

Get on board for Farm Progress Show

The 2011 Farm Progress Show, dubbed “The World’s Fair of Agriculture”, returns to its biennial permanent show site at Decatur IL this year, and our bus trip to the show on August 31 is filling rapidly. This year’s show is projected to be the biggest yet with the most new technology introductions in the show’s history, including Deere & Company’s biggest new product introductions in decades. Dry conditions have rapidly advanced crop conditions, and it’s likely that corn harvest will be taking place that day. We had less than 15 seats left as of August 17, so don’t delay in signing up; cost is \$30 for FB members and \$35 for non-members, which includes transportation and refreshments on the bus. In order to avoid any delays at the gate, you can purchase discounted tickets in advance online at www.farmprogressshow.com. Join us for this fascinating look inside the world of agriculture!

“Half Century of Progress” trip cancelled

We’ve unfortunately had to cancel our August 26 bus trip to the “Half Century of Progress” show at Rantoul IL due to insufficient signup for the event. Anyone still wishing to attend should contact the Forreton FFA Alumni as they’re planning a bus to the show on Saturday August 27, leaving Forreton High School at 6 a.m. and returning around 7 p.m. For details contact Robert Nelson at Forreton High School at (815) 938-2175.

Classic Tractor Drive this Saturday

Our second Classic Tractor Drive departs from the FS plant in Lena at 8 a.m. this Saturday August 27, traveling cross country to Orangeville where the tractors will be on display from approximately 10-10:30 a.m. at the BOCO station. They will proceed west on Winslow Road through Winslow and down Christian Hollow Road prior to a lunch stop at Mahon Farms before the procession returns to Lena mid-afternoon. Late entries can possibly be accommodated by calling the FB office at (815) 232-3186 by Thursday afternoon August 25.

Quiz Bowl competitors

Dealing with a number of unexpected schedule conflicts that limited participation from other members, Chad and Deb Bremmer of Pearl City proudly represented the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Young Leaders in the 2011 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Agri-Quiz Bowl on August 16 during Agriculture Day at the Illinois State Fair. We came in with a target on our back as 4-time defending champions, and the Bremmers competed admirably as they won their first-round match in convincing fashion before meeting some tough competition that ended their run in the semi-finals. Champaign County took home first place, followed by Perry, Sangamon and Effingham counties.

In other YL activities, Kirk and Stephanie Liefer of Randolph County were named Achievement Award winners for 2011, the highest honor given to a young farmer or couple in Illinois. Alan Chesnut of Vermilion County was named Excellence in Ag winner, recognizing the top individual or couple whose primary vocation is outside of production agriculture. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to Chad and Deb for carrying the SCFB torch.

A tip of the cap

Ag Day at the State Fair brings recognition for a number of award winners in various sectors of the agricultural community, and once again Stephenson County is on the map. Dave and Karen Macomber of Lena were presented the Illinois Milk Producers Association Environmental Stewardship Award, a very deserving recognition for a family who has been leaders in agriculture for decades. Congratulations Dave and Karen and family!

Enthusiasm is high!

Just two weeks after returning from our very successful Door County Adventure bus trip, we already have ten people on the list for next year’s excursion (based on responses, I think that a large number of this year’s group may repeat next year). We’ve already booked the bus and a block of rooms at the resort, and we’re working on scheduling of activities – right now we’re planning a four-day, three night trip on July 30-August 2, 2012 subject to arrangements. If you’re looking for a fun, relaxing getaway next summer, give us a call and watch for more info as it develops at www.stephensoncfb.org. Our tentative schedule of 2012 trips is posted there, subject to change.

Now taking nut & candy orders

It’s that time of year again when we’re taking orders for those delicious Terri Lynn nuts and candies that have been so popular for baking and snacking. New this year are Dark Chocolate Almonds and the S’ mores Mix, along with the usual favorites that are great as gifts or for your own enjoyment. Order forms are available online at www.stephensoncfb.org or at the SCFB office, and orders with payment must be received by Friday October 28 to ensure arrival the week of Thanksgiving.

Pedal pull winners

Our Young Leaders held their final two pedal tractor pulls of the summer recently, with the following winners taking home trophies (1st-3rd place). August 6 Pearl City Homecoming winners were: Under 45# - Lexton Endress, James Brady, Jackson Kempel; 46-60# - Samuel Snetcher, Riley Schauer, Abby Ditsworth; 61-80# - Jared Kempel, Jayden Kempel, Liana Rosenstiel. Triumphant pullers at the August 13 Winslow River Days pull were: Under 45# - Payton Altfillisch, Payton Stieve, Cole Dunlevy; 46-60# - Seth Dunlevy, Zachary Krahmer, Ellie Edler; 61-80# - Ethan Smocke, Brody Mahon, David Oliver. Thanks to all, and watch for our updated tractor and sled in 2012!

Bruce Johnson is the manager of the Stephenson County Farm Bureau