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Eaton County Farm Bureau's Monthly Membership Update

October 2010

# 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.

### **Bellevue Hardware, Bellevue**

10% off total purchase. Excludes sales, seasonal, salt & non-taxable items.

### **Curves for Women, Charlotte**

Waive \$45 service fee with 12 month check draft membership.

### **Stahl & Sons, Inc., Eaton Rapids**

15% off services. 10% off new furnace, air conditioner, heat pump, boiler, water heater or Geothermal heat pumps.

### **Dairy Queen, Charlotte**

10% off any one regularly priced item.

### **Terry Chiropractic Wellness Center, Lansing**

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

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>.

## November's Election

### Support Ag-Friendly Candidates at the Polls!

In June, the Eaton County Farm Bureau Candidate Evaluation Committee sat down and interviewed candidates for the state House and Senate along with local commissioner candidates for the county. At the conclusion of the interviews the panel made recommendations to the AgriPac Committee to support campaigns of ag-friendly candidates.

The Friends of Agriculture AgriPac endorsement is highly sought after. The Pac evaluates and endorses candidates whose

positions are compatible with MFB policies, without regard to party affiliation. Created in 1977 at the 58<sup>th</sup> Michigan Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, AgriPac is the only statewide agricultural Political Action Committee representing all sectors of agriculture.

This year's AgriPac endorsed candidates for Eaton County are as follows:

*Rick Jones (R), State Senate, 24<sup>th</sup> District*  
*Mike Shirkey (R), State House, 65<sup>th</sup> District*  
*Deb Shaughnessy (R), State House, 71<sup>st</sup> District*

On the local level, Eaton County Farm Bureau Candidate Evaluation Committee

also chose to endorse the following county commissioner candidates as agriculture-friendly.

Support  
ag-friendly  
candidates at  
the polls on  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

*Karen Hathon, District 1*  
*Larry Brunette, District 4*  
*Bill Coan, District 7*  
*John Forell, District 9*  
*Roger Eakin, District 10*  
*Wayne Ridge, District 11*  
*Jeremy Whittum, District 14*

We hope you will vote to support the agriculture industry and support our ag-friendly candidates at the polls on November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Can't make it to the polls? Register for an Absentee Voting Ballot by October 29<sup>th</sup> to receive a ballot in the mail and still have your voice heard. To download an absentee application, please visit our website at <http://eaton.michfb.com>.

# County Annual in Review

Approximately one hundred and fifteen members of the Eaton County Farm Bureau took action on several issues at the county annual meeting, held September 16, 2010 at Eaton Area Senior Center.



all of which will be considered at the MFB 2010 State Annual Meeting, November 30<sup>th</sup>-December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Amway in Grand Rapids, MI.



## Resolutions

Approved state-level policies included: "Restructuring the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources at MSU," "Support for Right to use Therapeutic Antibiotics" and "Increase Michigan Farm Bureau Dues"

## Awards & Honors

Fred and Jean Marquardt were presented with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award for years of contributions to the agriculture industry. Sydney Miller of Olivet High School was named the Agriculture Student of the Year. Deb Granger received the Volunteer of the Year award for her exemplary service to

agriculture in Eaton County. The Educator of the Year award-winner, Nick Thompson, was honored for his continued involvement in educating Eaton County about the agriculture industry. Mona Ellard was named the Promoter of the Year for promoting and educating the community. Finally, the County Journal was recognized as the Communicator of the Year.



## introductions >>>



# New Board of Directors

The 2010-2011 Board of Directors was elected at the County Annual Meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Eaton Area Senior Center. They will serve and represent the membership of Eaton County over the next year. Each member is elected to represent a certain area throughout the county.

### Executive Committee:

President—Steve Tennes, NE ¼ Section  
Vice-President—Jim Orr, SE ¼ Section  
Third Member—Ben Tirrell, SW ¼ Section

### Junior Board Members:


Rosalyn Brummette, Grand Ledge  
Jaime Curth, Maple Valley  
Ryan Hall, Olivet  
Claire White, Grand Ledge

### Board Members:

Tonya Clough, Bellevue-Walton Twps  
Duane Eldred, Carmel-Kalamo Twps  
Debbie Granger, Brookfield-Hamlin Twps  
Fred Marquardt, Delta-Oneida Twps  
Jeremy McKay, Benton-Windsor Twps  
Derik Rickerd, Young Farmer Chair  
Brett Roberts, Eaton-Eaton Rapids Twps  
Holly Schaeffer, Promotion & Education Chair  
Duane Smuts, Vermontville-Chester Twps  
Lynn Stanke, NW ¼ Section



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 contact information, visit our website at: <http://eaton.michfb.com>

# Health Insurance

## Another Great Farm Bureau Member Benefit!

Whether you're looking for a value plan, comprehensive benefits or a tax-advantaged high-deductible health plan, Farm Bureau has the plan you need at a price you can afford.



Nothing is more important than your health. And that's why health insurance is essential. Farm Bureau wants to provide you the health care you need.

Visit the Michigan Farm Bureau Health Insurance website at

<http://www.mfbhealth.com>

or contact your insurance agent for more information on our health insurance plans.

### Why Choose Farm Bureau?

**-Easy to find an agent you trust.** With over 400 agents throughout Michigan, you'll find one of our agents in almost every town.

**-Easy to understand.** We believe in telling it like it is, so benefits are explained in easy to understand language.

**-Easy to choose.** We'll help you select a plan designed to fit your needs.

**-Easy to afford.** Since we offer so many premium payment options, you can choose how much to spend in premium versus out-of-pocket expenses.

**-Easy to get the service you need.** We'll meet with you face-to-face to help make adjustments to your policy as needed or to answer any questions you have about your plan. You'll also have a toll-free number to access our Personalized Service Unit at Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Michigan.

**-Easy to apply.** Simply contact your agent to discuss your options and they will assist you in completing your application for coverage.



## MFB Offers Crystal Mountain Discounts!

Crystal Mountain Resort is offering Farm Bureau members a special hotel stay starting at \$69 a night now through Oct. 31, 2010!

PLUS if you stay Saturday & book online, you'll receive a complimentary scenic chairlift ride.

For spa goers, Crystal Spa Days are being offered Oct. 10-24 for only \$69 as well!

Crystal Mountain Resort offers 18 holes of golf, fine dining, the alpine slide ride and even paintball games!

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

## Student of the Month

The Agriculture Student of the Month program is designed to recognize outstanding students who make exemplary contributions to the industry. Students are nominated by their club leaders, teachers and community members. If you know a student that deserves to be nominated for the Agriculture Student of the Month, nomination forms can be found on our website at <http://eaton.michfb.com>.

## Upcoming Events

**October 1**—Charlotte FFA Hungry for Hope Cookout (Charlotte High School)

**October 19**—Board Meeting (Membership Office)

**October 20-23**—National FFA Convention (Indianapolis, IN)

**October 31**—Pick a Peck for People (Country Mill)

**November 2**—General Elections! (Support Friends of Agriculture at the polls)

ask a farmer >>>

**Q:** Should I wash my apples before eating them?

**A:** Yes!

All apples are still hand-picked. With that in mind, think about other people touching your food, the crates and conveyor belts your food has travelled in and the hands placing the produce on the shelves.

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!



Steve Tennes  
The Country Mill



# final thoughts...

## Tis the Season for Visitors

The trees are starting to turn colors, harvest will be upon us and as quick as you can snap your fingers the Holiday Season will be here. This is a great time to bring into view your Liability Limits that you carry on your home. If it is a 3 year old dressed up like a ghost for Halloween or 93 year old Uncle Joe coming up the steps for Thanksgiving dinner, visitors will be ringing your door bell more and more in the coming months. Here are a couple of tips to make sure a little accident doesn't break your bank.

Slip and fall accidents are on the rise. Partially because fraudulent claims are also on the rise due to many factors but all you can do is take the proper steps to protect yourselves. Here are a few examples:

Raising your Home Owners Insurance Liability from \$300,000 (Industry Average) to \$1,000,000 costs \$7 a year. Along with keeping your home and property free of potential hazards, icy steps, lack of hand rails, and keeping most walk ways free of debris.

Liability Umbrellas are also a great way to get \$1,000,000 of liability coverage over your home and auto. The average Umbrella for a person with one home and 2 cars costs around \$95 year.

Please call myself or your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent to explain these examples and apply them to your life.



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

## Making a Difference

The Eaton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has spent the past several years focusing efforts on making an impact in our community. They have worked to increase communication with the public and involve more members in events and activities. They set goals to secure funding for MSU Extension programs and work to further

supplement the Property Development Rights program to preserve farmland in the area. They are also looking forward to collaborating on the community gardens at the new ALIVE Center in Charlotte. One step at a time, one person at a time, they are striving to make a positive impact. Will you help Farm Bureau **make a difference**?



coming soon >>>

## In The Next Issue

Farmers Care Action Team

Ag in the Classroom

Medicare: Annual Election Period

Final Thoughts

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

### Membership Office:

430 State Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813

Email: [eatoncounty@ctyfb.com](mailto:eatoncounty@ctyfb.com)

Fax: 517-543-6124

<http://eaton.michfb.com>

## FORD \$500 BONUS CASH

Members receive \$500 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of eligible Ford, Lincoln or Mercury vehicles.



• To receive offer present current Michigan Farm Bureau member ID card and printed Bonus Cash certificate to dealer at time of purchase.

• Obtain Bonus Cash certificate online at [www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/mi](http://www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/mi).

Offer valid through January 3, 2011. Member must be in good standing for 60 days prior to purchase or lease.

Offer excludes: Mustang Shelby GT/GT500, Edge SE AWD, F-150 Raptor and Taurus SE.



Program #33246/32757: \$500 Bonus Cash offer exclusively for active Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. Offer is valid 4/7/2010 through 1/3/2011 for the purchase or lease of a new eligible 2010 or 2011 model year Ford, Lincoln or Mercury vehicle (excludes Mustang Shelby GT/GT500, Edge SE AWD, F-150 Raptor and Taurus SE). This offer may not be used in conjunction with other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. You must be an eligible Farm Bureau member for at least 60 consecutive days and must show proof of membership. Limit one \$500 Bonus Cash offer per vehicle purchase or lease. Limit of five new eligible vehicle purchases or leases per Association member during program period. See Ford or Lincoln Mercury Dealer for complete details and qualifications.