

## Polk County Farm Bureau - Website News

October, 2015

### Outstanding attendance at Polk County Member Appreciation Dinner



More than 400 guests enjoyed a meal and evening of speakers at the Polk County Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, Sept. 10. Guests were served a two meat (beef & pork) supper catered by Gary and Sherry Beattie of Runnells at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny.

Jamie Pollard, ISU Athletic Director was our keynote speaker. Gretchen Voga, Program Director for Polk County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom gave an overview of Ag related programs happening at Polk County Schools and Community Events. District 5 Director Mark Buskohl gave a brief report.

Brad Moeckly, president of Polk County Farm Bureau presented board tenure plaques to Scott Hillebo and Joe Patterson for their years of service on the board.

The board of directors thanks everyone who attended the membership supper and looks forward to seeing members again next year.

### Moeckly presents board tenure plaques to two board members



(lt. to rt: Scott Hillebo, Brad Moeckly and Joe Patterson)

Polk County Farm Bureau president Brad Moeckly presented Scott Hillebo and Joe Patterson with board tenure plaques for their years of service on the Polk County Farm Bureau board. They will be resigning effective October 31, 2015. We wish Scott and Joe lots of good endeavors in the years ahead. Thank you for serving with the Polk County Farm Bureau board of directors!

**Pollard presents Richard Peterson with ISU Signed Football**



Iowa State University Athletic Director Jamie Pollard presented avid

ISU fan Richard Peterson with a signed ISU football on Thursday, Sept. 10th at the Polk County Farm Bureau Member Appreciation dinner at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. All Veterans in the crowd were acknowledged.

Richard Peterson was born August 10, 1917 (before WW1) in Broadland, South Dakota. His mother, died 16 months later while serving the town in a nursing capacity during The Flu Pandemic of 1917.

After his mother's death, Richard moved to Linn Grove, Iowa to live with family. While growing up, he worked for a dollar a day picking corn one ear at a time. He graduated from Linn Grove High School in 1935. He was married August 25th 1940. Richard and his wife Phyllis celebrated 72 years of Holy Matrimony until her death just 3 years ago.

In September of 1935 (80 years ago) Richard enrolled at Iowa State University in the Mechanical Engineering School. He completed 4 years of college while in ROTC. He began active duty in the Army in 1941 as a 2nd Lieutenant. While overseas, he served on the staff of General Omar Bradley's 12th US Army Group. The general was in charge of all of the troops in England, France and Germany. Richard was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1946.

Richard later worked for Iowa Power and Light for 22 years and The Monroe Table Company in Colfax, IA until his retirement in 1977.

Since his retirement, Richard has volunteered as Club Chairman of Grounds Committee for the National Headquarters of the Men's Garden Club in Johnston. He was also a Master Gardener for the Extension Services of Iowa State University.

Richard still lives at his home in Johnston and on any given day you may find him outside pulling weeds or doing various little projects.

Congratulations Richard!

### **Share the Road**

Soon farmers will begin harvest and that means they will be moving equipment on the highways and back roads. This is the time of year when drivers must be alert and patient. Farmers will when possible pull as close to the side of the road as they can safely do, however, it is absolutely necessary that drivers slow down when they approach one of these slow moving vehicles and wait until there is a clear view of the road ahead before trying to pass these vehicles.

Statistics show vehicles passing the slow moving vehicles save a mere 3-5 seconds and risk their life and the farmer's life. Not

worth it! Slow down and please share the road for this two month period when the farmers are harvesting your food.

### **Membership Dues - Membership Pays**

The large majority of Polk County Farm Bureau membership dues come during the month of October and beginning of November. It is very much appreciated that members return the dues as soon as possible once received. This saves not only money in sending out duplicate notices, but also keeps insurance intact. In order to have insurance products through Farm Bureau you do have to have a current paid membership.

This membership provides many benefits for its members such as free admission to Iowa Hall of Pride; Free exchange ads; Polaris Off-Road and electric vehicle savings of \$200 on full-size ATVs or \$300 on full-size UTVs or electric vehicles; Cash IH savings; hotel discounts as well as discounts on health and wellness such as hearing aids, stroke detection and many more. Take a few minutes and check out the membership pays section of the [www.IowaFarmBureau.com](http://www.IowaFarmBureau.com) website, think you might be pleasantly surprised at what your annual dues gives you.

Again, all these great benefits require a current paid membership, don't risk losing insurance by not paying your dues.

### **Polk County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom New Intern**



Lee Thomson is a native of Polk County and a product of the West Des Moines School District, and found her passions for agriculture, education, and combining the two at Central Campus High School in Des Moines. She is currently studying Agricultural and Life Sciences Education at Iowa State University, with hopes of becoming a teacher herself!

Lee was out in Washington, DC visiting with agricultural companies and organizations and learning about their efforts both on the Hill and to support agriculturists and educators at the local level. She even got to visit the American Farm Bureau Federation's office! Tomorrow morning, she will head to the Capitol to visit with Iowa's legislators before heading back to Iowa.

Glad to have you on board, Lee!

#### **Committee members needed for Polk County Farm Bureau**

Farm Bureau is organized on three levels - local, state and national. The county (local) is the very heart and strength of the organization. At this level the members work together as volunteers, seeking solutions to problems that affect the social and economic wellbeing of the community, which is the reason they joined this general farm organization.

The county organization is much stronger than most members realize. The policy that Farm Bureau operates by is developed at the county

level only by our active members that are concerned and interested in their organization.

Brad Moeckly, Polk County Farm Bureau president, will be appointing his committee members for the 2015-2016 year and is asking that if anyone is interested in being on a committee to please notify a board member or the office. The committees include Legislative, County Action, Policy Development, Public Relations, Ag in the Classroom, National Affairs and Leadership Development. You do not have to be a board member to be on a committee.

Farm Bureau needs even greater participation by members - the more members that get actively involved, the stronger the organization becomes. To become more involved in the best organized, most influential farm organization, to have a voice in developing policies, to improve rural living and to become better informed on issues affecting you, contact one of the members of the Polk County Farm Bureau Board of Directors or the office at 515-964-5354.

#### **Members win ANF Game Day tickets**

Three local members won free tickets to Saturday's ANF football game. Jessica Gogerty of Ankeny, Michael Kruse of Truro, and Tom Shepherd of Des Moines, all Polk County Farm Bureau members, won two reserved seat tickets to the Sept. 19 ANF Game, Iowa Hawkeyes vs. Pittsburgh Panthers at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with the Iowa Hawkeyes, celebrate the heritage and innovation of the American farmer with the special day-long salute during the America Needs Farmers (ANF) Game Day. The ANF campaign was kicked off by Hawkeye Football Coach Hayden Fry in 1985 during the farm crisis. Coach Kirk Ferentz brought back the ANF campaign in recent years, with the ANF emblem appearing on the Hawkeye football players' helmets. On Saturday, fans were able to take part in pre-game activities, including an autograph session with former Hawkeye greats, as well as games and prizes.

Congratulations to Jessica Gogerty, Michael Kruse and Tom Shepherd! We hope they enjoyed the ANF festivities in Iowa City on Saturday. More information about the ANF campaign and its history can be found online at [www.americaneedsfarmers.org](http://www.americaneedsfarmers.org).

#### **Ag in the Classroom workshop scheduled**

An Ag in the Classroom workshop will be held Nov. 13 at the Iowa Farm Bureau in West Des Moines. The event is for staff and

volunteers who are currently or want to be involved in the Ag in the Classroom literacy program. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please contact the Polk County Farm Bureau office at 515-964-5354.

### **Iowa Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award**

Iowa pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers who use agriculture concepts to teach core subject areas can apply for the 2015-2016 Iowa Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award. The award is offered by the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation as a way to recognize an outstanding teacher for their integrated efforts to teach students about the importance of agriculture. One selected teacher will receive \$500 and have up to \$1,000 of their related expenses paid to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Arizona in June 2016.

Teachers must integrate/utilize agricultural information within their classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Instruction may include, but is not limited to: understanding the importance and value of agriculture in students' daily lives; understanding the relationships among agriculture, food and fiber production, animals, health, energy systems, technology, economics, and the environment; identifying and understanding the connections between academic content areas and agricultural careers including, but not limited to, STEM careers; understanding the overall connectedness between STEM and agriculture. Innovative, integrated, and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

All licensed teachers currently engaged in integrating agricultural concepts into classroom settings at the pre-K to 12th grade levels are eligible. Applications must be submitted online on or before Sunday, November 8, 2015. The online application is available at:

<https://app.wizehive.com/apps/ExcelTeachAg>

If you have any questions, please contact Sheri Neet at 515-331-4181 or by email at [sneet@iowaagliteracy.org](mailto:sneet@iowaagliteracy.org).