

MISSOURI YOUNG FARMERS

Winter 2012-2013

Volume 42, No. 1

Photos courtesy of MU News Bureau



Mizzou's Bradford Research Farm (see the farm's drought simulator in photo left) and South Farm are both tentative stops on the MYF/YFW State Convention tour.

Anthony Lupo, also from the University of Missouri (photo above) is one of several speakers scheduled. He plans to discuss drought and Missouri weather.

Convention to Feature Weather, Genealogy, Economics and More

Perhaps you've been thinking recently about planting cover crops, or how to begin researching your family's ancestry. Like most of us, you might still feel frustrated by ongoing drought. Or maybe you're just missing your Missouri Young Farmer friends.

A visit to the MYF/YFW State Convention can provide you and your family some winter relief. Volunteers are finalizing details of the February 8-10 event in Columbia. All of the traditional family activities are planned, and tentative educational events include visits to the University of Missouri's research farms for a special Friday tour this

year, and a diverse set of workshops on Saturday. Here are a few highlights:

Economic Outlook: Ronald Plain is a D. Howard Doane professor in agricultural economics and applied sciences at the University of Missouri. His research includes livestock marketing, farm management and swine production. He will present on the economic outlook for the coming year and beyond.

Drought and Weather: Anthony Lupo is the department chair and professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Missouri. He has authored and co-authored publications about drought, hurricanes, thunderstorms

and more. He will give his predictions for the upcoming growing season and will discuss the 2012 drought.

Airplanes and Cover Crops: Charles Ellis is a natural resource engineer for Lincoln County extension. He will discuss recent research on cover crops spread by airplane.

Genealogy: Tim Dollens is a staff member at the Daniel Boone Regional Library who has presented in the past for MYF/YFW. His workshops on genealogy and using *ancestry.com* are widely popular—he will talk about new trends in this area.

Technology: Ben Potter is the technology editor for *Farm Journal* magazine and AgWeb. He'll discuss technology, efficiency and profitability on the farm.

Join us in February. Register on page 12.

See Inside

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See what chapters around the state have been up to



**MYF/YFW
State Convention is
Feb. 8-10 in
Columbia**

Register on Page 12

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Take a look back at the national tour hosted by Missouri



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The President's Pen

Wow! What a year 2012 has been for all those associated with all areas of agriculture. Prices for agricultural crops and livestock are at record highs, however the extremely ever-increasing input costs pretty much negate any premiums or profit the producer receives. This makes it more important than ever for all involved to be more informed and educated on new opportunities and up-to-date avenues to retain and elevate their operations.

“This makes it more important than ever for all involved to be more informed and educated on new opportunities”

This is my first column as your MYF/YFW state president, and will likely be my last. Due to budget restraints this is the only issue of our state newsletter in 2012.

I would like to personally thank the 2011 National Institute committee for a job well done for the very successful National Institute held in Kansas City last December, hosted by MYF/YFW. They worked many thankless hours to make this memorable and successful. Since this was the first National Institute I had ever attended, I had nothing to compare the experience with, but had numerous people from several states inform me that it was the best NYFEA Institute they had been to in many years!

As of this writing, the district FFA speech contests are complete and those selected are honing their speeches for presentation at the MYF/YFW State Convention to be held in Columbia on Feb. 8-10. Since the summer tour was not held in the South Central District, convention organizers are making plans to have a local mini tour Friday afternoon with a reception to follow that evening. The executive committee has been working overtime to put together an informative and entertaining convention. I want to personally applaud and thank those for their many hours taken from their work and family to make this event come together.

Along with hard work, three words come to mind. They include participation, cooperation, and information. Without these three components, most (if not all) projects cannot be completed successfully in a timely manner.

I hope everyone has a joyous and wonderful holiday season and a great New Year!

Sincerely,
Fred Weiker, State President

P.S. Hope to see you in Columbia for the MYF/YFW State Convention! Registration is on page 12.



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East Newton Chapter is Young at Heart

By Jennifer Thogmartin

The “Young” in Young Farmers may be a state of mind for most of the members of the East Newton Chapter since they have been involved for many years and are now not as “young” as when they began.

However, the chapter in Southwest Missouri remains active and involved in promoting agriculture and education of future farmers. The East Newton Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives was started in the late 1970s and has remained a fixture in the East Newton R-6 School District since. This school district is a very rural area with a large and active FFA program, and the chapter works to support that program.

In the early years of the Chapter history, members participated in shop nights and enjoyed speakers on various topics. Some evenings were spent viewing farms where new innovations were being put into practice, or touring agri-

business sites. The chapter has traveled as a group to the Farm Show in Kansas City for a number of years. Most of the meetings have also involved food, and having the evening meal with the meeting makes it easier for the families to complete their chores and still attend. This also makes it a social event.

At some point in the chapter history, the members decided to help promote the local FFA Work Night by hosting such a meal. This drew in more of the community to participate in hiring FFA members and increased the funds the FFA had available for members to attend conferences and take trips. One special activity was to make a quilt featuring farm equipment and tractors that was raffled to add to the fun. This raffle raised almost \$1,000. As the event became more popular and the chapter began raising more money, the focus changed and they began giving scholarships to senior FFA members who were continuing their education in

an ag-related field. Over the years, the East Newton YF/YFW has given more than \$30,000 in scholarships to members of the East Newton FFA.

In addition to hosting local activities, the chapter has participated in the Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives programs and events. In 2003 the Chapter hosted the MYF/YFW Summer Tour that was very well attended and enjoyed.

Chapter members have served as officers in the State organization as well as on various committees. In 2011 chapter members helped with the National Institute in Kansas City. Members also made a quilt featuring Missouri that was raffled at the Institute to help fund it. The quilt was won by an attendee from Texas, so there is a little more of Missouri in Texas now.

The East Newton Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives continue to support agriculture and encourage others interested in the rural community to become involved. A strong rural economy is good for the world, and East Newton members agree that everyone should do their part.



Crop Demonstration Plot Supports Student SAEs

By Jordan Yoder

During the past couple years we’ve heard a lot of talk about politics. There has been much discussion of debt, taxes, income, unemployment and economic stimulus.

Not to be outdone by the politicians, the North Shelby MYF/YFW (Ag Leaders) Chapter developed an economic stimulus of their own.

Students of the North Shelby FFA Chapter have benefited from this with a boost for starting and improving their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) projects, thanks to grants supported by a crop demonstration plot.

This year marked the third of the North Shelby Ag Leaders Crop Demonstration Plot. Local seed dealers and representatives buy entries and submit

either corn or soybean varieties (2012 was a soybean year) of their product for the plot. A meeting is held in the fall along with a meal, a short seminar on current agronomic issues and of course a viewing of the plot itself when farmers and seed reps get a chance to interact.

Most importantly, the proceeds of this plot fund grants to assist two freshman FFA members in starting or improving their SAE projects. Following an application process, the students are awarded the grants based on the need, presentation and feasibility of their proposed use of the grant money.

Through this plot the students receive not only help with starting their SAE, but practice in planning, budgeting, communication and execution.

Rediscover Cover Crops

By Suzi Beck

Although cover crops have been used for centuries, farmers in the last 75 years have grown up in generations which have replaced the use of cover crops with widespread use of fertilizers and herbicides.

Recent environmental and ecological awareness has started a renewed interest in cover crop use. University and private researchers are going back to the basics and are experimenting with beneficial soil loosening plants to determine how they can best be used in today's farming practices. The goal is to break up compaction and to reduce inputs of chemicals and fertilizers.

David Morris, a Chillicothe Young Farmer, is experimenting with the use of cover crops. After attending meetings on the use of cover crops through his involvement on the Livingston County Soil and Water board and attending a few cover crop field days, he felt that now was a good time to experiment on some of his own ground. After harvesting silage in August, Morris plotted with GPS a twenty acre field in sections of five acres. This field had been no-tilled for the last seven years with continuous corn on corn.

The main purpose of a cover crop is to benefit the soil and or other crops, but is not intended to be harvested for feed or sale. Some of the primary benefits from cover crops include soil quality improvements, or breaking up of compaction, erosion control, fertility improvement, suppression of weeds and insect control.

In Morris's plots of five acres he has crimson clover and tillage radishes in plot one. Plot two has tillage radishes and annual rye grass; plot three has tillage radishes, crimson clover and annual rye grass; and plot four has tillage radishes and cereal rye. The tap roots should be approximately 4 feet long which will help with the deep tillage and to break up the hard pan through the roots swelling. This will also allow earthworms to thrive when the fresh plant material is decomposing and the

water infiltration is improved as well. The organic material level should increase with the addition of the cover crop. Erosion control will improve by having the soil in place with a cover crop during the fall and winter months. Cover crops reduce wind and water erosion as well. The fertility will improve when the legumes like clover add substantial amounts of nitrogen into the soil. The dying plants will also be adding active organic matter to soil. A strong stand of rye grass or other cover crops can help to slow weed growth and suppress the growth of other plants. Lastly, the increase of beneficial insects such as ground beetles and lady bugs can be encouraged through the use of cover crops.

When to consider cover crops

Whether your farming operation can accommodate cover crops is up to you. The goal is to plant a new crop as soon as the first one is harvested or killed. Most planting occurs between March and November which allows for cover crops to be incorporated from November to early March. In a corn, bean, wheat rotation the wheat is used as a cover crop. Some farmers do not utilize this rotation on all fields. A rotation timeline should be implemented to take advantage of all the benefits cover crops can give.

How to know what to plant

Farmers should first identify why they need a cover crop, then if they have time to plant it, and finally how long it can stay in the field until the next crop needs to be planted. Morris used the suggested seeds for his area and is hoping to study using more cover crops to enhance his farming operation. Morris' goal is to break up compaction since it is cheaper than fertilizer and hopefully leads to less need for chemical and insecticides.

Morris says he anticipates a good cover crop discussion in the Chillicothe YF winter meeting, when an expert from Ohio plans to talk about his use of cover crops. The real results should begin showing up next year when Morris plants and harvests his crop of no-till corn.

2013 District Meetings Schedule

Plan for your 2013 YF/YFW district meeting:

Southwest

Saturday, January 12th at 6:30 pm, Newton County Fairgrounds, Neosho
Contacts: Lucas or Jennifer Thogmartin, District Presidents, (417) 437-5823

Northwest

Saturday, January 12th at 6:30 pm, Agricultural Education Bldg, Litton Campus, Chillicothe
Contacts: Nathan or Nicki Honan, District Presidents, (660) 742-3371

Northeast

Monday, January 14th at 6:30 pm, Fayette High School Commons, Fayette
Contact: Doug Chambers, Advisor, (660) 248-2124

Central

Details to be determined
Contact: Jody Bergman, District President, (660) 580-0128

Southeast

Friday, January 18 at 6:30 pm, at Dexter BBQ in Cape Girardeau
Contacts: Jacob Bachmann, District President, (573) 547-5131 or Tony Miesner, District President, (573) 824-5897

South Central

Meeting not scheduled

Brad Hemme is Remembered



A member of the MYF/YFW family passed away earlier this year. Brad Theodore Hemme, age 30, of Alma, died on Sunday, July 22, 2012. He was the

son of Mike Hemme and Judy Dubbert Hemme who survive. He was a 2001 graduate of Santa Fe High School and 2004 graduate of State Fair Community College.

Brad was a member of the Santa Fe Agri-Leaders. He farmed with his grandfather, father and brother, and the family received the Lafayette County Farm Family of the Year Award in 2011. Brad was also a member of Zion Lutheran Church where he served as an usher and was also a member of Alma Community Club.

Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church for the Rose Window Fund or Brad Hemme Ag Scholarship Fund at Santa Fe High School. The Young Farmer family sends condolences to Brad's family and friends.

2013 Summer Tour is July 28-30

Nodaway County Ag Leaders and Northwest Missouri State will be hosting the 2013 State Young Farmers/Young Farm wives state tour on Sunday, July 28, through Tuesday, July 30 in Maryville. The tour steering committee invites you to come and spend three fun-packed days of diversified agriculture in northwest Missouri. Additional information will be available at district meetings and the MYF/YFW State Convention. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



Speech Tradition Continues

MYF/YFW continues to host an annual speech contest where FFA members can compete for district and state honors. Pictured above are district winners from 2011. Left to right are Caitlin Simpson from Skyline (SW District), Kara Hamblen from Gainesville (SC District), Emily Rice from Farmington (SE District), Haley Thompson, from Chillicothe (NW District), Dustin Stanton from Centralia (NE District) and Aren Dameron from Crest Ridge (Central District). At the state level, Thompson secured first place, with Stanton coming in second and Hamblen third.

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National Institute Showed Missouri's Best

*Missouri Young
Farmers/Young
Farm Wives
hosted the
2011 NYFEA
National Institute*



More than a year of preparation by members and supporters of MYF/YFW culminated last December when Missouri hosted the 2011 National Institute, offered each year through the National Young Farmer Educational Association (NYFEA).

Around 470 guests attended from throughout the country to visit multiple attractions within and around the Kansas City area.

The program included traditional farm tours of grain and cattle operations, as well as cultural and historical stops like the Pony Express stable in St. Joseph and the Whiteman Airforce Base.

The following pages include photo highlights of some of the many successful stops.

Make sure to thank the volunteers as well as the Institute sponsors listed on page 10.



Photo top: Institute guests visited Show Me Energy Cooperative where they learned about alternative energy and biomass. Norman Rohrbach is pictured touring this popular visit on the 2011 tour.

Photo above: Whiteman Air Force Base is a Global Strike Command Center located near Knob Knoster, southeast of Kansas City. Visiting groups had the chance to get their picture taken with a B-2 Stealth Bomber like the one above.



Top Photo: Shatto Milk Company was a popular stop on the National Institute tour. Visitors sampled unique milk flavors and learned about the family's successful operation.

Above: Tourists visited LifeLine Foods in St. Joseph and learned about their ethanol and corn-based food ingredients.

Right: The Pony Express Museum and Stable in St. Joseph provided entertainment for guests of all ages.

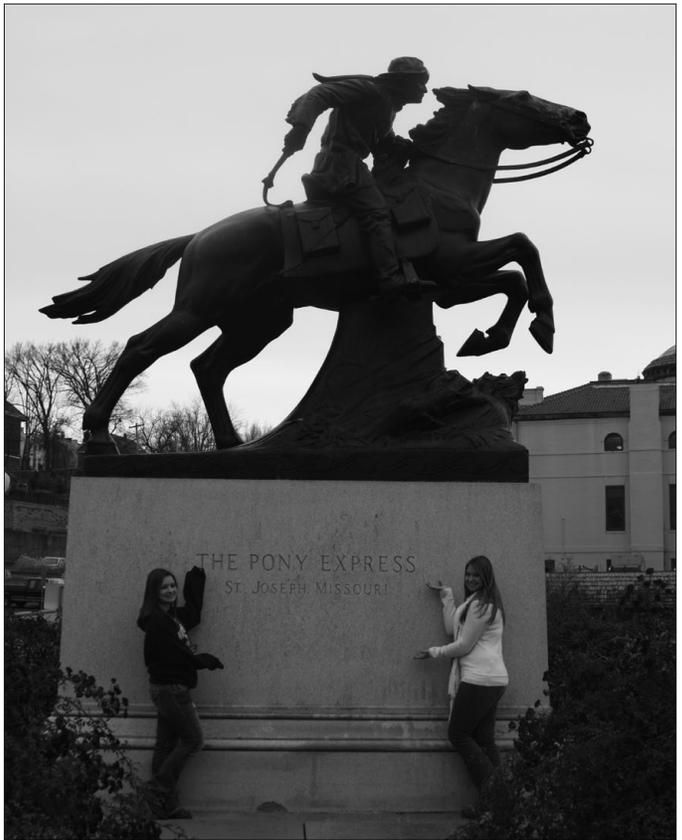
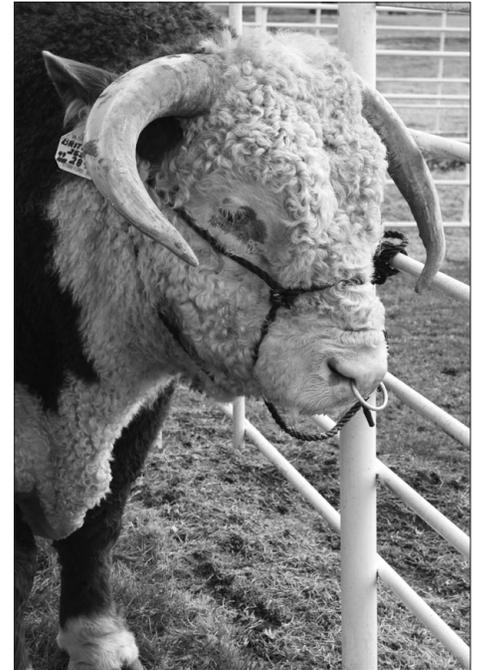




Photo left: Lost Creek Wind Farm visitors learned about the Wind Capital Group.

Below: The Weigand Farms stop provided visitors a chance to look at a few types of operations run by the family including a custom feed store.

Bottom: The educational Young Ag Leaders Event (YALE) was also hosted during the National Institute.





Far Left: Members and guests enjoyed visiting Wade Farms, one of the largest grain crop operations in Missouri. Institute visitors learned about the family's specialty waxy corn.

Left: Ralph Duren and his famous Calls of the Wild show provided evening entertainment for members at the Institute banquet.

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Ag Education Supporters Retire

Norman Rohrbach

A longtime supporter and member of the MYF/YFW family retired this year after a successful 37-year career. Norman Rohrbach served most recently as a farm business management analysis and adult education specialist for the University of Missouri. He was also a representative to the MYF/YFW group. Previously he served as the organization's executive secretary, when he worked for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from 1984 to 1994.

Rohrbach began his career as an agriculture education instructor in his hometown of California, Mo., in 1973. During his retirement he says he'll spend more time back in California, farming crops and cattle with his wife and family. The MYF/YFW group thanks him for his many years of service to our members and Missouri agriculture. Rohrbach is pictured at the 2011 NYFEA Institute on page 7.

Nancy Alford

An agriculture education specialist with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

also retired this year. Nancy Alford has been involved in agriculture throughout her life, and helped break barriers as a female in the industry. She grew up in Louisiana, Mo., however girls weren't allowed in FFA at that time so her official involvement in agricultural organizations came later.

She began teaching in Koshkonong in 1992 after becoming certified as an instructor, and began working at DESE in 1999 as the first female staff member in ag education.

"She was very instrumental in ag ed curriculum development and the implementation of CASE [Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education] in Missouri," says Lisa Evans, MYF/YFW executive secretary.

Currently Alford lives in Thayer with husband Don. Her support and guidance for young adults in agriculture has been much appreciated by MYF/YFW members through the years.



MU Ag Sorority Focuses on Giving

A group of young adults in Missouri helped make the holiday season brighter for children across the world this year. Members of the University of Missouri Chapter of Sigma Alpha, a professional agriculture sorority, made approximately 40 gift boxes to send to Operation Christmas Child, an international Christian charity that provides needy children with gift boxes that include items such as toys, ornaments and personal care items.

The group also helps with Ellis Fischel Hospital's Cups of Kindness program for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Members filled teacups with goodies to be given to breast cancer patients.

And every third Monday, sorority members serve meals to approximately 70 people through the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen at Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church. Meanwhile, members are organizing a 5K run to raise funds for Heifer International.

Missouri Members Attended 2012 NYFEA Institute in Memphis



Fifteen Missourians attended the recent NYFEA Institute in Memphis Tennessee held Dec 6-9, 2012. Tours of a cotton gin, Mississippi river museum, cotton harvesting equipment and downtown Memphis were highlights of the event. Members took a moment to pose for a festive group photo.

Attendees pictured left to right include: Steve Brown (National FFA and YF/YFW advisor), Garth Duncan, Fillmore; Fred Weiker, Fayette; Jeff Bergman, Alma; Charles and Georgia Devault, Mexico; Gilbert and Sandy Kaiser, Centralia; Delmar and Ruth Hunke, Stark City; Jennifer and Lucas Thogmartin, Neosho; Colleen and Tom Primmer, Kirksville; and Lisa Evans, Jefferson City.

2013 MYF/YFW Convention Registration and Planning

Join us at the 2013 Missouri Young Farmer/Young Farm Wives Convention on Feb. 8-10 in Columbia. This year a special half-day tour will be hosted at the University of Missouri campus and research farms. Here's an overview of the basic schedule including all of the traditional events -- highlights of specific speakers and stops are on the cover page.

Friday

Friday will include tours at the Mizzou campus and on the MU Research Farms. Members will meet at the hotel parking lot. Buses will leave at 12:45.

Saturday

Saturday registration will be available from 9 am to 6 pm in the Conference Center Foyer. As in past years, Saturday events will include the toy show, the FFA speech contest finals, the delegate meeting, a social meet up and several special seminars and workshops. Saturday will also bring the state office reunion reception and a couple of new events.

The opening session Saturday banquet begins at 7 pm.

Sunday

Sunday will begin with Vespers at 7:30 am followed by brunch and the general session.

Hotel Reservations: Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia

Reserve your hotel **by January 25th**. The room block will be released after that time and a room may not be available. The rate is \$88 for any size room. Below are three ways to register:

1. Register online at www.marriott.com/coucy
In the space for the group code, enter one of the three codes below:

*For a king with sofa sleeper, type: **YFMYFMA**

*For a double queen, type: **YFMYFMB**

*For a king suite, type **YFMYFMC**

2. You may also call 1-800-MARRIOTT and give the above group codes

3. Or, you may call the local hotel and make the reservation directly at (573) 443-8000

**If the code does not work, that means the room type you requested is sold out, or it is after the cut-off date.*

2013 MYF/YFW CONVENTION REGISTRATION

February 8-10, 2013 at Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia, MO

Mail Registration to: Lisa Evans, Agricultural Education, DESE, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Adults: _____ Chapter: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please circle all events you are attending:

Special Friday MU Farms Tour? Yes No
Saturday Workshops? Yes No
Sunday Delegate Meeting? Yes No

Friday through Sunday Registration Paid by Feb. 1:

Adults - \$40 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 6-12) - \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 5 & under) - no cost x _____ = \$0

Friday through Sunday Registration Paid after Feb. 1:

Adults - \$55 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 6-12) - \$27.50 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 5 & under) - no cost x _____ = \$0

Friday/Saturday Registration Paid by Feb. 1:

Adults - \$30 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 6-12) - \$15 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 5 & under) - no cost x _____ = \$0

Friday/Saturday Registration Paid after Feb. 1:

Adults - \$30 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 6-12) - \$15 x _____ = \$ _____

Kids (ages 5 & under) - no cost x _____ = \$0

Saturday evening banquet only - \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday evening child's plate - \$10 x _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Join our Vespers

At the 2013 state convention we will once again convene Sunday morning to enjoy time of sharing our faith with fellow MYF/YFW members. We will come together in singing and sharing of God's word to recognize an important piece of what drives us to be who we are in agriculture.

Toy Show Time

It's time to bring out your farm toys from those days in the dirt, or from the display case in the office. The annual farm toy exhibits will take place at the 2013 MYF/YFW State Convention in February.

Farm Toy Classes:

Run What-cha-Brung: This is an open class—anything from



bought to homemade or modified, any make, any model, any size.

Original 1/64 Scale:

This class is toys out of boxes, no modification, any make or model.

Original 1/32 Scale:

This class is toys out of boxes, no modification, any make or model.

Original 1/16 Scale:

This class is toys out of boxes, no modification, any make or model.

Sandbox Special

This class will be toys that were used hard by the cutest lil' farmers, any make, any model, any size.

Enter the 2013 MYF/YFW Photo Contest

Join the 2013 MYF/YFW Photo Contest! The purpose of the Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives photo contest is to showcase amateur photography of rural and agricultural Missouri. Below are the contest rules and instructions.

Categories: **Landscapes People Rural Workday Animals**

***Entry Criteria:** 1. The Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives photo contest is open to all members who are amateur photographers (one who receives less than half of their disposable income from photography).

2. All photos must be taken by the entrant.

3. Entrants may submit multiple photos per category.

4. Entrants may enter all four categories if desired.

5. A complete entry form must accompany each photo. Do not staple or paper clip; the form taped to the back of the image is fine.

6. Photos must be taken within the last two years.

7. Color and black and white photos are eligible.

*8. If identifiable persons are included in a photo, a release must accompany the entry.

9. Youth entries must include the signature of a parent or guardian on the entry form.

10. All photos must be submitted digitally either through email, or on a CD through mail. Print copies accompanying the digital file will be accepted.

11. Digital files must be high resolution images. Some tips in determining the size:

*8" x 10" at 300 dpi, or *2048 X 1538 pixels, or *a file size of 6 MB to 10 MB.

12. All entries submitted become the property of Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives, giving MYF/YFW permission to use them in publications, promotions, calendars or displays, with proper credit given to the photographer.

13. Entries will not be returned.

Options to enter: You can mail in or e-mail your entry; see the entry form below.

Judging: 1. Judges will be member of the Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives Executive committee.

2. Judges may move a photo to a new category if it is more suitable.

3. A photo can be disqualified if it does not meet all the requirements.

Deadline: Entries must be received/delivered by Feb. 7, 2012. No late entries.

Winning Notifications: Winners will be announced at the Missouri Young Farmer and Young Farm Wives Annual Convention, February 9, 2013, in Columbia.

Contest Contact: Nicki Honan (660) 742-3371

**Note: Photo release(s) may be required (see above). The release(s) should state: "I, ____, do hereby acknowledge that the individuals in the photos understand the sponsoring organization claim the rights to all photos, including the rights to publish, upload on the internet, or televise, for use in promoting a positive message for agriculture and that their name, likeness, or image may be used. I agree to release and hold harmless the sponsoring organization from and against any claim, expense or liability arising from or related to submission, participation in the contest, and appearance on the program and/or acceptance of any prize," followed by a signature and the date.*

Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives 2013 Photo Contest Entry Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Select Photo Category: Landscapes People Rural Workday Animals

Description of your photo with date, location, persons, season, etc: _____

Options to submit: 1. **Email** your entry information, necessary photo release forms, and digital photo to: lisa.evans@dese.mo.gov 2. Or, **mail** your entry on CD, along with the entry form, and necessary photo release forms to: Lisa Evans, Executive Secretary – Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives 205 Jefferson Street PO Box 480 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Deadline: Entries must be received/delivered by Feb. 7, 2012. No late entries.

*See the entry criteria above for further instructions.

2011 State Convention Sponsors and Exhibitors

Without support of donors and volunteers, MYF/YFW would not be able to provide services and education to farmers around Missouri. Make sure to thank these sponsors and exhibitors from the 2011 MYF/YFW State Convention!

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Competition Helps Students Develop Leadership Skills

MYF/YFW continued to support the development of students by hosting the 2012 FFA Speech Contest. (The 2011 winners are also pictured on page 6.) District winners are shown above, left to right: Rebecca Felton from Pilot Grove (Central District), Northwest: Madison Huston of Jamesport (NW District), Samantha Marre from Elsberry (NE District), Jennifer Williams from Willard (SW District), Teanna Simpson, Koshkonong (SC), and Frank Alford, Alton (SE District). At the state level, Huston earned first, with Williams second and Simpson third. Congratulations to all who participated in the MYF/YFW speech competitions!

Consider Farm Leasing Options

Over the years, most cropland has been rented on a fixed rate per acre, but recently there has been more volatility in both crop prices and crop yields. A University of Missouri Extension agricultural economist, Ron Plain, says this makes a lot of producers concerned about fixed-rate agreements.

“A lot of landlords are looking to get more money given the higher crop prices, and tenants are uneasy about locking themselves into a high fixed rate because of the yield risk,” Plain says. “So there has been growing interest in a variable rate in which the payment is not a portion of the crop but a cash payment that will vary depending on crop prices and yields.”

According to Plain, a common method is to look at historical averages of price, rent and yield, and use current prices and yields to decide whether to take the cash rent up or down.

There are several other variations

that can be used to determine a cash rent rate. “One that varies just for price is where a tenant pays the landlord the value of X bushels of crop,” Plain says. “In the case of beans, for example, say 8 bushels per acre is what the tenant is going to pay. You multiply that times harvest price, and that’s how many dollars per acre the operator pays.”

When a tenant is worried about a drought year, sometimes there is an agreement to pay a percentage of the production times a fixed price per acre.

“One of the drawbacks to these flexible arrangements is that until the harvest comes in and you see harvest-time prices, neither the landlord nor the tenant knows what the rent will be for the year,” Plain explains.

He says it is good advice to put all rental arrangements and lease agreements in writing. These discussions usually happen once a year and memories can fade over time. A written agreement also will ensure that should something happen to you, your family members will know the terms of the agreement.

2013 Winter Events

MISSOURI AG CALENDAR

Winter offers an opportunity to catch up on new technologies and opportunities in agriculture. Below are some of the popular events coming up in early 2013. Make sure to also plan to attend your district YF/YFW meeting. Dates are listed on page 5.

January 24-26

Heart of America Dairy Expo
Ramada Oasis Hotel and Convention Center (formerly Missouri Dairy Forum), Springfield

February 13-14

Missouri Pork Expo
Holiday Inn Executive Center,
Columbia

Feb. 1-2

Annual MNGA Nut Show and Meeting, Nevada
www.missourinutgrowers.org

February 7-9

Midwest Grape and Wine Conference, St. Charles
midwestgrapeandwineconference.com

Feb. 8-10:

Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives State Convention, Columbia; Register on page 12

Feb. 22-24

Western Farm Show, Kansas City
www.WesternFarmShow.com

April 18-19

Missouri FFA Convention, Columbia



2013 Western Farm Show Focuses on Health

The excitement of a Championship Tractor Pull, professional livestock demonstrations and aisles of the latest models of farm equipment and supplies are all awaiting visitors at the 52nd annual Western Farm Show in Kansas City. It's scheduled for Feb. 22-24. Organizers promise an exciting lineup of exhibits and attractions for the whole family.

The 2013 event will once again feature more than 500 exhibitors, all under one roof at the American Royal Complex, making it one of the largest indoor displays of farm equipment in the Midwest. Reflecting a strong heritage and deep commitment to agriculture, the three-day event will showcase more than 400,000 square feet of floor space filled with new products, buildings, fertilizer, feed, seed and much more.

"Once again, improved technology will be a selling point of the show," says Ken Dean, Manager of the Western Farm Show. "This will be the first opportunity for many Midwest farmers to see some of the newest innovations in agriculture."

In addition to showcasing these latest innovations to attendees for over 50 years, Dean said the Western Farm Show is proud to debut a new theme, "The Heart of Ag," at the 2013 show. "This theme not only reflects our central location in America's agricultural heartland and our long-standing commitment of hosting a regional agricultural show focused on all aspects of production agriculture, but also a new relationship with the American Heart Association," he says. "We're pleased to announce we will be making a major donation to the "My Heart. My Life." platform of the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association.

New to the 2013 Western Farm Show, the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association will feature a cardiovascular health exhibit in the already expansive Health and Safety Roundup area. The exhibit will showcase healthy living habits and CPR training information. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about improving their heart health score while gaining life-saving information on hands-only CPR. The Health and Safety Roundup Area will also host educational exhibits that feature interactive safety displays and free blood pressure, cholesterol, hearing and vision screenings and more. Admission is \$8 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

Visit www.WesternFarmShow.com to learn more.

Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives
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