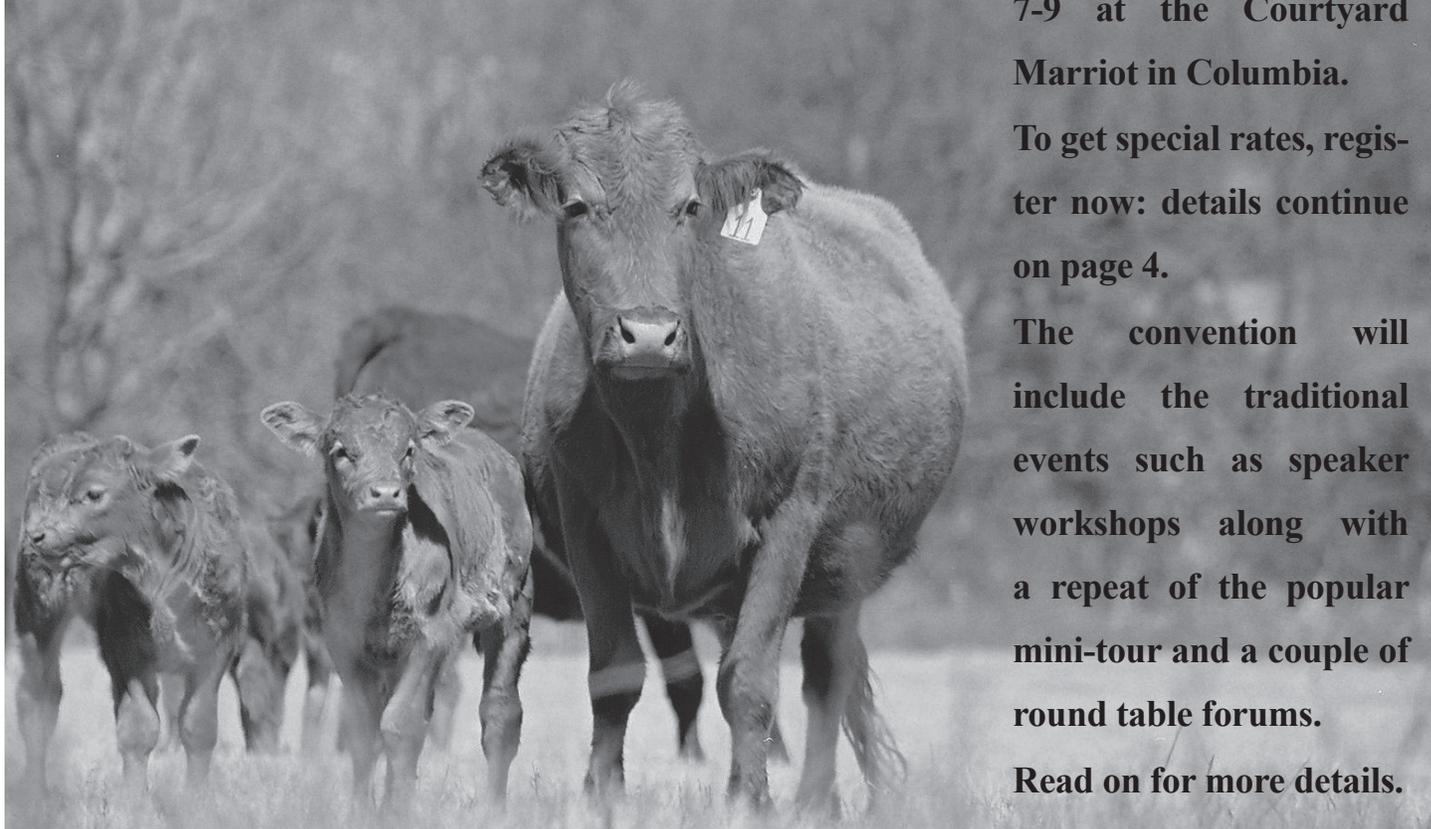


MISSOURI YOUNG FARMERS

Winter 2013-2014

Volume 43, No. 3

Learn about livestock health, increasing yields and more at the State Convention Feb. 7-9



The 2014 Missouri Young Farmers State Convention will be held on Feb. 7-9 at the Courtyard Marriot in Columbia.

To get special rates, register now: details continue on page 4.

The convention will include the traditional events such as speaker workshops along with a repeat of the popular mini-tour and a couple of round table forums.

Read on for more details.

Here's a list with workshop details for the 2014 MYF/YFW State Convention, compiled by state officers Nathan Honan and Jordan Yoder. See registration and further details beginning on page 4.

Livestock Health

Do you have question on what type of wormer to use for your cows or how to keep your steers from getting sick? Then come listen to Dr. John Bolinger. Following his presentation, producers will have the chance to ask questions about their

personal operations.

John D. Bolinger, DVM, owns and operates Bolinger Veterinary Service, LLC, in Tipton where he works exclusively with cattle producers. He obtained two degrees from the University of Missouri, a BS in Animal Science (2004) and his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (2008). Bolinger serves on the Board of Directors for the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, a group of more than 800 beef veterinarians world-wide, and he is the president of the West Central-Missouri Vet-

erinary Medical Association. He is also a member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Society for Theriogenology, American Veterinary Medical Association, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, and Missouri Cattleman's. John lives with his wife, Julie, and their son, Gage, in California, Mo.

Using FINPACK

Come learn how to put the joy of financial records into your routine.

Continued on page 4



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The President's Pen

Hello to all of the Missouri Young Farmers. This is my final installment of President's Pen. I have had a great time being involved with this organization and would like to share some highlights.

My wife and I had our arms twisted in to becoming district officers three years ago and I wondered at the time what I was getting into and if I would enjoy it. I need to thank Larry Stiens for nominating Nicki and I because the experience and people I have met have been great.

My first year of Institute was in Kansas City so we didn't get to do a state tour or state convention; I did however get called on by Suzi Beck to be a tour guide on the north route. I have many great memories of the National Institute and that event sold me on the organization. I met many great people and hope to reunite with them this winter in San Antonio. I need to thank Suzi for selecting me as a guide as I feel I would have been just another face in the crowd otherwise and I would not have fully engaged in the event.

My second year in office led to me being the workshop chairman for state convention and I enjoyed getting to correspond with several presenters to make a successful program. I was also elected president during my second year in office.

I want to thank all the members for the chance to be your president. This was a busy year for me to be in office. I went to State FFA Convention in Columbia to present a proficiency award that MYF sponsors. I was the public relations person for the state tour held in Maryville and Nicki and I had a son three days before tour started. Because of my PR role I traveled to several meetings last spring to promote the tour and got to see how other districts work. I wrote several articles for the newsletter and Jordan Yoder and I are setting up the workshops for this coming state convention. To top the year off planting and haying went on for three months instead of one, my family and I hosted a stop on the state tour and we also hosted my little sister's wedding and reception at the farm. I thrive on being busy and get more done when the pressure is on, but I think I found my limit.

When my past-president term is finished I will miss the four-hour long road trip to central Missouri to have executive committee meetings and seeing my friends from the executive board in all corners of the state. Before I was a state officer I only did local activities, but now I am hooked on state events and will stay connected to summer tour and state convention. I think it is time some other Young Farmers get their arms twisted in to becoming a district officer so they can see beyond the local level and get connected and make memories like I have. I have enjoyed my time as a state officer and thank all of you for the privilege.

Nathan Honan



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State Convention Workshop Details

Continued from page 1

Find out what software current FBMA members use to break their farm business down into enterprises and more to get a more detailed look at their farms. Use your financial records along with FINPACK to make farm business decisions with more confidence and less doubt. This session will be facilitated by Adult AG Instructors, Joanie Bake, Knox County and John Sponaugle, Boonville. Current FINPACK users and those new to FINPACK are welcome.

Feeding Cattle By-Products Round Table

The state officers changed up the workshops this year by adding a round table type discussion for two sessions. The topic for one of the sessions is using by product or co-product feeds in cattle rations. Tim Kueckelhan and Dan Wassmann from the Boonville YF Chapter and Adam Rhorbach and Bob Denker, Jr. from the California YF Chapter have been using by-products in their rations and have agreed to serve on the round table panel and share what they have learned.

They will discuss their own cattle operations and the types of byproduct feeds they have used, where they source the feed and how they build rations using by-product feeds. They may also share what byproduct feeds they have used that did not work for them and why.

Field and Farm Data Management

Farm records for fields have been around for all time. Today, technol-



ogy produces even more information from yield, pesticide and fertilizer applications, soil tests, soil type, field notes, and the list goes on.

Find out what you can do to protect your data and make it work for you.

Presenting on this topic will be Clint Prange, field agronomist. Prange is a native of Northeast Missouri where he was raised on row crop and livestock operation. He is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University.

Production agriculture has always been a passion for Clint, but the passion to assist growers in making sound and strategic management decisions for their own operations has lead him to his current position as a field agronomist with DuPont Pioneer. He works hand in hand with customers and the sales team in not only providing agronomy training but also coaching around the use of data collection to properly determine management zones for fertility and seeding decisions. This includes also using treatment analysis to make sound management decisions.

Clint says he operates from a belief that there is a need to be more efficient in the role of agriculture if we are going to continue to produce enough safe and secure food to meet the consumer demand. Clint and his wife Amber have two kids, Drake



and Taylin and live on their family farm in Shelbyville.

Higher Yielding Wheat Management

Wheat is a great crop for soil improvement and conservation when it is used in a rotation. Many producers don't view wheat as profitable, but will find out through good management practices that they can easily increase wheat yield and possibly double crop soybean yield.

Presenting on this topic will be Mel Gerber, a 1970 graduate from the University of Missouri with a degree in ag engineering. He has been growing crops in Morgan County Missouri since 1974 and no-tilled his first field in 1975. The thin, poorly drained soils of that area of the Ozark Prairie are highly erosive and have relatively low yield potential. For these and other reasons they are a good fit for wheat and double crop soybeans. His long term average wheat yield is 83 bushels and double crop soybean average is 30 bushels.

Gerber owns and operates Independent Wheat Consultants (IWC) and assists with management of up to 10,000 acres of wheat annually. IWC offers nitrogen management, fungicide use, seed selection, research and more.

Join Vespers

It is important in this busy world to stop, focus, and meditate on what really matters. That is why we gather each year at convention for a Sunday morning reflection on God.

Join us this convention and don't forget to make it to vespers.

Fruit Tree and Grape Pruning

Tired of leaf spots and rotting fruit on your favorite planting? Preventing disease problems begins with proper pruning. Learn about peaches, apples and grapes (each requires a different style) as well as what you can do to control the most common diseases and insects. Don't have any apples, peaches or grapes but are considering planting? Still consider attending this session which will also cover briefly how site selection impacts disease pressure. Also, fruit cultivars vary significantly in disease resistance, and presenters will discuss which cultivars are less troublesome to grow.

James Quinn, presenting on this topic, has been the horticulture specialist for University of Missouri Extension's Central Region for seven years. He was a wholesale

greenhouse salad green and herb grower for nine years in Michigan. Since moving to Missouri he has been involved in a wide range of agriculture projects, including greenhouses, growing vegetables, alternative agronomic crops, IPM, high tunnels and medicinal herbs. He is based in Cole County and has responsibilities in six other counties around mid-Missouri, including Boone, where he lives.

Liability and Estate Planning

Attorneys from the Haden and Byrne Law Firm will also provide a liability and estate planning session at the convention.

Join us for these workshops and much more at the 2014 Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives State Convention in February.



Toy Show Time

Dig out your favorite 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 2014 MYF/YFW State Convention in February.

Farm Toy Classes:

Run Whatcha-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.

Cover Crops Roundtable

Don't miss a special cover crops roundtable at the state convention. Hear from a panel with real cover crop experience dealing with row crops, livestock, and research. Learn from their mistakes and successes to assess cover crops for your farm.

State Officers Reunite

There will be a past state officer reception on Saturday of the state convention before the evening banquet. Bring pictures and memorabilia to share with other past state officers.

2014 MYF/YFW Convention Registration and Planning

Join us at the 2014 Missouri Young Farmer/Young Farm Wives Convention on Feb. 7-9 in Columbia. In addition to the traditional workshops, a 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 begin on the cover page, continuing on page 4.

Friday

Friday will include a mini-tour in the Columbia area. Members will meet at the hotel parking lot and buses 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.

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 18th** for special rates. The room block will be released after that time and a room may not be available. The rate is \$89 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: **MIYMIYA**

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

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. Tell them you are with the Missouri Young Farmers block.

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

2014 MYF/YFW CONVENTION REGISTRATION

February 7-9, 2014 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:

Friday Mini Tour?	Yes	No
Saturday Workshops?	Yes	No
Saturday Evening Past State Officer Reunion?	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: \$ _____

Enter the 2014 MYF/YFW Photo Contest

Join the 2014 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, as well as in print at the state convention. Photos must be 8x10 and displayed in a frame when submitted.
11. 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.

To Enter: You must deliver your photo to the State Convention held in Columbia.

Judging:

1. Judges will be members 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 delivered by Feb. 7, 2014. No late entries.

Winning Notifications: Winners will be announced at the Missouri Young Farmer and Young Farm Wives Annual Convention, February 9, 2014, in Columbia.

Contest Contact: Jennifer Thogmartin (417) 437-5823 or thogmartinjennifer@neoshor5.org

*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 2014 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: _____

Deadline: Entries must be received/delivered by Feb. 8, 2014. No late entries.

Enjoy the holidays more with these tips

The holiday season can be a time of joy and peace. It can also be extremely stressful, according to Dr. Jim Wirth, a human development specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

Holiday parties, social gatherings, gift-giving, family commitments, and personal responsibilities all require attention, planning, and energy. These stresses can quickly dampen your enjoyment of the holidays.

“There are several simple things a person can do to make the holiday season more relaxing, meaningful, and stress-free for you and your family,” says Wirth.

Here are some “Do’s” and “Don’ts” tips for managing stress and enjoying this time of year:

*Don’t expect everything to go well (holiday perfectionist). Things can go wrong; avoid the blame game when they do.

*Don’t expect that “past conflicts” will magically disappear.

*Don’t expect young children to be “perfectly” behaved when routine is changed and they are tired.

*Don’t expect other people to feel exactly like you do.

*Don’t ignore the problems that you can talk through.

*Don’t ignore feelings of sadness or the unpleasant memories of past holidays.

*Don’t cope with stress through excesses of food or alcohol. Maintain healthy routines.

*Do make a budget of what you are going to spend. Money can be a real



stressor during the holiday. Enjoy free activities when possible.

*If possible, do start shopping early in the season. Go at off-peak times.

*Do establish holiday plans with your family and friends early.

*If traveling, do make sure you depart with plenty of time to spare.

*If you’re on a restricted diet, do consider hosting the holiday meal. That way you can stick to your diet. Also plan some easy meals and double batch your favorites.

*Do develop family rituals and traditions. You can also change to new, better traditions.

*Do be assertive and make your wishes regarding holiday plans clear to those around you—and do it early. Some of us need time just to ourselves every day. If so, plan in advance how you’re going to get this time alone during the holidays.

*If you live alone, do try to make plans early to celebrate with others. Being alone at the holidays can be extremely stressful.

*If you have no one to share the holidays with, do consider volunteering at a nursing home, shelter, hospital, or other place of need.



Brewer Honan born in July

Brewer Essex Honan was born July 25, 2013, to Nathan and Nicki Honan. Brewer is pictured at left with proud parents and sister Addison. Read more about the Honans, who are members of the Nodaway County Agri-Leaders in Maryville as well as state MYF/YFW executive officers, in the fall digital newsletter edition online.

2014 District Meetings Schedule

Plan for your 2014 YF/YFW district meeting:

Northwest

January 11th in Chillicothe at Litton Center

Contacts: Nathan or Nicki Honan, (660) 742-3371

Northeast

January 22 at Mexico High School Sports complex (featuring Magician Joshua Weidner from St. Louis as entertainment with a reasonably priced meal offered), 6:30 pm

Contact: Jordan Yoder, 660/341-3294 or Fred Weiker, (660) 728-3700

Southeast

January 3, at Dexter BBQ in Cape Girardeau, 7 pm

Contacts: Jacob Bachmann, (573) 547-5131 or

Tony Miesner, (573) 824-5897

Southwest

January 11 at the Neosho High School Ag Building, 6:30 pm

Contacts: Lucas or Jennifer Thogmartin, (417) 437-5823

Central

Details to be determined

Contact: Jody Bergman, (660) 580-0128

South Central

Details to be determined

Send your announcements

Would you like to include your own family or personal announcements? Just e-mail us at jennie.bedsworth@gmail.com with the announcement and a photo if available, and we’ll put it in an upcoming newsletter.

Young Farmer Member Spotlight: Larry Stiens

By Nathan Honan

Missouri Young Farmers member Larry Steins lives just east of Maryville with his wife Charlotte where they farm full time. He answered a few questions for us so newsletter readers could catch up with what he's doing these days.

When did you become a Missouri Young Farmers member?

In 1978. I am a charter member of the Maryville Young Farmers, later renamed to Nodaway County Agri-Leaders.

What offices have you held?

Chapter president, chapter treasurer, district officer, state president, national secretary, National Institute Planning Committee member.

When did you start farming full time and what do you grow on your farm?

I started farming full-time in 1973 and grow corn, soybeans, hay, beef cattle and formerly raised hogs.

What are Charlotte and the children doing presently?

Charlotte holds an adjunct position with Northwest Missouri State University, supervising student teachers. Andrea and husband Evan (daughter Ella) own and manage two restaurants in Manhattan, Kansas: Harry's Restaurant and Deli and a new restaurant Bourbon and Baker, opening Nov. 1. Jill (husband Chase) is a registered dietician working for Abbot Nutrition in sales

of pediatric formulas. Carrie (husband Jay) is a freelance designer of web and mobile apps.

What has Charlotte's role been with Young Farmers?

Charlotte helped charter a Maryville Young Farm Wives group about the time of the 1991 state tour in Maryville. Both of us were involved with planning the 1991 state tour and served as a tour stop. We were both involved in planning and facilitating the 2013 tour. Charlotte has served as district officer, state vice-president, and served as the "assistant to the national secretary."

What was your experience like as national secretary?

I wanted to serve on the national committee. The only choices were secretary or president and I did not feel like I could commit three years in a presidential role so I ran for the secretarial position. (Special thanks to my wife for typing all those minutes.) On a side note, I was the first

of four consecutive national secretaries from Missouri.

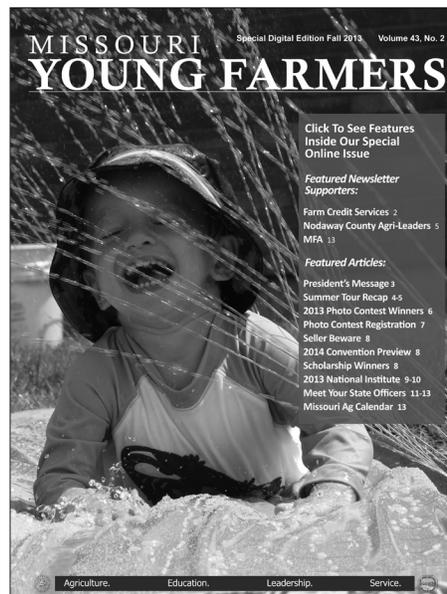
What benefits have you seen from being in Young Farmers?

We've made a lot of friends over the years. Being state president helped me become better at speaking in front of people. After my terms in office I had the confidence to serve on the local co-op board of directors (currently president) and to become a better advocate for agriculture. I have had the opportunity to actively support the local FFA chapter.

What are some of your favorite memories from Young Farmer events?

I have had a lot of fun. My first canoe trip was with MYF. We made the state tour our family vacation when the girls were younger. I had the opportunity to travel across the state and experience Missouri agriculture and to travel to the National Institute in other states.

Miss our last newsletter edition?



The fall 2013 edition of the Missouri Young Farmers newsletter was entirely online, in a special full-color edition. If you missed it, see it now online at

dese.mo.gov/ccr/ag/yfyfw-newsletter.htm

You can also find there archived editions of previous Missouri Young Farmers newsletters.

2014 Summer Tour

The Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives Summer Tour will be in the SE District in Stoddard County. More details and registration will be available at the State Convention and included in the spring newsletter.

Livestock insurance grows

While crop insurance has been popular for a long time, producers have largely overlooked similar safety nets for livestock. But that may be changing, says a University of Missouri Extension agriculture economist.

Two forms of livestock insurance have been available for a number of years through the USDA Risk Management Agency, according to Ray Massey who spoke at the recent 2013 Missouri Swine Institute in Columbia.

Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) guards producers against a drop in livestock prices. Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) insurance protects producers from losses of gross margin, from either falling livestock prices or rising feed costs.

“It is a price protection. It has nothing to do with yield,” Massey says. “When you talk about crop insurance, we frequently assume that it is insuring yield. But when you go with livestock insurance you are really buying price protection on your livestock.”

Massey says these types of insurance would not pay producers for a disease outbreak or high death rate. Rather, they lock in a price for the livestock and, in the case of LGM, a price for the feed.

With feed prices highly variable right now, LGM might be a good way for producers to reduce that variability, Massey says.

Producers also can lock in livestock prices through the futures market, but that requires a contract for a large number of animals. One advantage of LGM and LRP is they offer price protection similar to what producers would get from futures

contracts, but for any number of animals they want.

Another advantage of these programs, Massey says, is that they are federally subsidized, which makes them less expensive than other forms of insurance.

Massey notes that livestock insurance is based on the national market price, not the actual price producers receive.

“That is really critical to understand,” he explains. “Your price may be above or below what the national market was on the Chicago Board of Trade, but your cost of production or revenue is not what the insurance policy is going to use. They will calculate with the national market price from the Chicago Board of Trade reports.”

For more information on livestock insurance, visit www.rma.usda.gov/livestock online.

Women in agriculture meet

The first Pearls of Production conference was held this fall at the University of Missouri in Columbia on Nov. 8-9.

Marcia Shannon, MU Extension swine specialist, says the conference helped build skills and confidence for women.

Most importantly, the conference focuses on the basics of agriculture. In breakout sessions, topics ranged from determining cause of death of a baby pig to estimating body condition score of a cow to be bred to learning pasture grasses.

In opening remarks to 50 participants, Shannon stated the second goal of the event was to communicate about livestock farming.

“We need more leaders and want you to be more involved in production agriculture,” she explained.

In introducing herself, Sheri Graham, a farmer from Libertyville, says, “I’ve been working on [the family] farm while holding an off-farm job in health care. I do what’s needed, such as giving vaccinations. But I want to learn more on why and how.”

The first day of the program covered three levels, starting with big

issues facing livestock agriculture followed by sessions on communications. Specifics in technology, marketing and animal health followed.

All topics were covered by women leaders from farms, businesses and universities.

Pearls of Production grew out of a long-ago series of “feminine farrowing schools.” Farm wives on hog farms taught other farm women the basics of caring for baby pigs. That included castrations of boar pigs and clipping needle teeth. Pig care skills started a long trend of improved production practices that saved more piglets per litter.

The second day at Pearls, the women broke into separate groups to pursue practices in beef, swine, sheep and goats, and forages.

Classes were taught at Bradford, the Swine Farm and the Beef Research and Teaching Farm. All are part of the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Each of the workshops, labeled “down and dirty,” gave hands-on experience. On the swine track, that included basics from the farrowing schools.

Women in work boots and rubber gloves became involved. At the start of one dissection, a veterinarian began, “I’ve seen big men turn away from this.” None of the women backed away.

Work sessions were led by MU Extension regional livestock specialists, with help on small ruminants from Lincoln University in Jefferson City.

Shannon says Pearls grew out a meeting of women livestock specialists at the MU Extension annual conference last year. The idea came from a series of beef calving workshops in central Missouri. Those turned into standing-room-only events.

The event was well received, and the only criticism heard as the women left was, “You didn’t tell enough people about this.” If interested in attending a future session, contact Shannon at (573) 882-7859.

2014 Winter Events

MISSOURI AG CALENDAR

Below are some of the popular events coming up in early 2014. Make sure to also attend your district YF/YFW meeting. Dates are listed earlier in the newsletter.

January - February

District YF/YFW Meetings

Held throughout the state

January 23-25

Heart of America Dairy Expo

Ramada Oasis Hotel and

Convention Center

(formerly Missouri Dairy Forum)

Springfield, MO

February 7-9

Missouri Young Farmers/

Young Farm Wives State Convention

Columbia

See details throughout this newsletter

February 8

Missouri Nut Growers Association

Annual Meeting

Community Center, Nevada

Visit www.missourinutgrowers.org

February 21-23

Western Farm Show

Kansas City, Mo

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Western Farm Show focuses on giving

A heavy snowstorm prevented members of the Lone Jack, Mo., FFA Chapter from attending last year's Western Farm Show held in Kansas City. But that didn't stop the determined students at Lone Jack C-6 High School from collecting 230 items to donate to the show's annual Missouri-Kansas "Border War" food drive.

An estimated 3,000 FFA students from throughout Missouri and Kansas were expected to participate in the annual food drive as part of FFA Day on Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, the first day of the show. However, no chapters were able to make it because of a major winter storm that impacted both states with heavy snow and sleet.

The Lone Jack chapter sponsored a school-wide food drive planned for the entire week leading up to the show, coinciding with National FFA Week, with students bringing donated items to school. "I knew we would get snowed out, so I tried to encourage the students to bring their items earlier in the week instead of later," explained Dusty Davidson, chapter advisor and agricultural instructor at the school.

With school closed Monday, Feb. 18, for Presidents Day, that left only Tuesday and Wednesday to complete the food drive before the massive storm hit on Thursday, Feb. 21, dropping up to a foot of snow throughout the region and canceling classes for the rest of the week. Davidson then drove to the show on Sunday, Feb. 24, to personally deliver the collected items.

Officials of the Western Farm Show visited the school on Wednesday, April 17, to present the students with the \$500 prize awarded each year to the FFA chapter that donates the most items – in this case, the only chapter that did so. Davidson said the prize will be used to support the chapter's trap shooting program. Chapter members are pictured about with Western Farm Show officials.

"We have a really good group of members who enjoy doing activities like this," says Davidson, noting that the students also conduct a Christmas food drive and have also adopted a local highway for litter collection. "They're always looking for community service programs to support."

This year's annual Western Farm Show is scheduled for Feb. 21-23, 2014, in Kansas City. The food drive continues, with FFA Day on Friday, Feb. 21. As usual, Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives members will host a booth. For more details, visit www.westernfarmshow.com online.

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