Ag week baby welcomed at Graham Hospital

As part of the Fulton County Farm Bureau’s celebration of Fulton County Ag. Week (March 17-23), the group recognized the first baby born at Graham Hospital during the week. Bryson Allen Hendricks was born March 19th at 8:18 AM weighing 6 pounds and 11 oz. His parents are Norma and Josh Villanueva from Canton. Bryson has an older brother, Grayson, who will be two in about a week!

Bryson and his family were greeted by a “welcome basket” presented by the 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!

The FCFB Promotion and Education Committee’s Ag Week baby basket held two dozen baby items and products made from or representing agricultural commodities. Each item was tagged with an agriculture fact emphasizing the importance of Fulton County, Illinois, and American Agriculture.

Show clinic scheduled

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee will hold a Showmanship Clinic on Saturday, June 8th from 9am to 11am at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Lewistown. The clinic will take place in the Sheep Show Arena.

Learn showmanship techniques and pointers on showing swine, cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry. Animals will be on site for demonstration purposes and senior 4-H members will give pointers on preparing and exhibiting the animals.

Everyone is welcome regardless of age and/or experience. Participants are asked to please register by calling the Farm Bureau office at 547-3011 or emailing to fultonfb@att.net. Please state which animal/animals you are interested in learning about.

Field trips are expected to include the hops farm, a lavender farm, an egg farm, beekeeping, apple orchard, CSA, a reindeer farm, and a seed distribution and treatment business. All will be within Fulton and McDonough Counties.

Lock and dam closure meeting July 12

The Fulton County Farm Bureau, along with Mason, Menard, Schuyler, and McDonough County Farm Bureaus and Illinois Farm Bureau, will host a meeting to discuss 2020 scheduled river closures on Friday, July 12th at 9am at Dickson Mounds Museum, near Lewistown. The meeting will be held in the auditorium.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will close mechanized projects that can only be conducted during the summer of 2020 to conduct maintenance and repair projects that can only be completed by lowering water levels in the lock chamber. The Peoria Lock and Dam will close for approximately 60 days beginning in late July to early August of that year. Other areas on the Illinois Waterway will receive more substantial updates at the expense of longer closures.

The purpose of this meeting is to help farmers and grain haulers to prepare for these projects, and to plan for the impacts on shipping during harvest season, when barge traffic is heaviest. Presenters will include personnel from the US Army Corps of Engineers, representatives of Illinois commodity groups, and local grain merchandisers.

Reservations are requested by calling the Fulton County Farm Bureau at 547-3011.

Farm Bureau Blood Drive on June 3

Please donate blood at our FCFB/American Red Cross drive on Monday, June 3rd, from 1-6pm at the Farm Bureau Building. Please call 547-3011 for an appointment or go to Americanredcross.org.
**FROM THE GROUND UP**

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**FARM BUREAU OFFICE 547-3011**

**FAX: 547-2324 INTERNET ADDRESS: fultonfb@att.net**

Elaine Stone, Manager
Jamie Butler, Secretary/Bookkeeper, ag. literacy coordinator
V. Daniel Brown, Director

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**APRIL**

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at the Farm Bureau office in Lincoln. The meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m. The agenda was approved. A letter was given. The meeting was called to order and presided over by President Barry Fish- er. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. Managers and Company financial statements. These were placed on file for audit.

We gave the Membership Report. We have 1048 Regular Members and 155 Associates for a total of 2667 members. The membership report was placed on file as presented.

Committee Reports were presented:

- **Young Leaders** – Elaine reported that the group met on March 27th.
- **Old Business** – Elaine highlighted her Manager’s report and talked about upcoming events. She asked the board if there was any interest in having an informal dinner information meeting. She is directed to pursue that before planting season starts.
- **New Business** – Policy Development Meetings were discussed.
- **Field Trip** – Elaine reported that the group met on March 25th at American grille in Canton, both starting at 6:30pm. Members of AAA Governmental Affairs staff will be at both meetings.
- **Springfield Visit** – Elaine was directed to contact the state rep with Representatives Humom and Buse at the Springfield visit.
- **Local Issues** – Wes mentioned the hardship for the board members to read. They were approved with sever corrections. Bob and Elaine discussed the financial statements. These were placed on file for audit.

This month our Director Spotlight shines on our newest Director, David Tolley. He and his wife Kathy farm near Attica. Kathy is a registered nurse, affiliated with a local health department. They have three sons. Joe (who recently retired from our Board) farms with him and is married to Jenna (also at OSF) and they are expecting their first child this summer; Luke is an engineer for Komatsu and is married to Christa (a Social Worker); and Seth is a graduate student at Purdue University and is married to Abby (an Instructional Designer). David and Kathy both graduated from Galesburg High School in 1978. David then graduated from Illinois Central College and Kathy graduated from Illinois Wesleyan. They have a crop and livestock operation and David noted that they are very grateful to work with a great people from Fulton County.

David and his family are long-time members of Bethel Baptist Church. In his spare time, he enjoys doing trips with his wife and anyone time spent with family, trucking with tractors and visiting tractor salvage yards, grilling and Cardinals baseball.

When asked why Fulton County Farm Bureau is important to him, David says “There are a lot of things that I can learn from the Farm Bureau. I enjoy meeting new people and discovering how other people are doing things around the area. I want to be involved in the organization and try to help whatever the organized voice of Illinois state agriculture.” We welcome David to the Board.

**FULTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU**
Operation Helping Heroes

FCFB is so proud to have helped facilitate a “Operation Helping Heroes” grant for our Fulton County Emergency Telephone System ETSB Board. The $10,500 donation to Fulton County ETSB is part of COUNTRY Financial’s program to support non-profit events and programs that benefit active duty service members, veterans and their families, and more recently, it’s been able to provide support for emergency first responders.

The money was presented on March 27, 2019 at the Fulton County Sheriff’s office in Lewistown. Taking part (and pictured) are L to R – Tony Laesch, Agency Manager COUNTRY Financial; Wes Strode, FCFB Vice president/Local Issues Chair; Country Rep Steve Butler (Astoria), Chris Helle (Fulton County ESDA Director/Fulton County 911 Coordinator), Sheriff Jeff Standard, Country Rep Walter Brown, Country Rep Shelley Postin, and Country Rep Ray Riekena. Country Reps not able to be present for picture were Richard Sharpshair and Kory Schmidt.

Mark your calendars

April 24 Young Leader Meeting
April 30th FFA Acquaintance Bowling Night; tentative.
May 15th Adopted Classroom Trip
June 3 Red Cross Blood Drive
June 8 Young Leader Show Clinic at Fairgrounds
June 14 Cuba Livestock Show
June 21 Farm Safety Camp, Fulton County Fairgrounds
July 12 Lock and Dam Closure meeting; 9am Dickson Mounds Museum
July 16 Metropolitan Water Reclamation Dist. Field Day; tentative.
July 19 Pool Party at Big Creek Park
July 21-27 Fulton County Fair
August 17 Farm Bureau Member Night at Spoon River Speedway

Several FCFB Directors and family members spent time at Saturday, March 23rd visiting with grocery shoppers. Pictured here are Directors Seth Vohland, Bob Vohland, and Linda Rock at the Canton HyVee. Later in the day Directors Keely Egelhoff and Delson Wilcoxen were there. FCFB President Barry Fisher and his wife Laura, Director Julie Servern and FCFB member Keith Mellert were at the Canton Kroger. Our farmers answered shoppers’ questions and discussed consumer concerns.

Fulton County Farm Bureau Leaders visited with lawmakers in Springfield on February 27th. Pictured with Rep. Hammond is Director David Tolley and President Barry Fisher.

Kevin Semlow, Director of State Legislation for Illinois Farm Bureau, led the discussion at a Policy Development Meeting on Monday, March 25th at the American Grille. The meeting, one of two held this winter by Fulton County Farm Bureau (FCFB) was to give Farm Bureau members a chance to hear legislative updates and to voice their opinions on legislation and policies. A similar meeting for FCFB members was held the previous week at the Bernadotte Cafe with Ryan Whitehouse, Associate Director of National Legislation & Policy Development, speaking.

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