Country Financial has announced that this year’s Winter Ag seminars will be conducted virtually. The goal of these meetings remains the same: to provide up-to-date, important crop and farm information to farmers. COUNTRY and IFB will host FOUR live webinars, two in January and two in February. The webinar will last around 90 minutes and will cover a wealth of information. Topics will include crop and farm bill updates by COUNTRY Financial’s Doug Yoder, a legislative update with IFB’s Adam Nielson and farm legacy planning presentation by COUNTRY Financial’s Joe Buhrmann. Each webinar will open with a welcome from COUNTRY Financial CEO Jim Jacobs and IFB President Guebert and be moderated by IFB’s Rita Frazer. Clients and prospects will be able to ask questions via a chat box throughout the presentations. Live webinar schedule is as follows:
- Tuesday, January 19th 8:30 AM
- Wednesday, January 27th 11:00 AM
- Tuesday, February 9th 4:00 PM
- Thursday, February 25th 12:00 PM
Our members can register for the live webinars via a “landing page” that the Fulton County Farm Bureau and area CF Reps will provide when that platform has been prepared. Once registered members will receive the link to simply join on the date they selected. If you are unable to attend live, the presentation will be recorded and be made accessible for later viewing.
In addition to the live webinars, several presentations will be pre-recorded and allow speakers to go into deeper detail on these topics. Pre-recorded videos will include an in-depth farm update, COUNTRY Financial Private Product update, COUNTRY Financial Crop Claims Review, Precision Planning & Drone Technology Overview, and an Agrivisor Market Outlook for 2021. The pre-recorded videos will be made accessible for later viewing.

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COUNTRY, IFB to Host Virtual Winter Ag Seminars

Fulton County Farm Bureau Delegates “attend” the 2020 IAA Annual Business Meeting in early December from their homes. 330 delegates from around the state (of possible 360) took part in the meeting, all done virtually on the first Saturday of December. This was the first year in the 104-year history of the Illinois Farm Bureau that delegates did not come together in person.

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IAA “Annual Meeting” Gone Virtual

Fulton County Farm Bureau Delegates to the IAA Annual Meeting (which was called a “Business Meeting” this year) were FCFB President Barry Fisher, FCFB Vice President Wes Strode, and members Jeff Shelby and Raymond Porter.

In a normal year, the four would have taken part in a face-to-face meeting right after Thanksgiving with the Delegates from the other County Farm Bureaus making up District 8. At that meeting, they would have talked thru the dozens of changes to existing IFB Policy, and they would have discussed new policies. Instead, our four met twice in the last week of November to talk about those issues in their small group, as well as discussing the District Director candidates, and practicing how the virtual meeting and voting would work.

This year was a far cry from sitting on the Delegate Floor in the Main Ballroom of the Palmer House Hilton, where they and 330 plus some officers and delegates from around the state were to have been December 5-8. Instead, the Delegates logged on to a virtual platform over two days in the first week of December to approve resolutions, then took part in a virtual District Caucus on December 4, and finally logged on to the statewide Annual Business meeting on December 5th.

Past FCFB President Bill Carlberg ran for District 8 Director during the December 4th Caucus. The voting was close, but our new director will be Richard Carroll, the past president of Peoria County Farm Bureau.

2020 continues to prove to be a year like no other.
NOVEMBER BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This month’s meeting of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at the Farm Bureau office in Lewistown, starting at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to due notice given. The meeting was called to order and presided over by President Barry Fisher. Other board members present were Julie Serven (via Zoom), Wes Strode, Robin Fisher, Linda Rock, Seth Vohland, Delson Wilcoxen, Levi Porter, Keely Egelhoff, Bob Vohland, Rob Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom). Also present were Manager Elaine Stone and West Central FS Manager Jan Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom). Also present was Manager Elaine Stone and West Central FS Manager Jan Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom).

Committees:

Elaine provided a written report on her efforts. She is working with a group of classrooms on a regular basis, dropping off supplies/lessons and providing virtual lessons. Rob is writing to the Adopted Classroom this month.

Local Issues – There was no report.

Legislative – Dave gave a Legislative update. Most things are undecided yet as the election returns have not all been certified.

Marketing – Delson reported on the local grain and livestock markets.

Business service – Levi walked through the building this evening, looking for any issues. Options were discussed to update the technology in the boardroom, so we can have remote meetings. Directors approved the purchase of a monado-pad, mic and speaker for the board room, at a cost not to exceed $3000.

Promotion and Education – Keely talked about CSP and UEPQ programs. Elaine provided a written manager’s report. Dec 18 is a blood drive at the at the bananas in Canton. Davis Ford will help us again.

For the meeting for the board members to read. These were approved with no corrections. The minutes from the November meeting were emailed and out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were approved with no corrections.

Bob discussed the financial statements. Nothing out of the ordinary was noted. The statements were placed on file for audit.

Marketing – Delson reported on the local grain and livestock markets.

Business service – Nothing to report this month.

Promotion and Education – Nothing to report.

Elaine provided a written manager’s report. She and the board discussed some possible improvements we could do for technology and connectivity for virtual meetings.

Old Business:

The current list of resolutions was emailed to the group before the meeting for everyone to review. These were briefly reviewed and Delegates/alternates left the meeting.

Directors discussed IAA Annual meeting. Wes was appointed as Delegate from the Board. At this time, the plan is for Delegates to meet with Districts (ours at East Peoria) on Saturday, December 5th for the business sessions. This meeting is as metrics and IDPH guidelines change.

DECember Board Highlights

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at the Farm Bureau office in Lewistown starting at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to due notice given. The meeting was called to order and presided over by President Barry Fisher. Other board members present were Julie Serven, Wes Strode, Robin Fisher, Linda Rock, Seth Vohland, Delson Wilcoxen, Levi Porter, Keely Egelhoff, Bob Vohland, Rob Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom). Also present was Manager Elaine Stone and West Central FS Manager Jan Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom). Also present was Manager Elaine Stone and West Central FS Manager Jan Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom). Also present was Manager Elaine Stone and West Central FS Manager Jan Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom). Also present was Manager Elaine Stone and West Central FS Manager Jan Janssen (via Zoom), and David Tolley (via Zoom).

There were no correspondences for the month. In Affiliate Reports, Elaine shared an email from Earl Allen with an Extension update. Levi reported on the 4-H/FFA.” on December 10 at the Farm Bureau office in Lewistown for everyone to review. These were briefly reviewed and Delegates/alternates left the meeting.

New Business:

- Directors voted to suspend the awarding of the Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award this year. Usually given at our County Annual meeting, it was felt that any recipient would be “short changed” by not having a public presentation.
- Directors were asked to think about ways to do something virtually, details will be announced as they are finalized.
- Directors voted to suspend the awarding of the Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award this year. Usually given at our County Annual meeting, it was felt that any recipient would be “short changed” by not having a public presentation.
- Directors were asked to think about ways to do something virtually, details will be announced as they are finalized.

Thank you from Krista Gray for her prize basket from the Duck Race.

Thank you from Richard Sharpshair for the donation to the Halloween treat bags; a thank you from Canton High School Student Council for the money we have not spent this month.

Our County Annual Meeting was discussed. The regular date is February 11, 2021. It was discussed that only a business meeting be held in 2021 (prior to a regular board meeting) and fore-go the big social gathering for one year. A decision will be made in December.

Winter Policy Meetings were discussed. The possibility of “virtual” meetings was discussed. Elaine will make this investigate. This month.

New Business:

- The nominating committee discussed and approved. Wes and Delson will name the board after this current term. New business are recommended. Our County Annual meeting will be held Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Fulton County Farm Bureau Building, Lewistown, Illinois.

Committee reports, financial reports, election of directors and delegates, and other appropriate business will be conducted. All regular members will receive a letter in January with proxy voting information provided.

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The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.
Available in the Farm Bureau Building foyer, at the counter, or by mail upon request!

Holiday Traditions: Christmas Trees

Often referred to as evergreens, Christmas trees include different species of firs, spruces, and pines, all of which stay green year-round. These trees are grown and harvested in 45 different states.

Across the country, over 300,000 acres are dedicated to growing a traditional holiday sight, the Christmas tree. In 2018, more than 32 million Christmas trees were purchased to display in homes and public areas throughout the United States, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. Today, 98% of Christmas trees are grown on farms, and unlike artificial trees made from plastics, real Christmas trees can be recycled to provide benefits to the environment.

A Christmas tree can take up to 15 years to grow to 6 feet tall, so for each tree harvested, Christmas tree farmers plant one to three more seeds. On average, trees are harvested at about seven years old.

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*Adopted from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom’s “Seasons ’Ag Mag.”

Christmas Tree History:
- The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
- The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1511.
- Small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.
- Thomas Edison’s assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882. Christmas tree lights were first mass produced in 1890.
- In 1900, large stores started to display large, illuminated Christmas trees.

Fulton County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarships Applications Due Feb. 1

Senior high school students are invited and encouraged to apply for the Fulton County Farm Bureau Foundation (FCFBF) Scholarships. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to continue their education in an agriculture curriculum and must be children or dependents of a Fulton County Farm Bureau member.

Applicants can request an application for the FCFBF by calling the office at 547-3011 or sending an email request to fcfbf@icloud.com. An application is available on our website (fultonefb.org). The application is available in a digital “fillable” form. That form and supporting documents must be returned to our office, postmarked by February 1, 2021.

No handwritten or late applications will be accepted. Please phone our office at 547-3011 if you have any questions. High school seniors and current college students are encouraged to investigate available IAA Foundation Scholarships also, by visiting their website at www.iaafoundation.org.

IAA Foundation Application Period Opens Jan. 1

Applications for the 2021 scholarship program will be available beginning January 1, 2021. The link to the online application will be posted on the IAA Foundation website, on the FCFBF website, and on the FCFBF Facebook page on January 1.

The IAA Foundation provide college scholarships to Illinois Farm Families, Illinois Farm Bureau members, spouses, or their children who major in agriculture, agribusiness, or an ag-related course of study.

The 2021 IAA Foundation Scholarship program offers 77 awards ranging from $1,000 to $7,500. While applicants may apply for multiple awards, they can only receive one scholarship. Certain scholarships may have more specific requirements.

Mark your calendar and set a REMINDER!

IFB Creates Presidential Memorial Scholarship

Illinois Farm Bureau’s rich history includes a list of former Presidents that reads like an honor roll of well-known and well-respected individuals. In recognition of the past presidents who shaped and influenced Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), the Board of Directors, at the suggestion of the IAA Foundation Board of Trustees, recently voted to create the Illinois Farm Bureau Presidential Memorial Scholarship fund.

“As a tribute to all former Presidents of this organization, we feel strongly that this scholarship is a meaningful gesture that acknowledges the leadership they provided” said Richard Guebert Jr., President, Illinois Farm Bureau. “It is a genuine privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture related fields.”

Generally, the award amount will be $5,000 and presented in honor of all former Presidents of IFB. However, in the scholarship program year immediately following the passing of a former IFB President, the award amount will be $2,500 and presented specifically in that person’s memory.

An important consideration for the Board was inviting contributions from individuals, organizations, and County Farm Bureau who wish to pay tribute to a specific leader, or all former Presidents. Guebert went on to say, “we feel strongly that this is an initiative that others will choose to support.” Gifts to this fund can be accepted at any time on the IAA Foundation website or by contacting the IAA Foundation.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their proven leadership experience and an emphasis will be placed on their work internship experience as outlined in their application.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines for the 2021 Scholarship Program is available on the Foundation website, www.iaafoundation.org. NEW TIMELINE: The application opens January 1, 2021 and must be completed online by February 15, 2021.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or e-mail Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ifb.org.

Selling your home for top dollar in today’s real estate market requires maximum exposure. Going into his 11th year as an auctioneer, Kyle is one of the most vibrant and exciting auctioneers in the country and is rapidly breaking into the real estate market after obtaining his brokers license and Realtor designation.

Recognized in 2018, as the Illinois State Champion Auctioneer, Kyle takes pride in conducting professional, fast-paced, live auctions throughout the Midwest.

Did you know you can donate grain directly to the Spoon River Pregnancy Center — and make your donated dollars go further?

Deliver a load of corn or soybeans to a local elevator or river terminal and designate Spoon River Pregnancy Center as the seller. Proceeds bypass federal, state and self-employment taxes and go directly to the SRPC, where they can use it to help families and children in our community.

Notes to remember:
- Grain gifts should come from unsold crop inventory
- On delivery, list SRPC as the seller
- Make SRPC the only seller, not as a split off of your settlement sheet

Participating grain elevators:
- WGM
- Russell Grain
- Akron Services
- Ag-Land FS

Don’t see your grain marketing facility listed?
Let us know and we’ll add them!
For more information or to make a grain donation,
Contact Brett Chatterton at (309) 235-2766 or brettchatt@yahoo.com
Bill Shoop (309) 224-0265 or mshoop13@gmail.co
For more on SPRC visit: www.sponriverpregnancycenter.com or on Facebook: spoon river pregnancy center. You may also call (309) 435-7130 or email director@spoonriverprc.org.
Page 4

Fulton FS
309-547-2896
West Central FS
1-800-282-5242

“Please support your local FS. Each provides funding for this publication and other Farm Bureau activities. Show your appreciation!”

MAY YOUR DAYS BE MERRY & BRIGHT

Wishing you all the joys of the season and happiness throughout the coming year.

Happy Holidays from FS
BRINGING YOU WHAT’S NEXT”

PrairieLand FS
(866) 678-7637
www.prairielandfs.com

What’s Next:
Finance Focused on the Future

At West Central FS, Inc. our mission statement is to bring improved farm value and profitability to our partner owners. This is why for the 2021 crop season we are pleased to offer you FS Financing on best seed and crop protection.

For more information, contact:
Jennifer M Sparrow
AgriFinance Specialist
309-225-0620

BRINGING YOU WHAT’S NEXT”

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a very Happy New Year from your friends at Fulton FS, Inc.

LEWISTOWN
Foran Reynolds
CCA/CCS
309-547-2896 – office
309-282-7208 – mobile

IPAVA
Shannon Chasoweth
CCA/CCS
309-753-0120 – office
309-281-3120 – mobile

IPAVA
Chase Bair
Crop Specialist
309-753-0120 – office
309-281-3120 – mobile

We would like to join our entire staff in wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday season.

Steve Butler - Astoria
309-541-3727

Walter Brown-Canton
309-647-6990

Kory Schmidt-Lewistown
309-541-224

Shelley Postin-Bushnell
309-282-7683

Lance Moring-Canton
309-647-6990

Richard Sharphair-Canton
309-647-3701

Ray Rebens-Canton
309-647-6990

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

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