

Nutrient Stewardship Program: 'Keep It For the Crop By 2025'

A new nutrient stewardship program called "Keep it for the Crop by 2025" (KIC) aims to reduce nutrient losses from agriculture, protect water quality and enhance best management practices.

The program will focus on education, information and research to help farmers improve nutrient management. Reducing nutrient loss allows farmers to preserve natural resources, conserve energy and it benefits the bottom line.

The Illinois Council on Best Management Practices (CBMP) and other agricultural groups recently launched KIC to unify education efforts and establish goals for reducing nutrient loss.

The program recommends farmers use the 4R's of nutrient management: right time, right source, right rate and right place.

Farmers will be encouraged to participate in programs targeted for local watersheds.

KIC recognizes that no two watersheds or farms are the same. Different soil types, field slopes and other variables mean practices that are good for one part of the state may not be realistic or effective for another.

For more information about KIC, please contact CBMP Coordinator Mike Plumer at (618) 364-2219 or Jean Payne, Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association at (309) 827-2274.

4R's of Nutrient Management:

1. **Right Time:** Synchronize nutrient availability with crop demand
2. **Right Source:** Match fertilizer product to soil types and crop needs
3. **Right Rate:** Match fertilizer amounts to crop needs. Use a rate calculator to compare rates and determine the economic optimum.
4. **Right Place:** Keep nutrients in the soil where the crop can use them.



IMPACT committee members Dave Caldwell (left) and George Benjamin serve up popcorn for Redbird fans at Illinois State University Ag Weekend on Sept. 10. The IMPACT committee sponsored a tent at the event to promote agriculture.

MCFB Ag Education Trailer Debuts at ISU Tailgates

Redbird football fans had the chance to learn about agriculture in the new McLean County Farm Bureau Ag Education Trailer at two tailgating events this fall.

The IMPACT committee sponsored a tent featuring the new trailer at ISU Ag Weekend on Sept. 10 and at CommUniversity on Sept. 24.

Inside the Ag Education Trailer, the combine cab simulator and GPS simulator provide fun, interactive learning experiences for children and adults. Flat screen televisions inside or outside the trailer play videos of farmers and ag related topics.

The trailer also traveled to ChicagoLand Speedway in Joliet on Sept. 16-18 with the Illinois Corn Growers for the NASCAR races.

The Ag Education Trailer is part of ongoing ag literacy efforts to share the story of family farmers who grow safe, healthy food and use sound farming practices. The trailer allows us to take our message on the road to schools, events, fairs and festivals.

For more information about how you can support our ag education efforts, contact the McLean County Farm Bureau at (309) 663-6497.



Mike Mouser won a 10 lb. fire extinguisher during National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 18-24. Mouser was one of five winners of the fire extinguisher drawing sponsored by the Member Services Committee. Also pictured is McLean County Farm Bureau Assistant Manager, Anna Ziegler.

Fire Extinguisher Winners

Congratulations to the five winners of the McLean County Farm Bureau Fire Extinguisher Giveaway: Pat Bane, Wally Denzer, Mike Mouser, Eugene Rapp and J.C. Zimmerman.

Each member received a 10 lb. dry chemical fire extinguisher.

The drawing was sponsored by the Member Services committee as part of National Farm Safety and Health week Sept. 18-24.

McLean County Farm Bureau reminds all farmers to take precautions and stay safe this harvest season.

Free Earplugs

Protect your hearing with a free pair of earplugs courtesy of Bloomington-Normal Audiology.

Noise from grain dryers, tractors and other equipment can cause hearing loss, especially with prolonged exposure. If you need to raise your voice to be heard more than an arm's length away, then the noise is loud enough to damage your hearing.

Stop by our office at 2243 Westgate Drive, behind Tractor Supply Company, in Bloomington to pick up your free earplugs while supplies last.

IFB Seeks 2012 ACTION TEAMS Applicants

Illinois Farm Bureau encourages members to apply to be a member of the 2012 ACTION TEAMS. Applications must be submitted to the McLean County Farm Bureau by Dec. 9, 2011.

ACTION TEAMS provide a unique leadership opportunity for members to share ideas, develop and launch new, innovative statewide Farm Bureau programs that address the needs of agriculture and farm families.

Applicants can choose the team that matches their interests and skills:

Each team consists of 10-15 volunteers who meets twice a year in Bloomington for one day each time.

1. **Public Relations** - If you care about the farmer's image, here's your chance

to show it.

2. **Education** - If you want to educate the public about agriculture, then this is the team for you.

3. **Membership** - If you see value in your Farm Bureau membership, help others do the same.

4. **Quality of Life** - If your passion is farmer health and safety, help spread the word.

Applicants who are selected serve a two year term with a two term limit for serving on the same team.

Recent ACTION TEAM accomplishments include pro livestock radio ads in Stephenson, DeKalb, Clinton and Jo Daviess counties developed by the Public Relations Team.

The Education Team created

commodity signs for use at fairs, festivals and other events around the state.

Two mini seminars at the IAA Annual Meeting planned by the Quality of Life Team addressed the importance of farm succession planning. The Membership Team distributed memory sticks pre-loaded with Farm Bureau membership information to various groups.

ACTION TEAMS help the Illinois Farm Bureau accomplish its mission to improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life.

For more information about how to get involved, contact the McLean County Farm Bureau at (309) 663-6497 or anna@mcfb.org.

Upcoming Events:

October

Tues. 11 7 p.m. Farm Bureau Board Meeting
Thurs. 27 11:30 a.m. Prime Timers Meeting @ Denny's

November

Tues. 8 7 p.m. Farm Bureau Board Meeting
Thurs. 24 - Fri. 35 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed