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**POLK COUNTY FARM BUREAU**



### **No May board meeting**

Polk County Farm Bureau president Brad Moeckly would like to remind the board of directors that there will not be a board meeting for the month of May. Farm Bureau does not schedule a meeting to allow time for spring field work and planting season, which is now underway. The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 14, at the Ankeny office.

### **May is Beef Month in Iowa**

Please join Iowa beef producers in celebrating the month and enjoying the high quality, mouth-watering, grain-fed beef that Iowa is known for around the world. Whether it's the All-American juicy hamburger or a thick, delicious steak fired up on the grill, Americans love beef.

The beef industry also plays a crucial role in Iowa's local and state economy. From cattle producers and feed manufacturers to equipment dealers and food marketers, thousands of people play a role in bringing delicious, tender beef to our plates. In fact, cattle generate in excess of \$6 billion in total direct and indirect economic activity to Iowa's economy and create jobs for nearly 40,000 Iowans.

The Polk County Farm Bureau would like to thank local beef producers for all they do for our community and state.

### **Membership year off to nice start**

The 2017 membership year at the Polk County Farm Bureau is off to a nice start. We currently have 734 paid members. This includes 71 new ones. We appreciate your prompt payment of dues!

Please call the Polk County Farm Bureau office at 515-964-5354 with any membership benefit questions you may have.

### **Farm Bureau stop signs available to members**

Polk County Farm Bureau members are eligible for a free Farm Bureau stop sign. Perhaps it's time to replace a weather-worn sign that's been up for many years, or perhaps you weren't aware that they were still available. The stop sign has "Member Farm Bureau" with the Farm Bureau logo on the side facing the road, and "STOP" on the other side as a reminder to those leaving your property and entering the roadway.

Name plates for the post may also be ordered free of charge. The signs and posts are available at the Farm Bureau office in Ankeny for Polk County Farm Bureau members.



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### **Office closed for Memorial Day**

The Polk County Farm Bureau office in Ankeny will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, May 31, with our regular hours, which are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day.

### **Member benefits available**

If you are starting to make your summer plans, don't forget the Adventureland Park savings available with your Farm Bureau membership. Save \$10 on each regular admission (10 years and older) and \$5 on each child/senior admission (4-9 years) by going online to [adventurelandpark.com/farmbureau](http://adventurelandpark.com/farmbureau) and creating an Adventureland account with your email address to purchase tickets or call 800-532-1286.

### **Graduation season is around the corner: ideas for college savings**

Depending on when your child will graduate high school, there are different options available to help you meet your goals. Once you've got an idea how much you might need to put away, here are some college funding plans you may consider.

529 College Savings Plan — earnings grow tax-deferred, and if withdrawn for qualified higher education expenses, are free from federal income tax.

Coverdell Education Savings Account — earnings grow tax-deferred, can be used for qualified elementary, secondary and post-secondary school expenses and distributions may be exempt from federal income tax.

Mutual Funds — investing in mutual funds provides an opportunity for greater growth potential than fixed-interest products, and withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income to the extent of the gain. Along with greater growth potential, mutual funds have a higher degree of risk.

Roth IRA — while contributions are not tax-deductible, earnings grow tax-deferred and qualified distributions are tax-free; earnings used for education are not subject to the 10 percent IRS penalty for withdrawals prior to age 59 ½.

Permanent Life Insurance — cash values grow tax-deferred, and can be withdrawn for education without impacting eligibility for financial aid. In case you die, proceeds from the policy are paid directly to your beneficiaries, who may use them toward education costs.

Your local Farm Bureau agent can answer any questions you may have about ways to help jump start your savings plans.



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### **Looking for state fair volunteers**

Nothing compares to the Iowa Farm Bureau state fair volunteers! It takes hundreds of volunteers for Farm Bureau Park to be a fun, exciting place to visit during the fair – and we're looking for your help.

The 2016 Iowa State Fair is Aug. 11-21. We are looking for volunteers to work a four-hour shift in Farm Bureau Park: 8 a.m. to noon, noon to 4 p.m. or 4-8 p.m. Spouses and teenage children are welcome to volunteer as well.

Volunteers receive an Iowa Farm Bureau T-shirt, tickets for admission and parking and a food coupon to use at an Iowa commodity food stand/tent.

Member volunteers are generally assigned to assist in the center desk or game tent. Volunteers working the center desk assist with distributing member gifts, signing members up for prize drawings, signing up new members and answering general questions about Farm Bureau. Those working in the game tent assist by asking ag questions and distributing prizes. Volunteers may also be asked to help with other activity areas in the park.

Volunteers need to plan for adverse weather conditions. We provide shade and water, but unfortunately, Mother Nature can be challenging. Volunteers also need to anticipate standing for a majority of their shift. Volunteers are kindly asked to make arrangements for their young children during their assigned work shift. Farm Bureau Park is often a busy location with thousands of fairgoers visiting each year. We hope you will consider volunteering – it is truly fun and rewarding to meet other Farm Bureau members and to visit with fairgoers who may never have stepped on a farm. Time slots will be filled on a first-request, first-served basis. T-shirts, tickets, work schedules and more detailed information will be mailed in early August.

Thank you for considering this important request. Please call 515-225-5532 if you have any questions.

### **Iowa's Best Burger is at The Chuckwagon in Adair**

The 2016 Iowa's Best Burger has been found in Adair at The Chuckwagon Restaurant. The Chuckwagon embraces the rich history of Adair through its restaurant and menu offerings.

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) and the Iowa Beef Industry Council (IBIC) announced the winner on Monday, May 2, during a live broadcast in Adair. The two organizations have teamed up to sponsor Iowa's Best Burger contest seven times. This year, Iowans submitted more than 6,000 votes nominating 311 restaurants in February and March. Those votes were used to select the Top Ten restaurants. The Top Ten were then independently visited and judged based on the hamburger's taste, appearance, and proper serving temperature (160 degrees).



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“The judges found that the burgers at the Chuckwagon were juicy and full of flavor,” says Brooke German, Director of Marketing for IBIC. “They use a toasted bun on every burger, and their homemade house seasoning helped to enhance the flavor of the burgers.”

The burgers at the Chuckwagon are 6 ounce, hand-pattied Certified Angus Beef® and grilled on a flat-top grill using their own house seasoning. They are made-to-order with toasted bread or grilled buns. Popular burgers include the bacon cheeseburger and the Chuckwagon, a burger served on a grilled bun with sautéed onions, mushrooms, bacon, tomato and Thousand Island dressing. Served alongside homemade fries and a classic milkshake, the meal is hard to beat.



The restaurant’s owner, Kim Reha, is a lifelong resident of Adair. She purchased the restaurant at the age of 22. Although she considered a career as a surgical technician, she knew that her passion was in the restaurant business. At that time, she already had eight years of experience working in restaurants, and the hands on learning has served her well.

The restaurant, which Reha has owned for eight years, is a former Happy Chef. Over time, she has made improvements, including an interior renovation in 2012. In 2014, Reha changed the name and the menu, launching her now-famous “Endless Homemade French Fries” and hand-pattied burgers.

“The name ties into Adair’s annual celebration, Chuckwagon Days, and seemed to fit really well with the menu,” explained Reha.

Reha lets her food shine. The Jesse James Burger, a double 1/3 pound bacon cheeseburger with all the fixings, topped with BBQ sauce and mayo speaks for itself.

“We are excited to crown the Chuckwagon Restaurant as our 2016 Best Burger winner,” state Katie Olthoff, Director of Communications for ICA. “They do an outstanding job of showcasing the great beef product with each of their great-tasting burgers on behalf of Iowa’s beef farmers.”

The restaurant, which is clearly visible from Interstate-80 on exit 76, is open from 8 am to 10 pm during the summer (8 am to 9 pm year-round). Burgers start around \$9, but the “Burger of the Week” is \$2 off. Breakfast is served all day. There is a seating capacity of 112 and a patio area was added in 2015, and they are happy to take reservations, too.



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Other restaurants that made the Top Ten with the Chuckwagon Restaurant are (alphabetically): Ankeny Diner, Ankeny; BW's Burgers, West Des Moines; Down Right Delicious, Clarinda; Elm's Club, Creston; First Street Grille, Keosauqua; PerXactly Bar & Grill, Maquoketa; Rides Bar & Grill, Fort Dodge; The Ritz, Arnolds Park; and Vaughn's Café & Bakery, Clarinda.

Previous winners in the contest are: 2015 – The Cider House, Fairfield; 2014 – Brick City Grill, Ames; 2013 - 61 Chop House Grille, Mediapolis; 2012 - Coon Bowl III, Coon Rapids; 2011 - Rusty Duck, Dexter; and 2010 - Sac County Cattle Company, Sac City.

**Truck inspection kits available**

Polk County Farm Bureau has the DOT inspection kits for farm trucks on hand in the office. Each kit is being sold for only \$2.50. The kit includes the paper form as well as the inspection sticker.

Stop by the office in Ankeny at 300 SE Delaware Ave and pick yours up before the busy planting season begins.