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Vol. 39, No. 6

November/December 2023

County Annual Meeting February 12

Our 107th County Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, February 12th, 2024, at Big Horse Vineyards, 11603 N Co HWY 9, Lewistown. The buffet meal will begin at 5:45pm, meeting to follow at 7:00pm. Dinner will include roast pork loin, cheesy potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, cake, and coffee & tea.

The President and 2 new Board members will be elected, as Bob Vohland and Keely Wilcoxen will tenure off the Board. Delegates & an Alternate to the 2024 IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago next December will also be elected. All

members are encouraged to submit your name for this role to either President Fisher or to a Director.

Our speaker for the evening is Cooper Nelson, IL Association FFA State Reporter. Cooper is the son of Brent and Cassie Nelson, a member of Canton FFA Chapter, and a 2023 graduate of Canton



Cooper Nelson

High School. The Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award will also be given, as well as some great door prizes!

All farmer members are delegates to our Annual Meeting and will vote on the business of the meeting. ALL voting members will receive a formal invitation with a "tear-off" section to make reservations. Be watching for the mailing after the first of the year. Reservations are due before Friday, February 2nd. We can not accept any reservations after that date; please help us control our costs by observing this deadline.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Fulton County Farm Bureau will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at Big Horse Vineyards, Lewistown, Illinois. Committee reports, financial reports, election of directors and delegates, and other appropriate business will be conducted. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keely Wilcoxen, Secretary

IAA Annual Meeting



Our 4 Delegates from FCFB join the other 323 Farm Bureau member Delegates from around the state to conduct the business of the Illinois Farm Bureau at the IAA Annual Meeting held December 3-5. Pictured from Fulton County are Delegates Bill Carlberg, Leah (Glaser) Brown, Keely Wilcoxen, and President Barry, shown seated on the Convention Floor for policy discussion.



FCFB Members Robin Fisher, Laura Fisher, and Kathy Cleer visited our Adopted Classroom while we were in Chicago for IAA Annual Meeting earlier this month. We were able to answer questions from our 4th graders at St. Germaine Parish School in Oak Lawn and had great discussions about farming, our agricultural industry, and living in rural America!

FCFB Member Rob Janssen of Avon represented District 8 IFB in the Young Leader State Discussion Meeting during the IAA Annual Meeting. Rob did a fantastic job, advancing to the top 10! It should be noted that Rob was up against three of the Final Four contestants in most of the Round Robin discussions. Well done, Rob!



Blood Drive Scheduled at VFW

The Fulton County Farm Bureau will sponsor an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, January 4 at the Lewistown VFW. Please note the change in location from our usual format! Appointments will be available between 1 and 6pm.

The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage. Healthy individuals are needed now to donate to help patients counting on life-saving blood.

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood with the American Red Cross by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or schedule by calling the Fulton County Farm Bureau office at 547-3011.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Leo Sharp Nominations Sought

Nominations are being accepted for the 2024 Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award. The award will be given at the County Annual Meeting in February. A single-page, typed nomination stating the qualifications of the nominee is requested.

Recipients are those individuals who have made significant contributions to rural life in Fulton County, have gone above and beyond to assist farmer, and/or have advanced the agriculture industry. Nominees are to be those in other professions from production agriculture.

A single-page nomination should be submitted to the Promotions & Education Committee before Thursday, January 11th. Last year's recipient was retired Fulton County Sheriff Jeff Standard.

The award is named in honor of Mr. Sharp, a long-time University of Illinois Extension Advisor in the Fulton County office.

FCFB Scholarships Due Feb.1

Senior high school students are invited and encouraged to apply for the Fulton County Farm Bureau Foundation (FCFBF) Scholarships.

Applicants must be high school seniors planning to continue their education in an agriculture curriculum and must be children or dependents of a Fulton County Farm Bureau member. Applicants can request an application for the FCFBF by calling the office at 547-3011 or sending an email request to fultonfb@att.net. An application is available on our website ([fultonfb.org](https://www.fultonfb.org)). The application is available in a digital "fillable" form. That form and supporting documents must be returned to our office, postmarked by February 1, 2024.

No handwritten or late applications will be accepted. Please phone our office at 547-3011 if you have any questions. High school seniors and current college students are encouraged to investigate available IAA Foundation Scholarships also, by visiting their website at www.iaafoundation.org.



DECEMBER BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, December 14th, 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, Levi Porter, Linda Rock, David Tolley, Keely Wilcoxen and Jeff Shelby. Bob Vohland, Johnathan Lock, Jason Chatterton, and Seth Vohland were absent. Also present was Manager Elaine Stone, and Kevin Brooks with U of I Extension.

In Correspondences, a thank you note was received from Leah (Glaser) Brown for her ability to represent us at IAA Annual Meeting. A thank you note from Ben Janssen was received for supporting 4-H. Kevin Brooks gave an update on U of I Extension and some of the activities they are working on.

The minutes from the November meet-

ing were emailed and mailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. Rob-in pointed out a grammatical error in the last paragraph of the November meeting. These were then approved with the correction.

Linda Rock discussed the financial statements for November and October. LOTS of expenses for the month. The financial reports for October and November were placed on file for audit.

Elaine gave the Membership Report: In total, we have 955 regular members at the end of previous month, twelve professional members, and 1503 associate members for a total of 2470 members. Directors approved the November membership reports.

Committee Reports were given:
Young Leaders – Rob Janssen made it to final round of the IAA Annual Meeting discussion meet and did a fantastic job. John Lock did an excellent job representing District 8 and FCFB on the state board. His term continues.

Ag in the Classroom- Julie submitted a written report. She has seen almost 900 students during the month, with 47 programs in November. More teachers are wanting to have Ag in the Classroom activities, and we plan to utilize “Lessons In A Bucket” more and perhaps partner with High School and SRC students interested in teaching. Laura Fisher, Robin Fisher, and Kathy Cleer visit-

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

ed the Adopted Class in Chicago.
Local Issues – The Wolf CO2 pipeline proposal has been pulled.

Legislative- Groups are watching greenhouse gas emissions and how that might affect the cattle industry.

Marketing – Corn \$4.59 beans \$12.98 wheat \$6.20. Feeders and Live Cattle are up.

Business service – No Report
Promotion and Education – Young Leader Conference eill be in Springfield in January. We are sponsoring a blood drive on January 4th at the VFW.

Manager’s Report – Prepping for annual meeting and county annual meeting. Getting ready for auditor

In Old Business, the IAA Annual Meeting was discussed. IFB has a new State Pres-

ident and Vice President. Our Co2 Resolution passed. Co Annual Meeting was again discussed. Cooper Nelson from Canton is a State FFA Officer and will be our guest speaker. Directors tenuring off were reminded to surface replacements. Winter Policy Meetings will be same locations and similar time as last year (early March). Leo Sharp Award Nominations are still needed.

In New Business, Directors Discussed program ideas for this winter. Directors signed affirmations that they had complete the mandatory Sexual Harassment Training. Directors were reminded to complete their expense forms and remove all unwanted items from their Board Books, in preparation of a NEW YEAR!

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 11.

NOVEMBER BOARD HIGHTLIGHTS

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, November 9, 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, David Tolley, Johnathan Lock, Nick Cleer, Keely Wilcoxen, Jason Chatterton, and Jeff Shelby. Levi Porter and Seth Vohland were absent. Also present in person was Manager Elaine Stone, and National Turkey Federation representatives (noted below). IFB Vice President Candidate Brent Clair joined via ZOOM.

In Correspondences, Taylor Martin had a thank you letter from purchasing a steer at the fair.

4-H sent a thank you for a donation to the achievement program. There was a thank you from John and Sydney Lock for the wedding gift. Visitors included Dan Daly, Martha Daly, Evan Daly, and David Plam representing the National Wild Turkey Federation. We had invited them to discuss the racoon problem in our area and how it is affecting the wild turkey population. Plans were made to create a contest for collecting racoon tails.

Brent Clair shared his vision for office if selected for IFB Vice President.

In Affiliate Reports, Barry reported that West Central FS will pay patronage on direct grain and other lines of business.

The minutes from the September meeting were emailed and mailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. These were placed on file with no corrections.

Linda Rock discussed the financial statements for September. October’s statements could not be prepared in time for the meeting. Linda recommended taking advantage of a CD special at Havana National Bank; 90 days at 5.3% interest. Directors voted to commit \$30,000 to Havana National Bank at the earlier-stated terms. A resolution of the Board reflecting that investment was passed.

Bob Vohland gave the membership report. In total, we had 948 regular members at the end of previous month, twelve professional members, and 1501 associate members for a total of 2461 members. Directors voted to approve the October membership reports.

Committee Reports were given:
Young Leaders – Conducted the Fill-A-Ford food collection on November 11th at HyVee. Directors were reminded of the November 18th Trivia night at American Grill . \$100 a table up to eight people. Raffle baskets to be done during the event.

Ag in the Classroom- Julie is visiting lots of classrooms and making flour out of wheat, potato batteries and other activities. In September she conducted 32 classroom programs. In October she had 39. Directors were made aware of the IL Ag in the Classroom Elf on the Shelf ideas.

Local Issues – Navigator pulled their permit on the CO2 pipeline. Wolf is still pursuing the one in the Peoria area.

Legislative- More stringent CO2 pipeline regulations and guidelines are still being requested.

Marketing –Livestock market is high. Hogs closed down today. Corn \$4.55 Beans \$13.25 Wheat is down. Yields are all over

the place currently.

Business service – Directors were made aware of a moisture problem on the block walls of one of the offices downstairs.

Promotion and Education – No Report
In Manager’s Report, Elaine had a report in the book and reported that is preparing for for IAA annual meeting, getting ready for a couple meetings, preparing for year end/audit, and our County Annual meeting.

In Old Business, Directors discussed IAA Annual Meeting. Train tickets and room reservations have been sent out. Plans were made for a few members to visit our adopt-a-classroom. Directors were asked for County Annual Meeting Speaker Ideas. Gracie Murphy (retired National FFA Officer) was suggested. Winter Policy Development meeting ideas were discussed. The

Racoon Roundup Event was discussed. Directors decided on a contest as opposed to a bounty. Date, details, and awards were finalized. FCFB and National Wild Turkey Federation will each allocate \$1,000. Fulton FS and West Central FS will be invited to help sponsor. Elaine will contact them.

In New Business, Nominating Committee gave their report. Keely Wilcoxen and Bob Vohland have served two full terms and will tenure off the Board. Resolutions for IAA Annual Meeting were discussed. Our Resolution was approved to advance to the delegate floor at IAA Annual Meeting. Leo Sharp Award nominations were requested. Elaine explained two proposals for the revamp of our website. Directors decided to chose the more expensive/more detailed proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.




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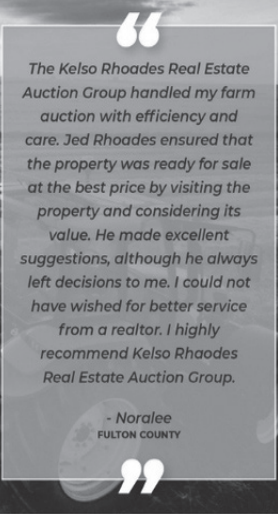


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The Kelso Rhoades Real Estate Auction Group handled my farm auction with efficiency and care. Jed Rhoades ensured that the property was ready for sale at the best price by visiting the property and considering its value. He made excellent suggestions, although he always left decisions to me. I could not have wished for better service from a realtor. I highly recommend Kelso Rhoades Real Estate Auction Group.

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FROM THE GROUND UP

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FULTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

AGRICULTURE in the ClassroomSM



Students in the 3rd grade class at Lewistown Grade School are shown learning about potatoes during the September AITC lessons. They learned what country produces the most potatoes and why electricity goes thru them!



5th grade students at Spoon River Valley found out how to tell if an evergreen is a pine, fir, or spruce during December AITC lessons. They then performed some experiments on pinecones, such as seeing what happens to one when placed in water.



Students at Lincoln Elementary (Canton) learned about evergreens, pinecones, and Christmas tree farms during December AITC lessons. Then they "got creative" and made reindeer-pinecone decorations.



Nearly 80 farmers from Fulton County attended the Country Financial "Feeding Farmers" Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, December 16th. The farmers were primarily clients of Lewistown-area Country Financial Rep Kory Schmitt (pictured left) and was organized by Emma Green (pictured right). Emma is a member of the Cuba FFA Chapter, a graduate of Cuba High School, and a current student at Spoon River College working towards her American FFA Degree. Other sponsors for the event included Fulton County Farm Bureau, Buckheart Solar, Route 9 Show Pigs, MidAmerica National Bank, and Hiel Trucking. Special thanks to Cowgirl Catering for the meal, and to VIT FFA & VIT Ag Department for helping serve.

Learn more about trucking regulations to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road.

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY	WASHINGTON/PERRY COUNTIES
22 ND AT 9 AM	MASSAC COUNTY
22 ND AT 6 PM	WAYNE COUNTY
23 RD AT 9 AM	ROCK ISLAND COUNTY
27 TH AT 10 AM	WILL COUNTY
28 TH AT 6 PM	
MARCH	JASPER COUNTY
5 TH AT 6 PM	SANGAMON COUNTY
5 TH AT 10 AM	JERSEY COUNTY
7 TH AT 6 PM	LIVINGSTON COUNTY
13 TH AT 6 PM	DEKALB COUNTY
14 TH AT 6 PM	PEORIA COUNTY
19 TH AT 10 AM	ADAMS COUNTY
20 TH AT 9 AM	

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON
Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members
REGISTRATION OPENS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.
Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.

Help us with the overpopulation
of raccoons in this area with...

RACCOON Roundup

Prizes based on TOTAL
number of tails collected
during DURATION of contest:

1st —\$1000
2nd—\$700
3rd —\$500
4th —\$300
5th —\$200

Hunt Dates: December 15, 2023 – February 15, 2024

Turn in Date: February 17, 2024, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
at Fulton FS (13075 US 24, Lewistown)

All contestants are **REQUIRED** to obey all Illinois DNR hunting and trapping laws.

Only raccoons taken by ethical means will be accepted.

Only tails will be accepted at turn in & will be collected/kept: **carcasses will be turned away.**

Only raccoons taken in Fulton County will be accepted.

Tails from any another contest (any with paint) will not be accepted.

Entry form required to be completed at turn-in.

QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO: David Palm (309)221-7217 * Dan Daly (309)224-5002 * Elaine Stone (309)547-3011 *
Rules are subject to change. All decisions of the organizers are final.



Oltman Named Country Financial Crop Specialist For Fulton County

COUNTRY Financial Representative Libbie Oltman is now pleased to support farmers in her hometown area as a Crop Specialist serving Woodford, Marshall, Peoria, Tazewell and Fulton counties.

Oltman continues to build relationships with local farmers in and around Roanoke, IL to assist them one-on-one with crop insurance needs. She started serving COUNTRY Financial clients in 2022 when she began working as an associate agent. Oltman has been working on her family’s corn and soybean farm since she was 14 years old. She received an associate degree in agriculture business from Illinois Central College and began working with COUNTRY Financial representative Mike Huschen shortly after.

“I wanted to become a crop specialist because I think it’s a great way to help farmers while staying directly involved in agriculture,” said Oltman. “It’s the perfect position to specialize in along with my work supporting our family’s farm.”

Oltman enjoys serving clients out of her office at 324 N. Main Street in Roanoke, IL. She can be reached at (309) 966-7321 or by email at libbie.oltman@countryfinancial.com.

“I grew up surrounded by farming. My dad has always worked in agriculture but became a fulltime farmer in 2016. I started

helping as soon as I had the opportunity. I do a lot of trucking work in the springtime and help with fertilizer application. Last year, I learned how to run a planter. I also help with tillage, and I run a combine through harvest.

I also help my mom with the farming office work occasionally,” said Oltman.

Oltman has five horses and two dogs. She attends Eastview Christian Church in Normal, IL and The Pasture Church in Hud-

son, IL. She recently became a 4-H Horse board member for Woodford County and teaches horse riding lessons as well as CDL classes to help people secure their commercial driver’s license.



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Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a very Happy New Year

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