



Sandy Harrison of Saybrook shows Austin Mallee how to milk a goat during the McLean County Fair. Mallee visited the fair with a group of urban youth from the Calumet City area on Aug. 4. McLean County Farm Bureau coordinated the trip with our adopted legislator, Rep. Thaddeus Jones.

MCFB Hosts Urban Youth Trip to McLean County Fair

A group of 21 urban youth, parents and chaperones gained hands on experience with agriculture at the McLean County Fair on Aug. 4.

Seeing and interacting with farm animals up close was a new experience for most of the group that traveled from Calumet City on the south side of Chicago.

The McLean County Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs committee sponsored the trip for youth from the 29th Legislative District. The trip was organized by our adopted legislator, Rep. Thaddeus Jones.

On the bus ride down, the kids were skeptical about what they

would see, but the apprehension turned to excitement especially when they got to touch the animals, according to Jones.

The group saw many types of livestock and learned the difference between meat and dairy animals. 4-H members provided a guided tour of the fair including livestock barns and general projects. The group enjoyed porkburgers and sweet corn from the McLean County Pork Producers for lunch.

The urban visitors climbed in a combine, explored the uses for corn and learned how farmers use GPS in the Food and Family Farmer Exhibit. The group completed their fair visit with carnival rides.

Upcoming Events:

September

Tues. 13	7 p.m.	Farm Bureau Board Meeting
Sat. 18 - Sat. 24		National Farm Safety & Health Week
Sat. 24	3 p.m.	CommUniversity at ISU - FB Tailgate

October

Wed. 5	7 p.m.	Argentina Ag Speaker at ISU
Tues. 11	7 p.m.	Farm Bureau Board Meeting
Thurs. 27	11:30 a.m.	Prime Timers Meeting @ Denny's

National Farm Safety & Health Week

September 18-24, 2011



Free Earplugs

Protect your hearing with a free pair of earplugs courtesy of the McLean County Farm Bureau and Bloomington-Normal Audiology. Stop by our office at 2243 Westgate Drive in Bloomington any time during the month of September to pick up your free earplugs.

Register to Win a Free Fire Extinguisher

McLean County Farm Bureau will be giving away five 10-pound dry chemical fire extinguishers during National Farm Safety & Health Week. To register for the drawing submit your name, phone number and e-mail address to anna@mcfb.org or 663-6497. One winner will be drawn each day Sept. 19-23. Winners will be announced on WJBC radio AM 1230 and FM 93.7 at 12:50 p.m. daily.

Argentina Ag Speaker

Learn more about Argentina's agricultural economy and soybean production at a special presentation on Wed. Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at Illinois State University.

Manuel Alvarado-Ledesma, a visiting agricultural economist from Buenos Aires, Argentina will be the featured speaker. The event will be held in the Prairie Room of the Bone Student Center

Dr. Ledesma's presentation is co-sponsored by the McLean County Farm Bureau IMPACT committee and the ISU student chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association. The event is free and all farmers are invited to attend. No reservations needed.



Member Discount

Rader Family Farms is offering a discount to McLean County Farm Bureau members.

Show your Farm Bureau membership card and receive \$1 off admission per person for up to four people. This offer will be good Sept. 17-30, 2011.

Rader Family Farms is located west of Normal on Ropp Road. Visit www.raderfamilyfarms.com for more information.

Pedal Tractor Pull at the Fair



Abby Clapp attempts to pull her weight in the pedal tractor pull at the McLean County Fair on Aug. 6. Forty kids competed in four classes at this year's pedal tractor pull sponsored by the McLean County Farm Bureau Young Leaders. The top three pullers in each class took home a toy tractor.

2011 Golden Clover Winners

Four dedicated supporters of 4-H and the McLean County Fair received recognition as 2011 Golden Clover Award winners.

McLean County Farm Bureau President, Scott Hoeft, presented the awards on Aug. 3 at the fair.

Carol Ropp was honored for her 42 years of service as a leader of the Linden Lead'em 4-H Club. She has also served as a superintendent for the 4-H Show at the county fair for 30 years.

Larry Reinhart received recognition for his past work as a member the McLean County Fair Board including one year as Fair Board President.

Roberta Ropp was selected as

a recipient of an Emerald Clover for her work as a 4-H volunteer and club leader for 40 years. The Emerald Clover is given posthumously to a volunteer who has not previously received a Golden Clover.

Don Meyer received the Special Clover award for his 29 years of leadership as Unit Leader for McLean County Extension. He also provided outstanding support for 4-H programs and ag education efforts.

The Golden Clover awards are presented annually by the McLean County Farm Bureau and sponsored by the Member Services Committee.