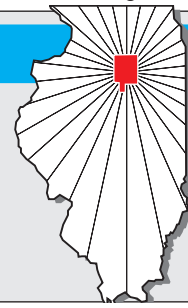


LaSalle County

# Agri-Source

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



July 2011

**Programs + Services + Benefits = Farm Bureau memberships**

## Kiner, Riskedal awarded LCFB Foundation scholarships

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, forty percent of the farmers in America are 55 years or older. As the "graying" of America's agricultural production continues, it brings concerns about who will continue our ag production legacy in the future.

With this in mind, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau wants to invest in our youth by

providing opportunities for students who are interested in agriculture to obtain their college education. LCFB does this by awarding \$1,000 scholarships to students that are attending accredited two or four year colleges, universities, or vocational-technical schools.

Scholarship winners must be Farm Bureau members, spouses of members, or chil-

dren of members, as well as being residents of Illinois.

This year, **Heather Kiner**, Mendota, and **Darren Riskedal**, Leland, received \$1,000 towards continuing their education at the university of their choice.

Kiner is the daughter of Vaughn and Sally Kiner with one year at Southern Illinois University under her belt. Majoring in Agribusiness Economics, Kiner expects her degree to help her become a livestock feeds saleswoman in the future. She is active in FFA, Sigma Alpha Sorority, Agribusiness Economics Club, and Ag Council.

She looks forward to a better understanding of livestock nutrition with her minor in Animal Science and hopes to help customers raise healthy and happy livestock in a profitable manner. Kiner also anticipates working on consumer concerns regarding quality of meat, environmental concerns about raising livestock, and educating farmers and consumers about livestock farming and feeding in general.

Riskedal is a recent gradu-



Darren Riskedal

ate of Leland High School who will attend the University of Illinois in the fall. As a student in the Technical Systems Management program, he will learn agricultural technology, agriculture management, and agricultural engineering that will help him both obtain a career in testing and improving agricultural equipment and return to the family farm.

The son of Brad and Joyce Riskedal, Darren has enjoyed agricultural pursuits his entire life. He has been involved in the FFA serving as the Somonauk-Leland-Sandwich FFA Chapter President, and raising and marketing Black Angus cattle. He says that he has "always enjoyed taking things apart, figuring out how they work, and putting them back together" and looks forward to helping farmers throughout the nation with a career in Technical Systems Management.

The LCFB Foundation congratulates Curtin, Kiner, and Schiffbauer on their award and wishes them much success in their future collegiate endeavors.

If you are interested in applying for the LCFB Foundation scholarship, please call the LCFB office at 815-433-0371 for application and deadline information.



Heather Kiner accepted her LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship check from President Monty Vaughn at the July 16 board meeting.

## Tradition is in style at the LaSalle County Junior Fair

The LaSalle County Junior Fair will continue its annual tradition on July 13-17 with the Big Hat Championship Rodeo, the Illini State Pullers Tractor Pull, and 4-H exhibits from county children in every interest and skill level.

According to Vaughn Kiner, now in his second year as LaSalle County Junior Fair Board Chairman, the schedule for 2011 returns back to historical tradition. Although the changes last year were well received, returning to the roots is always a positive thing.

"Last year we had to alter the fair schedule to accommodate the Illini State Pullers, but this year, that change wasn't necessary. We are back to our normal routine and I look forward to seeing all the LaSalle County fair-goers out and about enjoying the entertainment," said Kiner. "We are also excited to be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the tractor pull in LaSalle County!"

The Junior Fair is all about tradition this year, celebrating the accomplishments of local students and connecting LaSalle County citizens – just like the fair has done for many years. The milkshakes, homemade pies, and lemon shakes will be available too.

Area students will showcase their 4-H projects, exhibiting livestock like beef cattle, hogs, and even rabbits and chickens, but also showing off sewing, woodworking, and culinary talents among others.

"I hope everyone takes a minute to see what our youth have been up to over the past year," said Kiner. "It's so much fun to see children progress in their skill sets, interests, and talents from year to year and we really owe it to them to celebrate that growth."

For those interested, season passes are \$15 and include all evening events. Tickets for single evening events are \$10

per evening.

Kiner also thanks all the local businesses that continue to make the LaSalle County Junior Fair a success. As state funding dwindles, local contributions are assisting with the maintenance costs of the fairgrounds as well as helping to continue the precious traditions of the LaSalle County Junior Fair.

"On behalf of the LaSalle County Junior Fair Board, please consider coming out to the fair this summer to support your community and your youth. The LaSalle County Junior Fair is always a good time for local entertainment, for catching up with friends, and for supporting your community," he said.

For more information about the LaSalle County Junior Fair, contact the LaSalle County Farm Bureau at 815-433-0371 or the U of I Extension at 815-433-0707.

**JUNIOR FAIR schedule on page 3**

## Agritourism Tour: seats still available

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau's annual Marketing Committee trip still has seats available! This year's trip includes visits to the Fair Oaks Dairy Farm, the Albanese Gummi Factory and the Chicago Speedway.

The July 20 trip costs just \$85 per member and \$95 per non-member after July 8, which includes your box lunch from Fair Oaks Farms Café. You can register for the tour online at [www.lasallecfb.org](http://www.lasallecfb.org) or by calling Jeff at the LaSalle County Farm Bureau at 815-433-0371.

- 7:00 a.m. Depart LaSalle County Farm Bureau parking lot
- 9:00 – noon Tour Fair Oaks Dairy Farm  
Begin the Adventure! The Adventure consists of a 3D/4D movie, interactive area, four exhibit halls, Mrs. Cowhouns Cowculus Class, diva hall, the cheese and ice cream production plant, birthing barn, Mooville and a 45 minute tour into one of the largest working dairies in the U.S. There is also a gift shop and café on the farm. We will enjoy 30 minutes of shopping and cheese is available for purchase. This attraction will keep every participant well-fed and entertained!
- 12:00 p.m. Depart from Fair Oaks Dairy Farm and enjoy a boxed lunch from Fair Oaks Farms Café while traveling to our next stop, the Albanese Gummi Factory in Merrillville, Indiana.
- 1:00 p.m. Tour Albanese Gummi Factory  
Every year, people from all over the country come to learn about the process of making the "World's Best Gummies" and chocolates. This is the only candy company that offers a public tour for gummy manufacturing in the USA. A tour guide will give us an introduction to the company, explain the machinery used to create the gummies, and share compli-

**Agritourism Tour continued on page 4**

# From the President

By Monty Whipple  
President  
LaSalle County Farm Bureau

I apologize upfront for another article rehashing some of the issues I've written about before. But major economic concerns for this state and our country tend to consume me; like the state and federal budget problems. Both budgets are very similar except the federal government deals in trillions of dollars, not billions. The federal government pays its bills by borrowing money from foreign countries, or prints money. Illinois simply doesn't pay its bills.

For years we've had to deal with legislators simply kicking the can down the road and procrastinating on real debt solving solutions, but things seem to be changing. There have been attempts of late to deal with the huge

deficits. Illinois rammed through an income tax increase on individuals and businesses. They've made an effort in the last session to hold the line on spending; at least spend no more than expected revenues. However, that doesn't really reduce the huge debt balance.

The federal government has also made efforts to cut back on spending outlays. Items that affect farmers include the proposed reduction in farm program payments, the elimination of ethanol subsidies, and the reduction in conservation programs. Even though agriculture programs make up a miniscule portion of the federal budget, these

cuts can be seen as symbolic.

Last November, farmers along with a lot of other voters, sent many new faces to Washington. These new legislators pledged to get this country out of its budget Armageddon. The new senators and representatives talked of huge cuts in spending, lower taxes, and less government intrusion in people's lives. The big question coming up before Congress is the 14 plus trillion dollar debt ceiling. Democrats want to increase it to keep America from defaulting on its bills. Republicans want to hold the line and cut spending to keep us from going further into debt.

I think most of us realize the state of Illinois and the United States can't continue to operate mired in this much red ink. We don't want what is happening in Greece to mi-

grate to our shores. Furthermore, we won't be the world's super power without a strong balance sheet. And contrary to conventional wisdom, there just aren't enough rich people in this country to pull us out of our huge budget deficit no matter what we tax them. Deep spending cuts will need to be enacted.

So, my big question is "What are we all willing to give up to make this happen?" Remember, we're talking about trillions of dollars of debt. Bear in mind, all the entitlement programs are unsustainable. Pensions, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc., will all cost us more than what we are taking in.

The bottom line is we're all going to have to learn to get by without some of the government funds that we've become accustomed to receiving. Past experience tells me that few Americans will readily give up their favorite benefit program. All programs are important to somebody. Republicans and Democrats will argue forever about which programs are most important and untouchable. My suggestion has long been to cut everything 10% across the board. It takes the politics out of it, and every program can pare its budget by simply cutting waste. However, that's just a starting point for the real cuts.

As farmers, how close to the bone would you allow farm programs to be cut? Would you continue to follow

good conservation practices if the government didn't share your costs? How much government support for the ethanol and biofuel industry are you willing to do without?

Like me, I know many Americans follow the debate about economic issues. Sometimes though, between the discussions and arguments of the politicians and economists, I don't know which side to believe. For example:

1. Does cutting taxes from present levels help or hurt the national debt?
2. Do tax cuts create meaningful jobs?
3. Do taxes need to be raised on the rich? And who are the rich?
4. Is there a better, fairer way to raise revenue than the income tax?
5. How much would our country benefit from expanding oil and natural gas drilling in this country?
6. If we cut back on government regulations, can we trust businesses to do the right thing?
7. Does anyone trust the government to spend our money wisely?

These are just some thoughts to ponder. For the sake of our state, our country, and our future generations, I pray someone has the right answers. I also pray that someone can convince those in positions of authority to do the right thing!

Monty

## Durdan brings Illinois Ag front and center in Washington, D.C.

Federal issues like crop insurance, farm bill, and free trade agreements can have big impacts for LaSalle County farmers. In order to learn more about these and other federal programs, Justin Durdan of Streator represented LaSalle County Farm Bureau on the March 15-17 Leaders to Washington program hosted by the Illinois Farm Bureau.

The group met with several agency personnel, hoping to learn more about key federal issues. On the agenda were discussions with Dr. Harry Baumes, Director of the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses about food and fuel concerns; discussions with Bill Murphy, Administrator of the Risk Management Agency to discuss crop insurance issues; and discussions with Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture to discuss regulatory review.

"In almost every office, we ended up talking about budget issues," said Durdan. "We didn't bring it up, that's just what is on everyone's mind. And that's a thread that weaves through every other issue affecting Illinois farmers."

The other key component of the program was to introduce the Illinois Congressional Delegation to the Illinois farmers who had travelled to Washington, DC. Each farmer had the opportunity to meet with their Congressman, as well as a few others and both U.S. Senators. This opportunity was especially important for Durdan and LaSalle County as

a new, freshman Congressman Kinzinger is representing you in Washington.

According to Durdan, Kinzinger is at the Capitol working for the people. Durdan is encouraged that he wants to "shake things up" and is on the same page as the Farm Bureau for many issues.

"There are a couple of freshmen Congressmen that are simply living out of their offices because they are working through the night. That's a good thing for constituents to see," he said.

Durdan also commented that Illinois' new Senator, Mark Kirk, was especially grateful to meet his group of Illinois farmers and thanked them for getting him into of-

office. "He understands that Chicago didn't vote him in and he's grateful to us for helping him make change in Washington," Durdan said.

### Farm Bureau Priorities

Among the priorities discussed with the Illinois Congressional Delegation were the need for free trade agreements, concern over having NPDES permits required for pesticide applications, and a request for help dealing with the "for hire" truck regulations in crop share situations back in Illinois.

Regarding free trade agreements, the Colombia, Panama, and Korea Free Trade Agreements are hopefully on a posi-

Continued on page 3



Justin Durdan of Streator and Shawn Hoefft of Bloomington visited with Congressman Adam Kinzinger during the March 15-17 Leaders to Washington program sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau. On the agenda for their discussion with Congressman Kinzinger was the passage of the Panama, Korea, and Colombia Free Trade Agreements, the EPA's proposed rules to require permits for farmers to spray their fields, and the state "for hire" trucking regulations in tenant farming agreements.

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**Bruce Butchko**  
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Ottawa, IL 61350  
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**Mike Organ**  
306 W 7th Ave  
Mendota, IL 61342  
815-539-3441



**Rick Passow**  
175 W St Johnson Ave | PO Box 531  
Sheridan, IL 60551  
815-496-2258  
815-795-3500



**Joe Starkey**  
1124 E Main St  
Streator, IL 61364  
815-673-1508



**Perry May**  
219 Bucklin St  
LaSalle, IL 61201  
815-223-2100



**Kevin Berryman**  
603 E Etna Dr  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
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**Bill Bernardoni**  
216 N Main St | PO Box 87  
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**Ryan Skinner**  
160 N Main St  
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**Matt Leitch**  
809 21st St  
Peru, IL 60354  
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**Ryan Harvey**  
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**Jim Moehring**  
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815-224-4170

Steve Jameson  
Crop Specialist  
815-343-1430



# Illinois farm families' effort connects urban and rural moms

When asked about the biggest problems on the farm today, the answer usually stems back to one very important point. Non-farmers don't understand who you are, what you do and why you do it. Now, the Illinois Farm Bureau, along with the Illinois Beef Association, the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, the Illinois Pork Producers Association, and the Illinois Soybean Association, are reaching out to non-farmers to connect urban and rural traditions.

Illinois Farm Families, the name for the group effort to explain farmers to urban consumers, now has a website up and running ([www.watchus-grow.org](http://www.watchus-grow.org))

## Durdan

Continued from page 2

ive track. President Obama has already declared his intention to continue increasing U.S. exports and these free trade agreements are one important step in the right direction. An agreement with Colombia has been reached and now awaits Congressional approval; the Colombian Free Trade Agreement alone could mean immediate access to Colombia's market for 2.1 million metric tons (approx 82.7 million bushels) of corn at a zero percent duty!

"Trade means a lot to all of agriculture, but especially to Illinois farmers. Our position along the Illinois, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers means that we export a majority of our



grow.org) and is inviting urban moms to visit the farm for a true agricultural experience.

"We're offering Chicago-area Moms the opportunity to become Field moms – to visit our farms, get their questions answered and see firsthand how we grow food for our families and yours," said Donna Jeschke, Mazon.

Field moms will be equipped with video cameras and will be invited to record and share what they see and

learn. Their videos, stories, and photos will be available to everyone on [www.watchus-grow.org](http://www.watchus-grow.org).

Jeschke further explained, "We're committed to having conversations with consumers – answering their questions about food, farmers, and farming – and openly sharing what really happens on today's Illinois family farms."

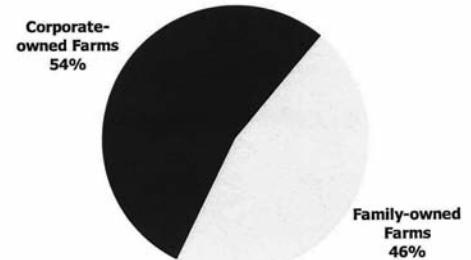
Do you know an urban mom that would enjoy the opportunity to visit the farm? Are you a farmer that would love to learn more about speaking with our urban cousins about who you are and what you do? Please contact the LaSalle County Farm Bu-

reau for more information on how you can get involved in this important effort to connect with urban consumers.

And don't forget to visit [www.watchusgrow.org](http://www.watchusgrow.org) where farm bloggers will talk about

themselves, their farms, and their families in an effort to make the connections and help people understand who you are, what you do, and why you do it.

### This Negative Image of Corporate-Owned Farms Is Important to Address Because People in Illinois Estimate that Fewer Than Half are Family-Owned



crops and opening the doors to more trade opportunities means more markets for Illinois commodities," said Durdan.

Another priority for the group, requiring farmers to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to apply crop protection products already regulated under FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act). This rulemaking by the US EPA would effectively regulation pesticide applications twice. Legislation to prevent the double regulation has been passed in the House since the group's visit to Washington, DC and awaits action by the Senate.

Finally, the group discussed the state regulation change that would require farmers in a crop share situation to be regulated as "for hire" truckers when hauling their tenant's grain to market. According to Durdan, the Illinois farmers asked their Congressmen to write letters to Illinois legislators, addressing the situation.

"I hear that we have identified several new partners to work on this issue within the state since our visit to Washington, DC," said Durdan.

"It is so important for Illinois farmers to travel to Washington. Twenty phone calls into a Congressman's office will get an issue into their 'queue' and force them to look into it and address it. If you actually meet with the Congressmen or a member of their staff, you are getting your issues front and center in their mind. I hope other Illinois farmers understand how important it is to stay active and in touch with their elected officials."

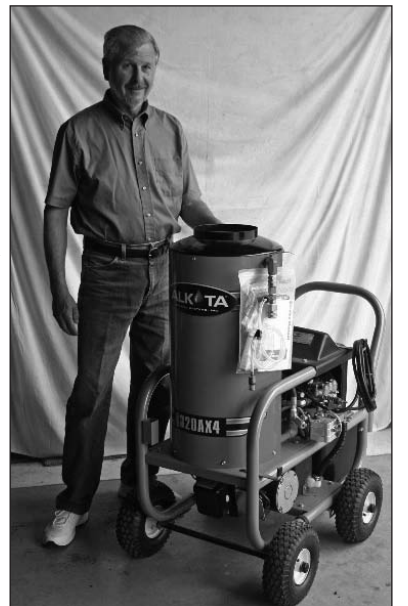
## Membership has perks

Not only does your Farm Bureau membership give you a voice in legislative and regulatory affairs, but it also works for you right at home!

Please make note of this local business that offers valuable savings to Farm Bureau members:

**CleanAll- Merlin Nodland**  
3640 N IL 23  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-792-8402

- In business since 2008
- Slogan: Work clean, work safe
- CleanAll specializes in ALKOTA Pressure Washers, their accessories, and cleaning supplies and repairs of most pressure washers.
- ALKOTA Pressure Washers are American made & owned.
- Discount to FB members: \$250 free accessories with the purchase of a new unit
- Did you know ALKOTA Pressure Washers last for years; and the more you use them the longer they last!
- Townships and school districts can get special discounts on ALKOTA Pressure Washers. Contact CleanAll for more information!



# Want some more Space?

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1<sup>st</sup> Farm Credit Services is an equal opportunity provider.

We also offer: Agricultural Real Estate Financing, Risk Management Products, Leasing, Agricultural Appraisals, Rural Consumer Loans and more.

## LaSalle County Junior Fair schedule

### Thursday, July 14

8 a.m. – General 4-H project check in  
10 a.m. – Clothing check in and judging  
noon – 4 p.m. – Livestock accepted  
1:30 p.m. – Speak out for 4-H contest, show barn  
2 p.m. – Cake Decorating  
3 p.m. – Cat Show, Exhibit Hall I  
3 p.m. – Style Review, Homemakers Stand  
4:30 p.m. – Dog Show, Show Barn  
6-8 p.m. – Weighing in Market Lambs and Beef  
4 p.m. – All Livestock must be on 4-H grounds

6:45 p.m. – Cloverbud Parade, Grandstands  
7 p.m. – Illini State Pullers Truck Pull

### Friday, July 15

8 a.m. – Swine Judging, Show Barn  
8 a.m. – Dairy Judging, Show Barn  
8:30 a.m. – Horse Show, Horse Arena  
9 a.m. – Poultry Judging  
10 a.m. – Sheep Show  
7 p.m. – Illini State Pullers Tractor Pull

### Saturday, July 16

8:30 a.m. – Rabbit Judging, Rabbit Barn

9 a.m. – Beef Showmanship Contest, Show Barn  
10 a.m. – Purebred & Market Beef Judging  
5 p.m. – Federation Auction, Show Barn  
7 p.m. – Demolition Derby

### Sunday, July 17

9 a.m. – Horse Show, Horse Arena  
10 a.m. – Goat Show, Show Barn  
1:30 p.m. – ADM Master Showman, Show Barn  
4 p.m. – Parade of Excellence, Show Barn  
5 p.m. – All Exhibits Released

## Enjoy the ride with theme park discount tickets

Do you ever feel like your life is a roller coaster... jammed-full of ups and downs? Sometimes all you can do is hang on and enjoy the ride. And, if you're an Illinois Farm Bureau member... save some money along the way!

This summer you can take advantage of special savings on theme park tickets to eight popular attractions sure to fit your travel schedule. With savings on each ticket, you can take the whole family and save even more!

Special ticket savings are available for Six Flags St. Louis, Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL; Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri;

King's Island in Cincinnati, Ohio; Raging Rivers in Grafton, Illinois; Holiday World & Splashin' Safari in Santa Claus, Indiana; Adventureland in Des Moines, Iowa; and Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio.

Each park offers unique attractions, rides, shows and specials. There's something for everyone in your group - from the timid to the most adventurous. For ticket prices and more information, contact LaSalle County Farm Bureau at 4201 North Columbus, Ottawa, IL 61350, 815-433-0371.

So go ahead... hop on and enjoy the ride... and the extra change in your pocket! (Be

sure not to lose it on the roller coaster.)

### IFB adds rebate benefit to CASE IH partnership

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB®) members now have even more opportunities to save when purchasing from Case IH.

That's because IFB and Case IH have expanded their rebate partnership program for 2011 to include the Case IH Scout utility vehicle. Members will be able to redeem a \$300 rebate on the Scout, in addition to the existing \$500 rebates on 55-105 HP Farmall Utility Tractors and 110-139 HP Maxxum Series Tractors, and the \$300 rebate on 31-60 HP Farmall A and Compact Tractors.

Farm Bureau and Case IH have partnered since 2006 to offer discounts to members.

"We're excited about adding the Case IH Scout to our discount program," said Illinois Farm Bureau Membership Director Melissa Rhode.

Members can get a rebate form from their local county Farm Bureau office, or they can download it from the IFB website at <http://www.ilfb.org/member/caseih.html>

## Agritourism Tour

Continued from page 1

mentary gummies and chocolates with us. Of course, there will be some time for you to purchase "treats" before we depart!

3:00 p.m. Tour Chicagoland Speedway and its sister track, Route 66 Raceway Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet is a \$130 million, 1.5 mile D-shaped, tri-oval speedway that annually hosts the NASCAR SprintCup Series, NASCAR Nationwide Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, ARCA RE/MAX Series, Firestone Indy Lights and Indy Car Series. Chicagoland Speedway sits on 930 acres of land which is large enough to accommodate 42 United Centers. Our tour guide will show us the Pit Road and the infield which is equivalent to four Soldier Fields and then on to Route 66 Raceway.

5:00 p.m. Depart for home.

### Ford benefit for FB members

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has partnered with Ford Motor Company to offer IFB members \$500 bonus cash to be put toward the purchase or lease of any new eligible Ford or Lincoln vehicles.

"We're excited to offer members another opportunity to save," said Melissa Rhode, IFB Membership & Program Director. With the Ford bonus cash offer, Illinois Farm Bureau members can enjoy savings on an eligible vehicle of their choice from Ford's exciting new lineup of hard-working and technologically advanced cars and trucks, including the Ford F-150 which boasts impressive power, fuel efficiency and best-in-class trailer towing capacity.

The Ford bonus cash offer is good on the purchase or lease of any eligible 2010, 2011 or 2012 model year Ford or Lincoln vehicle. (The Mustang

Shelby GT/GT500, Edge SE AWD, F-150 Raptor and Taurus SE are excluded.)

"As an organization committed to locally-grown energy, such as ethanol, we're also thrilled to start a new relationship with the Ford Motor Company," added Rhode. "In 1925, Henry Ford called ethyl alcohol the 'fuel of the future'."

To take advantage of the savings, you must be an IFB member at least 60 days before the vehicle purchase or lease. Then, simply show your Illinois Farm Bureau membership card and Ford bonus cash certificate to your local dealer. You can get a certificate online at [www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/il](http://www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/il) or with your dealer's help. For complete details about this offer, contact your county Farm Bureau or visit [www.ilfb.org/member](http://www.ilfb.org/member)

## Top recruitment honors to Carnes, Starkey, May

Without the support and input of membership, a membership organization means nothing. The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Membership Committee awards the COUNTRY agents that monthly increase our membership with the Top Recruitment Award.

Brian Carnes receives the Top Recruitment award for April 2011, signing a total of five new members. County wide, 39 new association members joined the Farm Bureau and two new "M" members signed on. April ended with a total membership for LaSalle County of 6,420 members.



Brian Carnes

In May 2011, Joe Starkey and Perry May tied for the top recruitment, each signing a total of four new members for the



Joe Starkey



Perry May

Farm Bureau. The month ended with LaSalle County Farm Bureau having a total of 6,465 members, of which 25 were new associate members and four were new "M" members.

Congratulations to Carnes, Starkey, and May!

### La Salle County Stockman's Association Presents an Evening of "Commodity Week"

"WILL 580 AM" COMMODITY OUTLOOK PANEL

Featuring

DAVE DICKEY - Farm Director, WILL 580 AM  
PAUL COOLEY - ADM Investor Services, Oakland, IL  
JACQUIE VOEKS - Stewart Peterson Group, Champaign  
MIKE ZUZOLO, Global Commodity Analytics, Lafayette, IN  
BILL MAYER- Strategic Farm Marketing, Champaign

Wednesday, July 20

6 p.m. Refreshments / 6:30 Outlook Panel

Knights of Columbus Hall

806 Oakley Ave., Streator, IL

NO CHARGE-ALL ARE WELCOME

Contact Fred Baker for more information:

z815-672-3491



The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Plot has not been without its trials this year, pun intended. Joe Schmidt, who is farming the plot, says that rain has been a problem for the plot just like the farm ground in the rest of the surrounding area. Twelve inches of rain later, Schmidt indicates that he's pleased with how far along the crops are and thinks things look well, even if there are some signs of stress. Schmidt is looking forward to the results from the strip tilled portion of the plot. "I've been strip tilling for a few years now and I know some other farmers around here are considering it. It is a viable option and I hope we get some data from the plot so that people around here can justify doing it," Schmidt said. With 18 different corn companies in the plot and 12 different soybean companies, Schmidt hopes to have good data for LaSalle County farmers despite the rain delays and stress.