

*John Sponaugle: A good fit*

John Sponaugle is humble in his role, but often looked to by Young Farmer members for his knowledge and years of expertise as an ag instructor. He says that would be around 40 years of experience now. Throughout that time he's been connected to Missouri Young Farmers, often as a noted speaker, educator or organizer of events.



*Photo: John Sponaugle poses with granddaughter Autumn on a recent trip to Alabama.*

Sponaugle is an adult ag instructor at Boonslick Technical Education Center in Boonville. He lives with his wife, Gail, whom he married around the time he began teaching agriculture. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Sponaugle remembers when he first headed down his career path. "All entering freshman in the ag school at Mizzou during the fall of 1970 were required to meet with a counselor (Ray McClure) employed by the school to take an aptitude test, he explains. "When meeting with Ray to discuss my results, he seemed a bit puzzled as he told me the top three vocations for me were lawyer, preacher or social worker." He adds now in retrospect: "Seems to be a good fit for an ag teacher when one really thinks about it."

When asked why he's kept with teaching for four decades, he says, "I enjoy it. Maybe I've had some success in it." He later added, "The culture of rural America is really important. Adult ag teachers can have some role in keeping that strong in their communities. In one way you do that is to help people who are entrepreneurs, self-employed, critical thinkers, who seem to have common sense, then it's important. We play a small role in helping nurture that."

Meet or catch up with Mr. Sponaugle yourself when he and the Boonslick Young Farmers host the 2016 MYF/YFW Summer Tour scheduled for July 28-30. Watch for more details online and in the spring newsletter.

**Thogmartins balance farming with family**

Jennifer and Lucas Thogmartin are members of the East Newton Young Farmers. They are active at the local, state and even national level. "We really enjoy attending summer tours and have been to several National Institutes," says Jennifer.

Recently, their chapter held a barbecue dinner and labor action in conjunction with the local FFA chapter to raise funds for a scholarship program.

The Thogmartins raise corn, soybeans and wheat near Neosho. They also run a commercial cow-calf operation and background their calves. In extra time, they manage to run a spraying business. Jennifer is an FFA Advisor and Agriculture Teacher at Neosho. They have one son, Mack, who is age 4.

When asked how they manage all of this, Jennifer responds: "Keeping it all balanced is a family affair. We farm along with Lucas' parents, who live nearby and help out whenever needed. They love being involved with Mack and help us balance family and farming, since Lucas gets busy spraying and planting the same time as I get busy with contest season for FFA. We would not be able to do it all without the help of family."

They are also strong leaders in MYF/YFW. "The most important part of Young Farmers is the ability to network with others," says Jennifer. "We all have bad days and know that this lifestyle can be very challenging. It's refreshing to know that there are others out there across the state that are facing the same challenges, or have overcome those challenges, and we can learn from each other's experiences."

She adds that there's an important role members play. "It's also important now, more than ever, to have a united front to promote our industry to others, and Young Farmers is one of those ways that we can come together to promote our great industry and the lifestyle we love."

**Join the toy and photo fun**

The toy show and photo competition are on for the 2016 convention! For entering instructions, categories, and judging criteria, visit [MoYoungFarmers.org](http://MoYoungFarmers.org) online.

Photo entries must be received by Feb. 5.

**Register for 2016 Convention**

See details of the 2016 MYF/YFW State Convention, to be held on Feb. 5-6, in this newsletter. Most events will be held on Saturday, with a mini-tour on Friday after check-in.

See details and registration on pages 4 and 5.



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# The President's Pen

Greetings from Central Missouri. As I write this article I cannot believe it has been nearly a year already and this will be the last article I write as President.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Executive Committee who have served this year with me. I know it has been an honor to serve as your President as this organization has meant a lot to me.

I enjoyed the opportunities to speak at several meetings to represent Young Farmers.

We are planning on MYF/YFW State Convention at this time. I think it will be a very informative one. We will have a mini tour on Friday and have workshops on Saturday. We hope to see you Feb. 5 & 6, 2016 in Columbia at the Marriott.

Hope your harvest was a bountiful one.

Thank-you again for letting me serve as your President this year.

*Robert Chrisman*  
MYF/MYFW President



## Connect with Young Farmers Online

Did you know you can keep in touch with Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives online? The group has a Facebook page where you can get updates and post your own news and questions, as well as a website where you can see previous newsletters including the special digital-only fall editions.

To see the page, go to the Facebook search box and type in

“Missouri Young Farmers” and it will appear. To see the website, visit [MoYoungFarmers.org](http://MoYoungFarmers.org) online.



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# 2016 Convention features education, discussions, and more



The 2016 MYF/YFW State Convention will feature all of the traditional events such as the toy show, speech contest, and special member reunions. As always, a large focus remains on education.

Here are a few highlights of educational workshops at the 2016 state convention. More details will be available on the website as the convention grows nearer. Visit [www.moyoungfarmers.org](http://www.moyoungfarmers.org) for more details. You can also join the Facebook page by searching “Missouri Young Farmers” in the Facebook site or app and liking our page.

## Recruiting and Retention of YF Members

In the age of Google with an endless amount of information at your fingertips, and with tons of other groups and activities pulling people away, it seems like we all have the same issue of gaining new members and keeping the old ones interested. Come join young and old members with experience ranging from local to the national level for a round table discussion on how they deal with this issue.

## Equipment Prep for Spring Planting

Kenny Fairchild a Case IH mechanic from Ennis Implement and Jed Edwards and Eddy Perk John Deere mechanics from Sydenstricker Implement will walk you through everything you need to be doing right now to get your tractors, planters and tillage equipment ready for spring planting.

## First aid

Finally the answer to that age old question of what's better - electrical tape or duct tape - to field dress that cut with until it rains and you can get to the emergency room. Join Sherra Deimeke, a first responder and volunteer fire fighter, as she goes over how to handle a variety of injuries you might come across at home or on the farm.

## Corn Growers Policy Update

Join us for an in-depth discussion into the world of corn, ethanol and the work of Missouri with Matt Amick of the Missouri Corn Growers.

We'll be discussing current policy developments and look at where we are putting our efforts both near and long term to build corn demand here and abroad.

Matt Amick is the Director of Grower Services with the Missouri Corn Growers Association and Missouri Corn Merchandising Council. In this role, Matt works to build awareness and grassroots support for Missouri Corn's programs and policy priorities. Previously, Matt worked in Washington D.C. for the U.S. Grains Council, which works to build export markets for corn, barley and sorghum internationally. Matt is a graduate of Truman State University and grew up in Jefferson City on a cow/calf operation.

## You have got to be kidding!

Goat production has a lot of potential in Missouri. Have you ever wanted to start a goat herd? Have you started and need some advice? This workshop will cover the basics of meat goat production which will be of use to those in and out of the goat business.

Our goat production presenter, Joanie-Baker, lives with her family on a farm north of Memphis. They have a grain and livestock operation, including corn, beans, hay, beef, and meat goats. "Agriculture runs deep in our blood, as both my husband and I were raised on farms in rural Scotland County," says Baker. She works part-time as the Knox County Adult Agricultural Educator and just completed her 15th year of teaching. She has been in the goat business since 2005. She started with a commercial herd of Boer goats, and her children, nieces and nephews started their 4-H careers have added registered stock to show. She keeps 50 head of does on

the farm, plus "too many bucks," she explains. She's also a member of the American Boer Goat Association, a goat superintendent at the county fair, and a 4-H goat project leader for the county. "Feel free to talk goats with me anytime," she says ... "always a favorite subject for me to share and learn more about."

## Grain Marketing Outlook

This workshop will look primarily at what to expect from the coming year in the grain markets. Patrick Westhoff, director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), will share his perspective and expertise to help you think about your marketing plan for 2016 and beyond.

Westhoff is a professor in the MU Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He has degrees from the University of Iowa and the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University. He served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala, and was an economist with the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry before joining MU in 1996.

## Livestock, Forage, and Dairy Insurance

Row crop operations are not the only ones who can benefit from insurance, according to workshop presenter Joshlin Yoder, a farmer who lives near Leonard. There are insurance tools that might help you on your operation. Come learn about LRP (Livestock Risk Protection) for marketing animals, PRF (Pasture, Rangeland, Forage) for insurance protection on perennial forages used for grazing or hay, and MPP-D (Dairy Margin Protection Program).

Yoder lives with his wife and 4 children and raises corn and soybeans as well as working in the family beef backgrounding operation. He also works together with his dad and brother in their row crop operations and has been an insurance agent for three years with Diversified Insurance Services. He is one of the top agents in Missouri for Livestock Risk Protection and Pasture.

*Join us to learn about these areas and more. Other topics in the works include wreath making and transportation issues. Register as soon as possible with the form on page 5.*

*We'll see you there!*

## 2016 MYF/YFW Convention Registration and Planning

Join us at the 2016 Missouri Young Farmer/ Young Farm Wives Convention on Feb. 5-6 in Columbia. In addition to the traditional workshops, a half-day tour will be held on Friday afternoon, with a social at the hotel on Friday night. Look for details in this newsletter about tours and workshops.

### Friday

On Friday, members will meet on campus for the mini-tour - time to be announced.

### Saturday

Saturday registration will be available from 7:30 am to 6 pm in the Conference Center Foyer. There will be a continental breakfast available. As in past years, Saturday events will include the photo contest and toy show, the FFA speech contest finals, the delegate meeting, a social meet up and several special seminars and workshops. Workshop details are described throughout this newsletter.

The social starts at 6:00 pm and Saturday banquet begins at 7 pm. At the banquet, the state winning FFA speaker will present their speech and we will honor members and retiring officers. The convention will conclude at the end of the awards banquet.

Tour plans are being finalized to visit some departments on the University of Missouri campus. We will post information on the DESE Ag Ed/YF site at <http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/career-education/agricultural-education/yfyfw/conferences> and the Missouri Young Farmer website at: <http://www.moyoungfarmers.org/state-convention.html>

Persons also interested in receiving tour information can include their email address on the convention registration form below and we will send details of the tour and where to meet on campus.

## Hotel Reservations

### *Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia*

Reserve your hotel by January 15th for special rates. The room block will be released after that time and a room may not be available.

The rate is \$92 for any size room.

Below are three ways to register:

1. Register online at [www.marriott.com/coucy](http://www.marriott.com/coucy)  
In the space for the group code, enter one of the following

\*For a king with sofa sleeper, type: **FMRFMRA**

\*For a double queen, type: **FMRFMRB**

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 you requested is sold out, or it is after the cutoff date.

### 2016 MYF/YFW CONVENTION REGISTRATION

February 5-6, 2016 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

Friday Night Social?      Yes   No

Saturday Workshops?      Yes   No

Are you a delegate?      Yes   No

Are you a past State officer?      Yes   No

#### Entire Convention Registration Paid by Jan 25:

Adults - \$40 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Sat. evening banquet only: \$20 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat. evening child's plate: \$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### On Site Registration (after Jan 25):

Adults - \$55 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Find your district meeting

## Northwest

Saturday, January 9th at 6:30 pm

Agricultural Education Bldg, Litton Campus, Chillicothe, MO

For more information contact:

Derek Lowrey, District President, Phone: 660-654-1643

Sarah Lowrey, District President, Phone: 660-425-2790

## Northeast

Saturday, January 9th at 6:00 pm

Ralls Co. R-II High School, Center, MO

Please RSVP by Jan 4th to Joe Dameron,

Mark Twain Advisor – 573-470-4650

For more information contact:

Jordan Yoder, District President, Phone: 660-739-4403

Ross Becker, District President, Phone: 573-721-0735

## Southwest

Saturday, January 9th at 6:30 pm

Angus Branch Steakhouse, Monett, MO

For more information contact:

Lucas or Jennifer Thogmartin, District Presidents

Phone: 417-437-5823

## Central

Monday, January 11th at 6:30 pm

Santa Fe High School, Alma, MO

For more information contact:

Jody Bergman, District President, Phone: 660-580-0128

Robert Chrisman, District President, Phone: 660-542-3661

## Southeast

Saturday, January 23rd at 6:30 pm

Dexter BBQ in Cape Girardeau, MO

For more information, contact:

Jacob Bachmann, District President – Phone – 573-547-5131

Tony Miesner, District President – Phone – 573-824-5897

## South Central

Wednesday, January 27th at 6:30 pm

Fatima High School, Westphalia, MO

For more information contact:

John Juergensmeyer, Advisor

Phone: 573-455-2550

## Re-blooming poinsettia?

Every year Americans buy millions of poinsettias. But what do you do with all those plants after the holidays? Many people just throw them away, but there's always those who wonder if they can be re-bloomed for next year.

"It is quite a bit of work. However, it is a real botanical or horticultural challenge, and I would encourage everyone to accept the challenge at least one time," says David Trinklein, horticulture specialist for University of Missouri Extension.

Be aware that this is a yearlong, labor-intensive process. "After Christmas, keep the poinsettia well-watered and fertilized in a brightly lit window," Trinklein explains. "Then when the weather warms to the point that a tropical plant can safely be put outside, place it in a sunny area and keep it well-watered and fed all summer long."

In September the important work begins, Trinklein says. Around Labor Day, prune back the poinsettia severely. Since it's grown all summer, it could be 20-30 inches tall. Pruning will make the plant shorter and activate axillary buds, which will make it bushier and more attractive.

Once the plant responds to pruning, it's ready to be coaxed into its reproductive state. Poinsettia belongs to a class of plants known as short-day plants. They respond reproductively to the short days and long nights of fall. "For the Midwest the magic day is Sept. 25. That's the date that triggers poinsettia to shift from what was a vegetative to a reproductive mode," Trinklein says.

To subject the plant to the short days and long nights it would experience in nature, put it into a completely dark closet or room at sunset. Then take it out again at sunrise the following morning. This must be done day after day after day for six to eight weeks, or until color begins to appear.

Poinsettias must have these long, uninterrupted periods of total darkness. This is where the diligence comes in. If you miss the schedule just one day or alter the conditions even slightly, the plant will "think" it's summer and the re-blooming process will be delayed, Trinklein said.

Don't make the mistake of leaving it in total darkness for several weeks. After weeks of hard work, one glorious day the bracts—the colorful, modified leaves that we desire—will begin to change color. Once the color appears the into-the-closet, out-of-the-closet routine can stop.

More information about poinsettia care is available in the MU Extension guide "Care of Flowering Potted Plants" (G6511) at <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6511#Poinsettia>.

## Visit the Annual Western Farm Show in Kansas City

Whether it's shiny new equipment, livestock demonstrations or the roar of a tractor pull, the 2016 Western Farm Show will once again offer a wide array of products and entertaining attractions for farming and ranching families from throughout the Midwest.

The popular event returns Feb. 26-28 to the American Royal Complex in Kansas City, Mo. Now in its 55th year, the show will feature over 500 exhibitors and more than 400,000 square feet of floor space, all under one roof. Exhibited will be the latest farm and ranch equipment, farm structures, crop production products, Ag services and much more among aisles and aisles of displays.

"The Western Farm Show not only introduces farmers and ranchers to our industry's newest products and technologies, but also provides other attractions that are both fun and informative," said Ken Dean, show manager. "We're very proud to continue that tradition in 2016 as we mark the show's 55th consecutive year."

Highlights of the 2016 Western Farm Show will include:

\*The Championship Tractor Pull, with Doug Roberts and the Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pulling Association.

\*The Taste of Home Cooking School one-hour cooking class at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Wagstaff Theater. Sponsored by American Family Insurance, it is an entertaining, step-by-step audience participation program, presented by professionally trained culinary specialists demonstrating recipes, cooking techniques, practical kitchen tips and simple plating ideas.

\*The Low-Stress Livestock Handling Demonstration, sponsored by MFA Incorporated, at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Scott Pavilion adjacent to the American Royal Complex. The demonstrations, led by Ron Gill, Ph.D., Texas AgriLife Extension Specialist, focus on improving the well-being of beef and dairy cattle, as well as their handlers, through humane animal care.

\*The Health & Safety Roundup, featuring interactive and educational health and safety exhibits, including free blood pressure and hearing tests, vision screening, including glaucoma, tetanus shots and, for a nominal fee, cholesterol screening. This exhibit will once again be coordinated by the Missouri Farm Bureau.

\*FFA Day, on Friday, Feb. 26, when an expected 3,000 FFA students from Missouri and Kansas will participate in the annual Food Drive.

\*The Family Living Center, a special area of the show offering clothing, crafts, food, health and home décor products.

The Western Farm Show is owned and managed by the Western Equipment Dealers Association, formerly the Southwestern Association. Show hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Adult admission is \$8 and free for children 12 and under. All attractions are free to show attendees, except for the Championship Tractor Pull.

For more information, visit [www.WesternFarmShow.com](http://www.WesternFarmShow.com), [www.facebook.com/WesternFarmShow](http://www.facebook.com/WesternFarmShow) and follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/WesternFarmShow](http://www.twitter.com/WesternFarmShow).



Photo: There were 25 Missourians in attendance at the NY- FEA Institute in Charleston, SC, on December 9-12, 2015.



### Winter Missouri Ag Events

**Jan. 8-10: Missouri Cattlemen's Convention**

**Jan. 21-23: Heart of America Dairy Expo, Springfield**

**Feb. 5-6: MYF/YFW State Convention, Columbia**

**Feb. 9: Missouri Pork Expo, Columbia**

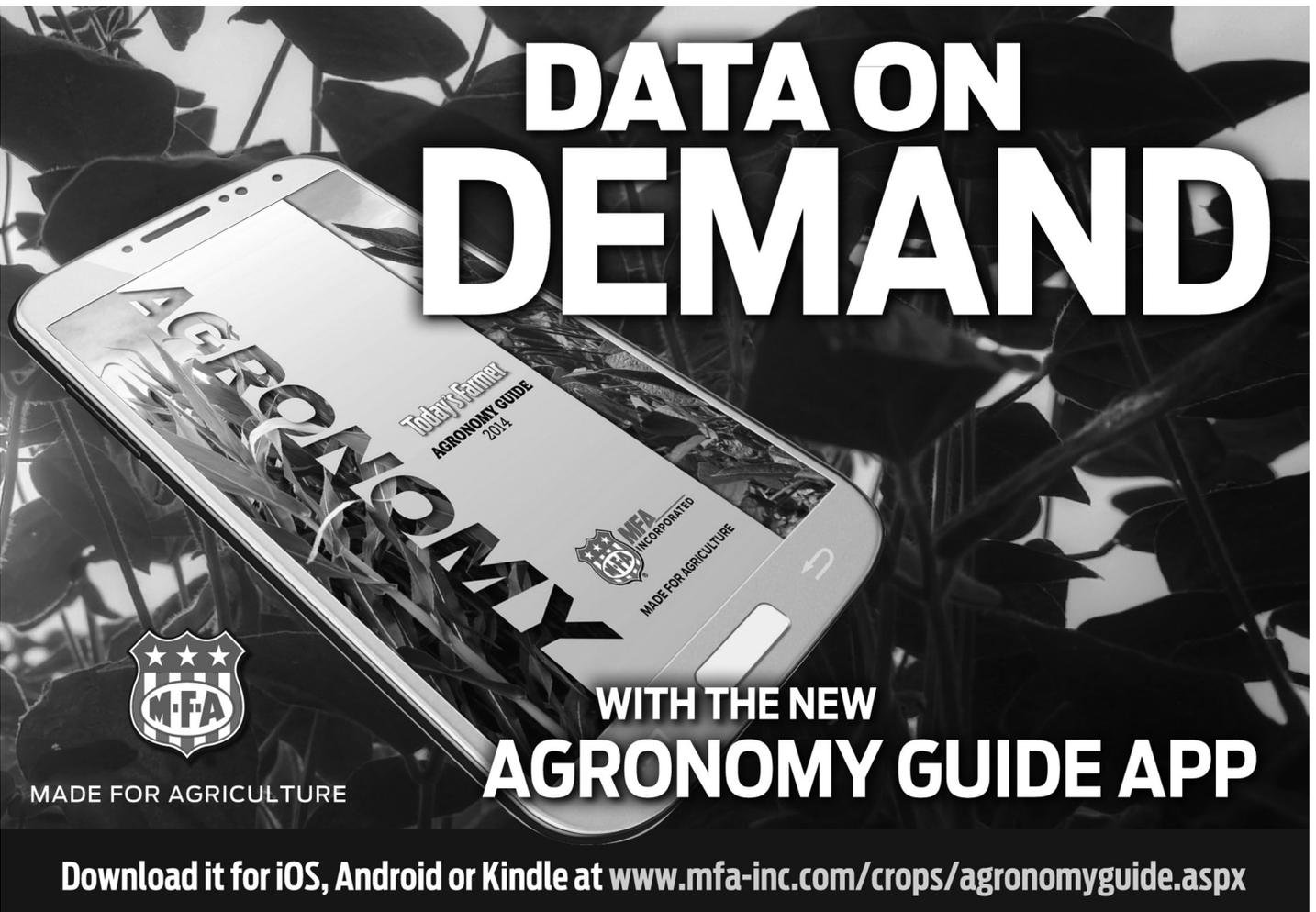
**Feb. 26-28: Western Farm Show, Kansas City**

*\*Calendar modified from Missouri Department of Agriculture Calendar*

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