank Janet Edwards, Diana Beaty, Arika Mason, Jenny Webb and Katie King for putting together the food and arranging the reception - you ladies did a great

job. Thank you!

I want to thank our staff: Manager Jim Birge; Assistant Manager Jenny Webb, and Administrative Assistant Arika Mason for all the work they did to make the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting a really great experience for all of us. It takes a lot of calls and hard work to get everything arranged for the meeting. Jim, you and your staff did a great job with all the arrangements that had to be made. Thank you!

Last but not least, IAA Foundation Trivia Night. We had two teams this year and I really want to thank all who participated. Even though we did not win anything this year, I can guarantee you Sangamon County Farm Bureau was who everyone was talking about. We had our very own Richard Simmons, a.k.a. Vice-President Ben Ladage, who played the part better than Richard Simmons himself. A lot of fun was had and Ag in the Classroom raised a lot of money for a great cause. We had a Sangamon County Past President who participated, (cartwheels, etc.,) a.k.a. Mark Reichert. We were all proud of our trivia teams. Thanks to all who participated. Great job! Great event!

In closing, take time during this holiday season to count your blessings, enjoy your family and remember that Jesus Christ and our Lord and Savior is the reason we celebrate Christmas. May God bless each and every one of you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Winter iPad/Tablet Training Course for Farmers

SPONSORED BY THE SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU MARKETING COMMITTEE

Interested in learning how to utilize your iPad or tablet on your farm?

This 3-day course will teach you everything from the basics of how to use your device and navigate applications to more advanced knowledge of the types of apps available for farm operations, including cost of those apps, what they do, and how they are used on farms.

\$30/PERSON

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

Two sessions will be offered. each day:
8:00 am - noon or
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Each session is limited to 25 participants, so register soon by calling (217) 753-5200

VOTING MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING REGARDING *Hunter Lake*

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Sugar Creek United Methodist Church

1022 New City Rd.

Chatham, IL (north of Pawnee)

Please reserve your spot!

Call (217) 753-5200,

Email: amason@sangamonfb.org

This special meeting will be held exclusively for voting members to learn updated information regarding the potential development of Hunter Lake. The Farm Bureau Board of Directors wish to hear member views on the pros, cons, and general comments regarding this long standing project. Member feedback will be strongly regarded by the Governmental Affairs Committee and ultimately the Farm Bureau Board in order to determine their final position and subsequent representation of our members.

Three guest presenters will be given an opportunity to provide members with information regarding the lake and will entertain thoughtful questions from the audience. Presenters will include:

Steve Frank, Supervisor of Land & Water Resources, CWLP/City of Springfield

Ted Meckes, Water Division Manager, CWLP

Connie Waggoner, Director, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, IDNR

After hearing presentations and Q&A, presenters will be excused and the meeting will continue as members of the GAC and Board hear members wishes of Farm Bureau's potential position on the project.

THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



JIM BIRGE

Happy New Year all! I hope Christmas activities and New Year's events have been plentiful and enjoyable for each of you. Mine were blessed with family and friends, relatively good health for all, an abundance of food, smiles, and laughter. Not sure how to ask for anything more, other than I did have some time off to play painter at home at the behest of my better half and had the chance to get in a little late season deer hunting to fill in the gaps in my time. All in all, it's been a great time of year in our household (minus my occasional painting errors).

It's a new year and a big one for Farm Bureau as we enter into a historical place in time for Illinois Farm Bureau. 2016 is the 100th anniversary of our great state organization. Activities and events will flow through the entire year to commemorate this milestone.

Just in my years with the organization, I've seen three generations of families volunteer their precious time for the organization, with

the fourth generation being reared and introduced to Farm Bureau at this very moment. I very much see it as a family affair. Farm Bureau is such a personal thing to the people who lead and work on its behalf (both volunteers and staff). It's consistent with the thick history of agriculture; generations of family members working together to carry on the farm so that the next generation may have the opportunity to experience the same love of the land and animals that we've come to know. The generations of commitment to Farm Bureau are much the same and 100 years of that commitment is truly amazing and humbling.

To celebrate our great history, a new 100th anniversary book is now available which recounts the history, accomplishments, and most importantly the people of the Farm Bureau. Book purchases can be made via the Illinois Farm Bureau website www.ilfb.org.

Other activities of celebration will include:

- The opening of the Time Capsule at the IFB Building To be held on July 26, 2016. County Farm Bureau members are welcome to come, as are employees. Items in the 1961 time capsule will be revealed. A new time capsule with items that represent 2016 will be displayed and a large granite marker will be placed in front of the IAA Building; IFB President Guebert will open the ceremonies and Vice-president Erickson will close the event.

- FarmWeek — Series of historical articles and ads from the IAA Record (IFB's original publication), and excerpts from the 1965 John Lacey history book, Farm Bureau in Illinois.

- Radio Spots - Historical-themed radio spots will air on RFD Radio Network.

- History slide show and video vignettes on the ILFB.org website.

- History Quiz on ILFB.org - An IFB history quiz on the ILFB.org website where fifty members will be able to win the commemorative silver-plated Centennial spoon.

- "Throwback Thursdays" on the IFB Facebook page that will feature vintage images of Farm Bureau people, events, and memorabilia.

- A special edition commemorative 5" x 7" postcard that have IFB historical images on it, and will be hand canceled by the U.S. Post Office with the date January 26, 2016. These will be available at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau while supplies last.

As promised, many of my columns this year will be dedicated to much of the wonderful and notable history of Illinois Farm Bureau over its past 100 years. TEASER: Watch for my column in March. Anyone ever heard that Illinois Farm Bureau helped start State Farm Insurance before starting its own COUNTRY Financial Insurance Companies? Find out if this urban legend is true or not!



Sangamon
County Farm Bureau
Foundation

Saturday, March 12th

AT THE EAGLES CLUB #437
2700 E. ASH ST • SPRINGFIELD, IL

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
TRIVIA BEGINS AT 7:00 PM

*Proceeds benefit the
Sangamon County Farm Bureau
Foundation in order to provide
scholarships to local students
and funding for agricultural
education programs.*

TRIVIA NIGHT

hosted by:  TRIVIA
WORKSHOP

- \$ 100 PER TABLE (8-10 PLAYERS)
- \$ 15/EACH FOR INDIVIDUALS
- ROUND SPONSORSHIP: \$ 100
(includes social media advertising, logo
projected during round, and more!)

Like our Facebook page!
"Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation Trivia Night"
• OR •
visit www.sangamonfb.org/trivianight

50/50 RAFFLE • DOOR PRIZES • BASKET RAFFLE • MULLIGANS • GAMES
CASH BAR • SOFT DRINKS & SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
PLEASE NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS • PARTICIPANTS MUST BE AGE 18+

Questions?

Call the Sangamon County Farm Bureau (217) 753-5200
or email amazon@sangamonfb.org

Please reserve a table for us!

Contact Person: _____ # of tables @ \$ 100 each
Phone: _____ # of individuals @\$ 15 each
Email: _____ I'd like to sponsor a round (\$ 100)
of players: _____ TOTAL

If you would like to pay by credit card, please complete the following:

Cardholder Name: _____ Card Number: _____
Expiration: _____ CVC Code: _____ Signature: _____

SEND REGISTRATION SLIP AND PAYMENT TO:

Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation • 2631 Beechler Court • Springfield, IL 62703

Please make checks payable to: Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation

IAA Annual Meeting Highlights

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS SET POLICY, ELECT NEW OFFICERS DURING ANNUAL MEETING

As the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) looks toward 2016 to celebrate its 100th anniversary, delegates to the 101st IFB Annual Meeting celebrated one of its longest-lasting traditions: grassroots, member-driven decision making to set the organization's policy for the coming year.

One of the most important actions the delegate body took was to pass their sense of the delegate body resolutions, one of which dealt with the importance of the Illinois General Assembly, governor and legislative leaders to get a state budget completed for fiscal year 2016.

"Many agricultural entities have been negatively impacted by the lack of a state budget," said Mark Gebhards, director, Governmental Affairs and Commodities, IFB. "We know that Soil and Water Conservation Districts, University of Illinois Extension Service, and county fairs have all felt the negative impacts of not having a budget in place. The delegate body simply wanted to send a message — a strong message — to get this budget done as soon as possible and that certainly was conveyed through that sense of the delegate body resolution."

Delegates also focused their energy on several important resolutions, including property rights, renewable fuels, local government, transportation and nutrient management.

"Property rights have been one of the core principles that the IFB has included in the policy book for many, many years," Gebhards said. "And it's important now because of the multitude of utility projects either underway or proposed in the state of Illinois. The resolution focused on

making sure that the Illinois Department of Agriculture has the enforcing ability that it needs to enforce the ag mitigation agreements that the companies would enter into and the Illinois Department of Agriculture would enforce on behalf of the landowners."

Delegates also discussed the need to ensure markets for their products, especially given the current commodity prices.

"There was some emphasis placed on the renewable fuels industry," Gebhards said. "The delegates were interested in making sure that IFB looks for all opportunities to use renewable fuels, whether that means flex fuel vehicles, or various state agencies and federal agencies using that renewable fuel as part of their day-to-day operation."

Delegates also debated the need for a reduction in units of local government, funding for transportation and infrastructure, and the need to follow the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

To finish the delegate business, the delegates reelected President Richard Guebert, Jr., of Ellis Grove, and Vice President David Erickson, of Altona.

Delegates also confirmed the election of four new members of the IFB Board of Directors. Michele Aavang of McHenry County was elected to a two-year term to represent District 1, Jeff Kirwan of Mercer County was elected to a two-year term to represent District 3, Tamara D. Halterman of Grundy County was elected to a two-year term to represent District 5, and Troy Uphoff of Shelby County was elected to a two-year term to represent District 11.

December 5-8, Chicago



Sangamon County Farm Bureau President Larry Beaty accepts a recognition plaque from IFB Vice President David Erickson. This plaque was awarded to the Bureau for its achievements during 2015.



Congratulations to Mike Borgic, who represented Sangamon County and District 10 in the Young Leader Discussion Meet, advancing to the Sweet 16 round.



Past SCFB President John Beatty talking with candidate for US Senate James Marter.



Our IAA Foundation Trivia Night costumes never disappoint! Thanks to our 70s group (David Ray, Cathryn Ayers, Mark & Callie Reichert, Rich Ramsey, Diana Beaty, Paul Rice, and Janet Edwards) and our 80s group (Ben & Kim Ladage, Phil & Lindsey Sidles, Jason & Melissa Komnick, Katie King, and Mike Borgic) for participating in this event and raising money for Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom!



Gov. Affairs Committee Chair Allen Entwistle visits with new Director of Agriculture Raymond Poe, Cathryn Ayers, and John Bruntjen.



Member & PR Committee Chair Diana Beaty speaks with State Senator Sam McCann.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



ALLEN ENTWISTLE

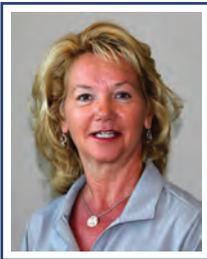
Illinois has a new Director of Agriculture, former State Representative and Sangamon County Farm Bureau Past President,

Raymond Poe. His seat in the House of Representatives will be filled by Sara Wojcicki Jimenez, most recently holding the position of Chief of Staff to Illinois first lady Diana Rauner. The Governmental Affairs Committee interviewed Jimenez on November 25th. We discussed ag issues that may come up in General Assembly and she is planning to look to Farm Bureau for information and education on any ag issues that come before her. She is very willing to learn and eager to come out and visit farms.

We hosted a Legislative Meet and Greet in the Sangamon Suite on

Sunday, December 6th, during IAA Annual Meeting. This was a successful event and provided a great opportunity to talk to our local legislators about current issues. Director of Agriculture Raymond Poe, former Director of Agriculture and past IAA President Philip Nelson, Senator Bill Brady, State Representative CD Davidsmeyer, State Senator Sam McCann, and candidate for U.S. Senate James Marter as well as representatives for U.S. Senator Mark Kirk and U.S. Congressman Darin LaHood were all in attendance.

MEMBER & PUBLIC RELATIONS



DIANA BEATY

Winter is upon us (or so the calendar says!) The weather says differently, but planning stages for next year's projects are in the works.

Discussions have taken place regarding our Farmer/Patron Appreciation Day and we have decided to make some changes. Over the past few years, Sangamon County Farm Bureau, Menard County Farm Bureau and Prairieland FS have lost money on this event because a large number tickets are distributed for the dinner and not enough members/patrons to show up for the meal after the food was ordered. Therefore, we have decided to combine our appreciation event for our farmer members with Prairieland FS's winter appreciation lunches. Watch your mailbox for an invite to the event in your area.

Coming up on March 12th we are having our first "Trivia Night" at

the Eagles Club, 2700 E. Ash St., Springfield. I invite all you Trivia Buffs to come out for a fun evening of challenging trivia. Cost for the evening is \$100 per table (8-10 players) or \$15 for an individual. If you would like to sponsor a round, that cost is \$100. This evening promises to be a fun evening with a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, basket raffles, cash bar, soft drinks and snacks. This event is one of the many that will replace our Silent/Live Auctions we normally hold at our Summer Appreciation Day in order to continue to raise money for the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation, which gives scholarships to some of our young and well deserving students. Be sure to check out our trivia night entry form on page 5 of this issue and get your reservation in. I look forward to seeing you there for some fun trivia!

Speaking of Trivia, we just returned from the the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago, December 5-8. Saturday evening was the Awards Banquet in which Sangamon County was blessed to receive many awards. Thanks to all our committee volunteers, Board of Directors and staff for their hard work and dedication this past year in accomplishing these awards. Job well done! On Sunday, our county hosted a Legislative Reception in our suite for the many legislators present at the

Annual Meeting. This turned out to be a great social event where we could visit one on one with those legislators there. On Sunday evening, we had two teams compete in the IAA Foundation Trivia Night. "Dig the Decades" was the theme this year and as you may remember from past years, our county is all about the costumes! Some of us picked the 70's and the Young Leaders' team picked the 80's. There are photos in the Annual Meeting Highlights section of this issue. It was a fun evening that raised lots of money for a great cause, Ag in the Classroom. This evening was designed to bring counties together for a fun event and to raise funds for the IAA Foundation and every year including this, it does just that! Thanks to all those who participated, you should be proud for the contribution you made to this worthwhile cause! On Monday, our delegates came together to set policy for our next year. There were many issues discussed, some in great detail and by the end of the day, policy is set to begin work for 2016.

In closing, I once again urge you to get involved in events we plan for our membership. Farm Bureau is your organization. We are always open to new suggestions and ideas. Hope to see you at Trivia Night on March 12th!

POLICY DEVELOPMENT



PAUL RICE

The Policy Development Committee is considering a voting member's request to propose a bylaw change to Illinois Farm Bureau in 2016. This proposed change would require candidates to declare their intentions to run for IFB elected office prior to IAA Annual Meeting. It would also specify the number of days prior to Annual

Meeting that their candidacy must be declared.

Our committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss plans for 2016. I wish you all a prosperous and joyful New Year!

MARKETING COMMITTEE



MATT HEISSINGER

I'm excited to be Co-Chair of the Marketing Committee with Richard Ramsey. Richard has done a wonderful job with the committee over the years and deserves our gratitude for his time and dedication to the Farm Bureau. With Richard's experience and leadership, I feel that we can continue

to provide members with events and information that is beneficial to their current and future needs along with creating opportunities to meet other members and be able to share information and experiences that will help with management and profitability.

Our agenda for this winter is the iPad/tablet training series for farmers. These courses will teach our members how to use these electronic devices for storing and gathering information. Our trainer is a farmer that uses these devices on their farm. They will show our members the programs they use on their farm and how it benefits their operation.

We sent out a survey last month to our membership asking for some

feedback. The survey asked a few basic questions about iPad training and the interest members had attending these courses. We were very pleased with the feedback we received from members that were interested in the training.

With this overwhelming response, the committee has begun setting up times and dates with the trainer. We will get all the details finalized and will be sending out a letter with the final information along with costs and sign up information. If you have any questions, please contact me or the SCFB office.

The Marketing Committee wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be safe!

YOUNG LEADERS



MIKE BORGIC

Winter is a busy time of year for the Young Leader Committee. The IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago was held December 5-8. During the events held over the weekend, I represented Sangamon County and District 10 in the Discussion Meet contest. The day was spent discussing some of the tough issues faced by farmers and working

with other contestants to try and find solutions for these issues. I was able to make it to the Sweet 16 round! It was a great experience and I look forward to competing again next year.

The Young Leaders have several activities planned of the next couple of months. On January 12th, we will be holding a CPR/AED class at the SCFB office. Cost is \$20 per person. On January 19th, the Young Leader Committee will be hosting FFA chapters from around the county in the Farm Bureau FFA Acquaintance Program. A trip is planned to travel to the University of Illinois to tour the animal and crop science departments. The following weekend is the IFB State Young Leader Conference in Peoria. The conference runs from Jan. 22-23. Registration

deadline is Dec. 22. Contact the SCFB if you are interested in attending.

In February, the committee will be holding a Harvest for All Food Drive on Feb. 6th; the location is still to be determined. On February 27th, the committee will be hosting a team building and recruitment dinner. Contact the SCFB for more information.

At our December meeting we held elections for Chair and Vice Chair for the 2016 year. Katie King was elected as Chair and I will serve as Vice Chair. We are looking forward to another great year!

If you are interested in joining the Young Leader Committee or want to know more about the committee, please contact the SCFB office for more details at (217) 753-5200.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



TONI KRONE

I hope this note finds everyone having had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! In November we had our annual Fall Luncheon. Our guest speaker gave an interesting talk on essential oils. We collected hats, gloves and cash donations, which will go to the Auburn Food Pantry in

memory of Debbi Ray. In December our committee cooked a nice meal for the Ronald McDonald House and then enjoyed lunch at Boccardi's Italian restaurant afterward. We also purchased a variety of farm toys and books to donate, which were dropped off for the children at the Ronald McDonald House and St. John's Children's Hospital to enjoy.



Women's Committee members Cynde Kinner, Julie Morrison, and Toni Krone delivering farm books and toys to the children at St. John's Children's Hospital.

PRAIRIELAND FS DECLARES PATRONAGE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

PrairieLand FS Board of Directors has declared patronage refunds of \$5.5 million and was paid out to Farm Bureau members for 2015 fiscal year purchases.

This year's patronage payout was paid 50% cash and 50% Class E stock.

This makes for the tenth consecutive year patronage refunds will be paid by PrairieLand FS. The company's performance in the fiscal 2015 was strong which allowed the company to pay a high level of patronage.

"The diversification of our coop has allowed us to manage through tough years in one area while generating strong profits in another area" says Keith Hufendick, PrairieLand FS CEO. "Lower grain prices have caused farmers to cut back but the retail side of our business has grown with the economy."

Individual rates of payout are determined by product line and will be similar to last year's rates.

Individual checks were processed and distributed in early December. A full breakdown of payment rates will be included with the check and member's individual payment record. In addition to new patronage the board also approved \$1,300,000 of stock evolverment which makes us current through 2006. The stock redemption will be paid in March 2016.

PrairieLand FS, Inc. is a Federated Cooperative locally owned and controlled, based in Jacksonville, IL. PrairieLand FS proudly serves patrons in Central and West Central, Illinois and Northeast Missouri.

HARBOUR NAMED 2015 TOP CROP ADVISOR (WRITTEN BY JOHN HAWKINS)

The Certified Crop Adviser Award is designed to increase awareness that farmers and their crop advisers strive to make economically and environmentally sound cropping decisions.



Jerry Harbour, a Certified Crop Adviser from Edinburg in Sangamon County, received the 2015 Illinois Certified Crop Adviser Award at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago. Harbour offers 33 years of crop advising experience and works at PrairieLand FS.

The Certified Crop Adviser Award is designed to increase awareness that farmers and their crop advisers strive to make economically and environmentally sound cropping decisions.

Harbour works with customers in the eastern half of Sangamon County. In addition to providing agronomic advice, Harbour also focuses on nutrient loss concerns in the area. His recommendations address fertilizer applications, rates and timing to help customers maximize returns while minimizing losses.

Among area farmers, Harbour is well-known for his test plots that allow them to compare seed and practices.

"Jerry has stepped forward in his career to learn the latest practices available to producers and to help educate his customers on those practices that best suit their operations," Sangamon County Farm Bureau President Larry Beaty wrote in nominating Harbour. "Jerry is always willing to take the time to spend with

customers to teach, answer questions and advise on what is best along with listening to what the customers want for their operations."

Harbour also supports the Sangamon County Farm Bureau and has shared his expertise with non-farmers at county Farm Bureau events by answering questions about crops and production practices. He served as a resource when the county Farm Bureau hosted legislative staff to learn about modern agriculture.

Harbour also shares his knowledge with youth. He volunteers as a judge at county and state 4-H crop competitions.

As the state's top crop adviser winner, Harbour's name has been submitted for the international award by the Illinois Certified Crop Adviser Board and IFB.

(Article from FarmWeekNow.com)

Mendenhall
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Russ Mendenhall Jr.

"We do it all, so give us a call."

Office: 217-364-5614

Mobile: 217-306-5969

Fax: 217-364-5396

17563 Mechanicsburg-Illiopolis Rd.

Buffalo, IL 62515

LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORDS

2015-2016 Session (1st Year)

Below are the voting records for each individual legislator in the 2015 spring session with the weightings on the bills the IAA Board has approved. This is the first half of the 2015-2016 state legislative voting records. The second half of the 2015-2016 state legislative voting records will be reviewed next summer and the two years weightings will be combined once approved.

The “final percent” listed down the right side of the page indicates the percentage of support given by the legislator to Farm Bureau’s position on the bills. Across the top of the report are the points per bill indicating the weighting by points given each legislative bill based upon the bill’s importance in the Farm Bureau legislative program.

**Senator Michael Hastings is SCFB’s “Adopt a Legislator.”

2015 General Assembly Bills

(Support/Oppose = Illinois Farm Bureau’s position)

HB 218	Decriminalizing Cannabis Possession - (Oppose)
HB 352	Bobcat Hunting (Support)
HB 2515	Covered Farm Vehicles (Support)
HB 2580	Road Posting and Closure (Support)
HB 3101	Beef Checkoff Update (Support)
HB 3215	Oil and Gas Notice (Support)
HB 3523	Ag Impact Mitigation Agreement for Wind Energy (Support)
SB 11	Increase in the Minimum Wage (Oppose)
SB 543	Gypsum as Coal Combustion (Support)
SB 681	Exotic Weeds (Support)
SB 1378	Oil and Gas Notice (Support)
SB 1726	Landowner Notification for Electric Transmission Line Projects (Support)
SB 1885	Tractor Operator License Exemption (Support)

S	SUPPORTED FARM BUREAU'S POSITION
O	OPPOSED FARM BUREAU'S POSITION
?	NOT VOTING
#	MEMBER WAS ABSENT DUE TO DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER OR ILLNESS OR OTHER OFFICIAL DUTIES

SENATE

YEAR OF VOTE	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15		
POINTS PER BILL	10	5	15	20	5	5	20	10	5	5	15	5	135		
DISTRICT	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	BILL	CURRENT	
NO.	SENATOR	218	352	2515	2580	3101	3523	11	543	681	1378	1726	1885	POINTS	SESSION
44	Brady	S	S	S	S	S	S	?	S	S	S	S	?	110	81.48%
19	Hastings	O	?	S	S	?	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	95	70.37%
49	Manar	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	105	77.78%
50	McCann	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	?	S	120	88.89%

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

YEAR OF VOTE	13	13	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15				
POINTS PER BILL	10	5	15	20	5	5	20	10	5	15	5		115		
DISTRICT	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	SB	SB	SB	SB		BILL	CURRENT	
NO.	REPRESENTATIVE	218	352	2515	2580	3101	3215	3523	543	681	1726	1885	POINTS	SESSION	
87	Butler	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	105	91.30%	
100	Davidsmeyer	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	115	100.00%	
99	Poe	S	S	S	S	S	S	#	S	S	S	S	95	100.00%	
96	Scherer	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	115	100.00%	

Sangamon County Farm Bureau
2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, IL 62703



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For more information, contact:

Jenny Webb, Assistant Manager/Communications Specialist

Phone: (217) 753-5200

Email: jwebb@sangamonfb.org