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POLK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

County officials attend PCFB board meeting



Polk County Farm Bureau board members invited the Polk County Director Bob Rice, Polk County Engineer Kurt Bailey, Polk County Manager of Planning and Zoning Bret Vandelune, Polk County Budget Analysis Deb Anderson, Polk County Supervisors Robert Brownell and Steven Van Oort to our February 9th board meeting to discuss the county budget and other important items.

(It. to rt. Polk County Supervisor Steve Van Oort and Robert Brownell, Polk County Director Bob Rice, Polk County Engineer Kurt Bailey were at Pizza Ranch in Ankeny)

Lee attends voting delegate orientation

Steve Lee, Polk County Farm Bureau Voting Delegate was in attendance at the Iowa Farm Bureau new voting delegate orientation in West Des Moines Feb. 9-10. First and second year voting delegates from across Iowa were invited to learn the process of what it means to be a voting delegate and the responsibilities they have to the Farm Bureau members.



PCFB Response Team achieves 100 percent participation in first call to action request

Polk County Farm Bureau's response team had 100 percent participation in the first call to action request of 2016, which was issued Feb. 2.

FB response teams were asked to send comments to their state representative and state senator in support of coupling Iowa's tax code with the federal tax code (Section 179 expensing, etc.). The legislation passed the House on Jan. 28 but now needs to pass in the Senate.

Members of the Response Team for Polk County Farm Bureau are Brad Moeckly, Ted Bishop, Grant Kimberley, Steve Lee, Carol Miller, Gary Beattie and Todd Volz. PCFB thanks these leaders for completing this request.

Check out interactive website for kids

Children are always looking for new and fun things to do during the cold winter months. If you have children in grades 3-5 who like to learn on the Internet, you might want to introduce them to the website www.myamiercanfarm.org.



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This website has all kinds of interesting ideas and learning tools on ag-related topics. Children can learn where food comes from and how these products get from the farm to their dinner plates. The website includes online games, free lessons for educators to download as well as family activities. It is safe, educational and a great way for you and your children to spend some quality time indoors this winter.

Workshops to Address Corn Stover Agronomic and Logistic Decisions
ISU Extension and Outreach will host four workshops to help farmers understand opportunities.

AMES, Iowa – Corn stover – the cobs, leaves and stalks of corn plants left in the field after harvest – are being used in the production of ethanol, including the Iowa cellulosic ethanol facilities in Nevada and Emmetsburg.

As these ethanol production plants start their operations, they present an opportunity for producers to participate in this newly developing corn stover supply chain. Stover removal, in either round or square bales, can impact agronomic decisions such as nutrient balance and soil quality, and can influence harvest logistics in terms of removal amounts and reduced tillage.

To help producers understand the opportunities available and where they fit in the supply chain, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host a [series of four workshops](#) to address the constraints and benefits of corn stover harvesting.



The workshops will be held on the following dates at these locations
March 18 – Jefferson, 1:30-4 p.m., ISU Extension and Outreach Greene County, 104 West Washington Street, Jefferson, Iowa. To register for this location, call 515-386-2138.

March 22 – Algona, 9:30 a.m. - noon, Water's Edge Nature Center, 1010 250th Street, Algona, Iowa. To register for this location, call ISU Extension and Outreach Kossuth County at 515-295-2469.

March 23 – Spencer, 1:30-4 p.m., Clay County Regional Events Center, 800 West 18th Street, Spencer, Iowa. To register for this location, call ISU Extension and Outreach Clay County at 712-262-2264.

March 29 – Marshalltown, 1:30-4 p.m., ISU Extension and Outreach Marshall County, 2608 South 2nd Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. To register for this location, call 641-752-1551.

ISU Extension and Outreach field agronomists Mark Johnson and Paul Kassel, as well as agricultural engineering specialist Kapil Arora will host the workshops.



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Crop producers, land owners, crop consultants, agronomists, service providers and others with an interest in stover harvest and its removal from farm fields are encouraged to attend.

The events are free but pre-registration is required. Participants must register at least one day in advance. Early registration is recommended as workshop size is limited to 50 participants per site on a first-come basis.

The workshops are sponsored by Iowa Farm Bureau in Clay, Greene and Marshall counties.

Visit the Iowa Hall of Pride

If you're planning a trip to the state high school athletic tournaments, don't forget all Farm Bureau members receive free admission to the Iowa Hall of Pride, located on the first floor of Hy-Vee Hall, across from the tournament action at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. Simply present your Farm Bureau membership card when entering the facility.

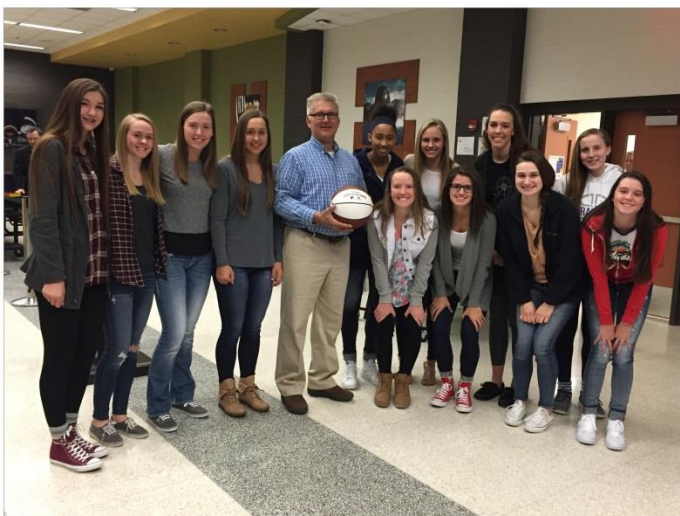
Buy ISU Farm Strong Gear

Show your support for the Iowa State University (ISU) Cyclones at the Big 12 basketball tournament by purchasing Farm Strong gear while giving back to Iowa Food Banks.

Farm Bureau members can purchase official Cyclone Farm Strong T-shirts for exclusive discounted prices online at www.iowafarmbureau.com/member-benefits.

A portion of the sales of all items with the Farm Strong trademark directly benefit the Iowa Food Bank Association. For more information, visit www.farmstrong.com.

PCFB congratulates Johnston High School Girls Basketball team



The Polk County Farm Bureau president Brad Moeckly congratulated the Johnston High School Girls Basketball team at their Basketball banquet on Sunday, March 6th at Johnston High School.

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 president Brad Moeckly presented the entire Johnston High School Girls Basketball team and coaching staff with commemorative signature basketballs.

(President Brad Moeckly with Johnston High School Girls Basketball team)



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“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 Moeckly. “We take great pride in helping our young people excel, while also renewing pride in the community.”

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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 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 Leaders spoke with legislators at the Iowa State Capitol



Polk County Farm Bureau board members traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on Wednesday, March 2 to express their concerns on several very important issues. Representative Marti Anderson 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.

(lt. to rt: Representative Marti Anderson, Steve Lee, PCFB Voting Delegate, Roger Spahr, PCFB Treasurer, and Cris Friedrichson, PCFB Vice President)

New Iowa Agriculture specialty license plate available

The new agriculture specialty license plate is a great way to show your pride for the number one industry in Iowa - agriculture! Proceeds from the sale of the plate will support three important youth organizations that help students learn about agriculture, leadership and life skills.

The Iowa FFA Foundation serves the 14,800 student member organization in 225 chapters across Iowa. They help students develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. The Iowa 4-H Foundation provides funds for many of the opportunities that help young people enhance their ability to use critical thinking, leadership, communication and social skills. They serve more than 100,000 youth in Iowa.



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The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation serves as the central resource for educators and volunteers who want to teach Iowa's students about agriculture. We coordinate and support the Agriculture in the Classroom efforts throughout the state.

"Agriculture in Iowa is so important to the state economy," said IALF executive director Will Fett. "Having a license plate on your personal vehicle is just a great way to show your support for agriculture and these youth organizations."

For more information, call 515-331-4182 or visit www.iowaagtag.org. Thank you for supporting these organizations and for showing your pride in agriculture! The sale of the plate will support three important youth organizations that help students learn about agriculture, leadership and life skills - FFA, 4-H and Ag in the Classroom.

Pre-order yours at www.IowaAgTag.org. The fee is \$35 for a standard plate or \$60 for a personalized plate.

Snowbirds need to update addresses

Polk County Farm Bureau members returning home from their travels to a warmer climate during the winter months are reminded to contact the office at 515-964-5354 or email: polk.county@ifbf.org to update their mailing addresses.

Please remember that the system requires a few weeks to implement an address change or to resume delivery of the Spokesman, so plan accordingly to allow plenty of time for any changes to become effective and not disrupt delivery of the publication.