The annual Illinois Farm Bureau member survey reflected three overwhelming themes: Farmers have less optimism for 2020; there is a profound need to regain lost export demand; and building a new global market is vital for the future.

"In 2019, farmers were challenged with historic flooding, delayed planting and harvesting, ongoing trade wars and demand destruction to the biofuels market, all of which were key factors in contributing to a sluggish farm economy," Guebert said. "It helps us as leaders ensure we're tackling the issues and needs of our members and prioritizing our resources to the best of our abilities."

The annual Illinois Farm Bureau member survey results provided insight into their suggested organizational priorities. The survey, sent to all members who provided their email address to the organization, received over 2,700 responses.

**Private Applicator Test-only Sessions Scheduled**

Farmer's wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to a sluggish farm economy for our Illinois farmers," Guebert said. "It helps us as leaders ensure we're tackling the issues and needs of our members and prioritizing our resources to the best of our abilities."

The annual Illinois Farm Bureau member survey results provided insight into their suggested organizational priorities. The survey, sent to all members who provided their email address to the organization, received over 2,700 responses.

**Farmers wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to**

**Private Applicator Test-only Sessions Scheduled**

Farmer's wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to a sluggish farm economy for our Illinois farmers," Guebert said. "It helps us as leaders ensure we're tackling the issues and needs of our members and prioritizing our resources to the best of our abilities."

The annual Illinois Farm Bureau member survey results provided insight into their suggested organizational priorities. The survey, sent to all members who provided their email address to the organization, received over 2,700 responses.

**Farmers wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to**

**Private Applicator Test-only Sessions Scheduled**

Farmer's wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to a sluggish farm economy for our Illinois farmers," Guebert said. "It helps us as leaders ensure we're tackling the issues and needs of our members and prioritizing our resources to the best of our abilities."

The annual Illinois Farm Bureau member survey results provided insight into their suggested organizational priorities. The survey, sent to all members who provided their email address to the organization, received over 2,700 responses.

**Farmers wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to**

**Private Applicator Test-only Sessions Scheduled**

Farmer's wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to a sluggish farm economy for our Illinois farmers," Guebert said. "It helps us as leaders ensure we're tackling the issues and needs of our members and prioritizing our resources to the best of our abilities."

The annual Illinois Farm Bureau member survey results provided insight into their suggested organizational priorities. The survey, sent to all members who provided their email address to the organization, received over 2,700 responses.

**Farmers wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to**

**Private Applicator Test-only Sessions Scheduled**

Farmer's wishing to apply restricted-use pesticides to a sluggish farm economy for our Illinois farmers," Guebert said. "It helps us as leaders ensure we're tackling the issues and needs of our members and prioritizing our resources to the best of our abilities."

The annual Illinois Farm Bureau member survey results provided insight into their suggested organizational priorities. The survey, sent to all members who provided their email address to the organization, received over 2,700 responses.
The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at the Farm Bureau office in Lewistown, starting at 7:15 p.m. pursuant to due notice given. The meeting was called to order and presided over by Vice-President Wes Stride. Other board members present were Julie Serven, Delson Wilcoxen, Bob Vohland, Delco • Ford • Prestolite • Nippodenso • Mitsubishi • Kubota • Lucas • Onan

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, December 12, 2019, 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 Vice-President Wes Stride. Other board members present were Julie Serven, Delson Wilcoxen, Robin Fisher, David Tolley, Linda Rock, Leighton Rector, Bob Vohland, Seth Vohland and Keely Egelhoff. Barry Fisher and Rob Janssen were absent. Also present were Manager Elaine Stone and Shannon Chenoweth. Rob Janssen reported on Fulton FS’s fiscal year, income was down from the previous year. They are trying to get anhydrous on, currently they are running 7 anhydrous rigs, in the past they only ran 4. There is a report on the Country agent’s evaluation. The minutes from the November meeting were email and mailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were accepted as presented. Rob discussed the financial statements, there were no unexpected expenses this month. Reports were placed on file for audit.

Laura Fisher was the winner of one of two giveaways at the IAA Annual Meeting FarmWeekNow.

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, December 12, 2019, 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 Vice-President Wes Stride. Other board members present were Julie Serven, Delson Wilcoxen, Robin Fisher, David Tolley, Linda Rock, Leighton Rector, Bob Vohland, Seth Vohland and Keely Egelhoff. Barry Fisher and Rob Janssen were absent. Also present were Manager Elaine Stone and Shannon Chenoweth. In correspondences we received a thank you note from Nathan Spangler for sponsoring the Fulton County Fair Calf Scramble. Thank you notes were received from Sara Stuffelbeam, Emma Gorsuch, Hannah Tindall and Janis Blount for sponsoring the recent 4H awards program.

Shannon reported on Fulton FS’s fiscal year, income was down from the previous year. They are trying to get anhydrous on, currently they are running 7 anhydrous rigs, in the past they only ran 4. There is a report on the Country agent’s evaluation. The minutes from the November meeting were email and mailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were accepted as presented. Rob discussed the financial statements, there were no unexpected expenses this month. Reports were placed on file for audit.

We gave the Membership Report. In total, we have 981 Regular Members, 7 Professional Members, 1541 Associates for a total of 2529 members. The report was place on file.

Committee Reports:

• Young Leaders – There was no report for this meeting. Rob was absent due to flight work at AGCO in Chicago for annual meeting.

• Local Issues – We discussed some of the micro talks that board members attended at annual meeting. The Fulton County Engineer is resigning after the first of the year.

• Legislative – We discussed the new tax breaks for vehicles in Illinois.

• Marketing – Delson discussed the local grain and livestock markets.

• Business Service – An old water fountain upstairs was removed, a downsstairs toilet was repaired, and the elevator was recently inspected.

• Promotion and Education – Ideas were discussed for co-sponsoring with Country an electronics recycling drive and an Accounting/Business 101 type one day class. The possibility of “advertising an” stuffed farm animal to raise money for AG in the Classroom was discussed. Ideas were discussed to collect change for Harvest for All to be donated at Annual Meeting and other events next year. A coloring contest idea for grade-schoolers was discussed.

CROP sign up with FSA started Monday and will continue until February or funds are used up.

Manager’s Report

No written report was presented this month. Elaine reminded Directors of a meeting on Wednesday, December 19th at 7am detailing ARC/PLC meeting & Crop Insur- ance and the ARC/PLC meeting will be repeated on December 19th at 6pm. Jan 7th 1-pm at the Farm Bureau Building. Doug Yoder will present at the December 19th meeting, but NOT the December 19th.

Old Business:

• IAA Annual Meeting was recap. Fulton County placed 2nd in the IAA Founda- tion Trivia. The resolution sessions were pretty uneventful. Fulton County’s submission of going to FNDA to pay levy and drainage district assessments was approved unanimously.

• County Annual meeting is February 10th at Big Horse, the cost per person is set at $12. Board members were asked to get door prizes.

• Nominating Committee- Lieutenant has a replacement in mind.

• Winter Meetings – keep the same format as in the past; years one meeting in Bernadette and one in Canton. Dates will be discussed at January meeting.

New Business:

• Alyssa Irwin has been selected to partici- pate in the A LOT program. Directors voted to sponsor one third of Alyssa’s funding, and Fulton FS and WestCen- tral FS would be asked to sponsor a third each. Funding for this program was winter talked about.

• Directors reviewed secretaries wages and membership bonus based on achieving quota.

• Directors approved a president honorarium for all the extra time he puts in during the year.

• Directors approved the 2020 building closure schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.
Feathered Friends and Fireplaces

By: Richard Hentschel, Extension Edu-
cator, Horticulture, Serving DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties. November 04, 2019, blog

Best to help our feathered friends through the winter and tips on firewood for indoor use. Both projects seem simple enough yet some level of planning is in order to be sure all goes well, so starting early is the best way to go.

Feathered Friends

Feeding the birds needs to start sooner than you may think. Birds need to know early on that there will be something to eat on a regular basis if you want them to hang around in your yard. Now is the time to get those feeders up and secured for the winter. To keep waste to a minimum, consider seed that will more likely attract your favorite birds. This can be more cost effective, as unwanted seed ends up on the ground or in the gutter. It may not be critical to have the best firewood to burn in the outdoor fire pit, but it is a different story for the indoor fireplace. Choose seasoned firewood, which means it has been cut and split (for logs over six inches in diameter), and dried to reduce moisture content. Clues are a gray color on the ends of a log and check marks showing moisture loss. Firewood should be around 20 to 25 percent moisture to burn well and limit smoke.

As an additional precaution, when stacking the firewood next to the outside wall of the home, be sure to leave a few inches between for good air movement. If you have purchased your firewood, keep it dry before you burn it. Make it easier to uncover and recover or you will find yourself leaving the cover off and allowing the wood to reabsorb the water you paid to remove. As a rule, the heavier the firewood given the same moisture content, the more heat it will provide. This is something to consider if you have choices of species when you purchase your firewood.

A few additional tips: It is never a good idea to burn “green” wood in the home fireplace, as it will take heat away from the room and can add substantially to the creosote buildup in the chimney. Outdoors, it can make so much smoke you cannot sit close enough to enjoy the fire. Also, only bring inside as much firewood as you expect to burn in one week. This is because it takes more than a week usually to “chew out” any outdoor insects that have decided to hide out in cracks and crevices on the bark. Keeping to this rule should keep the insects from wandering around, and while they are not likely to do damage indoors, they can be a nuisance.

Whether you plan to watch the birds in your yard and/or gather around the fireplace, be sure to plan ahead and make smart choices to enjoy both activities this coming winter.

IFB Resolutions An Anchor Through Challenging Times, by Brian Duncan

The Fulton County Farm Bureau office will be closed December 24th-January 2nd. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year all our members!

Defensive driving class March 4th

Illinois State Police Trooper Jason Wilson will conduct a Defensive Driving course on Wednesday, March 4th at the Farm Bureau Building. Start time and charge for the class are unknown at this time.

The class will qualify senior drivers for preferred rates on some insurance policies. Anyone interested in the class is asked to call the Farm Bureau at 547-3011 to put your name on the registration list. As details are finalized, we will contact you with additional information and confirm your participation.

Upcoming FSA Crop Certification/Sign Up Deadlines:

Honey – Bee Hives – 1-2-2020
HOPS & Fruit Trees – 1/15/2020
CRP Sign Up ends – 2/28/2020
HOPS & Fruit Trees - 2020 Sign up ends 2/15/2020
ARC/PLC 2020 Sign up ends – 6/30/2020

 country financial
When weather threatens your livelihood, we’re ready to help

Prevented Planting claims by the numbers*

In 2019, farmers experienced a year like no other. A rainy spring kept thousands of farmers from planting their fields, far surpassing previous Prevented Planting claims records from 2013.

Contact a local COUNTRY Financial Representative to ensure your Federal Crop Policy covers everything you need.

Ray Riekena Canton 309-647-6180
Walter Brown Canton 309-647-6180
Steve Butler Astoria 309-339-2172
Shelley Postin Bushnell 309-772-3003
Richard Sharphair Canton 309-647-3225
Kory Schmidt Lewistown 309-547-2241

*COUNTRY Financial’s crop insurance data as of October 1, 2019
Farm and crop insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, Illinois. 1959210

Peoria Appraisal Service

6121 W Chillicothe Road Pekin, IL 61554

Herbert M. Meyer, ARA
Accredited Rural Appraiser
Email: Peoriaappraiser@yahoo.com
Certified in IL, IA, MO

Calmer BP® StalkRolls

Equip your combine today!

• John Deere
• Case IH
• New Holland
Contact Your Local Dealer:

George Roberts 309-362-2205

The difficult growing season and tumultuous political climate of this year have brought many challenges to Farm Bureau’s farming members. As these issues continue to test the resolve of farmers throughout the state, Illinois Farm Bureau’s policymaking process continues to be the anchor that holds our members together when political storms brew.

The drive to find solutions for our members is what makes me proud to serve as IFB’s vice president and chairman of the IFB Resolutions Committee. The Farm Bureau’s grassroots policymaking process runs deep through the veins of this organization, allowing our efforts to rise above the political fray and overcome partisan loyalties. Policy allows us to craft fact-based, thoughtful, proactive solutions to the many problems we are currently facing in agriculture. The observations, concerns and insight of members at the local and county levels give purpose to this committee, enabling us to advocate for the values our membership believes in. Proposals addressed at our Resolutions Committee meetings begin at the county level where members bring attention to issues facing their farms and families. From there, county Farm Bureau representatives often help these individuals draft a policy submittal and enter it into the process. If the proposal has enough support from fellow members, it reaches our committee where it is then deliberated upon and from fellow members, it reaches our committee where it is then deliberated upon and from there, county Farm Bureau representatives often help these individuals draft a policy submittal and enter it into the process. If the proposal has enough support from fellow members, it reaches our committee where it is then deliberated upon and presented to the state level for broader discussion.

The observations, concerns and insight of members at the local and county levels give purpose to this committee, enabling us to advocate for the values our membership believes in. Proposals addressed at our Resolutions Committee meetings begin at the county level where members bring attention to issues facing their farms and families. From there, county Farm Bureau representatives often help these individuals draft a policy submittal and enter it into the process. If the proposal has enough support from fellow members, it reaches our committee where it is then deliberated upon and presented to the state level for broader discussion.

The difficult growing season and tumultuous political climate of this year have brought many challenges to Farm Bureau’s farming members. As these issues continue to test the resolve of farmers throughout the state, Illinois Farm Bureau’s policymaking process continues to be the anchor that holds our members together when political storms brew.

The drive to find solutions for our members is what makes me proud to serve as IFB’s vice president and chairman of the IFB Resolutions Committee. The Farm Bureau’s grassroots policymaking process runs deep through the veins of this organization, allowing our efforts to rise above the political fray and overcome partisan loyalties. Policy allows us to craft fact-based, thoughtful, proactive solutions to the many problems we are currently facing in agriculture. The observations, concerns and insight of members at the local and county levels give purpose to this committee, enabling us to advocate for the values our membership believes in. Proposals addressed at our Resolutions Committee meetings begin at the county level where members bring attention to issues facing their farms and families. From there, county Farm Bureau representatives often help these individuals draft a policy submittal and enter it into the process. If the proposal has enough support from fellow members, it reaches our committee where it is then deliberated upon and presented to the state level for broader discussion.

The difficult growing season and tumultuous political climate of this year have brought many challenges to Farm Bureau’s farming members. As these issues continue to test the resolve of farmers throughout the state, Illinois Farm Bureau’s policymaking process continues to be the anchor that holds our members together when political storms brew.

The drive to find solutions for our members is what makes me proud to serve as IFB’s vice president and chairman of the IFB Resolutions Committee. The Farm Bureau’s grassroots policymaking process runs deep through the veins of this organization, allowing our efforts to rise above the political fray and overcome partisan loyalties. Policy allows us to craft fact-based, thoughtful, proactive solutions to the many problems we are currently facing in agriculture. The observations, concerns and insight of members at the local and county levels give purpose to this committee, enabling us to advocate for the values our membership believes in. Proposals addressed at our Resolutions Committee meetings begin at the county level where members bring attention to issues facing their farms and families. From there, county Farm Bureau representatives often help these individuals draft a policy submittal and enter it into the process. If the proposal has enough support from fellow members, it reaches our committee where it is then deliberated upon and presented to the state level for broader discussion.
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!”

At West Central FS, Inc. our mission statement is to bring long term value and profitability to our patron owners. This year for the 2020 crop season we are pleased to offer you 0% financing on both seed and crop protection.*

This FS Agri-Finance program allows you to lock your seed and crop protection needs early and take advantage of prepay discounts without having to write a check.

We hope you will take advantage of this money saving offer.

*Minimum seed purchase required

For more information, contact:
Jennifer M Sparrow
Agri-Finance Specialist
309-223-5620

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

Happy Holidays from FS

Contact Your Local Prairieland FS Crop Specialist or Visit Our Website

(888) 978-7637
www.prairielandsfs.com

MAY YOUR DAYS BE MERRY & BRIGHT

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

Happy Holidays from FS

From all of us at
RHOADES REAL ESTATE & LAND AUCTION SERVICES, INC.

Your satisfaction is the ultimate reward for our work and it is why we strive to be your local real estate experts.

JUD RHODES | MANAGING BROKER
AUCTIONER LIC # 441.002280 | (309) 333-0683
RhoadesRealtors.com

LEWISTOWN
Earl Reynolds
CAIC/CES
309-547-2996 – office
309-338-7338 – mobile

IPAVA
Shannon Chenoweth
CAIC/CES
309-753-8253 – office
309-338-3126 – mobile

IPAVA
Chase Bair
Crop Specialist
309-753-8253 – office
309-338-1932 – mobile

West Central FS, Inc.

WHAT’S NEXT:
FINANCE FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

WHAT’S NEXT:
FINANCE FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

At West Central FS, Inc. our mission statement is to bring long term value and profitability to our patron owners. This year for the 2020 crop season we are pleased to offer you 0% financing on both seed and crop protection.*

This FS Agri-Finance program allows you to lock your seed and crop protection needs early and take advantage of prepay discounts without having to write a check.

We hope you will take advantage of this money saving offer.

*Minimum seed purchase required

For more information, contact:
Jennifer M Sparrow
Agri-Finance Specialist
309-223-5620

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

Happy Holidays from FS

Contact Your Local Prairieland FS Crop Specialist or Visit Our Website

(888) 978-7637
www.prairielandsfs.com

MAY YOUR DAYS BE MERRY & BRIGHT

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

Happy Holidays from FS

From all of us at
RHOADES REAL ESTATE & LAND AUCTION SERVICES, INC.

Your satisfaction is the ultimate reward for our work and it is why we strive to be your local real estate experts.

JUD RHODES | MANAGING BROKER
AUCTIONER LIC # 441.002280 | (309) 333-0683
RhoadesRealtors.com