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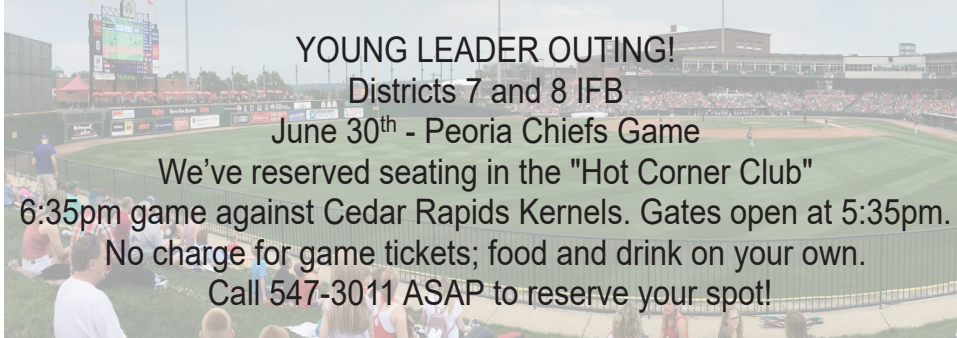


Summer Ag Institute

12 educators from Fulton and McDonough Counties recently took part in the Summer Ag. Institute (SAI), sponsored by the Fulton County Farm Bureau and the McDonough County Farm Bureau. The program was conducted June 13-15 and focused on soils.

Participants discussed the strip-mining history of the area, land improvement and conservation methods, and had presentations from Fulton County NRCS, Fulton FS (drone usage) and a tiling demonstration near Sciota. The group toured Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and We Ma Tuk golf course near Cuba, Prairie Land Conservancy, Good Hope Gardens, WIU Allison Organic Farm, and Rezab Prairie restoration.

Teachers also heard presentations from Illinois Ag. In the Classroom staff, Illinois Corn Growers, Illinois Soybean Association, Illinois Beef, and St. Louis Dairy Council. Participants earned professional development hours for continuing education credit upon successful completion of the course. For more information on bringing AITC into your schools, contact Fulton County Ag Literacy Coordinator Julie Werland at 547-3011. Go to our Facebook page to see many more pictures!



Farm Bureau 'All Member' Pool Party

Fulton County Farm Bureau members are invited to come on out and soak up the sun at Big Creek Park Pool for our Annual All Member Pool Party!

The Fulton County Farm Bureau is again hosting a pool party and cook out for all members. The fun will take place Friday, July 21st from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. There will be swimming and fun in the (setting)

sun. Along with the pool party there will also be a cookout. All food and drinks will be provided! All members and their guests are invited to come out and spend the evening with Farm Bureau friends.

Big Creek Park is located at 940 North Main Street in Canton. No RSVP is needed, but questions can be directed to the Farm Bureau office at 547-3011.

Calling All Farmer Tans!

Our Farmer Tan Contest is back! Whatever the line of demarcation—crop top stripes, white bands beneath wristwatches, semi-scorched scalps, or just the standard milky bicep adjoining a florid forearm—send your picture to us by July 18th. (No late entries accepted). We'll select the 6 sweetest Farmer Tans, slap your photo on a can in our booth in County Fair Merchant Building and let folks vote by adding money to your can.

We'll also have a "golden" opportunity to showcase our contestants during the Fair Queen Pageant intermission. If you sign up to compete, please make sure you are available to "model" Monday, July 24 on-stage at the Fairgrounds.

All genders, ages, and professions allowed. Please; use good taste. We DO re-



serve the right to prohibit any inappropriate photos. And PLEASE be sensible; do NOT risk skin cancer for a "minor" award.....

Bring on those FARMER TANS!

Farm Estate Planning Series: When Generations Disagree On The Future of the Farm

By Kevin Brooks

Farm Business Management and Marketing Educator; UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

Disclaimer - The following is meant only for educational purposes and not to be construed as legal advice.

Farm owners work hard to build and maintain a farm. Often the farm has been in the family for generations. Years of sweat equity has been put into the land and farm operation. But what happens when the next generation isn't interested in keeping the farm?

Naturally, it is easy to assume your heirs want to keep the farm "in the family". But it is important that you avoid assumptions and have the tough conversations.

Have an open and honest conversation with your children about the future of the farm.

- Ask direct questions, with no pressure or guilt.
- Listen to understand.
- Work out a plan with them for the future of the farm.
- Get outside help, if needed.
- Planning helps eliminate bitterness

Too often, farm families do not follow these steps and the final outcome ends in bitterness. As a trust officer, I have been involved in situations where I have seen the bitterness come from the lengthy process and they are anxious for their inheritance (money) while others are upset because they wanted to keep the farm or have more control over the final use of the land. The reasons for the bitterness are diverse. The intensity of the bitterness can be as shocking as it is common. Even in families with only one or two children, bitterness over what was left undone in settling or running the estate/trust is common. Settling even a simple estate comes with its stressors.

As farm owners work through the estate planning process I encourage you to think about these important facts.

- Each of your children have unique desires and needs.
 - They have a different perspective.
 - Their hopes, dreams, and future plans may be different than what you have for them.
 - The world is a different place than when you first began farming the land.
 - Generations are unique
- Baby boomers and earlier generations

tended to live in the same area where they grew up. Jobs were plentiful in general and there wasn't a large need to move. Boomers can be very confused by younger generations and a seeming lack of dedication to the past, including the hard work put into building the farm into what it is today. Older generations tended to sacrifice family time for building financial security.

Your children (born after 1960) have adulted in a very different environment. Jobs are not as secure as the previous generations. Employers change direction, leaving younger generations without a job which makes them need career flexibility. Companies are sold and bought with amazing regularity. We hear that Gen X and Millennial generations aren't dedicated to an employer like Baby Boomers and older generations were. The fact is that most employers aren't as dedicated to their employees as they were in the past. As a result, an adult child may need flexibility (and cash) over the tradition of keeping the farm in the family.

Added to this equation, some in the younger generations prioritize family time and place a high priority on job flexibility. Owning, operating, or managing a farm due to the grow-

ing season is not flexible.

Even if a child is not currently working on the farm, it is wise to discuss their desires, financial situation, and skills sets as they relate to farming and/or farm ownership. There is a chance that their current situation and goals might not align with your desire to pass the farm operation and ownership to them.

In situations where your children have made it clear they don't intend to farm, does that mean they don't want to deal with farm ownership? No it doesn't, but it might. If not having the time to work on the farm or manage the farm is an issue with your adult children, find out what the concerns are. Is there some type of training you can provide to make the future transition earlier? In agriculture, it is common that parents do not let their children in on the inner workings (including financial) of the farm. Do they know how to deal with a farm lease when you are gone? Do they know how to read a soil test? Would they know what to discuss with a farm manager? Ask yourself, do they have the time and interest needed to navigate the rapidly changing agriculture industry? Talk to your kids openly and listen to understand all sides.

Communication is key



JUNE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, June 8, 2023, 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 Robin Fisher, Linda Rock, Bob Vohland, Levi Porter, David Tolley, and Keely Wilcoxen. Also present was Manager Elaine Stone, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Julie Werland, and Steve Hess. Jason Chatterton, Jeff Shelby, Seth Vohland, Nick Cleer, and Johnathan Lock were absent.

Correspondences included a thank you note from Blayne Clary for a scholarship. Thank you letter from Michelle Battefeld. Thank you for the membership gift card from Shelly Postin. Thank you from Krista Gray for a donation to the 4-H Fun Horse Show. In Affiliate Reports, Barry noted that West Central was having a good year.

The minutes from the May meeting were emailed and mailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were approved with one correction (to the date of the meeting).

Linda Rock discussed the financial statements for May. A CD at Tompkins State Bank came due, and it was rolled over. The financials were put on file for audit.

Bob gave the Membership Report: In total, we have 977 regular members at the end of previous month, 13 professional members, and 1520 associate members for a total of 2510 members. Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Young Leaders – District 7 and 8 will be having a party suite for the Chiefs game. Rob Jansen will represent us at the district discussion meet.

Ag in the Classroom- Julie Werland had a report in the book, and also introduced herself to the Board. Julie outlined her plan for the school year and summer ideas. Directors agreed that the Adopted Class Visit went well again.

Local Issues – Elaine reported there will be an Ameren meeting next week concerning grid development.

Legislative- Steve Discussed the CO2 Pipeline

DIRECTOR SCOREBOARD	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023
Barry Fisher	✓	✓	✓	M e e t i n g	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N o M e e t i n g	✓	✓
Bob Vohland	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Robin Fisher	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Keely Wilcoxen	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Linda Rock	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
David Tolley	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Seth Vohland	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Levi Porter	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Nick Cleer	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Jeff Shelby	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Jason Chatterton	✓		✓		✓							
John Lock	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	

Marketing – Levi Discussed the drought monitor map that was passed around. Livestock market is high. Corn \$6.50 Beans was up slightly wheat was up a few cents.

Business service –Elaine reported that the new entryway floor was installed and she is still trying to get the rest of the storm damage repaired

Promotion and Education – Keely reminded everyone of the June 22nd blood drive at the VFW, and reported on getting ready for the fair.

Manager’s Report – Elaine’s report was included in the book. She reminded everyone of the Nutrient Management Field Day and she asked Directors to make contacts with unpaid regular members.

In Old Business, Steve Hess gave an update on the CO2 Pipeline. Steve is asking for a possible resolution to oppose eminent domain on pipelines. The Adopted Class Visit was discussed. It was agreed we had a great visit, and there was lots of Facebook coverage. The Kids especially have a great time at the sale barn. It was decided to continue with the Adopted Class Plan. It was discussed that one year’s class did not get to come down; we should invite them next year. Directors set the date for Country Appreciation Event- August 14th for dinner at the Bistro in Canton. Nutrient Management Field Day June 20th.

In New Business, Fair plans were discussed. VIT FFA Chapter and Advisor may be able to help us on Wednesday night. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

MAY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, May 11, 2023, 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 Robin Fisher, Jeff Shelby, Linda Rock, Bob Vohland, Seth Vohland, Levi Porter, and Johnathan Lock. David Tolley, Nick Cleer, and Keely Wilcoxen attended via zoom. Also present was Manager Elaine Stone and Office Assistant Michelle Battefeld. Jason Chatterton was absent.

Correspondences included thank you notes from the Fulton County Government Board (for pie at the March meeting), Lin-

da Rock for the memorial for her mother-in-law, and Curt Strode (for his nomination for Master Farmer). A letter regarding an earthquake in southern Illinois was received from Russell McVeigh. A charming note was received from member Sharon Lafary with her dues remittance. IFB Vice Presidential candidate introduction letters were received from Dennis Green of Lawrence County, Brent Clair of Adams County, and Evan Hultine of Bureau County.

A Country Financial production report is included in the book. The minutes from the March meeting were emailed and mailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were approved. Linda Rock discussed the financial statements for March and April. These were placed on file for audit.

Bob Vohland gave the Membership Report. We have 973 regular members at the end of the previous month, 13 professional members, and 1510 associate members for a total of 2496 members. Reports were approved.

Committee Reports:

Young Leaders – John reported that the Committee is working on setting up a date for district young leaders to attend a Chief’s game. The next meeting will be Tues May 23rd @ 6:30 @ Rancho Nuevo in Canton. They will be discussing future activities and new fundraising activities for the Fulton County fair.

Ag in the Classroom- Robin reported that Julie Werland our new ag literacy coordinator started April 17th. She provided a report which was included in the book. Plastic bag ice cream was made at two schools and classes are currently hatching eggs.

Local Issues – Jeff is looking into getting someone to speak on solar programs.

Legislative- David reported that the pipeline companies are still working their way through the approval process. California passed banning inhumane practices in raising pork. California is also working towards an electric truck fleet for shipping. Currently not feasible as there are not enough electric trucks on the road.

Marketing – Levi discussed the current drought situation and its potential impact. He also covered current market trends and impacts for future market prices.

Business service – Seth reported there was storm damage including loss of trees and some building damage. The front door glass is cracked, entrance area linoleum lifted – both will need replaced. A window in conference room was pulled out of the track. The garage has shingle and siding damage. The whole roof will need re-shingled. The siding cannot be matched and will need replaced.

Promotion and Education – Keely reported they will be holding another baby-sitting clinic and that we have a blood drive planned for June 22nd.

Manager’s Report – report was in the book and included Elaine’s work on tornado recovery/cleanup, IFB/MWRD Field Day, Summer Ag Institute, help with AITC, the landscaping project, school programs, scholarship presentations at awards day, the adopted class trip plans, pool party, and farm safety camp. Elaine reminded directors of upcoming programs.

In old business, Directors discussed the Applied for Grant. Funding levels are lower than in the past and costs have increased for many programs that grants help fund. The Adopted Class visit on May 24th was discussed. A tentative itinerary was passed out. Baked goods are needed for snacks. Directors discussed the “Members in the middle” proposal. Directors voted to support. Discussion was held on the push for wind and solar farms as they pull farm ground out of production and their potential impact on future membership levels.

In New Business, Directors discussed Summer Membership Drive ideas. The Pool party was set for July 21st at the Canton Pool. County Fair plans were discussed. Our Queen Candidate is Carlie. The pageant will be the 24th. We’ll be taking money at the gates and grandstands on the 26th. Watermelon will be served on the 27th after the auction. Jeff Shelby will pick up the watermelons. The pedal pull will be the 29th.

FCFB has been asked to take part in the County Bicentennial Event September 3rd, at the Fulton County Fairgrounds. We will make plans to help with kid’s activities. Jonathan and Sydney Lock will provide a petting zoo. Barry offered camelids for the petting zoo. Julie and Linda Rock will be working with the children’s activities. The theme is going to be a fair environment with carnival type activities and bands all day. It’s tentatively to start in the afternoon and run through the evening. Other suggestions: kiddie tractor pull, antique tractor show, if members would be willing to “chair” those events.

Master Farmer Nominations were discussed. Concerns were raised about nominating two years in a row as the likelihood of getting the same county recognized in consecutive years might be slim. It was decided to not nominate anyone this year. Directors discussed the Nutrient Management Field Day, Tuesday June 20th. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



...to pay your dues! Please renew your regular member dues of \$75 before August 15th to avoid a reinstatement fee.

FROM THE GROUND UP

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Adopted Classroom

We welcomed our 4th Graders from St. Germaine Parish School (Oak Lawn) on May 24th. Pictures from the day, (clockwise starting top left); enjoying a picnic lunch at Fairview Ball Park provided/served by Fulton FS folks; FCFB President Barry Fisher visiting with a parent at his family sheep farm; a student receiving his "bill of sale" for the calves he bought at Fairview Sale Barn; visiting the ever-popular dairy at Calrberg Farms near Canton; and checking out farm equipment (and the HORNS!) at Steve & Cindy Halsey Farms near London Mills; Thanks to our members and affiliates for providing this fantastic opportunity for our kids!

Ellen Smith Memoriam

Our heartfelt thanks to the family of Ellen Smith for honoring her memory with gifts to the Fulton County Farm Bureau Foundation to benefit our AITC program. Ellen led our program as Coordinator from 2004 to 2008. We were heartbroken by her unexpected passing in April. Contributions in her name in the amount of \$5,000 will enhance our program to educate children about agriculture; a mission that was her passion. We extend our gratitude and sincere sympathy to Mike, Matthew, and Sarah and the entire Smith family.



Farm Safety Camp

At left, FCFB member and Busy Bee 4-H member Cameron Stone led one of the sessions at Farm Safety Day, held on June 6th. She was assisted by fellow member Cole Ricker. Kids 6 years of age and older from both Fulton and Mason counties were invited to take part in the annual event, which rotates between the two County Fairgrounds. This year the kids visited the following stations/safety topics during the day: fire, water, First Aid, Grain, Bin, Implement, Livestock, Water, Electricity, and ATV/Lawnmower. All activities were free and each participant received a "Farm Safety Camp" safari hat. Lunch was provided by the Fulton County and Mason County Farm Bureaus. The event is planned and conducted by the two County Farm Bureau groups, and Mason and Fulton U of I Extension offices.

FCFB Queen Candidate Carlee Belless

The Fulton County Farm Bureau is proud to introduce our candidate for Miss Fulton County Fair. Miss Carlee Belless of Astoria will represent our organization in the Queen Pageant to be held on the opening night of the Fulton County Fair, Monday, July 24th. Carlee is the 16-year-old daughter of Deanna Deushane, Jason Stambaugh, Coty, and Mandy Belless, and is the granddaughter of Mary (the late Jake) Deushane of Lewistown. She will be a Junior this fall at Astoria High School. She currently works at the Bernadotte Cafe. She has been active in 4-H and FFA, FCCLA, FFA, Student Council, Environmental Club, Drama Club, Cheerleading, Pom Squad, and Softball. Carlee enjoys cattle showing, four wheeler riding, fishing, spending time with family and friends, hunting, being outdoors, and swimming. Come cheer for Carlee on July 24th. The pageant begins at 6:30 p.m.



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