

## Deb Bremmer advances in Discussion Meet

The Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders in Districts 1 and 2, covering the northern two tiers of counties border to border, held a combined Discussion Meet on August 22 to determine who would advance to the state finals, to be held at the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago in December. The Discussion Meet is a long-established event where Young Leaders ages 18-35 compete in a structured discussion of timely ag topics, with judges scoring them on effectiveness, engagement, knowledge, preparation and poise among other criteria. There were two contestants from District 1 along with thirteen from our five-county District 2; by virtue of state guidelines based on contestant numbers, one winner was selected from District 1 and four from District 2 with an alternate from each district.

Stephenson County has fared well in this event for many years, and once again we'll be represented at state as Deb Bremmer of Pearl City was one of the four District 2 reps selected, along with Jon Lower (Carroll), Dan Deuth (Ogle), and John Mitchell (Winnebago). SCFB's Abe Trone, a veteran of many meets, competed strongly but was not selected to advance (much to my surprise, as I thought he was terrific), and Ed Livengood (Carroll) was chosen as alternate.

Congratulations to Deb and best wishes for success at the finals, as the winner will represent IFB in the national competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting next January in Honolulu HA (an added inspiration in Deb's preparation).

### **Farewell and thanks, Jamie!**

A busy summer came to a close last week for our Summer Program Assistant Jamie Schlachter as she wrapped up her internship at SCFB in preparation for her return to UW-Platteville for her senior year. Jamie was a delight to have on our staff this summer, and she made an indelible mark with successes in many areas. In addition to helping with our activities at the Ag Breakfast and the county fair and providing valuable assistance around the office, her most notable accomplishment was the tremendous new influx of business partners in our SCFB Membership Value Program, where she brought in over 30 new businesses offering discounts to our members. I know that Jamie has a bright future ahead in whatever field she pursues, and we thank her for her outstanding efforts here this summer.

### **Speaking of MVP...**

We're pleased to welcome eight more outstanding local businesses to our SCFB Membership Value Program, bringing the total to 94 partners offering discounts to our members. Joining the program are Fitness Lifestyles, Always Cookies, Serendipity Candy, Gametime Screen Printing, Stunning Styles, Charwood Smokehaus & Grill, Uniforms and More, and Schofield Plumbing and Well Pump Service. We're updating our brochure and these discounts are listed on our website at [www.stephensoncfb.org](http://www.stephensoncfb.org) under the "Membership – Local Benefits" tab. Any businesses wishing to participate in the program should call our office at (815) 232-3186. Thanks to all of our wonderful MVP partners for adding even more value to Farm Bureau membership!

### **Defensive Driving class scheduled**

We've scheduled another popular Defensive Driving class with veteran instructor Doug Sommer, slated for November 9-10 here at the Farm Bureau. The course will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days with lunch provided, and the cost is \$15 for SCFB members and \$25 for non-members. Those age 55 and older completing the course are eligible for discounts on their auto insurance premium, so call (815) 232-3186 today to sign up as space is limited.

### **Don't procrastinate on this one!**

Last week I mentioned that we already had 10 people signed up for our August 2012 Door County Adventure; that number is now 28 and growing as a mix of return travelers and new participants are getting on board. Andrea and I spent a great weekend in Door County recently, and we took the ferry to Washington Island and enjoyed the Cherry Train island tour (which will be included in next summer's excursion). We also saw two fabulous shows at the American Folklore Theatre in Peninsula State Park: their newest production, "Bing: The Cherry Musical" and "Lumberjacks in Love", one of their earlier productions but their most requested performance. We're planning on "Bing" being on the schedule next summer and I think everyone will love it. Watch for some preliminary trip details coming soon at [www.stephensoncfb.org](http://www.stephensoncfb.org), where you can find a tentative list of our 2012 bus trips. An additional note: anyone traveling to Door County should really make American Folklore Theatre a must see; they are the only professional theater group in the country producing all original material (music, script, choreography, all of it), and they add a new show each year. They are quality productions well worth your time!

### **Branson trip signup**

Signup deadline is nearing for our November 7-11 trip to Branson MO, so don't delay if you want to enjoy this excursion filled with highlights. Shows include Daniel O'Donnell, Shoji Tabuchi, the Brett Family, Doug Gabriel, the Grand Jubilee Show, and the "Miracle of Christmas" spectacular as well as the Show Boat Branson Belle dinner cruise. Details are at [www.stephensoncfb.org](http://www.stephensoncfb.org) or by calling the FB office at (815) 232-3186.

Bruce Johnson is the manager of the Stephenson County Farm Bureau.