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Eaton County Farm Bureau's Monthly Membership Update

February 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.

Latchaw Financial Services, Charlotte

Free investment portfolio review. 10% off 1040 tax returns.

MTM Bookkeeping & Tax Service Grand Ledge

20% off all regularly priced services. Not valid with other offers

Rolle Chiropractic Clinic, Charlotte

25% off all services.

Charlotte Cabinets, Inc., Charlotte

15% discount on new countertops, plastic laminate, or solid surfaces. Includes installation.

TJ's Towing, Charlotte

%5 off in-town/local towing; \$3 off in-town/local service. 10% off all regularly priced services over \$100.

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>.

Membership Drive 2011 Round Up the Farm Bureau Family!

The Eaton Farm Bureau launched its 2011 membership drive on Saturday, February 5th at the MSU Extension Office in Charlotte.

The pancake breakfast gave Farm Bureau membership workers a forum for rallying the troops in the pending effort to recruit new members. Membership recruiters discussed the group's responsibilities and suggested ways for members to get more

involved in Farm Bureau programs and activities.

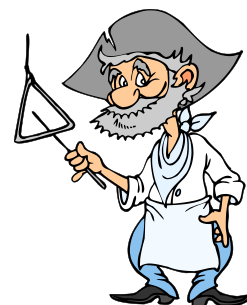
Members participating in the membership drive, attending events and recruiting new members, will be entered into a prize drawing. Prizes for the 2011 give-a-way include a Nintendo Wii, GPS, Portable DVD Player, iPod and a Week-End Getaway. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact one of these membership volunteers: Lynn Stanke, 517-543-3996; Deb Granger, 517-543-1289; or our membership office at 517-543-5567.

The membership drive will continue through Sunday, March 6th, when top recruiters will be recognized at a family-friendly victory party celebration, scheduled for 12:30pm at the Royal Scot Bowling Center in Lansing. Attendees will be treated to lunch and bowling, and prizes for the membership drive participants will be handed out.

Farm Bureau members help develop and

execute farm-related policy that steers the group's local, state and national-level lobbying efforts, supporting farm-friendly legislation and actively opposing measures deemed detrimental to the state's second-largest industry. Members are also encouraged to take part in leadership development programs, promote the industry and educate the general public about agriculture.

For more information, contact the membership office at 517-543-5567 or via email at eatoncounty@ctyfb.com.



Around the Community...

Winter Warm-Up Challenge

WHAT:

A FREE 8-week Walking & Physical Activity Program to improve your health and fitness – featuring the *Blues' Community Challenge*.

THE CHALLENGE:

A contest between 9 Greater Lansing communities! Teams from each community compete by signing up community members to log physical activity. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is providing GRANTS to participating communities – rewarding each, but more will go to those having the MOST PEOPLE, logging the MOST ACTIVITY! Everyone's welcome! Join now and YOU can be part of this journey to wellness, while also helping win a portion of this grant for a project of public health and wellness in your community!

For more information, visit the "[Member Documents](#)" page on our website.

Soil, Water, Air & Profitable Farming

As commodity prices keep livestock producers in a quandary, environmental issues continue to be challenging. That's why Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) is presenting "Environmental Management on the Farm: Painless and Profitable." The one-day program will provide a solid overview of issues related to soil, air, water and profitable farming.

Wednesday, March 2nd from 10am-3pm
Regional Educational Service District
1131 E. Center Street, Ithaca, MI

MAEAP Phase I and CCA (1NM, 1SW, 1PD) credits are available.

Registration fee is \$40 for the first farm/family member, and \$20 for additional, (\$5 more for walk-ins).

A complementary lunch will be provided. Register Online by following this [LINK](#).

Specialty Crop Grant Opportunity

WHAT:

This program is designed to enhance the competitiveness of Michigan's specialty crops. Grant proposals must be received by MDA no later than April 1, 2011.


Grants range from \$10,000 to \$75,000, and enhance the competitiveness of the state's specialty crops, including, but not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, increased knowledge and consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, good agricultural practices, good handling practices, and good manufacturing practices.

Visit our [Facebook](#) page for more information.



Find us on
Facebook

Eaton County Farm Bureau is online and 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!

for your information >>>



Inside the Board Room

A regular meeting of the Eaton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:01pm by Steve Tennes, County President. Board Members in attendance were Tonya Clough, Duane Eldred, Deb Granger, Ryan Hall, Jim Orr, Derik Rickerd, Brett Roberts, Holly Schaeffer, Duane Smuts, Lynn Stanke and Ben Tirrell.

Special guests in attendance included County Commissioner, John Forell and Sarah Black from Michigan Farm Bureau.

The board began with opening ceremonies, adopted the agenda and approved the minutes from the previous meeting, financials and new member applications.

During strategic planning John Forell discussed the Eaton County Master Plan as it pertains to agriculture and asked for the board's input on the document preparation.

Committee reports were submitted verbally by committee chairs. The Membership Committee will be hosting its kickoff on February 5th. The P&E Committee has kicked off the Poster Contest and will be participating in Washington Elementary's Science Day. All committees submitted

Programs of Work for the coming year and they were approved by the board.

Board members briefly reviewed the State Annual Meeting and the brainstorming session which took place during the event to get more members involved.

Volunteers were requested to register for various upcoming leadership events, including the Young Farmer Leadership Conference, Lansing Legislative Seminar, Washington Legislative Seminar and the Voice of Agriculture Conference.

The board voted to name the Junior Board members as the Young People's Citizenship Seminar (YPCS) Coordinators for 2011.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 15, 2011.

Complete meeting minutes can be found on our website at <http://eaton.michfb.com>.

Junior Member Spotlight

My Ag Experiences

Written By:
Rosalyn Brummette

Hello, my name is Rosalyn Brummette and I am one of the four Eaton County Farm Bureau Junior Board members. I attend both Charlotte and Grand Ledge High school but live in Grand Ledge on a small farm. My agriculture experience began eleven years ago as Cloverbud in the Eaton County 4-H program.

When I became a regular 4-H member at the age of nine, I started out showing Chickens. Now I currently show Chickens, Sheep, Hogs, and a variety of nonlivestock projects. It was not until five years ago that I began my real passion which is Leadership through Agriculture.



delegate, North Central Regional Volunteer Forum (NCRVF) 4-H committee member, and a FFA National Convention delegate. My favorite part of being involved in these organizations is meeting new people, creating memorable friendships, and

having fun while volunteering my time.

I started by getting involved on boards and committees in the 4-H program, then expanding to Charlotte FFA and most recently Eaton County Farm Bureau. Currently I am the President of the Eaton County 4-H junior council, Treasurer of the 4-H Junior Livestock Association (JLA), Vice President of the Charlotte FFA, and Junior Board member of the Eaton Co. Farm Bureau.

I have two loves, Agriculture and Leadership. I started my leadership involvement on the local level through my 4-H club, then at the county level, and next to the State level where this past year I was the Michigan 4-H State Awards honorable mention winner in Sheep. I have continued my leadership on the National level as a 4-H Citizenship Washington D.C. Focus (CWF)

Some other extracurricular activities I am involved include: Varsity Soccer, National Honor Society, Honor Roll student, Grand Ledge High School Choir, Grand Ledge High School Rotary club member, member of the Grand Ledge First United Methodist Church, and a co-creator of the 4-H Green Ambassadors Program (G.A.P.) which is a recycling program at the Eaton County Fairgrounds.

Just as the FFA creed states, "I believe in the future of Agriculture", I am driven by the devotion of Farmers, FFA advisors, and Ag supporters and I someday hope to be a voice for these people. My future plans are to attend Michigan State University dual majoring in Law and in Community, Agricultural, Recreation, and Resources Studies.



Crystal Mountain Resort

Members are eligible for Corporate Program Perks, including 10% off lodging only rates or special Corporate lodging only rates from just \$89 during select dates.

Members must mention the Farm Bureau code N4E7W3 and present membership card at check-in to receive discount.

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

Marge Karker Scholarship

The Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Committee is accepting applications for three \$1,000 scholarships to students currently enrolled in a two, four, or post-graduate agricultural program at Michigan State University.

Students eligible to receive the scholarships must be from a Farm Bureau family, or if married or over 21, have their own membership.

Scholarship interviews will be held with scholarships awarded for 2011-2012 tuition. The scholarships are administered through the State P&E Committee. Application deadline is March 1, 2011. To download an application, [please click here](#).

Upcoming Events

February 5—Membership Drive Kickoff (MSU Extension Office, Charlotte)

February 17—[Growing Our Food Conference](#) (Greater Lansing Food Bank, Lansing)

February 18-20—Young Farmer Leaders Conf (Kellogg Center, E. Lansing)

February 22—Lansing Legislative Seminar (Lansing Center, Lansing)

March 1—Voice of Agriculture Conference (MSU Extension Office, Charlotte)

ask a farmer >>>

Q: Why should I buy local?

A: Know what your are eating...

Just like for any good or service, buying local is a good way to keep dollars in the local economy. Products grown and processed a matter of miles from where you live. When someone buys meat from a local producer, they know exactly where this product came from, and sometimes even from which animal. That may sound simple, but ground beef at many grocery stores may contain parts of more than 90 animals in one hamburger!

Do you have questions for a farmer? If so, email them to us at eatoncounty@ctyfb.com. If your question is featured, you will receive a special prize!



Ben Tirrell
Tirrell Farms



final thoughts...

February in Michigan!!!

There are two types of people that live in Michigan in February.

1. Those that embrace winter and all it has to offer.
2. Those that do not.

For those that enjoy getting out and enjoying this great State whether it be cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, sledding, snow shoeing, snowboarding or just playing in the snow Michigan has a lot to offer. I find winter passes much quicker when I am out enjoying it rather than inside dreading it. Nothing brings more joy to my 4 kids than making a snowman. They will talk about this snowman for the remaining 11 months of the year as well.

The middle of winter also brings other things to light and it is a good time to evaluate your insurance coverage for you winter toys. Making sure you have the proper liability coverage on your snowmobiles and itemizing any special (expensive) items such as a pricey set of skis or snowboard. These things can be scheduled on a rider much like a wedding ring can and be placed with its own deductible. So please give me a call or contact your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent to review your winter recreation plan and make sure those toys are covered and your families well being is protected.

And for those of you that don't like winter I heard that Wal-Mart has electric blankets on sale.



Brian Lautzenheiser
Farm Bureau Insurance Agent
Phone: (517) 543-5565
Web: www.BrianLautz.com

Elementary Poster Contest

In recognition of National Agriculture Week, the Eaton County Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Committee is sponsoring their annual Poster Contest! This year's contest is broken down into two categories: 1st & 2nd Graders and 3rd & 4th Graders.

All elementary schools in Eaton County have been invited to participate in the contest.

All entries must be hand drawn, be no larger than 9" x 12", include a signed poster

release from the child's parent or guardian and be submitted to the Farm Bureau Office no later than March 4, 2011.

The winner of each contest category will receive a Family Membership to Impressions 5, an award certificate and a pizza lunch party for their entire class! Prizes will also be awarded for the second and third place for each category.

For more information, please contact our membership office at (517) 543-5567.

POSTER CONTEST THEME:



coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

Inside the Board Room

Ask a Farmer

Member Benefits

Final Thoughts

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

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<http://eaton.michfb.com>