

Polk County Farm Bureau membership efforts recognized with Leo Waggoner Award

Polk County Farm Bureau was honored with the 2015 Leo Waggoner Award at the 97th Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) annual meeting in Des Moines Dec. 1-2.

The Leo Waggoner Membership Award is an award that honors county Farm Bureaus that recognize the importance of increasing membership in the county and work well beyond the 2015 membership goal. County Farm Bureaus who achieve 104 percent or more of the membership goal by July 1 were recognized as a recipient of the Leo Waggoner Membership Award. This award exemplifies the hard work and dedication given to reaching a level of excellence in membership.

Polk County Farm Bureau honored for Outstanding recognition award



Brad Moeckly accepted the Polk County Farm Bureau's recognition award at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) annual meeting in Des Moines Dec. 1-2. Moeckly accepted the award on behalf of the Polk County Farm Bureau board of directors. Polk County Farm Bureau received an outstanding designation for its 2015 programs which help further the story of agriculture

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The Outstanding County Farm Bureau certificate awarded to Polk County Farm Bureau at the annual meeting held Dec. 1-2 is the highest award given to county Farm Bureaus. Attending the conference were Brad Moeckly, Polk County Farm Bureau president, Steve Lee, voting delegate, Cris Friedrichson, vice president, Gary Beattie, secretary, Roger Spahr, treasurer, and Director Carol Miller. Also attending were Joyce Moeckly, Sherri Beattie, Randy Miller and Regional Manager Jeremy Coyle.



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Budget meeting and board meeting to be held on January 19

Polk County Farm Bureau will have a budget meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19th at 5 p.m. at the county office. Executive board members are asked to attend. After budget meeting supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the board meeting. Members will receive information beforehand on items on the agenda, which will include the approval of the 2016 PCFB budget.

Young Farmers invited to conference Jan. 29-30

The IFBF Young Farmer Conference will be held Jan. 29-30 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. The theme this year is “Ignite the Flame” and will focus on what young farmers need to know to stay passionate and successful throughout their careers. All young farmers who are WCFB members and their families are invited to attend at no cost. Childcare for ages 6 weeks to 13 years is available on-site Saturday for those who are preregistered.

The conference will begin with industry tours at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29, for those able to arrive early on Friday. Registration and social hour for all will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Following dinner Keni Thomas, former U.S. Army Ranger, will address members with “What It Means to Lead the Way.” Social gatherings will follow.

Following breakfast and a morning welcome by Gov. Terry Branstad, attendees will have the opportunity to attend breakout sessions which include “Young Ag Entrepreneurs”; “Livestock, Neighbors & Activists, Oh My!”; “Livestock Markets: Brushing off the Dust”; “Protect Your Assets, Protect Yourself”; “Nitrate Testing & Monitoring”; “The Essentials of Cover Crops”; “Farm Transitions: Leading When You’re Not in Charge”; “City Life to Farm Wife”; “In-laws & Outlaws: Finding Your Role”; and more. Go to www.iowafarmbureau.com for more information and a full agenda.

To be registered for the conference, contact Jan at the PCFB office at 515-964-5354 or by email: jan.whaley@ifbf.org. The deadline for registration and to return the childcare registration is Thursday, Jan. 14.

Iowa Pork Congress set for Jan. 27-28

The Iowa Pork Producers Association will host the 44th annual Iowa Pork Congress Jan. 27-28 at the Iowa Events center in Des Moines. The 2016 Pork Congress promises to continue the tradition as the largest winter swine tradeshow in the U.S. with 300 tradeshow exhibitors, valuable free seminars, youth activities and social events.

The tradeshow – Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – will be held at the Hy-Vee Hall. The tradeshow floor will again be filled with nearly 500 booths from 300 pork industry exhibitors! Check out what new technologies companies have released through the new product showcase and enjoy the many special networking activities at the tradeshow.

Keynote presentation will be Dr. Patrick Moore, speaking on “Agriculture, Human Health and the Environment” on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 2:15 p.m. at the lower level of the Hy-Vee Hall.



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Moore has been a leader in the environmental movement for more than 40 years and is committed to finding solutions to our environmental issues by striking a balance between the needs of people and the need to protect the environment. Preregistration for the Pork Congress needs to be done by Jan. 8. You can register online at www.iowaporkcongress.org.

Polk County Farm Bureau donated food to the Iowa Food Bank



Left to right: Carol Miller, Brad Moeckly and Robert Stewart

One in eight Iowans experiences hunger; either there isn't enough to go around after they get done paying heating bills, or they have to choose between their child's school expenses or medications. There are many paths in life that lead a hard-working person to need a little help from a food bank. It's especially tough for those who dedicate their lives to growing food; that 'one in eight' statistic weighs heavily on the minds of Iowa farmers, who are heralded around the world as leading food producers.

It's probably why farmers have long supported their local food banks. It's led to a new milestone for the America Needs Farmers (ANF) initiative by Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) and the University of Iowa Athletics' Department; more than \$100,000 has been raised for the Iowa Food Bank Association through the sale of ANF merchandise.

Polk County Farm Bureau farmers who came to a Des Moines food bank to drop off a new donation, were moved to meet a client who once depended on the generosity of others during a hard time.

Commitment to helping the community is central to the core for many Iowa farmers. "It's getting a little colder, people are having a little trouble with utility bills and things like that. So, it's good to make sure that the food bank has plenty to give back. I'm a farmer, I grow crops and take pride in what we grow and it's good to see it put to good use," says Rob Stewart, Polk county farmer.



It's also why IFBF has, for generations, encouraged youth leadership as the title sponsor of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and the Iowa High School Athletic Association. It's why IFBF provides nearly \$500,000 in annual scholarships for students every year. It's why IFBF has also now provided \$100,000 to the FFA foundation and long been a sponsor of 4-H programs across the state.

Being an Iowa farmer is about more than yields and 'rate of gain' for a market hog or how many acres are planted to corn or soybeans; it's about what's going on beyond the farm gate. It's about people. It's about community. It's about giving back. 'People, Progress, Pride' means we're all in this together, during good times and bad. That's what being an Iowan all is about.

Follow Polk County Farm Bureau on Facebook

Have you become a "fan" of the Polk County Farm Bureau Facebook page yet? If not, be sure you "like" our page! The Facebook page has events and news releases that will keep members up to date with what is happening with Polk County Farm Bureau, regional county Farm Bureaus and the Iowa Farm Bureau. You can also view photos taken during the county sponsored events and meetings.

If you have any suggestions of things you would like to see posted on our Facebook page, please let us know by leaving a comment or sending us an email at jan.whaley@ifbf.org.

Agriculture Business Program Offered for Farm Women

Annie's Project, a six-week course designed to help farm women develop their management and decision-making skills, is being offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The program will be held at the DMACC West Campus located at 5959 Grand Ave. in West Des Moines on Mondays, February 8-March 28 (no class March 14) from 6 to 9 p.m. with a light meal served at 5:30 p.m.

Annie's Project covers five areas of agricultural risk management: financial, human resources, legal, marketing and production. At the end of the six weeks, participants will know more about financial ratios, working with lenders, human resource management, legal issues, estate planning, marketing plans, farmland leasing, crop insurance, production decision tools and more.

"Our goal is to provide a program that is of great interest and value. Each session includes presentations, discussions, hands-on activities and computer skills training," said ISU Farm Management Specialist Steve Johnson.

"In addition, guest speakers share their personal experiences and knowledge to help women become better business partners and owners.

Registration cost is \$75 and can be completed online at www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag. For more information contact ISU Extension Executive Director in Warren County, Cortney Garrington at cortneyg@iastate.edu or (515) 961-6237.