Ag week baby welcomed at Graham Hospital

As part of the Fulton County Farm Bureau’s celebration of Fulton County Ag Week (March 22-28), the group recognized the first baby born at Graham Hospital during the week. Brynlee Marie Gearing was born March 23rd at 7:30pm weighing 7 pounds and 3 oz, measuring 20 inches long. Her parents are Lauren Cracraft and Jake Gearing from Bushnell, Illinois. Brynlee is welcomed by two brothers, 4 year old Lane and 5 year old Greyson.

Brynlee and her family were greeted by a “welcome basket” presented by the FCFB Promotion and Education Committee. The basket held two dozen baby items and products made from or representing agricultural commodities; all to remind everyone that you can’t have a day without agriculture!

Get counted!

Visit My2020Census.gov to complete your survey today! Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States, creating national awareness of the importance of the census and its valuable statistics.

It counts our population and households, producing the basis for apportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than $675 billion in federal funds to support states, counties and communities’ vital programs — impacting education, fire and emergency response services, transportation, employment, housing, health care and public policy.

By April 1, every home should have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. According to the original time-line, Census workers were to visit households who had not complete the survey in mid May. It’s safer and more efficient to happen later than planned! Your survey needs to be complete before August. 53% of Fulton County residents have already responded; GREAT JOB!

Please fill out the paper survey you received, complete it online using the information sent to you, or go directly to My2020Census.gov directly to find out more. We are not able to fill out your Census for you (over the phone), but when the FCFB office is able to open to the public, members will be able to complete the survey using our device and our internet access. Currently, you can call the Census bureau directly at 844-330-...

Fulton County Farm Bureau

From the Ground UP

March/April 2020

Vol. 36, No. 2

Federal Stimulus

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

IFB has put together a fairly comprehensive list of provisions of the CARE Act that may be of help to farmers and local businesses owners. The Act provides a lot of flexibility for the USDA to develop programs to assist farmers. As US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue looks to utilize these funds, he is communicating broadly to support to impacted agricultural producers, including specialty growers, producers who supply local food systems including farmers’ markets, and livestock producers including dairy farmers.

Agricultural enterprises that employ 50 or fewer people whose principal place of residence is in the United States are eligible to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), regardless of revenue levels. The PPP loan can be fully forgiven if funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities. 75% must be used for payroll to be fully forgiven. You can find that application at the SBA.gov page as well.

The American Farm Bureau Federation reviewed the interim final rule for the PPP and has provided their analysis at www.fb.org/market-intell/update-ag-and-ppp.


(April 9, 2020) The American Banker’s Association has created a fact sheet on the Paycheck Protection Program. Farmer provisions can be found on pgs 17-18 at this website: https://www.illfb.org/media/6789/aba-paycheck-protection-program.

(April 7, 2020) USDA updated their Paycheck Protection Program FAQ including questions around eligibility. All information, fact sheets and links referenced in this article can be found by going to the Illinois Farm Bureau website (www.illfb.org) and simply clicking on the red “Alert” button.

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MARCH
The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the Farm Bureau office in Lewistown, starting at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to notice given. The meeting was called to order and presided over by President Barry Fisher. Other board members present were Julie Serven, Wes Strode, Delson Wilcoxen, Robin Fisher, David Tolley, Linda Rock, Levi Porter, Bob Vohland, Rob Janssen, and Keely Egelhoff. Seth Vohland and Elaine Stone were absent. Also present were Earl Allen and Jim McNelly.

There was no correspondence from the county. In Affiliate Reports, Earl Allen gave a year-end report and showed a video on the Fulton Affiliate Reports. Earl Allen and Jim McNelly.

Levi Porter, Bob Vohland, Rob Janssen, and Fisher. Other board members present were

The Membership Report was given. In total, we have 994 Regular Members, 7 Professional Members, 1,101 Associates for a total of 25,49 members.

Committee Reports were given:

• Young Leaders – The committee held a kiddie tractor pull at the VFW. AG Mech show. This year’s officers are Rob Janssen President, Vanessa Williams Vice President and Daniel Williams is Secretary. They are planning on a meeting in a couple of weeks.

• Ag in the Classroom – Jamie has been talking about dairy and soil lessons with the classrooms she visited this month. Wes will write to the adopted classroom. Local Issues – The scare of the coronavirus is causing a lot of cancellations. Legislative – Last week we hosted a meet the candidates night. There was a good turnout. Marketing – Delson discussed the local grain and livestock markets. Business service – none this month.

• Promotion and Education – We will be meeting at the Highland Café in Bushnell Monday at 6:30pm. So far, we have sold 30 ducks for the Ag in the Classroom Duck Race fundraiser.

Elaine provided a written Manager’s report.

Old Business:

• Policy Development meeting at Ber- nadotte on Monday was well attended. There are around 3000 bills that have been submitted to the General Assembly. IFB weights in on about 300 of those.

• The Springfield visit has been postponed for now.

• The applied for grant was mailed Febru-

Fulton County Farm Bureau membership renewals for Regular (farming) members were due on April 1st. If you have not renewed your dues, and you haven’t, please send your dues soon. We need your continued membership to help us continue the good work of this organization.

Here in Fulton County, for more than 100 years, we have stood by our mission to improve the future of agriculture. Fulton County Farm Bureau, along with Illinois Farm Bureau, fights for farmers. We represent three out of every four farmers in Illi- nois. Whether you have 10 acres or 10,000, we are here to serve you.

Your organization "works the Hill". Capi- tol Hill that is. We’re a grassroots organi- zation. Our members work with local, state and federal legislatures to help protect farm- ers and develop better ways to farm. Espe- cially now, IFB leaders are CONTIN- UAL in contact with state and national agency officials and lawmakers about how current conditions are affecting our farmers.

Your organization has played a pivotal role in shaping disaster declarations and relief pay- ments, including the CARES Act, the largest economic aid package in history. Your leaders are having discussions with policy-makers daily about markets, supplies, availability of resources, labor issues, and transportation. But there’s more to Farm Bureau. We also give back. From scholarships to resources for teachers or donating nearly 1 million meals to local food banks, we take pride in caring for our communities. Farm Bureau is pro- viding daily resources and lessons for dis- tance learning and home-schooling. We’ve provided these in the past, but now they’re more important than ever.

We keep you in the know. From apps to workshops, we’re known for our factual in- formation that helps farmers work smarter and consumers stay informed. We pride ourselves in scheduling meaningful meet- ings and workshops to help our farmers. We’ve had to take a break from this for a bit, but we’ll be back with our programs just as soon as we can! We save you money. You’ll find more than 300,000 discounts on agriculture, health, travel and automotive programs on the Illi- nois Farm Bureau Member Benefit App.

PLEASE renew your dues TODAY. We need you and you can’t afford not to be an Illinois Farm Bureau Member.

FROM THE GROUND UP
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
8/30/2000-8/30/2021

AUCTION LOCATION: Mackinaw Valley Vineyard • 33633 State Route 9 • Mackinaw, IL
DATE/TIME: Wednesday, MAY 13 @ 10:30 AM

In case of asset rescheduled due to COVID-19, check our website for updates.

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Online PAT Testing Available from IDOA

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is providing a limited number of online exams for private and commercial pesticide applicator testing.

To request and register for an exam, email agr.clm@illinois.gov with the following information:
First and last name, Email, Phone number, Test(s) needed.

Note: Companies with more than one applicator needing to test must submit requests in one email to help administer the tests in a timely manner.

IDOA will contact you within one to two business days at the email address provided. The email will contain instructions and a secure link to the exam.

Upon completion of the exam, IDOA will notify you via email with your score. For individuals who pass the exam, the email will include a printable temporary license. Individuals who do not pass the exam will receive instructions on how to retest. It is only allowable to test three times within a six-month period.

Any questions about the exam process or unique situations can be emailed to agr.clm@illinois.gov. If technology is an issue, testing can be done on a mobile device.

As a reminder, these exams are being offered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, all individuals who took an online exam and received a temporary license will be required to retest in 2021.

P & E Committee Meeting Notes

The FCFB Promotions and Education Committee met via Zoom Meeting on March 16th. The Committee discussed numerous programs they are planning for this summer. It was decided that plans would proceed for the time being. “Plan B” will be imposed if our “stay at home” order is continued and our ability to gather is limited.

Chair Keely Egelhoff reported that the sales of ducks for the Pool Party “Duck Race” for AITC sales are doing well. We will continue to sell as best we can. Plans for the 2nd “Ag-Making Race” to be held June 28th were discussed. Registration is again $50. This year the event will be conducted remotely; teams will be given the list of scavenger hunt items on a live Facebook event all at the same time, letting teams start from their own home base at 2pm.

The Committee is planning a “Cow Patty Bingo” at the County Fair. We will charge $10 a square, selling 100 squares. We first need to talk to the fair board to get their approval for this.

The Committee is planning a “Fulton Co Ag Vices” tour, highlighting niche marketing enterprises in Fulton County. The plan is to do this on July 31st. Charge participants $20 or $25. We will check on the possibility of a small bus, plans for a boxed lunch, and an evening meal to finish the event. We will work on a t-shirt for the event.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 8th at 6:30pm – location pending on what is going on in the world!
Please support your local FS. Each provides funding for this publication and other Farm Bureau activities. Show your appreciation!

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309-547-2896
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