



Rural life photos can bring cash

Illinois Farm Bureau needs your help... to bring rural life in Illinois into focus. It's easy, when you enter your favorite farming snapshot in the member photo contest.

We're looking to capture the rich diversity of our state's agricultural landscape and its people. There are three categories to choose from: From the Front Porch, If Barns Could Talk, and Generations: From One to Another.

As if being recognized for your photographic expertise isn't enough... there are great prizes, too! Grand prize is \$150; first place brings in \$75 (3 are chosen); second place captures \$25 (3 are chosen); and Members' Choice earns \$50 (chosen by member votes at IFB's 2011 Annual Meeting).

Winners will be announced in Partners and Farmweek. Winning photos will be published in IFB publications, on the IFB website and displayed at the IFB annual meeting.

The contest is for amateur photographers, and is open to IFB members and their families. Make sure your photos were taken in Illinois, sometime between 2009 and 2011.

The contest runs June 1 to Nov. 1, 2011. For contest rules, go to Ken Kashian's gallery at www.ilfb.org or contact Dawn at (309) 557-2293 or dheggie@ilfb.org.

Be an ag advocate as part of FB ACT

Here's something you already know... every day, politicians and regulators make decisions that impact the way you farm. Here's something you may have overlooked, though... politics have changed – a lot! Don't feel discouraged. You can take back your influence in Washington, Springfield, and even your own backyard with Illinois Farm Bureau's FB ACT program.

FB ACT (Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team) started as a group of men and women who called their legislators three or four times a year in support or opposition of a bill. That used to work. Today, your phone call can easily be drowned out by others speaking out against you. That's why Illinois Farm Bureau is improving the program.

When you join FB ACT, you are expected to do two things: vote and respond to action requests (requests to email or call your elected official). Most find these two tasks to be pretty easy ways to protect their farms. The new, improved FB ACT program also helps you find a comfortable, effective way to become an advocate with POW! Maybe it's emailing your legislator after you've put the kids to bed or speaking about animal care to your church group.

"Try it," said Menard County Farm Bureau Manager Dee Dee Gellerman. "I think you'll see how FB ACT can make a difference. If you discover that this program is not for you, you may opt out of it at any time."

Whether you are already an FB ACT member or just curious about the program, call Dee Dee at 632-2217 and learn what new opportunities await you. Learn how you can act today and win tomorrow. Visit ilfb.org for details.



Five teachers from Menard County schools recently participated in the Summer Ag Institute. They were: Elizabeth Glennon (substitute teacher); Hailey Blair (Petersburg Elementary); Anita Hayes (Petersburg Elementary); Amanda Boston (Greenview at the time of the SAI, now Cantrall Intermediate); and Heather Friedrich (Greenview). Menard County resident Sara Killebrew, who teaches at Butler Elementary in Springfield, also attended the Summer Ag Institute.

20 area teachers take part in Summer Ag Institute

Twenty teachers from the Mason, Menard and Sangamon County area attended this year's Summer Ag Institute, sponsored by the Sangamon-Menard Agricultural Education Partnership, the Mason, Menard, and Sangamon County Farm Bureau, and the Logan, Menard, Sangamon Extension Unit.

The teachers participated in the four-day workshop to learn more about current agricultural practices and how to use that knowledge to teach students in their schools and classrooms. Teachers spent part of the time touring local farms and agri-businesses to dispel the antiquated

ideas most people hold about farmers and farming and to learn more about current techniques and methods.

The farmers in Illinois and the United States are some of the most productive people on Earth.

One U.S. farmer feeds approximately 135 people. Teachers visited corn and soybean farms, learned about irrigation, visited a river terminal and a local grain elevator, learned about vineyards and wine making, talked to local produce farmers, visited pork and beef farms, learned about Christmas tree farming, and honey bees.

The teachers spent the remainder of

their time in a classroom setting, where they learned how to take their new knowledge and modify it for the grade level they teach. Presenters from Illinois Ag in the Classroom, University of Illinois Extension, and the FCAE (Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education) Project taught many lessons on how to use hands-on, science-based activities to engage students in learning about the world around them and the farmers who produce their food and fiber.

The Summer Ag Institute is offered yearly and interested people can contact Carrie Winkelmann at cjwinkl@illinois.edu or 753-4611.

IFB expands member benefits with Ford \$500 bonus cash

Illinois Farm Bureau has partnered with Ford Motor Co. to offer IFB members \$500 bonus cash to be put toward the purchase or lease of any new eligible Ford or Lincoln vehicles.

"We're excited to offer members another opportunity to save," said Melissa Rhode, IFB membership and program director. With the Ford bonus cash offer, Illinois Farm Bureau members can enjoy savings on an eligible vehicle of their choice from Ford's

exciting new lineup of hard-working and technologically advanced cars and trucks, including the Ford F-150, which boasts impressive power, fuel efficiency and best-in-class trailer towing capacity.

The Ford bonus cash offer is good on the purchase or lease of any eligible 2010, 2011 or 2012 model year Ford or Lincoln vehicle. (The Mustang Shelby GT/GT500, Edge SE AWD, F-150 Raptor and Taurus SE are excluded.)

"As an organization committed to locally grown energy, such as ethanol, we're also thrilled to start a new relationship with the Ford Motor Co.," added Rhode. "In 1925, Henry Ford called ethyl alcohol the 'fuel of the future.' It's great to partner with a company that has that kind of history with green fuels grown from Illinois crops."

To take advantage of the savings, you must be an IFB member at least 60 days before the vehicle

purchase or lease. Then, simply show your Illinois Farm Bureau membership card and Ford bonus cash certificate to your local dealer.

You can get a certificate online at www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/il or with your dealer's help.

For complete details about this offer, contact Menard County Farm Bureau or visit www.ilfb.org/member.

Board attendance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Terry Entwistle, Pres	X	X	X	X	C	X	X	X
Kyle Winkelmann, VP	X		X	X	A	X	X	X
Bill Montgomery, Sec		X	X	X	N	X	X	X
Mark Stewart, Treas.	X	X	X		C	X	X	X
David Evers	X	X	X	X	E		X	X
Richard Holliday	X	X	X	X	L	X	X	X
Gary Jurgens	X	X		X	E		X	
Dennis Kunken	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	X
David Leischner	X	X		X		X	X	X

Welcome!

The Menard County Farm Bureau would like to welcome the following new members:

- Matthew Kunken
- Grant Willis
- Hannah Vidkovich
- Jeff Woods
- Sharon King

Thank you for your support of Menard County agriculture!

Case IH rebate benefit added

BLOOMINGTON — Illinois Farm Bureau members now have even more opportunities to save when purchasing from Case IH.

That's because IFB and Case IH have expanded their rebate partnership program for 2011 to include the Case IH Scout utility vehicle. Members will be able to redeem a \$300 rebate on the Scout, in addition to the existing \$500 rebates on 55-105 HP Farmall Utility Tractors and 110-139 HP Maxxum Series Tractors, and the \$300 rebate on 31-60 HP Farmall A and Compact Tractors.

Farm Bureau and Case IH have partnered since 2006 to offer discounts to members.

"We're excited about adding the Case IH Scout to our discount program," said Illinois Farm Bureau Membership Director Melissa Rhode. "We're proud to partner with Case IH, because they offer quality products that our members can trust," she said.

Members can get a rebate form from their local county Farm Bureau office, or they can download it from the IFB website at www.ilfb.org/member/caseih.html.