

## in this issue >>>

Junior Member Spotlight  
Young Farmer Leader's Conference  
Membership Round-Up  
Agriculture's Conference on Environment  
Marge Karker Scholarship



Eaton County Farm Bureau's Monthly Membership Update

January 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.

### **Serendipity Florist, Charlotte**

10% off all regularly priced merchandise.  
Minimum purchase of \$20.

### **Davis Chiropractic, Charlotte**

10% discount on all services.

### **Michigan Plumbing Sewer & Drain Cleaning Lansing**

105 off all regularly priced services, no limit.

### **Gardenscapes, LLC, Bellevue**

10% discount on seasonal contract for lawn services. 10% discount on landscape services. Does not include chemical application.

### **S.D. Electric, LLC, Dimondale**

10% off any services over \$100. Free Estimates.

Simply show your Membership Card to receive your special members-only discount!

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

## Junior Member Spotlight

### My Ag Experiences

Written By:  
Claire White

*As one of the Eaton Farm Bureau Junior Board Members I have been given many opportunities great opportunities involving basic leadership and local agricultural issues.*

*I am Claire White, a high school Junior attending both Grand Ledge High School and Charlotte High School. I am currently dual-enrolled in both schools, where I have worked with both school districts to work out a plan to attend both schools. This allowed me to maintain*

my academics in Grand Ledge, while participating in Ag classes in Charlotte. It is in Charlotte, that I have had the wonderful opportunity to be involved with FFA.

Even though it was a rough start working at making dual-school attendance successful, it eventually became an everyday reality. I am a student in Charlotte in the mornings where I take Leadership class with the FFA Instructor, and in the afternoon I return Grand Ledge for Advanced Placement Chemistry and MAT (mathematical algebra and trigonometry). Being involved with FFA has been a great opportunity that I have enjoyed.

Along with FFA I am involved in my local 4-H club, being my club president. I am also involved in 4-H at a county level as the Eaton County 4-H Advisory Council Secretary and the Eaton County Junior Livestock Association Secretary. Thru Grand Ledge High School I am also involved in the National Honors Society and the Varsity

Soccer Team. Another organization I have become recently involved in is the Grand Ledge Rotary Club.

In 4-H I show sheep and hogs and various non-livestock projects. I have participated in many conferences given by the State 4-H Extension at Kettunen Center. There I have obtained hands-on direction to expand my knowledge in these project areas. I have also been a Michigan Delegate in a weeklong trip to Washington DC to learn about our government and how to become a better citizen.

Citizenship has become a passion and our 4-H club has finished up various community service project including caroled to the elderly, Christmas meals for local families in Grand Ledge, and providing deserts and placemats to the Grand Ledge Shopping Tour, which supplies gifts and food to need children.



Continued on Page 4

# Young Farmer Leader's Conference



## Stand Up Speak Out...

The Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leader's Conference offers participants (ages 18-35) the opportunity to learn more about current agricultural practices, management techniques, and their organization. They will also have the opportunity to attend and participate in a Young Farmer Business Expo.

The conference keynote speaker on Friday will be Chris Chinn. Chris and her husband farm in Missouri with his parents and brother. Chris manages the production and financial records for the family's 2,400 sow farrow-to-finish hog operation. The Chinn's own their livestock and use production contracts with local farmers to finish their hogs to market size. They also own and operate their own feed mill, which enables the family to purchase all of their grain locally from area farmers. Chinn served on the Missouri Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. She is the past Chairman for the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee,



and served on the Board of Directors for the American Farm Bureau Federation. Chris represents farmers and ranchers on the Environmental Protection Agency's Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee. She has traveled the United States speaking about the importance of telling the story of agriculture, as well as putting a face on agriculture to ensure our consumers know their food is produced in an environmentally friendly method, as well as humanely caring for our farm animals.

The conference keynote speaker for Saturday will be Dr. David Kohl. David Kohl received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in

Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. For 25 years, Kohl was Professor of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. As facilitator of the United States Farm Financial



Standards Task Force and member of the Canadian Agricultural Financial Standards Task Force, Dr. Kohl was one of the leaders in establishing guidelines for the standardized reporting and analysis of agricultural producers' financial information on a national and international basis.

Kohl is currently President of AgriVisions, LLC, a knowledge-based consulting business providing cutting-edge programs to leading agricultural organizations worldwide. He is also business coach and part owner of Homestead Creamery, a value added dairy business in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The conference will take place February 18-20<sup>th</sup> at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. Attendees will expand their knowledge base on agricultural issues, exchange ideas, socialize with peers from across the state, and receive information on current agricultural issues and trends.

For more information or to register, please contact the Membership Office at (517) 543-5567. **Registration deadline is January 14<sup>th</sup>!**



for your information >>>



## Membership Round-Up!

You are cordially invited to attend the 2011 Membership Round-Up! This unique event is your family's opportunity to learn more about membership with Eaton County Farm Bureau, enjoy breakfast with community members and win some great prizes! All members and their families are welcome, so make sure you RSVP today!

**Saturday, February 5, 2011**  
**MSU Extension Office Basement**  
(551 Courthouse Drive, Charlotte, Michigan)

**Pancake Breakfast served from 8:30am-9:30am**  
**Program immediately following**

Join us to learn more about Membership, including member benefits & new members, mingle with legislators & county officials  
**(Activities & entertainment for children provided)**


**Attendees will be entered into drawings for a one-night getaway, a Nintendo Wii, a GPS, an iPod and more!**

**Save seats for your family!**

Please contact the Membership office to reserve your seats by Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>!  
Phone: (517) 543-5567  
Email: [eatoncounty@ctyfb.com](mailto:eatoncounty@ctyfb.com)

 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!

# Agriculture's Conference on Environment

*Changing Environmental Regulations, Farm Policy, Building Consumer Trust and Maximizing Profitability are all challenges that today's farmers have to manage. Join your fellow producers to get practical solutions for dealing with these challenges at the 2011 Agriculture's Conference on the Environment.*

ACE (Agriculture's Conference on Environment) attendees will gain insight on many current agriculture and environmental topics through several additional educational sessions offered throughout the daylong conference. The main themes for the ACE 2011 are:

- Building consumer trust
- Developing efficiencies to increase profitability
- Legislative, food safety and economic impacts
- Managing inputs to maximize profit
- Reducing farm energy costs

Keynote speaker Bill Beranek, Jr., President of the Indiana Environmental Institute, Inc., will start the conference as he shares his expertise on what today's farmers need to know about their agricultural practices while being mindful of changes occurring in the industry. The conference will conclude with another keynote speaker, Charlie Arnot, Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Food Integrity, whose message will send farmers



away with tips on how to share their own story and promote the strength of the agriculture industry.

Participation at ACE counts toward MAEAP Phase I and provides three Restricted Use Pesticide credits for both private and commercial core pesticide applicators. Certified Crop Adviser credits are also available.

The conference will take place Thursday, January 27, 2011 at The Lansing Center in downtown Lansing.

For further information on the conference, including a full schedule of events and registration materials, please contact the Membership Office at (517) 543-5567. You can also find everything online at <http://www.maeap.org/ace>.



## Treetops Resort

Treetops Resort is now offering members a 20% off midweek rack rates (Sunday-Thursday) during the golf and ski season.

Children under 18 stay free with a paid adult.

Members need to call (888) 873-3867, mention the Farm Bureau rate and present their membership card at time of check-in.

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

**January 16**—District 5 Young Farmer Bowling (Owosso)

**January 18**—Board Meeting (Membership Office, Charlotte)

**January 27**—ACE Conference (The Lansing Center, Lansing)

**February 5**—Membership Drive Kick-Off (MSU Extension Office, Charlotte)

ask a farmer >>>

**Q:** Why should I buy local?

**A:** Know what you 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](mailto:eatoncounty@ctyfb.com). If your question is featured, you will receive a special prize!



Ben Tirrell  
Tirrell Farms



# final thoughts...

In my former career as a dairy farmer, I must admit that I didn't fully appreciate the role of an insurance agent. In fact, when I was young, I remember sizing up the agent in our church and concluded that although he was a nice man, I didn't think he worked that hard. It seemed that he only went into action when someone walked into his office looking for car insurance for the new vehicle they just purchased.

Boy was I wrong! As an agent with Farm Bureau for nearly five years, I have found that this perception couldn't be further from the truth. I not only learned this from my own experience but also from getting to know and observe the other Farm Bureau agents throughout mid-Michigan.

From an agent's perspective, this is an extremely active profession. Our client's accounts need constant monitoring and adjustment to make sure they are receiving the best possible coverage and service available. Things that impact your insurance program are constantly changing. Things like Supreme Court decisions and new laws can weaken or strengthen your insurance policies and in most cases, without your knowledge. Add to these, the changing events in your life such as marriage, a new family member, teenage drivers, a change in employment, moving your residence, empty nesters, changes in your health insurance status, retirement, long-term care needs and end of life issues and it becomes clear that a regular review of your insurance program is the best practice for you and your agent.

During these cold, wintery months, making time for your annual insurance review is wise. When your agent calls to offer a review, please take full advantage of the opportunity. Better yet, if you haven't had a review in a while, pick up the phone and call to schedule one. Your agent will appreciate your partnership in looking over your policies to make sure you are getting the best possible coverage for the most reasonable premium available. In fact, some reviews result in a reduction of premium based on information discovered during the appointment.

Let's work together to make sure that you and your family are not only insured but that you are truly protected with your Farm Bureau Insurance program. Make time for your annual review today.



**Jim Fuerstenau**  
Farm Bureau Insurance Agent  
Phone: (517) 321-9100  
Web: [www.JimisMyAgent.net](http://www.JimisMyAgent.net)

## My Ag Experiences *Continued from Page 1*

Since this is my first year in FFA I have not accomplished as much as what I have in 4-H. This year I have had time to learn about the organization and I am observing where I can get more involved. The most interesting thing I am doing in my FFA Leadership class is being involved in a contest. This year members are participating in things from parliamentary procedure, public speaking, demonstrations, job interview and

agriculture issues. Right now we have wrapped up our holiday events where we sponsored many angels off the Angel Tree at the High School and we helped run a can drive where the school brought in over 1,000 canned goods for local shelters.

In 2011 I am hoping to attend more FFA sponsored events anywhere from State to National Convention.

*coming soon >>>*

## *In The Next Issue*

*Inside the Board Room*  
*Ask a Farmer*  
*Member Benefits*  
*Final Thoughts*

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

**Membership Office:**  
430 State Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813

Fax: 517-543-6124  
Email: [eatoncounty@ctyfb.com](mailto:eatoncounty@ctyfb.com)  
<http://eaton.michfb.com>

### MEMBER VISA CARDS

Choose a member-only Visa credit card and earn cash back or miles toward free flights.

<b>Visa Platinum</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No Annual fee</li><li>0% APR* on transferred balances</li><li>Automatic car rental insurance</li><li>Travel accident insurance</li></ul>	<b>MFB Sky Rewards Visa Signature/Visa Platinum</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No annual fee</li><li>Earn 1 travel point for every \$1 in qualifying net purchases</li><li>Receive 1,000 FREE travel points when transferring a balance of \$1,500 or more</li></ul>	<b>CashBuilder Visa Platinum</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No annual fee</li><li>Earn cash back based on the amount of your annual purchases... up to \$1,000 every year</li><li>0% APR* on transferred balances</li></ul>
--	--	---

To apply by phone, call **(888) 622-8434** or online through [www.michfb.com](http://www.michfb.com).

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN THESE MEMBER BENEFITS...

 <p>Save at least 10% off orders and up to 35% off motors with Grainger.</p>	<p>Save on car rentals through National, Alamo or Hertz.</p> 
---	---

VISIT [WWW.MICHFB.COM/BENEFITS](http://WWW.MICHFB.COM/BENEFITS) TO LEARN MORE