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**POLK COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

### **Polk County Farm Bureau audit complete**

The 2015 annual audit of financial records was completed at Polk County Farm Bureau office on March 14. Each year, every Farm Bureau in Iowa is audited to ensure financial records are in good standing. Max Studer, CPA, completed the audit. Studer inspected all financial records and found everything to be in good order. As part of the inspection, Studer will also complete all necessary corporate tax forms for PCFB.

### **Second Farm Bureau call to action request issued**

The second Farm Bureau action alert was sent to the 2016 FB response team members on March 16.

As the budgeting progress takes center stage in the Capitol, the subject of this Farm Bureau response is about making conservation and water quality funding a priority and to find a long-term dedicated funding source to ensure resources are available to partner with farmers to continue making conservation and water quality progress.

Response team member have until March 29 to complete the action request.

### **Town Hall Meeting to Be Held**

Polk County residents will have an opportunity to speak one on one with their state legislators at a town hall meeting to be held at the Boulders Inn and Suites, in the main lobby, on Saturday, April 9th.

Attendees are welcome to discuss key issues with Senator Jake Chapman (District 10) and Representative Ralph Watts (House District 19).

The meeting will run from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. The Town Hall meeting will be held at the Boulders Inn and Suites is located at: 300 Boulder Pointe, Polk City, IA 50226.

### **Enhanced Spokesman ads coming to website**

Beginning March 30, members will have the opportunity to include up to three images or photos with their exchange ads to be viewed online. Members have the option to submit their exchange ads online at:

<http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/exchangeads>.

Exchange ads submitted by members must be approved by county office administrators before they will be included on the website or the print version of the Spokesman. Once approved or denied by the OA, a confirmation email will be sent to the member regarding the status of their ad. Ads must reach the county office by 4 p.m. on Tuesday to be included in the following week's print or online Spokesman. To submit or view exchange ads online, memberships must be current and members must have created a website login.

Members without internet can continue to place exchange ads by calling 515-964-5354 or bringing their ads to the office at 300 SE Delaware Ave., Ankeny, IA 50021.



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### **Storm season is here**

The arrival of spring brings with it storm season and the need to keep a watchful eye on the weather. Iowa weather can change quickly producing heavy rains, large hail and damaging winds. Polk County Farm Bureau agents, would like to remind clients if your home, auto or other property sustains damage due to a storm, call the toll free claims line at 1-800-226-6383. This call will help expedite the processing of your claim. Feel free to give your agent a phone call with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your insurance needs.

### **Iowa Cattlemen appreciate tax coupling relief**

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association applauds Gov. Branstad for signing into law state tax coupling with portions of federal tax code Section 179. This action follows movement from the Iowa House and Senate earlier this week.

The bi-partisan approved legislation addressed two key tax policies for Iowans:

- \* Coupling with federal tax policy for the 2015 tax year.
- \* Signing the state's manufacturing sales tax relief into law.

By coupling state and federal tax policy, Iowa farmers and small business owners can truly benefit from investments made in 2015. The legislation will provide \$98 million in tax relief for Iowa farmers and small business owners. According to the state's fiscal agency, this year's federal tax coupling legislation could result in an additional \$30 million of state revenue next year. This projection includes tax coupling; legislators would need to address this again during the 2017 session.

"Iowa cattlemen appreciate the support of our legislative leaders on the tax coupling issue," says Justine Stevenson, ICA's director of government relations. "Coupling with federal tax policy allows our members to reinvest in their businesses and continue to grow Iowa's economy."

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages members to take advantage of this tax savings. If farm returns were filed by the typical March 1 deadline, farmers will need to file an amended return to take advantage of the new provisions. In late February, Gov. Branstad and the Iowa Department of Revenue extended the filing deadline for Iowa farmers from March 1 to April 30.

### **Contact county office with address changes**

Please remember to contact the Polk County Farm Bureau office if you would like to have your Spokesman changed back to your home address if you had it forwarded to your winter address.

A call to the office can make sure there is no delay in receiving your Spokesman.

Please contact the Polk County Farm Bureau office at 515-964-5354.

**PCFB congratulates Southeast Polk High School Girls Basketball team**



The Polk County Farm Bureau board members Gary Beattie and Robert Stewart congratulated the Southeast Polk High School Girls Basketball team at their Basketball Banquet on Thursday, March 24 at Southeast Polk High School in Altoona.

The Iowa Farm Bureau is the sole title sponsor of the Iowa High School Athletic Association. On behalf of all Iowa Farm Bureau members across the state, Polk County Farm Bureau board members Gary Beattie and Robert Stewart presented the entire Southeast Polk High School Girls Basketball team and coaching staff with commemorative signature basketballs.

“Our students and athletes are among the nation’s best and brightest and our farmers are among the nation’s most productive -- our partnership with the IHSAA honors both,” said Beattie. “We take great pride in helping our young people excel, while also renewing pride in the community.”

In addition to providing championship memorabilia and awards to student-athletes, the Iowa Farm Bureau funds scholarships and grants to outstanding young citizens engaged in student government, while also assisting the Association with its ongoing operations. The organization also sponsors the annual Governor’s



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Scholar Recognition Program which recognizes more than 400 of Iowa's best and brightest students at a ceremony held in April in Des Moines.

**PCFB Leader spoke with legislators at the Capitol**



*Senator Charles Schneider talking to PCFB board member Carol Miller at the Capitol on March 30, 2016.*

Polk County Farm Bureau board member Carol Miller traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on Wednesday, March 30 to express their concerns on several very important issues. Senator Charles Schneider listened to their views on the following topics: Section 179 tax coupling, maintaining property tax cap for mental health funding, funding existing property tax credits, extending or removing the sunset of the SAVE sales tax for schools and water quality funding.



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### **Opinionnaire has been mailed**

The Polk County Farm Bureau wants to know what you think. We value your opinions and hope you will take a few minutes to complete and return the survey. Your views are an important link in our policy development process. We need your input to be sure we develop policy that is good for agriculture and our community.

Polk County Farm Bureau will be having our annual meeting in July to present and vote on the resolutions as determined by the returned opinionnaire. Please return your response to the opinionnaire by April 15.

### **Think safety this spring**

Spring is finally approaching and everyone is preparing for field work, yard work or construction projects around the house. Polk County Farm Bureau would like to remind members during this busy season there is a worrisome cloud that hangs over the agriculture industry - accidents. Most accidents occur with our own precious "crops," our children. Most accidents are preventable and with these special reminders on safety we can teach and protect our young ones.

1. Supervise your curious children around farm machinery and electric power tools. Teach them the importance of protective gear and safety.
2. More than 200 farm families experienced grain suffocation last season. Always lock access doors to grain storage, lock out power, use the buddy system and never permit children to ride in grain wagons.
3. Farmers utilize a broad range of chemicals. Teach your children the warning symbols, words and colors. Numerous injuries occur to children who can't read yet; however, teaching children to stay away from warning colors, such as red, bright yellow and bright orange can aide in preventing accidents.
4. Keep telephone numbers of poison control and any other emergency number available in the work area.
5. Teach children boundaries. We all want our children to learn about agriculture and its importance, but, set boundaries on where it is safe to play and when it is safe to be near farm equipment.

Do your best to follow and teach simple reminders to avoid accidents, especially with our valuable "crops."