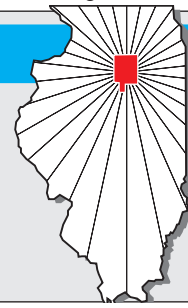


LaSalle County

Agri-Source

Supplement to FarmWeek for LaSalle County Farm Bureau members and GRAINCO FS, Inc. patrons



January 2011

Programs + Services + Benefits = Farm Bureau memberships

Gleim, Hettel honored for distinguished service at annual meeting

When consumers don't understand agriculture and want to hear from farmers themselves, volunteerism and activism become all the more important. The LaSalle County Farm Bureau is excited to honor the dedicated individuals that serve the community and the agricultural industry in

this way and for that reason, celebrated Wayne Gleim and Darlene Hettel during their December 1 Annual Meeting.

"Every year, we honor members of the community that serve agriculture without asking for anything in return," said Doug Stockley, LaSalle County Farm Bureau Member-

ship Committee Chair. "I am excited to recognize Wayne and Darlene for their efforts and honored to be a part of such an excellent membership based organization with these sorts of individuals at its core."

Wayne Gleim, this year's Distinguished Service Award winner, has a long heritage in LaSalle County. The family story tells of Great Grandpa Gleim walking all the way to California during the gold rush and returning to Grand Ridge after striking gold to raise a family and establish a farming operation.

Gleim still farms on this land with his son, Jeff, and grandson, Jacob.

In 1999, Gleim was named Prairie Farmer Master Farmer. This award recognizes a farmer's ability to successfully manage a farm, but also his dedication to family, community, church, and industry. Gleim has been active in 4-H, the Grand Ridge School



For her time and effort managing the food stand at the LaSalle County Junior Fair, Darlene Hettel was given the 2010 Special Recognition Award by the LaSalle County Farm Bureau. Hettel donates time, energy, blood, sweat and tears to guarantee supplies are available and requirements met for the food stand which has now become an annual tradition at the fair. Pictured are Hettel, Doug Stockley, Membership Chair, and Monty Whipple, President.



Wayne Gleim's commitment to farm, family, and community was celebrated on December 1, 2010 at the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting when he received the Distinguished Service Award. Now in its 15th year, the award seeks to honor those showing leadership and commitment to agriculture. Gleim, who served on the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Board for 14 years and continues to be a part of their committees, has definitely embodied that spirit of leadership and commitment. Pictured are Monty Whipple, President, Doug Stockley, Membership Chair, and Gleim.

LaSalle County Farm Bureau seeks greater female involvement

"We seem to be missing something – a big part of the organization – because the farm women are not involved," said Monty Whipple, President of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau (LCFB). And to this problem, he offers a solution; LCFB will host an informational meeting about the potential for an LCFB Women's Committee on January 6 at 7 p.m. in the University of Illinois Extension Office.

According to Whipple, he and the board realize that this start up will not come without its challenges. A majority of farm wives and daughters have off farm jobs and limited time compared to previous women's committees when most women stayed at home and were physically present on the farm. But that doesn't mean that LCFB can ignore this enormous asset.

"Women are good communicators and I can see them being a real positive for us when we contact legislators and work in the political arena," Whipple said. "It's also no secret that women still do a

majority of the shopping and our farm wives and daughters will relate better to a consumer mom. Consumers will understand more about the farm when they can talk woman to woman and hear about their concerns from a woman's point of view."

Whipple is hardly off track. Recent research indicates that purchasing decisions are guided by two questions: "is this good/healthy for my family?" and "are the people producing this product honest and authentic?" As moms seek to learn these answers, research also tells us that farmers and other moms are the most trusted sources of information. It stands to reason that LCFB's plan to involve farm moms and daughters is a perfect fit.

Additionally, women are becoming an increasing presence both on and off the farm. More and more wives are taking an active role actually putting in and harvesting the crop, taking care of the livestock, or making marketing de-

isions. Off the farm, numbers of women in agribusiness are increasing dramatically. Even within the Farm Bureau system, approximately 40 percent of Farm Bureau managers are female.

"We're definitely not looking for women to be involved so they can set the table when

Continued on page 2

Board, the United Methodist Church of Grand Ridge, the University of Illinois Extension Council, and the LaSalle County Farm Bureau, just to name a few of his endeavors.

"Wayne is not only an excellent farmer, but an excellent family man and an excellent asset to the LaSalle County Farm Bureau. He deserves this recognition for simply serving on the board for fourteen years and coming back to work on our committees! He understands that an association, a church, or a community group are only what you put into them and he donates more than his fair share of time to ensure their success on all accounts," Stockley said.

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1995 to recognize farmers who have

demonstrated exemplary leadership and service to agriculture.

Darlene Hettel is the 2010 Special Recognition Award winner. Her work during the LaSalle County 4-H Fair is an invaluable asset to the community and the agricultural industry.

Hettel is in charge of the food stand at the fair and, as such, she purchases supplies, organizes the kitchen, manages volunteers, and satisfies the Health Department's requirements. She has been managing the food stand for more than fifteen years and still looks forward to the fair every single year.

Hettel is married to Ed Hettel and has become well acquainted with Sam's Club during her time running the food stand.

"Darlene is a hard worker and we'd be lost without her," said Stockley. "It's so easy to visit the fair in the summer and enjoy the food at the food stand without thinking about the supplies, the volunteers, and the regulations that have to be managed to provide it. We simply couldn't continue the food stand tradition without her help and I'm happy to let her know how much we appreciate her."

The Special Recognition Award was established in 2005 to recognize an individual for their work or service to LaSalle County agriculture.



LaSalle County Farm Bureau President Monty Whipple accepts a recognition plaque awarded to the Bureau for its achievements during 2010. The award was presented during the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and calls attention to the comprehensive nature of county Farm Bureau programs.

From the President

By Monty Whipple
President
LaSalle County Farm Bureau

Welcome to the New Year, 2011! I hope everyone enjoyed a good Christmas and holiday season and found needed time to relax with family and friends.

The end of the year is a time I pause to reflect on how quickly twelve months evaporated and assess my accomplishments or lack thereof for the year. I never get everything done, but what doesn't, gets put on next year's "to-do" list.

It works the same way in Farm Bureau. Thankfully, because of some last minute compromising by President Obama and Congress, Farm Bureau was able to accomplish more. The estate tax was reinstated in a way we can live with for now. The present federal tax structure was extended. The subsidies for ethanol were extended for another year, and the biodiesel credit was brought back retroactive to the beginning of last year. Also accomplished, but not getting much attention, was the trade agreement reached between the U.S. and South Korea. This alliance should add to our beef and pork exports.

As I write this report, I'm not sure how all the final fig-

ures will shake out, but Farm Bureau and the commodity groups should feel a sense of accomplishment for what was approved.

Two months ago, I didn't feel confident any tax issues would get resolved. Partisanship had never seemed stronger.

But some of these tax extensions are only for a short duration. For example, the biofuels tax breaks are only good for one year. The hope is that Congress will work with the biofuels industry to institute a more market oriented approach to governmental support thus developing a long range plan for growing the All-American renewable fuels industry. Right now, we're using all the ethanol we can produce even without a clear-cut plan for the future.

However, all these aforementioned tax issues will come with a report card. Tax breaks and no tax increases came with the promise that they will grow the economy more than they will grow the national debt. Everyone will be watching. Change won't be immediate, but a year from now we better



Monty Whipple

see some economic improvement in jobs and the tax base.

American citizens just elected a lot of new people to Congress largely to help reign in government spending. These new electorates are not in office yet, but they're directly affecting the voting tendencies of those still in control. For all our sakes, I hope this fiscal policy works.

I feel those of us in agriculture are in a strong position to help lead the economic recovery. Our industry has never been better. Tell Congress to help us, not hurt us. Then watch how much we can produce. In that regard, Congress should do the same for other American industries.

My best wishes to you all for a safe, happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

Monty



Sheila Thomas of Grand Ridge was named Friend of Farm Bureau at the LaSalle County Farm Bureau meeting on December 16 for her service to the farmers in LaSalle County. Thomas has been the community worker for the University of Illinois Extension Service for the past ten years and has donated countless hours working with 4-H clubs, as well as students and volunteers at the LaSalle County Junior Fair. Thomas is a Master Naturalist, Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver, and has been a member of home extension for 20 years. She is married to John Thomas and the couple have two children, Jennifer and Rob.

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- Keeton® Seed Firmers - encourage uniform germination and emergence
- BullsEye® Seed Tubes - eliminate seed bounce and long outlast ordinary tubes
- MeterMax® - calibrates meters for maximum accuracy.

Give John Hagenbuch a call and let us show you how to boost your yield - and your return on investment.



Darren Walter, (right) LaSalle County Farm Bureau Director from Grand Ridge, receives an award for his membership recruitment efforts from District 4 Director Jim Schielein at the IAA Annual Meeting on December 4-6.

Walter honored for membership recruitment

Darren Walter, LaSalle County Farm Bureau Director from Grand Ridge, was recognized at the IAA Annual Meeting on December 4-6 for his membership recruitment efforts. Walter signed six new members to the Illinois Farm Bureau membership roster during the past year and thus was given the Director 5 honor. Walter is pictured with District 4 Director Jim Schielein receiving the award.

The Director 4 Member-

ship Club was started in 1996 to recognize outstanding volunteer Membership recruitment efforts each year. The program provides statewide and local recognition to volunteer honorees who sign 5 or more new farmer members into the organization. They receive a plaque in recognition of this achievement and are also entered into a gift certificate drawing.

Congratulations to Darren on his achievement!

Females

Continued from page 1

we have a meeting!" Whipple laughed. "This is a professionally oriented request because we need to utilize our assets. And maybe we'll find that the women don't want to have a Women's Committee and would rather integrate themselves into our existing committee structure. We have committees that discuss legislation, member concerns, and interactions with the media. We'd love to have them involved in any way that they prefer."

If you are a female interested in becoming more involved in the LaSalle County Farm Bureau, please plan to attend the informational meeting on January 6 at 7 p.m. at the University of Illinois Extension Office. To find out more about the meeting, call the LCFB Office at 815-433-0371.

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New leaders elected for 2011

New ideas and new visions are always welcome in the LaSalle County Farm Bureau (LCFB). The board of directors is excited to welcome their newest member, Matt Mason, who will take over the At Large director position held by Ken Bernard. Mason took his place at the December 15 board meeting.

LCFB wishes to thank retiring member Bernard for his service to the organization and his commitment to the farmers in LaSalle County.

Other LCFB Board members reelected to serve another term are:

- *Fred Seville*, elected to serve Adams, Northville, and Serena Townships
- *Barry Beetz*, elected to serve Troy Grove and Ophir Townships

Informational meeting Jan. 18 on application of municipal sludge

If you are one of the neighbors in LaSalle County that is concerned about the dumping of municipal sludge, please join the LaSalle County Farm Bureau for an informational meeting on January 18 at 10 a.m. at Pitstick Pavilion in Ottawa.

On the agenda is a discussion of the sludge issue by experts from the Illinois EPA,

- *Mike Stone*, elected to serve Wallace, Dayton, and Ottawa Townships
 - *Darren Walter*, elected to serve South Ottawa, Fall River, Farm Ridge, Grand Rapids, and Brookfield Townships
 - *Geoff Janssen*, elected to serve Richland, Eagle, Osage, and Groveland Townships
 - *David Myer*, At Large
- Bernard's retirement also left a vacancy in the officer team so a new officer stepped up to take leadership of the as-

sociation. The officer team is David Myer, Secretary; Darren Walter, Vice President; Monty Whipple, President; and Mike Stone, Treasurer.

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Committee also looks forward to new directions and new leadership in 2010. Bill McDonnell of Ottawa has been elected Chairman, Justin Durdan of Streator has been elected Vice Chairman, and Brock Flanigan of Wenona has been elected Secretary.



The officer team, left to right, is David Myer, Secretary; Darren Walter, Vice President; Monty Whipple, President; and Mike Stone, Treasurer.

the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and the Illinois Farm Bureau. According to LaSalle County Farm Bureau (LCFB) President Monty Whipple, a similar discussion has been held before, but only within the confines of the LCFB board room.

"We've talked to the EPA before, but we want to branch out from the discussion being

in our board room to holding a public meeting," he said. "We're trying to do our part to inform our membership what is being done and what can be done."

Municipal sludge from the Chicagoland area is currently being hauled out to collar counties to be spread on farm ground. Legislation is in place that regulates this sort of application, but members of the county are concerned about application rates, what might leach into the water system, destruction of county roads

from more traffic from heavy loads, and more.

There is also an additional radium concern. Whipple said that water from underground wells is brought up for use in Chicago, but it contains radium. When the radium is removed to make healthy drinking water, it is flushed through the sewage system, leaving the sludge being applied in LaSalle County heavy with radium. Some questions that will hopefully be answered during the meeting are what's happening to the excess radium?

Is it in LaSalle County water supplies? Is it absorbed by the crops?

"It seems to me that there's no one coming out to indicate that they will stop the application of sludge, but no one is actually managing how much is on the field," Whipple said. On the Viewpoint Survey which asked a question about the application of sludge, some members simply wanted to see sludge regulated the same way that livestock manure is regulated.

Cantlin competes in Young Leaders discussion meet

Joe Cantlin, Earlville, participated in the Illinois Farm Bureau State Young Leaders Discussion Meet at the IAA Annual Meeting, December 4. Joe was a winner in the District Four discussion meet in August.

The Young Leaders Discussion Meet is an opportunity to compete with other young farmers in an organized committee meeting setting. Judges listen to the discussion and award points based on how well the participant works with other contestants and how well they express viewpoints and understanding of the topic.

Topics for the 2010 Discussion Meet, selected by American Farm Bureau Federation and sent out ahead of time so participants can prepare, were as follows:

- Farm Bureau is the leading voice for agriculture but not the only voice. How do we encourage other agricultural groups to work together for the common good of our industry?
- Government has always been involved in agriculture. Is the current level of government involvement a net hindrance or a net benefit to agriculture?
- How will food movements such as "foodie" and "locavore," which are focused primarily in urban centers, influence national agricul-



Joe Cantlin of Earlville participated in the Illinois Farm Bureau State Young Leaders Discussion Meet.

tural production and federal programs?

- Given recent challenges, such as volatile food prices and limited world food supplies, do American consumers adequately appreciate the importance of US-produced food? Will American consumers consider American agriculture important to our security in the future?

The 2010 Illinois winner, Grant Strom of Knox County, will represent Illinois at the American Farm Bureau Federation Discussion Meet in January, where he will compete to win a new Dodge Ram.

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LCFB recognized for excellence

During the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, December 4-7 in St. Louis, MO, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau was recognized for excellence in the areas of Ag Literacy, Member Relations, Policy Development, Young Leaders, and Membership. Monty Whipple, President, was present to receive these awards on behalf of the county.

"As always, I am pleased with the performance of our county and that reflects on our Board of Directors, our County Farm Bureau Manager, and all the membership and volunteers that work hard on these programs," said Whipple. "It was an honor to represent all of you during the annual meeting."

The specific programs that earned recognition in these areas were the Adopt an Acre program where an acre of corn and an acre of soybeans are adopted by the community and decisions made on the local radio station, the Congressional Staff Agriculture Tour which allowed congressional staff to visit area farms and agribusinesses, and the Call-A-Thon which sought to involve new members and increase policy

Temple elected to IFB Board

Brad Temple of Serena in LaSalle County, was elected to the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB®) Board of Directors at the organization's annual meeting in St.



Brad Temple

Louis on December 5. He was elected to a two-year term to represent District 4, which encompasses Bureau, Lee and LaSalle Counties. Temple is a Past President of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau, a member of the IFB Livestock & Dairy Grass Roots Issue Team (GRIT), and completed the IFB Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) program in 1996. He also went to China in 2009 as part of an IFB Market Study Tour.

Temple graduated from Joliet Junior College with a degree in Agricultural Production & Management in 1986.

Temple was also a DuPont Young Leader Award winner in 1996, and an IFB Discussion Meet winner that same year. Temple is also on the Administrative Board of the Serena United Methodist Church. He and his wife Kara have two children.

development ideas.

Outside of the awards ceremony, Illinois Farm Bureau delegates discussed many important issues, determining where they will stand on each for the coming year. The biggest items of discussion were Farm Bill 2012 negotiations, animal ID, and farmer imaging.

Regarding the Farm Bill 2012, the main discussion point was the need to cut the federal budget and that agriculture would have to determine what they were willing to give up.

"The four main points here were continuing direct payments, moving to an insurance based system, keeping the ACRE program, and keeping the SURE program. Many in the crowd want to see direct payments eliminated and that money moved into federal crop insurance, but in the end, we de-

Carnes, Passow honored

Receiving the membership recruitment award for the month of October was Brian Carnes, who signed five new members to the LaSalle County Farm Bureau roster during the month.

A total of 49 new members were added during the month ending October with a total membership of 6,698.

Rick Passow earns the top award for November signing four new members during the month. During November, 26



Brian Carnes

new members were signed up for the LaSalle County Farm Bureau ending the month with a total membership of 6,605.

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau wants to take this opportunity to congratulate not only Carnes and Passow who signed the most members during their respective months, but also all the COUNTRY agents who are adding to the mission of the Farm Bureau by showing the value of a Farm Bureau membership.

terminated to leave direct payments as a consideration and allow the discussion at AFBF to determine our position," said Whipple. "Farmer image was probably the other topic we spent a lot of time on. DeKalb County brought forward a resolution about hiring an independent group to look at ways to improve our image, but there was some concern over us not having any control over an independent group. We determined to continue with the joint research all the commodity groups are working on and see where we end up," he said.

A recurring topic, animal ID, was discussed as well with IFB policy remaining as it has in previous years. IFB supports premise ID at a state level and voluntary animal ID at a national level.



Rick Passow

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Mendota H.S. Ag students to research biodiesel

Students in the Mendota High School Ag Program will begin working with students from Whitney Young, a Chicago area magnet school, on a biodiesel research project. Part of the project includes creating biodiesel from cooking oil, which the ag program plans to use to fuel their tractor and gator.

Linnea Leonard, Britton Kaiser, Evan Peach, John Jenkins, Collin Eiten, and Sarah Doughty of Mendota, under the direction of Jeff Landers, Mendota High School Agriculture teacher, travelled to Whitney Young High School in Chicago to learn more about the program and the students on Sunday, December 19.

"I think our students are going to gain a more sound understanding of biodiesel, how it's made and how it impacts farmers, consumers, and agribusiness," said Landers. "The ultimate goal is for students to find things that they are interested in and passionate about so hopefully this will also spark some interest in renewable fuels and using agricultural products to meet that demand."

The project began as a science fair project for Ana Hernandez of Whitney Young High School and grew into a Biodiesel Club that has collaborated with the University of Illinois Chicago Engineering Department and is now reaching out to other schools.

The Whitney Young students also have plans to go to Argonne National Laboratory to do analysis of the composition of their biodiesel and numerous tests of the biodiesel to evaluate its specifications and performance.

Mendota High School students are eager to get started on such a forward thinking project. Interestingly enough, Landers is doing some forward thinking of his own.

"I think part of the value for our students will be that they will gain a perspective of the way of life of the students from Whitney Young," he said. "And then we plan to bring those students here so that they gain perspective on what we're doing. We're planning to take them to experience a farm to see where soybeans come from and show them agribusinesses in Mendota so that they have some awareness of agriculture."

Through this combination of science, agriculture, and good old-fashioned fellowship, Landers and the students of Mendota High School and Whitney Young will both be enriched. And even the community will see the benefit.

Landers hopes to see the students understanding renewable fuels and speaking out on their behalf in the community. "There's hesitation and a lack of understanding of fuels that are made from agricultural products and we'll hope to get some media coverage to show that it's positive!" he said.

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