

MISSOURI YOUNG FARMERS

Spring/Summer 2014 Volume 44, No. 1

SEMO Ag Leaders to Host Summer Tour July 31-Aug 2

Register now for best
rates. See brochure inside.



The SEMO Ag Leaders invite you to join the 2014 MYF/YFW Summer Tour in Dexter. The Dexter High School will serve as headquarters.

Thursday events will kick off on July 31 with the antique tractor display, kids tractor pull and trade show, and will continue through August 2.

Just a few industry stops among many include a 4,000-acre family rice operation, a warm-water fish farm and a fresh produce operation. Special entertainment will feature Jerry Crownover, a cattle farmer, storyteller and motivational speaker.

See more details in the full tour brochure included in this newsletter, on pages 5 and 6.

All registration information is included in the brochure.

Missouri Chapter Wins National Honors



Mexico Young Farmers is one of the most active chapters in Missouri. Recently the group received major recognition, earning the region's 2013 Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award at the NAAE convention.

"It is very rewarding to be recognized at a National Level for all the hard work," says advisor Theodore "Ted" DeVault. "We didn't do it to be recognized; we do what we do to make a positive difference and give

Story continued on pg. 8.

Photo: Members of the Mexico Young Farmers were recognized as a 2013 Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program by the National Association of Ag Educators (NAAE). The award is sponsored by Toyota, and as a bonus, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. awarded twelve one-year leases on a 2014 Toyota Tundra to teachers and postsecondary education programs throughout the U.S., including the one pictured above. Chapter members and family include: Charles DeVault, Nick Deimeke, John Isgrig, Treena DeVault (holding Noah DeVault), Samuel DeVault (in front), Ted DeVault, Georgia DeVault, Fred DeVault, Marcia Baker, April Baker, and Dan Kellar (Toyota Representative/Machens General Manager).



Agriculture.

Education.

Leadership.

Service.



We never underestimate small beginnings.

Young, Beginning or Small Farmers

If you're a farmer age thirty-five years or younger, a beginning farmer or a small farm operator, we have a loan program to fit your needs. Most of us grew up on farms or in rural communities, and many of us still live on farms today. Our passion for rural Missouri drives us but our experience and knowledge of rural financing sets us apart from other lenders.

Growing Relationships.
Creating Opportunities.™



FCS FINANCIAL

Growing Relationships. Creating Opportunities.™

A FARM CREDIT COOPERATIVE



Find an FCS Financial office near you:

1.800.444.3276

WWW.MYFCSFINANCIAL.COM

- ✓ You may be eligible to borrow up to \$500,000
- ✓ Loans available for real estate, operating expenses, machinery and equipment purchases, capital improvements
- ✓ Federal and state loan guarantee programs
- ✓ Experienced staff to help you thru the financing process

The President's Pen

It's that time of year—the time when all the equipment has been readied and fieldwork has long since commenced. Planting season is upon us and hopefully you have been way ahead of schedule when reading this newsletter for the past five years. If you were fortunate in our area the past few years you only had to plant your corn twice! Yes, that seems to be the norm, but I know we are bound to have Mother Nature give us a break one of these springs.

This has been an exciting era for young people to dip their hats into the farming ring. The farm economy has been booming. Just when it looked like grain prices were going to take the downhill sled race for a while, we found demand lifting our prices and our spirits.

Of course, weather and commodity prices are not the only things that have made beginning farmers' lives interesting. We find many contributors to stress and joy in the world of today's beginning farmer (and any farmer for that matter). How about marketing? In today's high value commodities and major swings in the market, a bad decision or timing makes a much larger impact than previously seen.

Technology also comes to mind. We've come to find a maturing equipment technology sector using GPS and creating data flowing out everywhere. Now the smartphone, tablet, and computer world are opening up great management and decision possibilities. We could go on and on about technology. Social media seems to be becoming not just an opportunity, but a necessity.

Let's not forget regulations and politics. Our way of life seems to be more and more out of our hands and into the hands of lawmakers or consumers who are disconnected with agriculture. I have only begun to scratch the surface, but you get the general idea. Farming is rewarding, exiting, exhausting, and frightening, all at the same time.

Frankly, farming can be a very complicated and overwhelming life to lead. I speak from experience. I look at a short list like the one I just made and my brain overloads, overheats, and then wants to shut down. How can a person navigate and survive this farming thing? If the thought of these things overwhelms you too, just remember to keep it simple.

The only way for me to make it is to be grounded in what's most important. Everything else should be supported by a basic foundation. My foundation is made of profitability, stewardship and people.

Of course I can't go on farming if I never make a profit. But that doesn't mean trying to strike it rich. It means making decisions that give me the best chance of consistently being profitable. Sometimes I will miss the mark, and that is okay as long as I base my decisions on sound information and good records.

I can't look at a piece of land or animals and not consider stewardship. Everything I do as a farmer must protect, preserve, and improve the natural resources at my disposal. If I take care of the land and the livestock, they will take care of me too.

I think the most important part of my foundation is people. If I am the greatest at profiting and managing resources but ignore relationships with people, I have missed the mark. People are the greatest resources I have. People are the reason I do what I do. Whether it's my family, friends, or people halfway around the world, my life is about connecting with other human beings.

It can be a stressful life digging in the dirt and chasing livestock, but at the end of the day I look at my family, and think of everyone else in the world looking at their families, and I think, "I can't wait to do this again tomorrow."

*Jordan Yoder,
MYF/YFW President*



Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jordan Yoder, President (NE)
RR1 Box 216 Novelty, MO 63460
(660) 341-3294 jjyoderian@gmail.com

Ross Becker, Vice-President (NE)
pontiacross@gmail.com

Jody Bergman, 1st Vice President (C)
207 N Waverly, PO Box 69 Alma, MO 64001
(660) 580-0128 jtbergman@almanet.net

Robert Chrisman, Vice-President/Treasurer (C)
215 N. Main Carrollton, MO 64633
(660) 542-3661 rehrisman0844@gmail.com

Nathan Honan, Past President (NW)
10897 120th St Elmo, MO 64445
660-541-5693 nehonan@iamotelephone.com

Derek Lowrey, Vice President (NW)
321 SE 60th St Trenton, MO 64683
(660) 654-1643 dslowreyfarms@gmail.com

Tony Miesner, Vice-President (SE)
241 Pebble Ln Perryville, MO 63775
(573) 768-2541 tmiesner35@gmail.com

Jacob Bachmann, Vice-President (SE)
21003 Hwy C Perryville, MO 63775
(573) 768-5719 jbachmann6@gmail.com

Jennifer Thogmartin, Vice-President (SW)
11737 Norway Road Neosho, MO 64850
(417) 437-5823 thogmartinjennifer@neoshor5.org

Lucas Thogmartin, Vice-President (SW)
11737 Norway Road Neosho, MO 64850
(417) 825-3684 thogmartinjennifer@neoshor5.org

Representing DESE

Leon Busdieker, Advisor
PO Box 480 Jefferson City, MO 65102
(636) 338-1002 leon.busdieker@dese.mo.gov

Lisa Evans, Executive Secretary
PO Box 480 Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 680-4107 lisa.evans@dese.mo.gov

Representing FBMA

Bruce Fowler, Adult Instructor
125 Gentry Hall, University of Missouri - Columbia
Columbia, MO 65211
(573) 882-7379 fowlerb@missouri.edu

Representing MVATA

John Morgan
Agricultural Education Instructor
Lex-La-Ray AVTS
2323 High School Dr Lexington, MO 64067-1525
(660) 259-2264, ext 219 morganjohnh@hotmail.com

Newsletter Staff

Jennie Bedsworth
(573) 291-7315 jennie.bedsworth@gmail.com

Proficiency Award Recognizes Skills

Nora Faris of Concordia won the Missouri FFA Agricultural Communications Entrepreneurship and Placement Combined Proficiency Award at the 86th Missouri FFA Convention. Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives sponsors this award. Faris is pictured on this page with President Jordan Yoder.

Faris, a graduate of Concordia High School, is the daughter of Paul and Betty Faris. She is a member of the Concordia FFA Chapter. Her FFA advisor is Amanda Reid.

Faris' experience at the United States Department of Agriculture on National Agriculture Day in 2011 inspired her to help start a local online newspaper. She became the editor and writes weekly agricultural features. She networked with local companies to establish advertising for the website.

Through Faris' supervised agricultural experience program she has gained skills as a reporter, editor and communicator. The skills she learned communicating with business customers has helped her manage her advertisements. She learned to manage her time responsibly and meet deadlines. She has had the opportunity to make connections with state and national agricultural organizations. She currently serves as a Missouri Pork Ambassador.



Faris has entered and won numerous writing contests, including contests sponsored by the Agriculture Council of America, University of Missouri CAFNR Division of Applied Social Sciences and the Missouri Rural Water Association.

Faris plans to study journalism and agricultural economics at the University of Missouri. Following college, she plans to obtain a law degree, pursue a career in broadcasting and eventually influence agricultural policy as an elected official.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while gaining hands-on career experience. Agricultural Communications is one of 50 proficiency award areas recognized at the state level. Learn about the second place winner on page 10 of this newsletter.

Join Missouri Young Farmers Online

Did you know you can keep in touch with Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives online? The group has a new Facebook page where you can get updates and post your own news and questions.

The group also has a website where you can see previous newsletters including the special digital-only fall edition which will be

available later this year.

To see the page, go to the Facebook search box and type in "Missouri Young Farmers" and it will appear. To visit the website, type in: <http://adultaged.missouri.edu/myfa.htm> -- or you can simply Google "Missouri Young Farmers" and this will appear as one of the top links.

Register Now for Summer Tour in Dexter

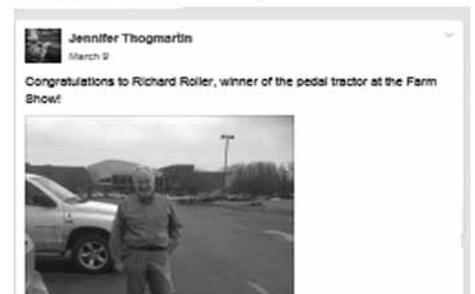
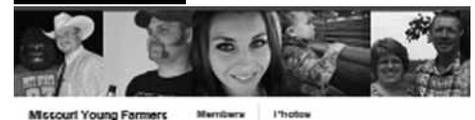
Summer tour details as well as the official brochure and registration are included on the next two pages. You can also find tour updates and information on the SEMO Ag Leaders Facebook page. Just search "SEMO Ag Leaders" from Facebook and the group's page will appear.



Search for SEMO Ag Leaders on Facebook



Search for Missouri Young Farmers



Registration

Names of registered participants: _____

Early registration will end June 21.

Adult (13 and up) Total

Early registration _____ x \$60 _____

Late registration _____ x \$80 _____

Children Ages 4-12

Early registration _____ x \$30 _____

Late registration _____ x \$50 _____

FFA Students (Friday tours, lunch, shirt)

_____ X \$10 _____

Total due: _____

Checks payable to "SEMO Ag Leaders"

T-shirt sizes (Free with paid registration)

Adult S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

2X _____ 3X _____

Children

XS _____ S _____ M _____ L _____

Send checks and registration to:

SEMO Ag Leaders
c/o Janet Johns
13423 State Highway WW
Dudley, MO 63936

Hotels and Campgrounds

Dexter Inn (573) 624-7465

2 People \$59.00

Each Additional \$3.50

Kids 12 & Under Free

To get this rate, you will have to let them know it is for **Young Farmers**

Oak Tree Inn \$70 (573) 624-5800

EconLodge \$65 (573) 624-7400

Wildwood RV (573) 624-6214

Pull thru, full hook ups, across from Wal-Mart

Sikeston Hotels

Country Hearth (573) 472-4400

Days Inn (573) 471-3930

Drury Inn (573) 472-2299

Holiday Inn Express (573) 481-9500

Pear Tree Inn (573) 471-4100

SEMO Ag Leaders

c/o Gary Wyman
1101 West Grant
Dexter, MO 63841

Email:
gwyman@dexter.k12.mo.us

SEMO Ag Leaders

Invites You to the



July 31—
August 2, 2014

Location:

Dexter High School
Dexter, MO

Facebook "SEMO Ag Leaders"
for updates

Schedule

Thursday

- 4:00 Registration Begins
- Antique tractors, trade show and kids tractor pull

6:30 Meal

8:00 Speaker

Door Prizes

Friday

7:00 Breakfast

8:00 Load buses for tours

Lunch

4:00 Back from tours

6:30 Meal at Eagle's Lodge

8:00 Entertainment

Door Prizes

Saturday

7:00 Breakfast

8:00 Load buses for tours

12:00 Lunch

Door prizes

*Transportation will be air conditioned

Friday Tours

Blair Aviation

Since 1984, the Blair's family business has been applying seed, fertilizer and spray to area crops. They are currently using two Air Tractor 802's to make their applications and keep up with demand.

Martin Rice

This family operation started 50 years ago with 160 acres. Today, three generations later, the Martin's raise more than 4,000 acres of long grain and jasmine rice. Their rice processing facility ships worldwide for both wholesale and retail buyers.

Stoddard County Cotton Gin

The gin was built in 1973 but has been owned by Allen Below and Rex & Kenneth Keller since 1993. They can gin 800 bales of cotton in a 24-hour period and will gin anywhere from 12,000 to 50,000 bales per year. Cotton equipment will be on site.

Bader Orchard

Bill Bader grew up working in the orchards around Campbell. Since 1986, he has gone from 150-acres of peaches to over 1,000 acres. Now with over 100 workers, they pick, sort and pack hundreds of bushels a day during the summer.

Fancy Farm Popcorn Company

The Tanners have raised popcorn since 1987. They package popcorn in bulk or convenient pre-measured kits for individuals, fundraisers or commercially and market it coast to coast.

Friday cont' and Saturday Tours

MDC Otter Slough Conservation Area

This is a small remnant of the former swamps that were extensive throughout the Mississippi Lowland of the Missouri Bootheel prior to the drainage efforts which began in the late 19th century. It is now surrounded by irrigated cropland.

Flowers Fish Farm

For more than 45 years, the Flowers' have been raising fish on their farm. They have nine species of warm water fish that they wholesale all over the Midwest.

Rinehart Farms

There are three generations of Rinehart's that farm together on 3,300-acres. They primarily grow rice with some beans and wheat. Quality, marketing and giving back to community are all important to the Rinehart's.

Roberts Produce

80 acres of watermelons, cantaloupes, tomatoes, sweet corn, and peppers. In the fall they raise pumpkins, gourds, ornamentals and mums. Most of their crops are irrigated using drip tape and other methods of micro-irrigation.

Friday Night Entertainment

Jerry Crownover has a doctorate in ag education and is a humorist speaker, writer and cattle farmer from Southwest Missouri. He has a column, "Life is Simple", that appears in magazines and newspapers throughout the Midwest that deals with agricultural life. He has appeared many times as an original Ozarks Storyteller.

State Convention Includes Education, Entertainment

By Nathan Honan, Past President



Photo: Convention entertainment featured Bruce Blakemore, ag humorist and songwriter.

The Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives State Convention was held this past February 7-9. We had to cancel the pre-tour to Lincoln University due to weather but hope to try for a tour again next convention. Jordan Yoder (current state president) and I came up with a great group of speakers for the Saturday workshops. We started out the morning with Connie Haden and Brent Haden, both lawyers from Columbia. Brent talked about ag liability issues.

I learned that we should fix any obvious problems on our farms and any man-made hazards to reduce chances of a liability lawsuit. Connie discussed ag estate planning and said a will is better than no plan at all, but an estate plan set up with a lawyer and CPA is much better because every farm is different and they can guide you to the most tax efficient plan.

Clint Prange, an agronomist for Pioneer, was the other morning speaker. Clint discussed GPS and field computer data management.

Jeff Bergman said he learned to keep equipment calibrated for the best data and to hold on to your

data, because you own your data rather than the companies you do business with.

The other morning spot was filled with the annual FFA speech contest. This year's topic was advocacy.

After lunch we had six more options for educational workshops. We tried a new format during two sessions this year by having two round tables with the idea that farmers and ranchers could control the program by asking questions of the four panelists upfront and also discuss experiences with one another. One round table discussed using co-products or by-products in cattle feeding rations. I took home to be flexible and explore the most cost effective products, but that logistics and storage issues should be considered also.

The other round table covered cover crops. Jeff Bergman said he learned that everyone can benefit from cover crops to prevent erosion and enhance soil health, but those with livestock can better utilize the crops by using them for feed.

James Quinn with MU Extension spoke to one group about pruning fruit trees and vines as well as con-

trolling common diseases. Mel Gerber spoke about the steps to higher yielding wheat. Dr. John Bollinger, DVM, spoke about cattle health. He stressed the importance of a layered systems and prevention approach to improve cattle health. Feed and supplement your cattle well and have a good vaccination and parasite program to reduce stress on the cattle herd and keep them healthier. He also talked about a comprehensive computer record keeping system he uses to better analyze herd management decisions. The final session was used to educate members about the advantages of using Finpack as a farm business analysis tool. Joanie Baker, John Sponaugle, and Bruce Fowler led that workshop.

Feed and supplement your cattle well and have a good vaccination and parasite program to reduce stress on the cattle herd and keep them healthier.

Saturday was completed by our annual banquet. We closed out the silent auction followed by entertainment by ag humorist, songwriter and ag education teacher Bruce Blakemore. We started Sunday morning off with a worship service led by Jordan Yoder, then had breakfast and the delegate session. Jordan

Yoder was elected president and a committee was formed to explore the idea of a new association image by changing the organization name to something like Agri-Leaders. Everyone was encouraged to attend summer tour 2014 headquartered in Dexter. We adjourned and we passed out door prizes.

Young Farmers Award Speech Competitors



Congratulations go to all students who competed in the Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives Speech Contest.

The district winners are pictured left to right and include: Emily Milazzo (Grundy County R-V FFA) Shaylee Wallace (Branson FFA), Alexa Nordwald (East Prairie FFA), Holly Enowski (Eldon FFA), Holly Harlan (Salisbury FFA) and Morgan Tegart (Belle FFA). Those who placed at the state level include Alexa Norwald in third place, Shaylee Wallace in second, and Emily Milazza in first.

Thanks to the 2014 State Convention Sponsors

Gold Sponsors

MFA, Inc.

Saturday Banquet Dinner

FCS, Financial

FFA YF/YFW Speech Contest

Silver Sponsors

Southwestern Association

Workshops

Burris Seed

Workshops/Past Officer Social

Bronze Sponsors

Missouri Pork Association

Saturday Luncheon

Missouri Beef Industry Council

Saturday Banquet

Missouri Soybean Programs

Refreshment Break

Missouri Chapter Wins: Continued from Front Page

back to a community that many of us grew up in. I feel blessed to be a part of it.”

DeVault has been the Mexico Young Famer advisor since 2005. He grew up in Mexico, and returned after completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees. His parents helped start the Mexico Young Farmers’ Association in 1977, giving DeVault a long history to draw from when maintaining the program.

Members of the Mexico Young Farmers attend 8-12 educational meetings annually and complete the Farm Business Management Analysis Program (FBMA). In addition to leading the educational meetings, DeVault provides one-on-one instruction for all FBMA participants, which helps them develop business plans, make management decisions and keep better farm records.

“Each farm is at a different level, so one-on-one instruction structured to each producer is best suited for success,” says DeVault. “Each farm will also set one year, five year, and long term goals, and then picks five areas to benchmark and track for improvement.”

Participation in the Mexico Young Farmers’ Association has doubled since DeVault took it over in 2005. In addition to increasing membership, DeVault has created a partnership with the Missouri Extension, through which he conducts farm tours, conferences, annual meetings, and events. The Mexico FFA chapter also relies on the Young Farmers for support during events and school activities.

Supporting youth and others in the community is an important value for this group, explains DeVault. “The adult agriculture program in Mexico holds close to an educational focus with FBMA and our topic classes, while trying to give back to our community through community events,” he explains. The group hosts an annual truck and tractor pull and super farmer contest and has raised thousands for scholarships, FFA and 4-H programs and Adopt a Family projects.



Centralia Young Farmers Host Parade and More

Have you ever seen a grain auger dressed up like a candy cane? How about a tractor that looks like Thomas the Train? You can see that and more like it at the Centralia Young Farmer's Christmas Tractor parade.

Coming up on its fifth year, the ever growing parade draws an average crowd of over 2,000 spectators waiting on the darkened sidewalks to see farm equipment covered in Christmas lights. The float participants are a collection of local farmers, antique tractor enthusiasts, Young Farmer's groups, local business owners and churches. This family friendly agri-tourism event has become a hometown event not to be missed.

A strong 40-some member chapter, Centralia Young Farmer's led by Lori Lewis and Scott Stone, do much more than the Christmas Tractor Parade. They volunteer their skills building and repairing the local fairgrounds, and get involved in community service projects boosting awareness and participation in their chapter. Their main fundraiser is food sales (mostly pork) at the local Anchor Festival. Like most chapters, they keep members informed on current ag related topics through educational meeting and social gatherings.

So if you are ever in the Columbia area around Christmas, make the twenty mile trip north to Centralia to answer that age old question ... "What color tractor does Santa really drive?"

Beloved YF Son Remembered

Jackson Jerald Farmer, 17, of Stark City, died on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013. Jackson was born April 30, 1996 in Joplin, the son of Robin R. and Sheri L. (Crosby) Farmer. Both parents are active at the local and state level of Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives. They are members of the East Newton Young Farmers.

Jackson was a student at East Newton High School and was employed by Duane Kaiser Family Dairy. He was a member of East Newton 4-H; East Newton FFA and Wanda United Methodist Church.

Jackson is remembered by his parents, siblings, and numerous additional family members and friends.



Watch for our Special Fall Edition

Missouri Young Farmers/
Young Farm Wives again
presents a special full-color,
digital, online only edition this fall.

Look for the fall issue and
others online at
[adulthood.missouri.edu/
myfa.htm](http://adulthood.missouri.edu/myfa.htm)





Meat Prices Keep Rising

Bargains in the meat case might be hard to find, according to University of Missouri Extension economist Ron Plain, who discussed the topic at the recent Ag Marketing Outlook Conference in Columbia.

Bringing home the bacon this year requires more cash. Short supplies of cattle and hogs are pushing prices upward at the sale barn and the supermarket.

Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) caused the largest-ever drop in pigs per litter (PPL) from December to February. PPL plummeted by 5.5 percent. The second biggest drop was June to August 1988, when PPL dropped 1.68 percent. “We haven’t seen this magnitude of loss before,” Plain says.

The spread of PEDV slows during warm weather and appears to have peaked in February and March.

Pork inventories declined 3.2 percent in March. Plain said hog prices are expected to remain well above \$100 per hundredweight this summer and decline to the \$90s by the end of the year.

This translates to higher prices for consumers and producers. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that a pound of bacon averaged \$5.55 in March, 21 percent more than last year. Ham increased by 12.5 percent to \$4.20 per pound. Prices in the Midwest remain lower than national prices, except for eggs, which saw a 15 percent increase.

“Where’s the beef?” might be the next question. The drought of 2012 reduced forage supplies for cattle

and contributed to the lowest number of cattle since 1951, Plain says. Future cattle prices are predicted to be around \$1.40 per pound. Cow-calf profit margins should remain about \$350 per cow, he says.

Plain also notes that USDA forecasts less beef on the market throughout 2014. Beef producers should expect strong prices all year. Cattle slaughter through mid-April was down 4.8 percent.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics showed an 11 percent increase in the price of ground beef to \$3.69 per pound in March.

Per capita meat consumption in 2012 was the lowest since 1991. Plain said consumers face sticker shock as beef and dairy prices increase, and there is less meat available for export. Continued drought in California, which produces one of five dairy cows, will affect the nation’s supply of milk used in dairy products.

In row crops, MU Extension specialist David Reinbott says planting progress is behind. Based on USDA’s March 31 planting intentions report, there will be 3.7 million fewer corn acres planted this year.

The national season-average corn price should be around \$4.40 per bushel, but that could fall to just under \$4 if ending stocks are over 1.8 billion, Reinbott says. The price may be nearer \$5 if ending stocks are closer to 1.2 billion bushels. New crop prices could peak in May and trend downward to a seasonal low in October if planting is not delayed much and there is little significant heat or dryness.

Reinbott says U.S. producers are expected to plant fewer acres of corn, but soybean acres could be more than 5 million.

Reinbott also explains that civil unrest in Ukraine may drive up wheat prices across the world. Ukraine exports 6 percent of the world’s wheat.

Domestically, drought coupled with freezing temperatures in late March caused about one-third of the nation’s wheat crop to be in poor to very poor condition in key states such as Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Second Place Award Winner from Wheaton

Hli Yang, of Rocky Comfort, won the second-place Missouri FFA Agricultural Communications Entrepreneurship and Placement Combined Proficiency Award at the 86th Missouri FFA Convention. Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives sponsors this award.

Yang, a graduate of Wheaton High School, is the daughter of Toua and Chao Yang. She is a member of the Wheaton FFA Chapter. Her FFA advisors are David Bolton and Eric Roller.

Yang knew, as soon as she entered her first agricultural class and joined FFA, that a career in agriculture was her future. “I have always enjoyed the aspect of sharing information with others to spread the word of our industry of agriculture,” says Yang.

After graduating high school, Yang found the opportunity to explore the career area she wanted. Talon Media in southwest Missouri was offering an internship to college students.

She shadowed various positions, learning how to program and code the schedule for the radio stations. She also co-hosted Farming in the Four States focusing on local agricultural opportunities, challenges and issues. She was given the opportunity to work with the sales manager selling advertising packages. Yang also was named the social media specialist to design Facebook pages for multiple radio stations.

Yang is currently a freshman at the University of Missouri majoring in agricultural journalism.

Learn about the first place winner of this award on page 4 of this newsletter.



Missouri Students Learn about Farm Traditions

Lessons in farm and family tradition are on the menu for fifth-grade students at Black Hawk Elementary School in Clark County. Students learn how food gets from the farm to the table from University of Missouri Extension 4-H youth program assistant Katie Hogan, MU Extension nutrition associate Wendy Ray and teacher Rhonda LaCount.

At the end of class, students enjoy hot pancakes dripping with maple syrup and oozing with butter they made themselves.

The class connects students to a bygone era when families raised and produced their own food. “Unfortunately we have a lot of kids, even in a rural area, who are removed from agriculture,” Hogan says. She notes that many children today have little understanding of where their food comes from.

“They may not have had the same experiences as their parents or grandparents,” she says. “It goes back to good ol’ farm values.”

Hogan thinks it’s important to pass those experiences and traditions on through hands-on activities. She takes them through a discussion on cows, about milk and cream, and how butter is made.

She sets out cream at room temperature for 12 hours before class. A small amount of heavy cream is put in condiment cups with lids. Students shake the cream until it firms and the buttermilk is rinsed off the butter.

Students then taste it and spread it on pancakes slathered with homemade maple syrup made by their teacher, Mrs. LaCount. Members of LaCount’s family gather at her cousin’s farm each February to tap trees, drain the sap and cook it down for syrup.

This is the third year of the program, which is held after end-of-the-year testing is done. “It’s great that we can bring the different aspects of extension together—science, agriculture, food and nutrition, and 4-H—in this project,” Hogan says.

The photo, of Black Hawk students, is by Linda Geist

Summer Missouri Ag Events

July 9-10: Missouri Landscape and Nursery Summer Conference and Border Tour, Kansas City

July 17-18: Mo-Ag Summer meeting, Lake Ozark

July 27-31: National Plant Board Annual Meeting, St. Louis

July 31-August 2: Missouri Young Farmers/ Young Farm Wives Summer Tour

August 7-17: Missouri State Fair, Sedalia

Multiple Dates: Missouri Corn Growers Golf Tournaments, Visit MoCorn.org

*Calendar by Missouri Department of Agriculture

Missouri State Fair Award will Highlight Women in Agriculture



Applications are being accepted for the second annual Missouri Woman in Agriculture Contest, hosted by the Missouri State Fair to applaud the significant contributions women make to the state’s leading industry.

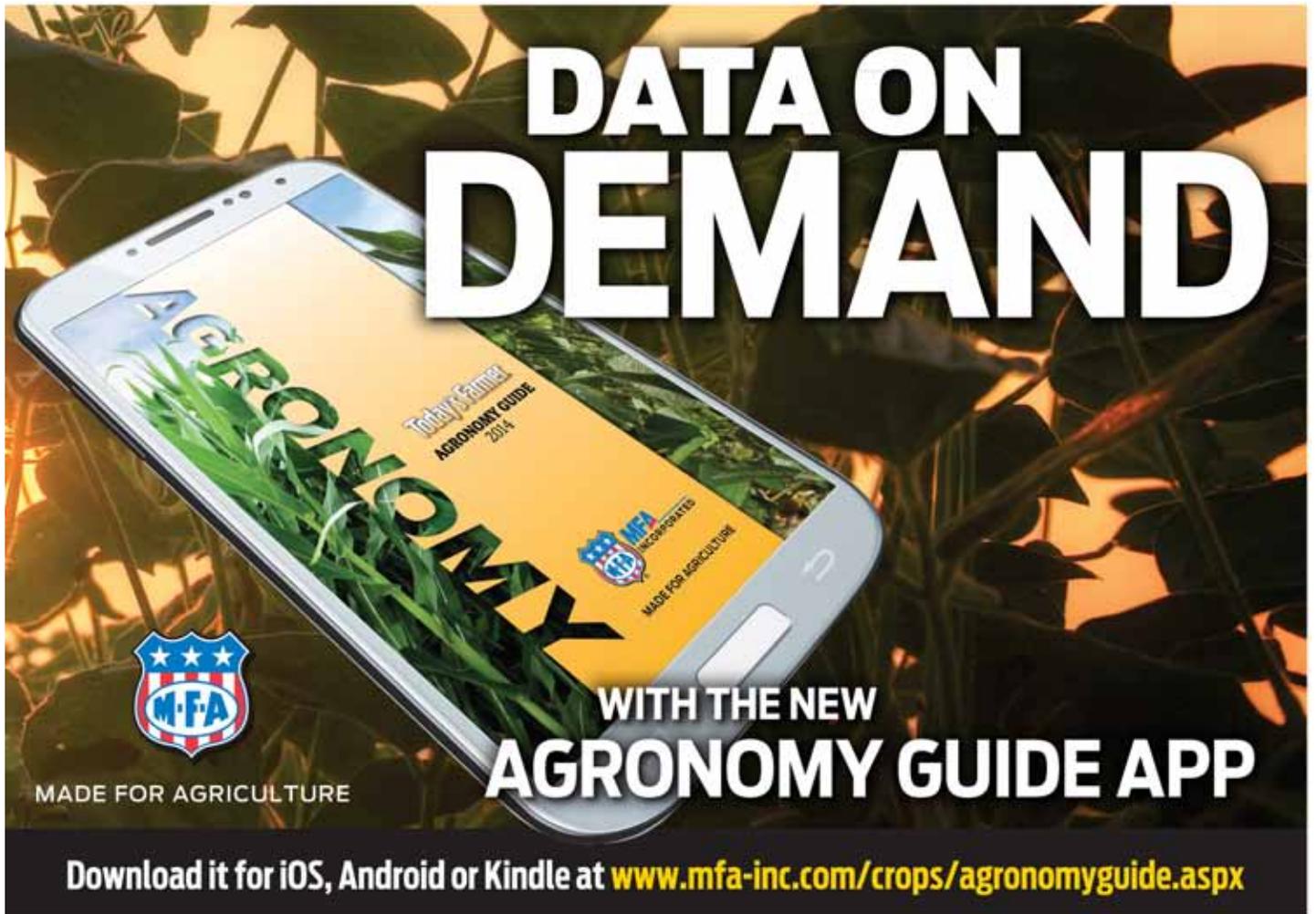
According to Fair Director Mark Wolfe, the title will be awarded in two age divisions, with each winner receiving a \$1,000 donation from Monsanto for a non-profit, agriculture-related cause of her choice.

The contest rules and application forms are available online at mostatefair.com/ag-contest, with entries being accepted through July 7. To receive a copy of the application in the mail, contact the Fair by calling 800-422-FAIR (3247).

“We are very pleased to partner with Monsanto on the contest again this year,” Wolfe says. “The State Fair offers the perfect platform for competition, and is a great opportunity to honor women involved the agriculture industry.”

Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Nonprofit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBIA MO
PERMIT 286



DATA ON DEMAND

Today's Farmer
AGRONOMY
GUIDE
2014



MADE FOR AGRICULTURE

WITH THE NEW
AGRONOMY GUIDE APP

Download it for iOS, Android or Kindle at www.mfa-inc.com/crops/agronomyguide.aspx