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Eaton County Farm Bureau's Monthly Membership Update

May 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.

### **Colleen's Cuisine, Inc., Potterville**

10% off all banquet services.

### **Kane Heating & Ventilating Company, Charlotte**

10% off service and installation. Not valid with other offers or discounts.

### **Lea's Auto Body, Charlotte**

15% off parts and labor.

### **Richard's Brand Source, Charlotte**

Free expert protection component warranty.

### **Tarry Chiropractic Wellness Center, Lansing**

No co-pays or out-of-pocket costs for insured clients. 50% discount for uninsured clients.

### **Gavel Restaurant & Lounge, Charlotte**

15% off your meal only. Not valid with any other offers.

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>.

## Spring Fling

### Experience the Tirrell Family Farm!

During this event, you and your family will have the opportunity to truly experience the Tirrell Farm and Tirrell Farmstead Specialties!

**Saturday, May 21, 2011**  
**10:00am – 2:00pm**

**Tirrell Farmstead Specialties**  
**2019 Kalamo Hwy.,**  
**Charlotte, Michigan**

- ✓ Learn about milking!
- ✓ Experience cheese making!
- ✓ Witness sheep shearing!
- ✓ Pet farm animals!
- ✓ Participate in activities for children!
- ✓ Enjoy a hamburger!



# Legislative Updates

## The Senator's Corner

By: Senator Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge)



Senate Republicans and Gov. Rick Snyder realize that Michigan's farmers care deeply about our environment.

That's why the first bill signed into law by the governor, Senate Bill 122 (now Public Act 1 of 2011), will help ensure that Michigan farmers who voluntarily comply with state environmental standards receive real benefits.

Farmers in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program spend more than \$1.2 million of their own money on environmental protection measures. By providing meaningful incentives for Michigan farmers to voluntarily and proactively become verified, the program will:

- Encourage more farms to complete the process, therefore improve environmental stewardship;
- Coordinate federal conservation program funding for Michigan farms; and
- Provide a level of consistency and certainty for environmental outcomes and economic investment.

I was proud to support this pro-farmer, pro-environment and pro-jobs law, which provides legal protection for farmers who implement sound environmental stewardship practices on their land.

Farmers literally depend on the land for a living and therefore, have a vested interest in protecting our environment and water quality.

Agriculture is the state's second-largest industry, and farmers spending their own money to help safeguard our natural resources should have real benefits for voluntarily complying with environmental standards.

Another key piece of legislation signed into law by governor is a measure I introduced. Public Act 10 of 2011 (Senate Bill 20) bans administrative rules mandating workplace ergonomics rules in Michigan. The new law prohibits the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Association from enacting mandatory ergonomics rules. Voluntary guidelines are allowed, but can be no more stringent than federal guidelines.

Ergonomics standards are indicated in the federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration guidelines and companies must operate under these rules. The state of Washington previously mandated workplace ergonomics rules, but the law was overturned by voters there.


This issue was my first bill vetoed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. I'm thrilled that Gov. Rick Snyder signed this important measure into law.

[Please click here for the full article.](#)



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 on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7:05m by Steve Tennes, County President. Board Members in attendance were Jaime Curth, Deb Granger, Ryan Hall, Jim Orr, Derik Rickerd, Brett Roberts, Holly Schaeffer, Duane Smuts, Lynn Stanke, Steve Tennes, Ben Tirrell and Claire White.*

Special guest in attendance was Laura Hamlin, MFB Central Region Rep.

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

Committee reports were submitted verbally by committee chairs. The next county newsletter will be going out at the end of this month. The membership drive update was given and the committee still needs to recruit nine members by the end of the month. The Public Policy committee reviewed the Legislative Breakfast. The Promotion & Education Committee discussed the upcoming Spring Fling and the results of the Poster Contest winner presentations. Finally, the Young Farmer committee discussed the upcoming statewide Young

Awards that will be due the beginning of July to Michigan Farm Bureau.

In unfinished business, the board decided not to nominate anyone for the Ag Ecology Award and discussed using the audit for budgeting this year and building maintenance issues.

In new business the board voted not to participate in the AFBF 2012 conference in Hawaii. They voted to participate in a Land Survey through Michigan State University. The Regional Rep Report was discussed by Laura Hamlin.

Finally, the board briefly discussed the upcoming County Annual Meeting and Policy Development preparations.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

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

# MSU Extension Report

## All Fertilizers Are Not Created Equal

By: George Silva MSU Extension Field Crops Educator (Eaton, Ingham, Barry and Livingston Counties)

*Plenty of choices are available for buying fertilizers. Price per unit of plant nutrients, availability, ease of storage and application, potential for nutrient losses and site specific factors are the most important considerations when deciding on a fertilizer type.*

Fertilizers come in different forms, grades and formulations. Physically they can be solids, liquids or gaseous. Some fertilizers can be applied in the fall, some in the spring and others during the season. The majority of fertilizers are synthetic but there are organic sources such as livestock manures. Most synthetic fertilizers sold today release their nutrients to the soil rapidly but some fertilizers are designed to release their nutrients slowly. All fertilizers irrespective of their origin or form are meant to serve one basic purpose – to supplement the essential nutrients in the soil. Some fertilizer nutrients, particularly nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P), if improperly used could move away from the application site and degrade water quality.

For handling purposes, there are two major classes of fertilizer, solid and liquid. Anhydrous ammonia is the most common gaseous form but it is stored as a liquid under pressure. Blended dry fertilizers are generally much less expensive in bulk and easier to store compared to liquid. Liquid fertilizer use in Michigan has steadily increased in the past 50 years and today liquids account for about 50% of the market. Liquid fertilizers are popular because of the ease of handling and application. With liquids, a custom blend and greater uniformity in the application

rate can be achieved. In dry blended fertilizers, particles such as micronutrients can segregate during mixing and handling resulting in uneven application.

Just like their solid counterparts, liquid fertilizers contain one or more available plant nutrients. They can be true solutions where all the N-P-K nutrients are dissolved in water or held in suspension. Suspension agents such as colloidal clay material are typically used to keep the fertilizer particles from settling out. Suspension fertilizers should not be stored for long periods. True solution fertilizers can be stored as long as the temperature stays above freezing but salting out in cold weather may be an issue.

In terms of crop response, there is no agronomic difference in the efficiency of liquid and dry fertilizers when the same rate and placement are used under satisfactory growing conditions. Fertilizer recommendations are the same regardless of the fertilizer source. When placed in moist soil, dry fertilizers absorb water and undergo chemical reactions similar to liquid fertilizers. Both solid and liquid fertilizers when properly diluted with water can be applied directly on foliage or with irrigation water. Both forms can be used as starter or pop-up applications.

[Click here to view the full article.](#)



## The Grand Hotel

Offering members (May 6th through June 29th and September 5 - October 24th), \$189 per person/per night, 2nd night half off or a third night free! Package price includes breakfast and dinner daily. Members need to call (800) 33GRAND for a reservation, mention the Farm Bureau offer and present their membership card at time of check-in.

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

## Young Farmer Awards!

The 2011 Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Award Applications are now available for download!

These awards honor Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18-35 who are actively involved in the agriculture industry through volunteering, employment or as a producer themselves.

Applications are available on the Michigan Farm Bureau website [Young Farmer](#) page or through the Membership Office. Application deadline is July 1, 2011!

For more information about the awards, please contact the Eaton County Farm Bureau Membership office at 517-543-5567 or email [eatoncounty@ctyfb.com](mailto:eatoncounty@ctyfb.com).

## Upcoming Events

**May 13**—Eaton County Fair Entries Due!  
(Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte)

**May 15**—4-H Pre-Fair Dog Match  
(Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte)

**May 21**—Spring Fling  
(Tirrell Farmstead Specialties, Charlotte)

**July 1**—Young Farmer Award Deadline  
(Membership Office, Charlotte)

**July 11**—Farm Bureau Day at the Fair  
(Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte)

**August 25**—County Annual Meeting  
(Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte)  
\*Note venue change this year\*

## recipe corner >>>

### Strawberry Cheesecake French Toast

#### Ingredients

- 1 carton (8 ounces) ricotta cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups sliced fresh or frozen strawberries
- 3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
- 16 slices French bread (1/2 inch thick)
- 1 cup milk
- Maple syrup & additional confectioners' sugar

#### Directions

- In a small bowl, combine the ricotta, sugar and vanilla. Spread 2 tablespoons on each of eight slices of bread; top with remaining bread. In a bowl, beat eggs and milk; soak sandwiches for 1-2 minutes per side.
  - Cook on a greased hot griddle for 5 minutes on each side or until golden brown and heated through. Serve with strawberries. Top with syrup and additional confectioners' sugar.
- Yield: 4-6 servings.



# final thoughts...

Rain, rain go away come back another day!!!!

We have had a lot of rain this spring already. Rain brings our wintery land back to life, and it prepares the earth to spring into bloom.

BUT...

The rain can cause unforeseen troubles. This might be a good time to take a peek at your Home Owners Insurance or Farm Insurance Policy. While our sump pumps are working overtime do you have coverage if your sump fails? This is an optional endorsement that can be purchased very inexpensively. This is the only way to have coverage for your basement and the personal belongings in our basements for losses due to water backing up.

So while we wait for the warmer and dryer weather please make sure you talk with your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent to make sure you are protected for all the seasons.



Brian Lautzenheiser  
Farm Bureau Insurance Agent  
Phone: (517) 543-5567  
[www.BrianLautz.com](http://www.BrianLautz.com)

## Farm Bureau Sponsors 4-H Record Keeping Contest!

Eaton County Farm Bureau Membership will sponsor the 2011 4-H Record Keeping Contest at the Eaton County 4-H Youth Fair. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded at the fair.

The objective of the 4-H projects and contests are to encourage integrity, sportsmanship, cooperation and an ability to communicate through activities such as demonstrations, talks, judging events, tours and exhibits

The contest is designed to promote youth to keep track of information on selecting, caring for, feeding, exhibiting, assuring the quality of and marketing their projects.

4-H participants must register for this contest on their fair entry form, *Department 82, Section 206-Livestock Records*. Forms will then be turned in at the 4-H office between Monday, July 11th and Tuesday, July 12th by 9:00 am.

Record keeping forms and documents can be downloaded from the [Michigan 4-H Youth Development](http://Michigan4HYouthDevelopment.com) website "[Programs](#)" page.

For more information about the contest and awards, please contact the Eaton County Farm Bureau Membership Office at 517-543-5567 or contact the 4-H office directly at 517-543-2310.



coming soon >>>

## In The Next Issue

Inside the Board Room

Ask a Farmer

Member Benefits

Final Thoughts



### PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT

Members save on average of 30% off prescription drugs when presenting their membership card at participating pharmacies.

- Discounts are valid for both name-brand and generic drugs.
- Most major pharmacies participate including Walmart, Target, Walgreens, Meijer, CVS and Kroger.
- Simply present your Farm Bureau membership card with Caremark or Clarity processing information to receive discount.

To download your prescription discount card visit [www.michfb.com/benefits/prescriptions](http://www.michfb.com/benefits/prescriptions).

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

Save on frames, lenses and contacts at RxOptical or Pearle Vision.

Competitive Health and Dental plans through Blue Cross Blue Shield.

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

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>