



Laura Furlong, Chief Operating Officer at Marcfirst, drives a tractor from Birkey's at Leadership McLean County Ag Day on Oct. 7.

Leadership McLean County Experiences Agriculture

Local business leaders learned more about agriculture and the business of farming at Leadership McLean County's Ag Day on Oct. 7, 2011.

Leadership McLean County is an annual program of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce designed to educate local business professionals about all aspects of the county. Ag Day is sponsored by the McLean County Farm Bureau.

The group of 40 participants spent the day learning about the business of farming, the role of technology, the impact of

governmental regulations and the economic importance of agriculture in McLean County.

Local farmers and ag business professionals addressed a variety of topics and answered questions about livestock farms, organic farming, farmland values, farm business management, ethanol and township government.

The group visited the Dan Kelly farm and toured Yuton Elevator. The participants concluded the day with tractor driving at Birkey's farm equipment dealership in Bloomington.

Medicare Options Workshop

Medicare beneficiaries and family caregivers are invited to learn more about coverage options at an educational workshop Mon. Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

The workshop will be held at the McLean County Farm Bureau building, 402 N Hershey Rd in Bloomington.

Ralph Morgan, Senior Health Insurance Program Counselor with YWCA of McLean County,

will provide information to help Medicare beneficiaries make health insurance choices that meet their needs.

Reservations are not needed for the workshop. Refreshments will be provided. The workshop is sponsored by the Member Services committee.

For more information, contact Anna Ziegler at (309) 663-6497 or anna@mcfb.org.

Upcoming Events:

November

Mon. 21	9 a.m.	Stroke Detection Plus
Mon. 21	5:30 p.m.	Medicare Options Workshop
Thurs. 24 - Fri. 25		Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed

December

Thurs. 1	11:30 a.m.	Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon
Sat. 3-Tues. 6		IAA Annual Meeting
Wed. 7	8 a.m.	Leave a Legacy Workshop
Tues. 13	7 p.m.	Farm Bureau Board Meeting
Mon. 26		Office Closed

Legacy Project Succession Planning Workshop Dec. 7

Learn more about how to successfully pass your family farm on to the next generation at the Legacy Project Workshop on Wed., Dec. 7 at the Marriott Hotel in Normal.

Farm succession planning expert Kevin Spafford will provide tools and resources to help you take action to develop a workable succession plan.

In partnership with Pioneer Hi-Bred, McLean County Farm Bureau members are invited

to attend the workshop free of charge with up to three additional members of their farming business. Watch your mailbox for an invitation containing registration information.

The seminar runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes lunch. **Pre-registration is required to attend the event.** The deadline to register is Wed. Nov. 30

For more information, contact the McLean County Farm Bureau at (309)663-6497.

Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon

Thurs. Dec. 1 at 11:30 a.m.
Farm Bureau Building, 402 N Hershey Rd

All retired farm bureau members are invited to join the Prime Timers for their annual Christmas luncheon on Thurs., Dec. 1 at 11:30 a.m. at the McLean County Farm Bureau auditorium. Entertainment will be provided by the O'l Rascals

Band and the meal will be catered by Tom Young.

The luncheon is a gift from the Farm Bureau, but **reservations are required.** To reserve your place, please call the office (309) 663-6497 by Wed., Nov. 23.

Happy Thanksgiving!



from McLean County Farm Bureau

Stroke Detection Plus Screenings

Stroke Detection Plus will conduct stroke and vascular screenings at the Farm Bureau building, 402 N Hershey Rd in Bloomington on Mon., Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The four screenings are stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and osteoporosis.

Show your Farm Bureau membership card and receive all four tests for \$100, a savings of \$35. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling toll free (877) 732-8258.

Monsanto Offers Grant Contest for Farmers

McLean County farmers can enter to win a \$2,500 grant for a local nonprofit organization of their choice through the American Farmer's Grow Communities project sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The deadline to enter is Nov. 30, 2011.

Farmers can enter a local school, fire department, community group or ag youth organization like 4-H or FFA in the drawing.

The contest is open to farmers, age 21 and older, who are actively engaged in farming a minimum 250 acres of corn, soybeans and/or cotton. Farmers who grow at least 40 acres of open field vegetables or at least 10 acres vegetables in protected culture are also eligible.

Farmers can apply online at www.growcommunities.com or request an entry form by calling (877) 267-3332. Complete contest rules and information are available online or by calling the phone number listed above.

Fair Ag Education Exhibit Wins Two National Awards

The Food and Family Farmer Exhibit at the 2011 McLean County Fair has earned national recognition through two prestigious award programs.

The exhibit was selected as the best agricultural education event at a fair by the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

The McLean County Fair exhibit was also selected as the overall Judge's Choice award winner - beating more than 100 applicants from fairs of all sizes including state fairs.

The exhibit will be recognized at the 2011 IAFE National Convention in Las Vegas.

The McLean County Farm

Bureau won a County Activities of Excellence Award from the American Farm Bureau Federation for the Food and Family Farmer Exhibit.

Pieces of the exhibit will be displayed at the 2012 AFBF Annual Meeting.

The Food and Family Farmer Exhibit at the McLean County Fair is part of our ongoing efforts to cultivate a positive image of agriculture and help consumers learn more about the family farmers who grow their food.

To learn more about how you can support our ag education efforts and contribute to the exhibit, contact Anna Ziegler at (309) 663-6497 or anna@mcfb.org.

Farm Bureau Dues Notices Mailed

Make sure to pay your 2012 McLean County Farm Bureau dues **by December 1, 2011.** Dues notices were mailed during the last week of October.

Take advantage of all the discounts, services and benefits available to McLean County Farm Bureau members and you will save more than enough to pay the cost of your dues!

If you have any questions about your membership status or how your membership can work for you, contact the Farm Bureau office at 663-6497 or dues@mcfb.org.