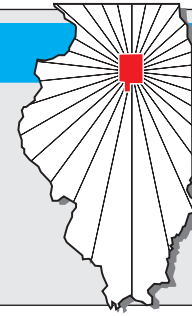


LaSalle County

Agri-Source

Supplement to *FarmWeek* for LaSalle County Farm Bureau members and LaSalle County Farm Supply patrons

Leifheit, Garrity, Freebairn recognized for outstanding service

With fewer than two percent of the population still engaged in the actual act of farming, individuals who are willing to stand up and support the industry must be honored and celebrated.

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau did just that during their annual meeting on November 29 when they honored Ryan Leifheit with the Friend of Farm Bureau Award, John Garrity with the Special Recognition Award, and Ralph Freebairn with the Distinguished Service Award.

Ryan Leifheit, a crop insurance specialist with Farm Credit, received the Friend of Farm Bureau Award for his contributions to the annual Ag in the Classroom Golf Outing. Leifheit joined the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation Fund Raising Committee in 2007 to assist with the golf outing and was instrumental in helping the committee raise a record funding of \$19,000 at the 2011 golf outing.

Since Leifheit joined the team, the funding for LaSalle County Ag in the Classroom has steadily increased, from \$8,425 in 2007 to \$19,000 in 2011, representing a more than 50 percent increase in funding and a much more magnified presence of Ag in the Classroom in local schools.

Leifheit and his wife, Jen, have two boys and live in Ottawa.

"I am always so impressed when members of our ag community show up for the industry in such a huge way," said Doug Stockley, Membership Committee Chairman for the LaSalle County Farm Bureau. "Ryan Leifheit has helped us make notable progress towards our goal of keeping ag in our local schools and educating children and their families about the benefits of the industry. I am happy that we could honor him in this way."

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau Board was also excited to honor John Garrity, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, for his assistance to local farmers in the areas of conservation, sustainability, and stewardship.

During his 29 years as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Ottawa Field Office of the USDA-NRCS, Garrity has provided advice to farmers, helping them apply conservation practices that hold the soil in place, provide benefits to LaSalle County water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife. He has been an asset both to farmers and the USDA alike, resulting in his nomination as 2001 Soil Conservation Technician of the Year for NRCS in Illinois.

Garrity has trained many other NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation District employees over the years, many of whom have gone on to become very successful in this area.

Most notably, Garrity is also a LaSalle County farmer as well as a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Earlville and the Knights of Columbus.

"John Garrity has been a fixture of our LaSalle County ag industry for so many years. He deserves this recognition and our thanks for helping area farmers through what can be difficult government policy and paperwork to better our farms and our county," said Stockley.

Another fixture of the community, Ralph Freebairn of Ottawa, was also recognized as the 2011 Distinguished Service Award winner. Freebairn has been a committed member of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau and the entire county ag industry since 1972.

His first service to the industry in 1972 was as the Vice Presi-

dent of the newly formed Young Farmers Committee. Since that time, Freebairn has served on every LaSalle County Farm Bureau Committee as a committee member and a Chairman. He also served as the LaSalle County Farm Bureau President for several terms.

He furthered his commitment to the Farm Bureau by serving on the Illinois Farm Bureau Board for four terms.

Outside of the Farm Bureau, Freebairn also made notable contributions to the LaSalle County Farm Supply Board, the State County Company Board, and the United Producer Board.

Freebairn is currently township supervisor of Freedom Township and serves as Elder at Waltham Presbyterian Church.

According to Stockley, leaders like Freebairn are rare. "Ralph Freebairn has served the Farm Bureau in nearly every capacity possible. He has offered opinions, time, and money to benefit LaSalle County farmers nearly every day of his career. He is an exceptional farmer and a strong leader as well as a good friend. The LaSalle County Farm Bureau board is so thankful to Ralph for his service."

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1995 to recognize farmers who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and service to agriculture. The Special Recognition Award was established in 2005 to recognize an individual for their work or service to LaSalle County agriculture. The Friend of Farm Bureau Award, established in 2006, recognizes those in the county that assist or partner with the LaSalle County Farm Bureau on a major project or effort.



Ryan Leifheit, Crop Insurance Specialist for Farm Credit, was given the Friend of Farm Bureau award during the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on November 29 in recognition of his efforts to support Ag in the Classroom during the annual Golf Outing. "Ryan Leifheit has helped us make notable progress towards our goal of keeping ag in our local schools and educating children and their families about the benefits of the industry," said Doug Stockley, LaSalle County Farm Bureau Membership Chairman. Pictured L-R are Monty Whipple, LaSalle County Farm Bureau President, Ryan Leifheit, and Doug Stockley.



Receiving the 2011 Special Recognition Award during the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on November 29 is John Garrity (pictured between Monty Whipple, LaSalle County Farm Bureau President and Doug Stockley, LaSalle County Farm Bureau Membership Committee Chairman), a 29 year employee for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Garrity was honored for his service to farmers, helping them employ best management practices to their farms to protect soil, water, and wildlife.



Pictured are Monty Whipple, LaSalle County Farm Bureau President; Ralph Freebairn, 2011 Distinguished Service Award Winner, and Doug Stockley, LaSalle County Farm Bureau Membership Committee Chairman. Freebairn has been a long time fixture of LaSalle County agriculture having served the LaSalle County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau for nearly 40 years in almost every capacity and was recognized at the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on November 29 for that service.



LaSalle County Farm Bureau President Monty Whipple accepts a recognition plaque awarded to the Bureau for its achievements during 2011. The award was presented during the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and calls attention to the comprehensive nature of county Farm Bureau programs.

LaSalle County Farm Bureau honored at IAA Annual Meeting

The LaSalle County Farm Bureau was honored for their accomplishments over the past year at the 2011 IAA Annual Meeting on December 3-6 in Chicago.

Among the honors were an award for achieving the membership quota set for LaSalle County and awards celebrating their outstanding projects, namely the Congressional Staff Tour, the Adopt an Acre radio program on WCMY, and their policy development efforts.

"Our county Farm Bureau works hard to deliver results for LaSalle County farmers and it is

exciting to see our efforts recognized at the state-wide level," said President Monty Whipple. "I was honored to receive recognition at the Annual Meeting on behalf of our Board of Directors and our County Farm Bureau Manager Jeff Hartman. Everyone has worked hard this past year and I'm so pleased with the results."

IAA Annual Meeting Discussion

Whipple also represented the county during the general sessions at the IAA Annual Meeting where policy issues were debated and discussed among the voting delegates. According

to Whipple, the biggest topics of discussion where IAA's Animal ID policy and some changes to the bylaws regarding membership.

The Animal ID discussion is one that seems to come up every year. Debate has always existed about whether the policy should support voluntary or mandatory animal ID, with the voting delegates always supporting voluntary animal ID in the end. This year, policy resolutions asked to remove the word "voluntary" in favor of leaving neither "voluntary" nor

Continued on page 3

From the President



By Monty Whipple
President
LaSalle County Farm Bureau

we duplicate that effort with similar or even better results? As we begin a new year, let me reassure everyone that Farm Bureau will be with you every step of the way. The recently held Illinois Farm Bureau annual meeting in Chicago continued to demonstrate a resolve to fight for issues important to Illinois farmers. Behind the leadership of newly re-elected President, Philip Nelson and Vice President, Rich Guebert, Illinois Farm Bureau will be a leading force nation wide in promoting strong agricultural and business issues.

I thought it great that both of Illinois U.S. Senators took the time to address our annual meeting convention and answer questions from the delegation. While Senators Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin may not always see eye-to-eye with IFB on every issue, I could see the respect they had for our orga-

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday season.

This is the time we all look back at what's been accomplished this past year. I know for most of us, 2011 was a really good year on the farm. The question for 2012 is, can

nization and their willingness to engage in the dialogue to reach some common ground.

Immediately following the Chicago convention, our state legislators went back into session to address the tax package that was tabled during the veto session. Because the tax package included a boost in the estate tax exemption and extended the sales tax incentives for ethanol and biodiesel, Illinois Farm Bureau supported the bill. (Senate Bill 397 with House amendment #6 tacked on) An action request went out, farm bureau members called their legislators, and the bill passed both the House and the Senate. I know personally, I talked to two legislators who were "riding the fence" – waiting to see where Farm Bureau stood. Upon knowing our support, they both voted yes!

This is just one recent example of farm bureau never sleep-

ing --- but instead, keeping the pressure on to pass favorable agricultural legislation. But the job never ends. Because of the failure of the "super committee" to pass deficit reduction legislation, our 2012 Farm Bill proposals which were basically all agreed upon, will now take further effort to pass before the full Congress. And the never ending fight to stop over regulation by EPA will continue. And the fight to maintain our share of the energy market will continue. This is just a small sampling of priorities heading into 2012. Each and everyone will affect a farmer's bottom line.

Before concluding, and on a more local note, I'd like to sincerely thank Jerry Enger who is retiring off our LaSalle County Farm Bureau board after 16 years of dedicated service. Jerry's experienced contribution will be missed. Taking

his place will be Steve Wilson from Waltham Township. Steve has recently served as our State's District 4 Young Leader representative and has done an outstanding job blending the young leader committees from LaSalle, Lee, and Bureau counties. Steve will add an enthusiastic new voice to our board.

Also, congratulations to Michael Bulta, the new general manager of Grainco FS. Michael's been manager of Christian County FS and will be assuming duties January 1st. He replaces Brent Ericson who moved up the ladder to become head of the grain division for Growmark. Our congratulations go out to Brent as well for his promotion.

Once again, my best wishes to you all, for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Monty

McDonnell, Cantlin compete in Young Leaders Discussion Meet

Bill McDonnell, LaSalle County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Committee Chairman, and Joe Cantlin competed in the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Discussion Meet held at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on December 3 in Chicago.

Cantlin competed in the meet in 2010, but for McDonnell, the state event was a new experience.

"I wanted to compete because I think it's a good program. We not only get the ability to learn about the different

topics, but hear what different people around the state think about those topics and learn more about agriculture in the process," McDonnell said.

A discussion meet is similar to a debate. Questions are posed and the contestants answer the questions to the best of their ability while judges listen to the answers and score contestants based on the thoughtfulness of their answers, their interaction with other contestants, and their public speaking skills.

Topics for the 2011 Discus-

sion Meet, selected by American Farm Bureau Federation and sent out ahead of time so participants can prepare, were as follows:

1. Are the current and proposed Renewable Energy Policies beneficial to all segments of American agriculture? Why or why not?
2. How can we convince the public that the animal agriculture industry balances production efficiencies with the public's expectations of animal care?
3. Have farmers and ranch-

ers effectively utilized social media to educate and influence the public? What strategies can be implemented to expand the interaction between producers and consumers?

4. How do we capitalize on the growing world demand for agricultural products?

5. What role, if any, should agriculture play in addressing health and obesity issues?

What this experience has given me is the ability be able to better communicate with others about issues in agriculture today, which I think makes

me a better advocate for agriculture with my consumers," McDonnell said.

The 2011 Illinois winner, Katie Pratt of Lee County, will represent Illinois at the American Farm Bureau Federation Discussion Meet in January, where she will compete to win a new GM truck.

Adopt an Acre Donates Over \$400 to Food Pantry

Adopt an Acre, the joint program of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau, GRAINCO FS and WCMY to educate the public about agriculture, had a very successful year. Total proceeds of \$412.11 for both the corn and soybean acre were donated to the Ottawa Food Pantry.

Pictured are Bob Beutke, the LaSalle County farmer behind the program and WCMY's Jay LaSeure with the revenue from the acres.

Says Beutke, "I think this program is worth every second of my time. I strongly encourage every county in the state of Illinois to do it."



Adopt an Acre

Mitchell, Stockley honored for membership recruitment at IAA Annual Meeting



Dan Mitchell and Doug Stockley, both LaSalle County Farm Bureau Directors, signed five new Farm Bureau voting members each during 2011 and were recognized at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on December 3-6 for that effort. Pictured are Mitchell and District 4 Director Brad Temple who gave the award. Stockley was not present at the time of the photo.

The Director 4 Membership

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 Dan and Doug on this achievement!

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Enger reflects on sixteen years of service

Jerry Enger of Serena has seen a lot of changes during his sixteen years of service to the LaSalle County Farm Bureau (LCFB) Board of Directors. He retired at the LCFB Annual Meeting in November after serving on the Marketing Committee and the Finance Committee during his tenure.

Over all that time, while farming has changed and the business of agriculture has changed, Enger's overall view of what it means to be involved in your industry hasn't.

"I could see many changes coming and I knew that farmers needed a voice and I thought that I should participate, be that voice, and support my industry," he said. He indicated that shortly after joining the board, he learned that legislators do pay attention to the Farm Bureau on local, state, and national issues and that he had selected an excellent way to support his industry.

He also quickly learned that he had a passion for agricultural education and youth involvement in agriculture. He is passionate about Ag in the Classroom efforts, loves the opportunity to support the 4-H fair in LaSalle County, and appreciates working with legislators to help them learn more about the business of farming.

"It is vitally important to teach the public and kids about

the impact of farming on their lives on a daily basis. They actually love to know where their food and clothing comes from; we just have to take the opportunity to tell them more often. I'm proud of the work our board has done to establish Ag in the Classroom in LaSalle County and I'm proud of all we have done to help keep the 4-H fair alive. Farmers are getting few and far between and I think we just have to keep educating people when and where we can," he said.

And what he's gained from his service to the organization is the knowledge to do those things on a bigger level. He explained that fewer farmers means that farmers need to know more and be very savvy. A farmer today is faced with trying to do more all the time: farm more acres, grow more with less. If farmers want to educate the public around them, they have to be very well-versed on a host of issues affecting agriculture in order to explain them to the public.

According to Enger, he has really appreciated meeting new people, different farmers even within the same county, and learning that different farming practices are applicable, different issues are important, and different leaders are needed to farm in today's world.

"I have just gained so much.



Jerry Enger

I have learned a great deal from listening to other farmers talk about their problems and what they do in their areas. If there is a guy out there considering getting more involved in the Farm Bureau, I would tell him that farmers need to have a say in farming and how the industry moves forward. We have to protect our own interests. We have to do more with less. And this is a great organization to get involved," he said.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity that I had to be on the Farm Bureau Board. I have enjoyed working with Jeff Hartman and meeting new friends, even guys from other parts of the county. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with legislators in Springfield that I wouldn't have normally done. And I've learned how important it is to be involved. It's important for our future."

Improve crop profits with PRECISION PLANTING from GRAINCO FS

If your farming operation could benefit from higher returns per acre, then you should look into the advantages of Precision Planting. GRAINCO FS offers the profit potential of the planter improvements from this proven system. Through this program GRAINCO FS strives to offer our patron the latest in precision farming products and services. During this season of the year, we are offering programs on Precision Planting equipment, designed to help producers take advantage of the planting efficiencies offered with these improvements. For advice on which Precision Planting products and services would best fit your operation, please contact John Hagenbuch, Precision Farming Specialist at 815-712-9399. Here are a few of the products offered through Precision Planting:

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- 20/20 SeedSense® - gives you more insight than you can get anywhere else
- 20/20 AirForce™ - automatically adjusts down force to field conditions
- Precision Meters™ - singulate all types of sees precisely
- eSet® - outperforms original manufacturers' vac disks without guesswork or adjustments
- 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.

IAA annual meeting

Continued from page 1

"mandatory" in the policy. That resolution failed after significant delegate discussion.

Membership changes to the bylaws were also address. Whipple commented that the first issue addressed was the recent change to allow civil unions in Illinois. Because such unions are now legal in Illinois, the Illinois Farm Bureau membership policy had to be changed as well.

"I thought there was potential for significant debate on this issue, but the delegates seemed to understand that legally, we had to make this change. Espe-

cially given our affiliation with COUNTRY and how our policy affects them, we had to make this change," Whipple said.

But the largest membership issue, possibly the largest issue discussed at all during the general sessions, was the idea of farmers having the potential to be members of different county Farm Bureaus and one county "stealing" a member from another county.

"Farms are getting bigger and it is now much more common for a farmer to own ground or farm in a couple of different counties or to live in one county and farm in another. We've always thought that a farmer should be a member of the county Farm Bureau where he lives, but if most of his ground is in another county, it makes sense for him to be a member of that county," said Whipple.

The final bylaw changes indicate that county Farm Bureau's may not solicit members from other counties, but that farmers have the choice to be a member of whichever county they desire if they own ground in several counties. A taskforce met on this issue during 2011 and the delegates actually simply supported their position on the issue.

Basis Discussion

LaSalle County Farm Bureau specifically addressed the issue of basis during a special meeting during the IAA Annual Meeting. Spearheaded by Darren Walters and Bob Beutke, the board is trying to keep this issue at the forefront of everyone's mind even though the issue isn't really an issue at the moment.

"What we're trying to do is head off the next time there's a basis problem like back in 2008," Whipple said.

Winter turf tips

This winter has started out relatively mild, when compared to that of the past couple of years. But, we are ever mindful of the type of winter conditions that we might just face in the future. We have products available from rock salt to Evergreen that melts ice down to 25 degrees below zero, and is safe for vegetation. Our best seller is Triple Melt, a high quality product that melts to - 15 degrees F. Please call our local offices for all of your ice melter needs. Early snow that covers the lawn may be hard for us to drive in and move around in, but to our lawn it was a thick blanket of insulation and protection from the cold weather. As the snow melts, our turf grass is open to the elements, and all of Mother Nature's fury. With no protection from snow, the chances of winter desiccation and fungal diseases will be high. Although we cannot do anything about it now, there are some things we can prepare and plan for. Fertilizer applications in the spring for home lawns will usually take care of snow mold damage and some winter kill. For areas that freeze out under water that are much bigger it will probably be necessary to plant some new grass seed. Make sure to scratch some new dirt up, apply some starter fertilizer, and rake in



Tom Edgecomb, CTS

some of our Green Yard grass seed. Areas along sidewalks and driveways are also areas of high winter damage. This damage occurs from the salt build up in the soil from our ice melter applications to melt the ice. The rates of all ice melters are many times greater than when fertilizer is applied. When salt (Sodium) builds up in the soil, grass tends to thin out and weeds will take its place. The Sodium in the soil makes the soil more compact and displaces the nutrients needed for lawns to grow well. This type of damage can be fixed by applying Gypsum (Calcium Sulfate) in these areas at the rate of 50 to 60 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. This can be done in the fall prior to salt applications and in the spring after the snow has melted. These areas may also have to be reseeded. Keep these tips in mind this winter to get your lawn off to a good start, no matter what Mother Nature has in store for us.

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Viewpoint Survey: Federal crop insurance a priority

As a membership organization, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau invests a considerable amount of time and energy into discovering the desires of their farmer members and continuing to provide for those desires in their yearly plan of work. Part of the discovery and planning process is the yearly Viewpoint Survey that members receive with their dues notice.

For the farmers that complete and return the Viewpoint Survey, it proves to be a valuable feedback tool to continually direct the organization.

This year, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau asked about three key areas: Farm Bill, member involvement, and farmer profitability.

Regarding the Farm Bill, farmers rated Federal Crop Insurance, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Ag Research as the top three areas that must maintain funding. Viewpoint Committee Chairman Bob Beutke wasn't really surprised at these results.

"Federal crop insurance being a priority doesn't shock me at all. That's a safety net for farmers and it's sort of a 'self-help'

thing and farmers always want to help themselves. CRP doesn't really surprise me either because LaSalle County is pretty friendly to conservation efforts and we have a lot of CRP ground within the county," he said.

In fact, the only surprise in the priority rating from this question was how low the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) fell in the ranking. Most ag associations agree that the farm policy is moving away from direct payments and towards a revenue based safety net based on funding availability. Farmers may not have a choice in how that debate turns out.

Though these are federal issues, it is important for the county Farm Bureaus to gage member desires so that they can continue to direct the Illinois Farm Bureau according to member input.

Also important is member involvement. Eighteen surveys returned selected committee appointments that they might enjoy serving; and that number did surprise Beutke.

"I'm happy to see that there are that many people willing to

help!" he said. "I always reflect back to before I was involved with the Farm Bureau. I wanted to help, but I had two really great farmers representing my area that I didn't want to run against and I didn't know how to get involved. I finally called the Farm Bureau Manager and got on the Young Leaders Committee where I figured out how I could get more involved, but I really like offering an easy opportunity for a farmer to tell us that he wants to help."

Beutke further remarked, "I'm thinking all the time, who is out there who is like I used to be that wants to be involved and doesn't know how? What talents are out there going untapped?"

The final topic area where most farmers were in complete agreement was government overregulation. That was the most listed concern when asked about how the LaSalle County Farm Bureau could help address farmer profitability.

This is a federal issue and the local Farm Bureau will have minimum impact on such an enormous issue. But Beutke assures members that LCFB will

continue pushing the message that the government needs to step back to LaSalle County state and federal legislators as well as continue working through the Illinois Farm Bureau to stop overregulation.

"We want to be able to farm and not fill out paperwork," said Beutke. "I get it. And we'll keep pushing that message."

What else will the LaSalle County Farm Bureau work on in 2012? They will continue working on public image and educating their urban audience. Beutke has plans for Adopt an Acre next year, more work with the LaSalle County adopted legislator, Rep. Linda Chapa la Via, and new programming to educate the public.

"Thanks to everyone that sent their survey back in. I'm happy to offer our members an opportunity for input instead of just asking for a check and I'm happy to read the input and make changes to serve the members," said Beutke.

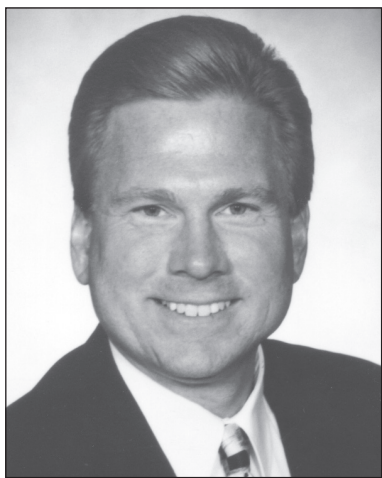
Given that budget cuts will be made and the total dollars available for the next farm bill will be less than the funding in the 2008 farm bill, list the following programs in priority order: (results revealed the following priority ranking)

1. Federal Crop Insurance
2. Conservation Reserve Program
3. Agricultural Research
4. Direct and Countercyclical Programs
5. SURE or a disaster program
6. Market Access Program (MAP)
7. Rural Development Programs
8. Energy Title Programs
9. Food and Nutrition Spending
10. EQIP
11. ACRE
12. Gross Margin Dairy Program

Top recruitment awarded to Passow

October and November of 2011 were significant months for the LaSalle County Farm Bureau, seeing many new members added to our roster. The County Farm Bureau Membership Committee recognizes the agents that sign the most members during any given month for contributing to the mission of the Farm Bureau.

The Top Recruitment Honor for October and November goes to COUNTRY's Rick Passow of LaSalle for signing seven new members in October and eight new members in November. As October 2011 ended, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau had a total of 6,690 members in both the "A"



Rick Passow

and "M" categories.

Thank you and congratulations to Rick Passow!

Ag in the Classroom support

GROWMARK made a donation to the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom in the amount of \$175.00 representing the total number of bags of seed soybeans sold in the county. Pictured is Monty Whipple, President of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau receiving the donation from the GRAINCO FS controller.



New farmer leaders look forward to 2012

As the LaSalle County Farm Bureau thanks their former leaders for a strong commitment to Illinois agriculture, they also look forward to future talents from their newest members. The Board of Directors is excited to welcome the newest director, Steve Wilson, who fills the position left vacant by Jerry Enger's retirement.

The new board was seated at the December 15 board meeting after their election during the November annual meeting at Pitstick's Pavilion.

Other LCFB Board members reelected to serve another term are:

- Doug Stockley, elected to serve Earl, Freedom and Meriden Townships
 - Monty Whipple, elected to serve Dimmick, North LaSalle-Peru, Utica and Waltham Townships
 - Dan Mitchell, elected to serve Manlius, Miller and Mission Townships
 - William Gray, elected to serve Deer Park, Eden, Hope, South Lasalle-Peru and Vermilion Townships
 - David Michlik, elected to serve Allen, Bruce and Otter Creek Townships
 - Bob Beutke, At Large
 - Steve Wilson, At Large
- Also elected at the December

15 meeting, a new officer team looks forward to guiding the organization in 2012. Monty Whipple will again serve as President, Darren Walter as Vice President, Bill Gray as Secretary, and Mike Stone as Treasurer.



During the December 15 board meeting, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Board of directors elected the pictured farmers to leadership positions for the coming year. (L-R) Darren Walter, Vice President; Monty Whipple, President; Bill Gray, Secretary; and Mike Stone, Treasurer (not pictured) look forward to leading the organization in 2012.