

LaSalle County

# Agri-Source

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



March 2011

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

## Information meeting focused on municipal sludge application

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has heard from their membership that the application of municipal sludge on county fields is a concern. On January 18, the Board hosted an informational

meeting, not just for membership but for any interested parties within the county, to provide a baseline from which to address the issue.

Representatives from the Illinois Environmental Protec-

tion Agency, the Illinois Emergency Management Service, the Illinois Farm Bureau, and the LaSalle County Farm Bureau were present to provide an overview of the issue.

"This first meeting wasn't to solve all of the problems, but to introduce the problems and introduce the people who might be behind the solutions," said Monty Whipple, President of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau. "The idea of the meeting was to get information out."

According to Whipple, the key issues of concern for county residents are mismanagement of soil, destruction of township roads, and increasing cash rent rates.

Experts who presented information at the meeting relayed that at this time, sludge application is being conducted fully in accordance with all

regulations and oversight.

"The soils are being monitored and so far, the tests aren't indicating any cause for concern. And since we've had wet springs the last two years, the sludge has just created a sloppy mess that could be rectified if the weather conditions in the future are different," Whipple said.

The other concerns, that the roads are being torn up from heavy trucks transporting sludge and that cash rents are being inflated, will be harder to address, he said. Farm Bureau has tried to step into the middle of this situation, not because anything is being done wrong, but because what is happening is definitely not in the best interest of LaSalle

County farmers.

"We are trying to be an intermediary between the concerned citizens and the group that is applying it. I know we won't fix the problems 100 percent, but we have to find a way that we can all live together," he said.

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Board of Directors will continue to discuss the application of municipal sludge with all interested parties, to determine if there is a resolution that will alleviate some of the concerns. Whipple indicated that discussions with the company applying the sludge may at least make them more aware of local concerns and help them to be better neighbors.



In order to help address member concerns about the application of municipal sludge on local fields, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau hosted an informational meeting, complete with a panel to present information about the issue. Pictured left to right are panelists from the discussion: Nancy Ericson, Illinois Farm Bureau; Mike Klebee, Illinois Emergency Management Agency; Jeff Hutton, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Greg Firrantello, Stewart Spreading and Monty Whipple, LaSalle County Farm Bureau.

## Call A Thon to gauge perspective of Farm Bureau membership

In order to gain insight and ideas from their membership, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Board of Directors will host a Call A Thon on March 15.

The Call A Thon is an opportunity for LaSalle County Farm Bureau Directors to reach out to membership by calling them and asking for their input on key Farm Bureau issues. Calls will begin at 7 p.m.

"This event was very successful last year. I think we engaged some new members and we received all sorts of feedback," said Viewpoint Committee Chairman Bob Beutke.

One common thread last year was that members weren't prepared to answer all the

questions at the time of their call. This year, some directors may call members ahead of time to remind them to be thinking about ideas and input for coming years.

"Most of our calls will still be cold calls, but we've told the Directors that if they want to call and warn their membership that we might be calling, to feel free. Last year we had a fair amount of folks calling a week later because after they'd thought about it, they had more ideas. That's fine too!" said Beutke.

President Monty Whipple said that this event helps get some raw perspective of the FB membership. If you are not called on March 15, Whipple invites you to call your Director or the LaSalle County Farm Bureau office at any time to share your ideas and input.

Members of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau will receive a copy of the Illinois Farm Bureau policies on March 7. Investigating the policy book could help prompt ideas or areas of concern to discuss during the Call A Thon; members are encouraged to review the book when it arrives.

"We need new, fresh ideas and new energy. That's what keeps an organization going!" said Beutke.

## LaSalle County FB seed plot grows in its second year

Now in its second year, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Seed Plot promises more data to help more farmers with their planting decisions.

After a successful 2010 seed plot and plot day, the LCFB Marketing Committee decided to expand the new seed plot, adding soybean rows and more varieties to the mix. This year, 18 different companies will be allowed two corn varieties and two soybean varieties. Varieties will be a mixture of early and late maturing plants.

"We're really just trying to

provide some meaningful data for the farmers and members in LaSalle County," said Marketing Committee Chairman David Myer. "It's good to have a plot in this county that can hopefully offer unbiased results from all the various seed companies."

The LaSalle County plot is different because each variety is planted over ½ acre. The Marketing Committee hopes this will take into account any variability in the soils and provide even more reliable data.

A second annual plot day

is currently being scheduled for September.

"We were pleased when we did our plot night last year. It was hard to schedule because we had an early harvest and the timing was off a bit, but it worked well and we were happy to provide our membership with an opportunity to hear from a marketing specialist about marketing opportunities," Myer said.

"Of course, we hope to have a bigger event with more membership present this year," he said.

## Spill prevention regulation informational meeting March 23

In November 2011, the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) guidelines will come into effect and make have a bearing on your farm and the way that you store and use oil.

If these new regulations come as a surprise to you, you may want to attend the informational meeting being held by GRAINCO FS and the LaSalle County Farm Bureau on March 23 at 10 am at the LaSalle County Farm Bureau.

Randy Tomic, a GROWMARK Environmental Services specialist, will explain to farmers the new SPCC Program, how to determine if your farm is covered by SPCC, and how to comply.

"This is going to be a very informational meeting for all those that attend," said Jim Schneider, GRAINCO FS. "We need to be updated on where we need to be before November 2011."

The goal of the SPCC program is to prevent oil spills into waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines. SPCC applies to a farm that stores, transfers, uses or consumes oil or oil products and stores more than 1,320 gallons in above-ground containers or more than 42,000 gallons in completely buried containers.

If your farm is covered by SPCC, you must prepare and implement an SPCC Plan.

According to Schneider, when determining if your farm is covered under SPCC, you might remember to count only containers of oil that have a storage capacity of 55 gallons and above. Also remember that containers on different sections of land do not need to be added together to determine whether the 1,320 gallon threshold is met.

Additional questions and pointers will be addressed at the informational meeting. Please call the LaSalle County Farm Bureau at 815-433-0371 for more information.

# From the President

By Monty Whipple  
President  
LaSalle County Farm Bureau

To coin a phrase from a classic Charles Dickens' novel, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." This famous quote best sums up my thoughts on the state of today's world.

Recent outstanding commodity prices on top of increased trend yields means the best of times for many of us in Agriculture. Net farm income for 2011 is forecast to be up 15.7 billion dollars, an increase of almost 20%. The largest gains will be made by corn, soybean, wheat, and cotton farmers. Likewise, the value of a farm's net worth is estimated to rise 6.8% this year, and farm debt to equity ratios should decline from 13% in 2010 to 12% in 2011.

The future looks bright for American Agriculture. Demand for all crops and commodities, including livestock, is strong. Various developing nations, especially China and India, are looking to buy better quality food in larger quantities. In essence, Americans are buying so many goods from these foreign countries that we are helping to raise the standard of living for them. A better standard of living among the world's developing nations leads them to buy from the American farmer what they need most but cannot produce for themselves – food!

If prospects for American Agriculture look bright, then why am I still troubled? Well, just look around the world. Political, social, economic, and religious unrest is spreading in

areas of the Middle East and northern Africa like wildfire. The U.S. is already involved in two wars in that region. Can we avoid another if Israel comes under attack?



Monty Whipple

History tells us these nations have always been at conflict with each other, but in today's global world, countries are more dependent upon each other for trade, especially for food and fuel. Further, unstable nations are playing with bigger weapons than ever before, and the propensity for world annihilation exists more so now than ever before.

Then there is Europe where I see many countries close to bankruptcy. Who has the money to jump start those faltering economies? It seems very strange to be asking Russia and China to help us control some of this turmoil. Personally, I do not trust the Russians at all, and China owns so much of America, they can dictate to us on their terms.

Also too close for my comfort is the savagery that takes place every day along our southwestern border where whole Mexican towns and regions are owned by drug lords. Who or what will stop that violence from infiltrating into this country? Who ever would have thought that Acapulco, once a favorite American tourist retreat, would see cab drivers beheaded in the streets?

It's no picnic right here in the U. S. either. Although no blood has been shed so far,

political and economic unrest stalk American Main Street today. Our national debt is astronomical. States are broke. Budget battles are being fought.

The Governors of New Jersey and Wisconsin are leading a charge to control debt and balance the budgets in their states. Ohio and Indiana have joined the effort, and who knows how many other states will be in the news for stringent cuts by the time you read this?

The U. S. House of Representatives, now under Republican control and supported by the Tea Party movement, is making a valiant effort to get our national deficit under control. It's going to get ugly in the trenches. Some favorite programs, benefits, subsidies, tax breaks and earmarks are going to get cut. Can we count on our elected officials to separate the wheat from the chaff and keep in place programs that will strengthen our economy instead of adding to our national debt?

Food prices are going up and with those increases the food vs. fuel ethanol debate will heat up. There will undoubtedly be a demand to enact programs that will lower the cost of food. Are you prepared to defend Agriculture's positions on these issues?

I challenge you to be aware of world events and knowledgeable of what is going on in this country and around the globe. The year 2011 may not turn out to be the best of times or the worst of times, but it definitely will be an interesting time!

Monty

## LaSalle County Junior Fair officers elected

On January 17, the 2011 officers for the LaSalle County Junior Fair Board were elected to manage the operations of the Junior Fair for its summer 2011 show. Vaughn Kiner or Mendota remains President with Brad Angus of Ottawa serving as his Vice President. Chuck Walter of Marseilles and Mary Jane Spinazola of Earlville will serve as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The LaSalle County Junior Fair officers will present the LaSalle County Junior Fair on July 13-18 for the citizens of LaSalle County.

## Grainco FS Supply offers crop inputs financing

Again, in 2011 GRAINCO FS will be offering several programs to assist producers with financing needs for their 2011 crop inputs. Several attractive low interest rate programs are available for seed products, with Convenient Credit options available for other crop inputs including fuel and lubricants.

Producers, who are interested in Convenient Credit opportunities as a management tool for their business, should contact their GRAINCO FS sales professional for more in-

formation. The application process is simple; let us show you how we can save you time and money. Let us help you save money, while offering peace-of-mind to your farming operation in 2011.

Want to pay your FS bill once per year? With our Convenient Credit Program, customers can name their own payment-date, while receiving all applicable discounts. We can help you do just that and more with our Convenient Credit program.

## Farm Bureau scholarship deadlines approaching

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau are interested in making an investment in their future. Students that will return to agricultural fields or improve the quality of rural life both have opportunities for scholarship monies through the associations.

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation offers two \$1,000 scholarships each year to both a high school senior planning to further his/her study in agriculture and to a college student currently enrolled in an ag related field of study. The application deadline for LCFB Foundation scholarships is March 25.

In addition to being enrolled in an agricultural major or planning to complete an agricultural course load, the student must also be a member of the LCFB, a spouse of a member, or a member's child.

Investment in the agricultural industry is a key component to the mission of the LCFB and investment in future agricultural professionals accomplishes this goal in a very tangible way. Candidates must demonstrate an interest in agriculture and agribusiness, financial need, and evidence of self-help, in addition to personality traits that encourage success such as motivation, maturity, and leadership.

More information on these scholarship opportunities as

well as application materials are available on the LaSalle County Farm Bureau website at [www.lasallecfb.org](http://www.lasallecfb.org) or by calling the LCFB office at 815-433-0371.

Applications are also now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be five scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its nineteenth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on IFB's website on the Internet ([www.ilfb.org](http://www.ilfb.org)), or by writing Mariah Dale-Anderson, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Mariah Dale-Anderson at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at [mdale-anderson@ilfb.org](mailto:mdale-anderson@ilfb.org)

Helping you achieve financial security  
*no matter where you're starting from*



**Bruce Butenko**  
1019 N LaSalle St  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-433-1440



**Mike Organ**  
305 W 7th Ave  
Mendota, IL 61342  
815-639-3441



**Rick Passow**  
175 W St. Johnson Ave | PO Box 531  
Sheridan, IL 60951  
815-496-2268  
815-796-3500



**Joe Starkey**  
1124 E Main St  
Sycamore, IL 61354  
815-673-1608



**Perry May**  
219 E Oak St  
LaSalle, IL 61351  
815-223-2100



**Kevin Dennyman**  
603 E Elm Dr  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-433-9014



**Bill Bernardoni**  
216 N Main St | PO Box 87  
Sycamore, IL 61350  
815-567-6942



**Tim Ulrich**  
1124 E Main St  
Sycamore, IL 61354  
815-673-1608



**Brian Carnes**  
1019 N LaSalle St  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-433-1440



**Ryan Skinner**  
101 N Main St  
LaSalle, IL 61351  
815-496-9396



**Matt Leitch**  
809 21st St  
Peoria, IL 61654  
815-224-1736



**Kirsten Burgh**  
603 E Elm Dr  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-433-9014



**Ryan Wenzel**  
305 W 7th Ave  
Mendota, IL 61342  
815-639-3441



**Jim Moehring**  
Agency Manager  
809 21st St  
Peoria, IL 61654  
815-224-4170

**Steve Jameson**  
Crop Specialist  
815-343-1430



# Ag in the Classroom helps makes agriculture relevant

Educating our children is more important than ever as fewer and fewer consumers have any connection with their agricultural heritage. Even students who have grown up surrounded by fields of corn and agribusiness are often clueless about LaSalle County's agricultural pursuits.

This mission to reach LaSalle County fourth graders with meaningful ag experiences is one that LaSalle County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Ron Burdon takes very seriously.

"People would be surprised if they knew how many topics we cover in the program with the students," he said. "There are a large variety of things that have to do with agriculture that the average person wouldn't even think about themselves."

The core of the program

hasn't actually changed that much over the years according to Burdon. If teacher requests for presentations are any indication, the lessons are a great success. Burdon even indicated that the LaSalle County AITC program added a few schools this year due to the popularity of the program, bringing the total schools Burdon serves to 24.

Each fourth grade in each of the 24 schools receives five lessons in agriculture ranging from corn and soybeans to eggs and dairy. Burdon indicates that the reason for the success and popularity of the program is that he is making ag education relevant to the students.

"The poultry lesson focuses on eggs and all of the kids are familiar with eggs, but there is still a lot they can learn about egg production, nourishment, and why we eat eggs.

The dairy lesson is a huge hit because all kids love ice cream," he said. "And I focus on teaching everything at a fourth grade level. They still get a lot of information, but I make it significant for fourth graders and that's what they like."

This concept of making ag education relevant to consumers is one that farmers should take to heart. Research shows that most consumers believe that a majority of farms are corporate owned; and corporate owned is defined by the owner not living or working on the land and making decisions from a city office, not a tax status. Changing the discussion to one about family farmers and focusing on rural families is a concept that urban consumers can relate to.

By finding common ground with someone that

doesn't understand agriculture and using that to launch into an answer to their question, you leave them with a feeling that farmers and non-farmers are all working together towards a common goal: feeding

American families.

"I think what we do with the students is pretty significant," said Burdon. "We're giving them a taste of how involved agriculture really is to their everyday lives."



Pictured above is LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation AITC Coordinator Ron Burdon, assisting 4th grade students with their ice cream project. Ron reaches over 1000 4th grade students in the county every year.

## Adopt an Acre radio program begins 2011 year in March

In a partnership with WCMY Radio, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau will once again grow an acre of corn and an acre of soybeans for the Adopt an Acre program.

Bob Beutke, the farmer who profiles every farming and marketing decision for the two acres, looks forward to a new year.

"When we summarized last year, I explained that I've farmed for 27 years and last

year was the best year I've ever had," said Beutke. "I think this year, we're going to learn how each year is completely different in production agriculture."



Bob Beutke

For 2010, the Adopt an Acre corn yielded 195.87 bushels per acre and sold out of

the field for \$4,315. The soybeans yielded 53 bushels per acre and were sold on contract for December at \$11.235. The total donation to the Ottawa Food Pantry for the profits from the two acres was \$334.85.

"Looking back at last year, we could have done a better job marketing our crop. But overall, we were happy with what we did. And if we can top the 2010 numbers in 2011, that would be just super," Beutke said.

In reality, Beutke looks forward to beginning the radio show in mid to late March and showing listeners throughout the year that every year in production agriculture is a gamble. 2010 was a good year as weather and other uncontrollables like insect pressures and price were in the farm's favor. Who knows what 2011 will hold?

According to Beutke, this program continues to be an excellent learning opportunity for the listeners in LaSalle County. Non-ag listeners continually reach out to Beutke to tell him that they appreciate the show and have learned a lot about what it really means to be a farmer.

"That's what we're hoping for! A positive learning experience that's fun and enjoyable, but realistic at the same time. If a few non-farm folks listen to our show and end up with some appreciation for what the farmers are doing to grow food out here in the country, we've accomplished something," he said.

### Tips from Tom

## Gearing up for spring turf maintenance

By Thomas Edgcomb, Certified Turf Specialist

It has been a long time since September. The weather was warmer, the trees were showing their fall colors, and football games were just starting. But, the crabgrass in your yard was staying wet, was hard to cut and just beginning to go dormant and turn brown. I am afraid that we have clear memories of everything but the last statement.

Crabgrass went away in October and most of us just forget about it. All I hear about in the spring and summer is that dang water grass. But when it turns dormant and brown we lose that concern. In the spring on we go, with life as usual. WRONG, after last year, with all the crabgrass pressure and problems we had, you had better apply a pre-emergent crabgrass control. Each crabgrass plant can produce 80 - 90,000 seeds per plant. In just a very short time of no control, the crabgrass will choke out your lawn completely.

In some cases, I am recommending 2 applications of a pre-emergent with the second application made 1 month after the first. This should be done

if in the prior years there has not been a regular application of a pre-emergent. Last year with the wet weather early, followed by very hot weather, I think every seed that was in the ground grew, all while the grass was thinned and weakened by the hot dry weather. Double applications should start at the end of March or April 1st. The single application should be delayed to around the middle of April, or before the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees for three days in a row.

Crabgrass will germinate first in areas that the soil warms first, such as along sidewalks and driveways or on south facing slopes. The product of choice would be Dimension on fertilizer. The Dimension is able to last all season long, and also has the ability to kill young newly emerged crabgrass 1/2 inch tall or less. These products need to be watered in before 5 days after application to be the most effective. So if you apply it and it does not rain, there could be reduced control. There are a number of fertilizer blends to choose from to cover all your turf needs.

Call me in Serena or contact one of our other plants to order the one that best fits your personal needs. Don't forget about the problems last fall just because you can't see them this spring.



Tom Edgcomb

# Want some more Space?

Here at 1<sup>st</sup> Farm Credit Services we can help you get it!

- We have developed the largest variety of facility loan and lease options.
- Each option is tailored to custom fit the specific needs of your operation.
  - Your financial professionals will help you choose the right product for your farm.



**1<sup>st</sup> Farm Credit Services**  
AT THE HEART OF A GROWING AMERICA

3184 N. State Route 23 • Ottawa, IL 61350

(815) 433-2130 • www.1stfarmcredit.com

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

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

# Young Leaders Committee donates pounds of food to hungry

Farmers are just as concerned about the economy and high prices as you are. That's exactly why the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Committee has taken a need within the community and turned it into a fun and competitive yearly event.

"Our annual Food Drive was held on February 21 – 25. During that week, we challenged all the GRAIN-

CO FS locations to gather as much non-perishable food as they could. The location with the heaviest food, wins a pizza party hosted by the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Committee," said Bill McDonnell, Chairman of the committee.

The 2011 winner was the Ransom GRAINCO FS plant whose employees collected 900 pounds of food.

"This is the 3rd year

we've held a food drive, and every year, we are surprised at the amount of food we donate to the Ottawa Food Pantry. Farmers and agricultural leaders are the foundation of the rural economy and we want to be the foundation of the rural communities as well," said McDonnell.

"This is what farmers do. We give to our neighbors and help each other out. The Young Leaders Committee looks forward to the event every year and we appreciate knowing that we've coordinated an activity that is fun and rewarding for so many farmers and agribusiness leaders and that is meeting a community need," he said.

Thank you to the following GRAINCO FS locations for their participation in this year's food drive: Lostant, Mazon, Mendota, Minooka, Newark – Agronomy Office, Newark – Kentland Elevator, Ottawa, Ransom, Serena, Streator, Yorkville.



**Bill McDonnell, left, and Vice Chairman Justin Durdan loaded the donated food from the Ransom GRAINCO FS plant on to a waiting pick-up truck to be delivered to the local food pantry. The drive netted 1,500 pounds of food for the pantry.**

## Plan now for nitrogen and fungicide applications for wheat

By Doug Bentson, Certified Crop Specialist

Now is the perfect time to be planning for nitrogen applications on wheat. As fertilizer prices look to stabilize, farmers can be making plans for an all important application of nitrogen for their wheat crop.

Timely application of nitrogen to wheat can minimize crop stress and compaction, and maximize yield. Also, plans can be made to apply fungicide treatments for wheat, prior to spring.

Over the past several growing seasons, more and more farmers have utilized

fungicide treatments to improve plant health and maximize yield for their wheat. As a grass plant, wheat can greatly benefit from fungicide treatments made during the growing season. Because, many of our farmers are busy planting other crops and the timing of these applications is critical, it will be important to make your plans for fungicide treatment early.

Call your GRAINCO FS Crop Specialist for more information and to book your treatments today. Remember, today's planning will boost your yields at harvest time.

## Skinner, Passow honored

Receiving the membership recruitment award for the month of December 2010 was Ryan Skinner, who signed five new members to the LaSalle County Farm Bureau roster during the month. A total of 43 new members were added during the month ending the year with a total membership of 6,001.

Rick Passow earns the top award for January 2011 signing eight new members during the month. During January, 58 new members were signed up for the LaSalle



**Ryan Skinner**



**Rick Passow**

County Farm Bureau ending the month with a total membership of 6,130.

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau wants to take this opportunity to congratulate not only Skinner 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.

## Membership means discounts during National Ag Week

The benefits of being a member of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau have never been better than they will be during National Agriculture Week.

As the community celebrates National Agriculture Week, March 13-19, LaSalle County Farm Bureau members are asked to thank businesses offering a special discount or promotion in honor of National Agriculture Week:

Wendy Sanders-Maubach, O.D., P.C.  
645 First St.  
LaSalle, IL 61301  
(815) 223-0331  
**Discount: 50% off sunwear**

ZB Supply Co.  
725 Fulton St.  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
(815) 434-5010  
**Discount: 20% off a case (4 gallons) of 671 Concentrated Degreaser; 30% off 120 count Shop Towel Wipes**

Frank's Lock and Safe Service  
510 W. Madison Street  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
**Discount: \$5 off service call**

Woody's Steakhouse  
1321 N. LaSalle Street  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
(815) 433-2420  
**Discount: Free appetizer with the purchase of 2 entrees**

## Hunger in Illinois

The recent economic downturn has had a devastating impact in Illinois.

- Unemployment is 11% statewide (1)
  - 1,532,238 people, including 500,000 children, now live in poverty in Illinois – 12.2% of the total population (2)
- Because hunger is a symptom of poverty, the demand for emergency and government nutrition programs has exploded.
- Feeding Illinois has seen a 50% increase in requests for emergency food assistance over the past two years.
  - 1,607,496 individuals and 756,341 Illinois households participated in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) in February 2010, formerly known as the food stamp program. This is a 14% increase in the number of households participating from the previous year. (3)
  - According to the USDA, 11.1% of Illinois households face food insecurity. (4)
  - Over 1,991,026 Illinois children are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program and are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch during the 2009-10 school year. (5)

(1) Based on April 2010 data provided by the IL Dept. of Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics available on-line at <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/laus/lausmenu.htm>

(2) U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, calculations conducted by the Social Impact Research Center at Heartland Alliance.

(3) USDA. FNS Program Data. Available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/data.htm>.

(4) USDA. Mark Nord, M. Andrews, S. Carlson. Household Food Security in the United States, 2008.

(5) Illinois State Board of Education, FY10 at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/eligibility\\_listings.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/eligibility_listings.htm)

Floor to Ceiling  
1230 Columbus Street  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
(815) 434-3165

**Discount: 10% off retail purchase**

Tastefully Simple  
Nikki Blocker, consultant  
815-495-3007

**Discount: Free Bountiful Beer Bread with any \$10 purchase**

Frank's Lock and Safe Service  
510 West Madison  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-433-4500

**Discount: 5% off any service call.**

*Green Yard™ turf seed — the choice of landscapers and home owners everywhere.*

*There's nothing else about this grass seed. It's ready when you need it. It's available in all sizes to fit your yard. You'll love planting with it. So if you want better grass, you need to use it. Call today and see the Green Yard turf seed that's your local FS Member Company.*

*We take care of you to remove turf and sod from your yard. We'll remove and haul away all debris. We'll give you more grass per pound than any other turf seed. The fact is our Green Yard turf seed beats higher quality turf that's being hauled down. To have more turf in your yard, call your local FS Member Company and about our Green Yard turf seed today.*

**Green Yard**  
FS

THE LOCAL ANSWER TO YOUR WORLD OF NEEDS

Contact:  
Local Programs  
GREENCO FS, Inc.  
815-495-0421  
info@greencofsb.com