Fulton County Farm Bureau held their 102nd annual meeting Monday, February 11th at Big Horse Vineyards near Lewistown. Nearly 150 members and guests attended the dinner and meeting. Former Fulton FS Manager Mark Pedigo was named this year’s Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award. The award is named after the late Leo Sharp, the Extension Service Ag Advisor in Fulton County for 32 years.

Fulton County Farm Bureau Foundation Board President Kent Schleich introduced the 2 recipients of this year’s scholarship awards (see other article in this issue). Representatives of Spoon River Electric presented the FCFB Foundation with a donation of $1500 from the cooperative’s “Operation Round Up” program. The FCFB Foundation administers the county Farm Bureaus’ Ag. In the Classroom Program and the money granted will be used towards those programs.

Bill Carlberg was recognized for his 6 years as President; he retired due to tenure limitations. Barry Fisher, currently a Board Director was elected President. Retiring Directors Linda Lane of Cuba and Joe Tolley of Avon were recognized; Linda for nine years on the board and Joe for six. Robin Fisher of Ellsville was recognized for her retirement after 3 years as Young Leader Chair representative on the Board.

Raymond Porter of Ipava was elected to serve as Alternate. The evening was capped off with entertainment from the Lewistown High School Jazz Ensemble, a group of 20 junior and senior high students who meet outside of class time to rehearse. They are under the direction of Lewistown School District 97 Band Instructor Justin Haynes.

The Fulton County Agric In the Classroom committee will hold a fundraiser Chicken and Noodle dinner at the Farm Bureau Building in Lewiston on Friday, March 4th to support Ag in the Classroom programs.

Meals will be served from 4:00pm till 7:00pm and carryouts will be available.

Meal will include chicken and noodles, real mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and drink. A variety of homemade desserts will also be available, and are included in the price of the meal. $8.00 for adults and $4.00 for children 3 to 12 years of age. Kids under 3 eat for FREE!

All proceeds will go to benefit the Fulton County Ag. Literacy Coalition which is a partnership of area groups and individuals that fund Ag. In the Classroom activities. Call the Farm Bureau office at 547-3011 for more information.

Members of the Lewistown Jr/Sr High School Jazz Ensemble provided about 30 minutes of music for members and guests following the 102nd County Annual Meeting held on February 11th.

102nd County Annual Meeting Celebrated

Retiring FCFB President Bill Carlberg accepts a plaque from newly elected President Barry Fisher during the 102nd County Annual Meeting on February 11th. Carlberg, from Canton, retires after 6 years as President which was followed by 3 years as a Director. Fisher, from Ellisville, just completed 5 years on the Board of Directors.

Mark Pedigo, AgLand FS Agronomy Marketing Manager, accepts the Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award from FCFB President Bill Carlberg. Pedigo was recognized for his many contributions to our Fulton County farmers when he served in his previous role as Fulton FS Manager.

Chicken and noodles for Ag in the Classroom

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The Fulton County Farm Bureau Foundation trustee's report was pleased to announce that the Foundation will award scholarships to two young Farm Bureau people. Each of them will receive $1500 in a "one-time" award after their first semester of college. Both students, from Lewiston High School, is the son of Marc and Leigh Ann Hess. He has been accepted at Bradley University, where he will study engineering. He plans to return to build a career in our rural area.

Our Tachio is graduate from Spoon River Valley High School. He is the son of Roberta and Lance Tarochione and will attend the University of Northwestern California, and one day own his own shop.

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The Foundation scholarships are funded solely through member's and friend's voluntary contributions. The Fulton County Farm Bureau Foundation, which is a registered and approved 501(c), is created to provide scholarships with the intentions of helping young people interested in agricultural careers finance their educations. The Foundation Board of Directors meets each year to evaluate and discuss the applications.

In 2019, 1007 Regular members, and 1549 associate members voted on new board members. The minutes from the January meeting were mailed and emailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were accepted with no corrections. Bob and Elaine discussed the financial statement, which were placed on file for audit. The Board of Directors approved the 2019 budget. The minutes from the January meeting were mailed and emailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were accepted with no corrections. Bob and Elaine discussed the financial statement, which were placed on file for audit. The Board of Directors approved the 2019 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.
The Women in Agriculture Conference will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. The keynote address will be followed by a variety of breakout sessions that participants may choose among. A lunch break will be included between the morning and afternoon breakout sessions.

The Conference will wrap up around 3:00 p.m. with Erin Brenneman, Partner and Farming Manager, Brenneman Pork, presenting “We mend more fences when we meet in the middle.” Raised in the suburbs of Chicago, it was only after Brenneman married and moved to her new family’s hog operation that her eyes were opened to what she calls “the beautiful world of farming.” She’s since become a strong advocate for the industry and for her own family’s products.

Included in the day is an exhibit area, with many businesses and organizations offering materials, promotional items, and give-away drawings. The cost of the program is $50 prior to February 21st, which will include a breakfast and a luncheon buffet, as well as a mid-day snack break. Walk-ins the day of the conference will be $100. To register, contact any of the sponsoring County Farm Bureaus in Illinois, or register online at womeninagricultureconference.com.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative awarded $1500 to through its Operation Round-Up Program to our AITC Program during our County Annual Meeting. The money is made possible by the generous members of the co-op who voluntarily “Round-Up” their electric bill to the next dollar every month. All of the funds collected are donated back into Fulton County communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually is about $6 per month. SRE Committee member JoDee Pedigo is shown with SRE Taryn Mellert, HR Director/Exec. Asst.

The conference, in its eighth year, will feature keynote speaker Tyne Morgan, Host, U.S. Farm Report, presenting “Bullish Agriculture 2019 & Beyond.” After spending two years on the road as AgDay and U.S. Farm Report National Reporter, in 2014 Tyne was named the first female Host of U.S. Farm Report. At the age of 29, she became only the fourth host of the show, following Orion Samuelson, Max Armstrong and John Hulps.

The conference will be held in the coming weeks. Staff from Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs and Commodities Division will give a presentation and lead the discussion. In addition to supper and the chance to visit with fellow Farm Bureau members, the Viewpoint Survey will be presented.

The meeting times and locations are as follows:
- Bernadotte Café, Bernadotte, Tuesday, March 19th
- American Grille, Canton, Monday, March 25th

Both meetings will begin with dinner at 6:30pm. Please make your reservation for the meeting by calling the Farm Bureau office at 547-3011, or emailing to fultonfb@att.net. Be sure to say which meeting you will be attending. There is a $5 charge. Please make your reservation at least 4 days before you wish to attend. Please help us manage our costs by keeping your reservation.

Three new Directors have been elected to our Board. This issue, we’ll meet the first of those individuals.

Seth Vohland attended Farmington High School, graduating in 2010. He has an Associate’s Degree in Diesel and Power Systems Technology from Spoon River College. He also works part-time in the Diesel and Power Systems Technology Program as a Lab Assistant. Before going back to the farm, Seth worked at Kleine Equipment as a diesel mechanic.

Seth and his wife Natalie have two children—Henry who is almost 3 and Anna who is 15 months old. He farms with his Dad (Bob and mother Deb) and brother Nathan, on the family farm. He has another brother, Isaac.

The family raises row crops, they have a small herd of beef, and they are also in the trucking business, as well as doing custom work for other farmers.

Seth has been a lifelong member of the Fairview Reformed Church and is currently serving on the church board as a deacon. Seth says “I love farming! It is basically all I wanted to do since fifth grade.” He’s the Grandson of Lois and the late Howard Vohland, by the way! He reminds us that those who do not farm need to understand that the agriculture industry is constantly changing with new technology and developing new ways to grow more food for the world. Farm Bureau plays a key role in getting that message out there.

Director Spotlight

Seth Vohland

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