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Eaton County Farm Bureau's Monthly Membership Update

April 2011

the harvester



Don't Miss the Savings!

Eaton County Farm Bureau Member Services programs have been working hard to bring you local savings throughout the county! Below are a few of our partner businesses.

Dog House Pet Grooming, Vermontville
10% off with membership ID

Curves for Women, Charlotte
Waive \$45 service fee with 12 month check draft membership.

Christensen's Furniture
15% off all regularly priced merchandise with cash or check.

Pollack Glass, Lansing
20% off on all glass.

Ranch Life Plastics, Eaton Rapids
15% on any order over \$1,000. Does not include installation or delivery.

Hometown Dental, Bellevue
\$50 off any dental visit. Not valid with any other offer.

Simply show your Membership Card to receive your special member-only discounts!

For a full listing of our 2010-2011 local member services, please visit our website at <http://eaton.michfb.com>.

Beware of Stink Bugs!

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug found in Michigan

As discussed last month, the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug has reached Michigan and farmers have reason to be concerned. Below are some pictures of damaged crops. We have also included links to our website where more information is posted for your convenience.



For more information, research & resources, please visit our website at <http://eaton.michfb.com>.

Our Agriculture Community

The Eaton Conservation District

By: Andrea Stay, Executive Director of the Eaton Conservation District

The Eaton Conservation District (ECD) focuses on education and management of natural resources. The core topics that the conservation district is involved with include: Water Quality, Agriculture, Forestry & Wildlife, Native Plants/Invasive Control, Alternative Energy & Recycling, and Natural Resource Planning. ECD works with agricultural producers, homeowners, municipalities, community groups, schools and more.

ECD was created in 1946 to link landowners with programs to manage their natural resources. ECD works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to set goals, approve plans, and provide information to the public about Farm Bill conservation programs. Farm Bill conservation programs provide cost share and soil rental payments for landowners that meet requirements and install conservation practices on their land.

ECD also runs the Michigan Water Stewardship Program. This provides educational and technical assistance to agricultural producers to identify and reduce contamination to surface and groundwater. Producers can work with our technician to complete a voluntary, confidential Farm*A*Syst, Crop*A*Syst, Livestock*A*Syst or emergency plan. These assessments can earn the producer RUP

Credits. Producers can also work with the technician to become MAEAP verified. The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) indicates the farm is in conformance with state and federal environmental laws and guidelines,

and that it is protecting Michigan's important natural resources for the use of future generations.

We would like your input into the development of the District's Resource Assessment. Your feedback allows the District to include public input on local priorities for land use, water

quality, agriculture, wildlife, forestry and more. Those who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 and \$25 gas card. The survey can be accessed online http://tiny.cc/ECD_Survey or paper copies are available at the Eaton Conservation District office at 551 Courthouse Drive, Suite 3, Charlotte, MI 48813.



Cabela's Merchandise Program

Members can now purchase Cabela's items from an exclusive Michigan Farm Bureau member catalog! You will receive special pricing on these items and be able to add the Michigan Farm Bureau logo of your choice to all items excluding boots and gloves.

Within the Farm Bureau exclusive Cabela's catalog members can choose from camouflage and Carhartt apparel: including jackets, overalls and sweaters, to hats, boots, gloves and more!

For more information, visit the MFB website: <http://www.michfb.com/benefits/cabelas>

Prescription Drug Discounts

Michigan Farm Bureau members can save up to 60% off on prescription drugs at any participating Clarity preferred pharmacy when you show your Clarity card (shown below). The pharmacy will verify your eligibility and obtain the discounted cost within seconds. It's that easy!

There are no enrollment fees, no applications to fill-out and one card serves your entire household.

Most Michigan pharmacy chains participate in the Clarity program (i.e. Walmart, Meijer, Walgreens, CVS, Kmart, Target, Kroger, etc.)

Visit the MFB website to print your card! <http://www.michfb.com/benefits/prescriptions>

Upcoming Events

April 15—Book Recycling & Document Shredding (Charlotte Recycling Center)

April 15—Spring Tree Sale (Janson's Equipment, Charlotte)

April 18—Legislative Breakfast (Janson's Equipment, Charlotte)

ask a farmer >>>

Q: What kinds of products specifically in Michigan are used from sheep?

A: Meat!

Most people think its wool, but almost all sheet farming in the U.S. is done for meat. Sheep meat is called lamb and is a growing product in the U.S. Sheep also produce other products such as milk, lanolin and wool. Michigan lamb can be purchased in farmers markets and local meat stores.



Ben Tirrell
Tirrell Farmstead
Specialties



final thoughts...

Spring is in the air! We've all noticed the return of the birds chirping early in the morning, the daylight lasting longer, the sweet smell of warmth and spring showers in the air. For Michiganders it's almost Tee Time. Spring's promise of the warmer weather to come also brings water saturated property, flooding and high winds. As of October 1, 2010 Farm Bureau Insurance will automatically include \$2,500 of water backup coverage, from sewers or drains (excludes flood and surface water), in the base policy on new policies and renewing policies. In some cases, \$2,500 may only cover the clean up by a restoration company. Higher amounts of liability are available up to \$50,000 (policy deductible does apply to the loss). Spring also means thunderstorms and high winds, both of which could potentially mean trees downed on your home or property. Simply put: trees belong to Mother Nature so if a storm causes a tree to land on your home or property, you are responsible for removing it, regardless of who's property the tree was on prior to a storm. Farm Bureau offers coverage up to \$1,000 for the removal of trees and tree debris under our Select Homeowners Endorsement. As you start your spring cleaning – don't forget your insurance policies! This is a good time of year to pull out your policies and make sure you are adequately covered.

As always, we are here to help you understand and evaluate your coverage – please call me or your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent to discuss your water backup coverage and your tree coverage before a loss occurs. Let our team help you determine if you are adequately covered. Think Spring!



Tim Barry
Farm Bureau Insurance Agent
Phone: (517) 886-2260
www.TimBarryAgency.com

Washington Elementary Science Day

Washington Elementary of Charlotte hosted their annual Science Day on Wednesday, February 23, 2011.

Farm Bureau members Steve Tennes and Ben Tirrell participated in the event educating students in various topics of

science and agriculture.

The event gave the Farm Bureau board members an opportunity to get involved with the students in a hands-on environment and spend some focused time on education and promotion of the industry.



Photos courtesy of Erika Rickerd.



coming soon >>>

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Inside the Board Room

Ask a Farmer

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Contact us at **517-543-5567!**

Membership Office:

430 State Street
Charlotte, MI 48813


Fax: 517-543-6124

Email: eatoncounty@ctyfb.com

<http://eaton.michfb.com>



networking with members like never before. Find us on [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest member benefits, important news and updates, membership reminders and more!

Search for "Eaton County Farm Bureau" and be sure to LIKE  us to get our updates!