

Newsletter

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Local Farm Bureau Board Members Elected

This January, two Clinton County Farm Bureau Board Members who won elections in November take office in local government with hopes of motivating positive change to better serve county citizens.

Mike Beard, our local Farm Bureau Board President, is a lifelong county resident, farmer, and small businessman. He will be taking the office of County Commissioner (District 2 Seat) and hopes use his man-

agement abilities and expertise to assist in county management. Getting Central Dispatch developed for the 9-1-1 system and working on encouraging infrastructure from Frankfort to I-65.

Wayne Williams, a local Farm Bureau Board Member, is a county resident of 36 years, previous County Commissioner, and retired Purdue Extension Service Educator. He will be taking one of the open spots on the Clinton County

Council and hopes to continue to seek ways to serve the community. He is also interested in getting infrastructure to I-65 as well as helping the county figure out how to work with the many changes instituted at the State level that affect counties.

Both men are excited about the opportunities in the coming year and thankful to all those who have offered them support!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Check out the new website: www.clintoncountymfbureau.org

New County Farm Bureau Website Goes Live

The Clinton County Farm Bureau has a new, upgraded website. It boasts new features such as photos identifying board members, a detailed calendar, and a variety of other useful information. PDF files of the Farm Bu-

reau Newsletter will also be available online. Links to a variety of farm related sites are featured and there are pages specifically for Young Farmers and County Woman. As time goes on, we hope to continue to

update, add to, and improve the available features. Please take the time to check out the new website at clintoncountymfbureau.org and let us know what you think!

Purdue Extension: Managing Margin Risk



As everyone knows, with the recent high corn and soybean prices, input costs have risen dramatically. In response the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service will be hosting a program this winter titled, "Managing Margin Risk." The objective of this program is to provide producers with the tools to determine their breakeven prices, marketing plans, crop insurance decisions and leasing options with the end goal of being able to "lock in" profitable margins.

This will be a five-week program conducted by interactive (IP) Video beginning Tuesday, January 27 and running Tuesday evenings through February 24, from 7-9 p.m. each session. I've signed up to host the program here at the Clinton County Extension Office. The cost for the 5-session program will be \$40 and will include all program materials. Please contact the Extension Office if you are interested in receiving additional information and registration materials.

The good news on the input front is that fertilizer prices have finally turned around and are heading lower. The bad news is that produc-

ers may have a difficult time buying product at the lower rate. The reason's quite simple – many companies have stockpiles of fertilizer, particularly Nitrogen but also P and K, which they purchased last fall at higher prices. Due to weather factors, as well as changes in management by producers, less fall fertilizer was applied than has typically been the case. These compa-

"...with the end goal of being able to 'lock in' profitable margins."

nies cannot afford to sell their product at the reduced rate and stay in business.

There are some strategies farmers can adopt to improve the chance of getting lower priced fertilizer, particularly N. If you have usually applied your Nitrogen pre-plant and you are able, consider switching over to a sidedressing. Unless Natural Gas prices completely turn around, this should offer you a chance to find some lower prices. Also, knowing your soil test results and what they mean may be able to help you make decisions on applying P and K. I also think we're approaching an era where Nutrient banking by storing some Nutrients in the soil when prices are low and using that when prices are high may become profitable. I'm looking forward to seeing

what the Ag Econ Team at Purdue has to say about that – there are certainly issues related to Nutrient loss and plant availability which need to be taken into account but the days of just throwing product on for maximum yield are, if not over, at least taking a vacation.

I hope everyone has had the chance to enjoy the Holiday Season by spending time with family and friends. Here's wishing everyone a profitable 2009.

- Curt Emanuel

Newsletter Naming Contest

This newsletter is missing one important detail: a name! Right now it has simply and uncreatively been dubbed "Newsletter." While this title might be adequate for some folks, we were hoping for something a little fun and

creative. If you look through this and think you have the perfect newsletter name, please let us know. We are open to any and all suggestions! The winner will get their suggested newsletter name used and will be men-

tioned in the next newsletter. Please email your suggestions to CCFBNewsletter@gmail.com. There is no limit to the number of suggestions you may offer.

Clinton County Young Farmers

Clinton County Farm Bureau now has an active Young Farmer group. We are always looking for more members and new ideas for projects. We participate in the Feeding America project (formerly America's Second Harvest) that all Farm Bureau Young Farmer groups are encouraged to raise money for. We have been on trips with

"We are always looking for more members and new ideas for projects"

other young farmer groups in our district, and we are planning another district trip for spring or summer to Chicago and Wisconsin. Anyone interested in attending the Indiana Young Farmers Leadership Conference needs to make sure to register by January 10th. We had six attend from Clinton County last

year and hope to have more this year. Our next meeting will be January 8th at 5:30pm in the board room at the Clinton County Farm Bureau office. If you would like to join or know someone else who would be interested, contact Stacey Pedigo at stacey.pedigo@gmail.com or Robyn Burkhalter at robyn.burkhalter@gmail.com.

Recipes & Tips

It would be nice to feature a quarterly column sharing favorite recipes, stories/photos, and tips with each other. Since my contributions alone would grow boring quickly, please email or send recipes, stories, photos, or tips that we can share in our quarterly paper. There are no limits as far as the type of recipe or complexity. You can email these,

as well as anything else you would like to see this newsletter address, to CCFBNewsletter@gmail.com. Please place "Recipe" as the title of the email.



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Clinton County Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational advancement, thereby promoting the national welfare. Clinton County Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-secret in character.

For questions, comments, or to submit articles/ideas please email Liz Stitzel at

CCFBNewsletter@gmail.com

Introducing Board Members

This will be a quarterly column introducing our Clinton County Farm Bureau board members through random questioning. Paul and Janet Dorsey were kind enough to accept being volunteered to go first!

How long have you been FB members?

"We have been members of Farm Bureau since 1972 when we got married. Paul's parents had Farm Bureau insurance and we continued using Farm Bureau as our insurance carrier."

How long have you been board members?

"In 2002 Mike Beard asked Paul to become a board member and Paul convinced me [Janet] to become an at large board member."

What township/farming interest do you represent?

"Paul is currently serving as Vice President [FB Board]. Paul represents Union Township, which is in the north central part of



Clinton County. We are in the Frankfort school district. Our farming operation consist of corn, soybeans, wheat and giant pumpkins."

Favorite aspect of farming?

"Paul says his favorite part of farming is seeing the crops grow."

Why did you become a FB Board Member?

"Paul became a Farm Bureau board member to help Clinton County."

Tractor, Truck, or Horses?

"Paul uses John Deere

equipment on the farm. Combine, tractors, lawn mowers and gators, are all John Deere."

Assuming no cost/care differences between species, if you could pick any animal in the world to have on your farm what would it be and why?

"Paul used to raise hogs, farrow to finish. So if he had to go back to raising livestock, it would be hogs because we all ready have the buildings."

Least favorite farm chore?

"hauling manure."

We're on the Web!
clintoncountymfbureau.org

