Agriculture, Bees & Consumer Connection - The ABCs of Sweet Cheeks Honey

By Suzanna Vieux, MFBP Communications Intern

Mark and Sara Hewitt operate their beef, crop and honey farm with the help of their two young children in Southeast Minnesota. Maplewood Farms and Sweet Cheeks Honey are both growing and changing every year as the couple improves their methods and capabilities. The goals of their farm are to create a quality product while engaging with consumers through direct marketing in a way that facilitates conversations and transparency about agriculture. Their modern take on old school values paves the way for those who want to connect consumers back to the farm.

Bees

The land that the Hewitts' farm is on has been a part of

HEWITT TO PAGE 3

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Sara’s family for over 100 years, but Sweet Cheeks honey was not founded until 2014. They started the honey business to bring consumers closer to farmers and support the land that they care for by adding pollinators. Mark and Sara have taken beekeeping courses through the University of Minnesota Extension, attended seminars and met with industry experts to get their hives up and running. Now, beekeeping is a family affair and even Harper, their 8-year-old daughter, has her own bee suit.

Their plans for growth include moving their extraction operation into a honey shack to keep the house a little less sticky, even with two children around. A good producing hive will yield about 100 pounds of honey each year. This harvest gets turned into honey sticks, a variety of bottle sizes, custom orders and rendered wax that Sweet Cheeks sells and ships. Social media has been a key tool in their honey operation to engage consumers. “Corn and soybeans are only so interesting, whereas beekeeping breeds a lot of questions, and we try to be really honest about it on social media,” said Sara. Hosting Instagram live videos and Q&As are just a few of the ways they share the victories and the struggles of agriculture with a follower. A hive adoption program has also brought in customers and interest from across the country.

**Communications**

While both are working full-time off the farm, Mark and Sara still find time to run the farm, be leaders in farm bureau and be agricultural communicators. They want their farm to be a safe place to ask questions about agriculture.

“We use social media to show that there is a face behind those products that people are buying,” explains Sarah. By hand delivering all the beef that they produce consumers get to know more about their food. “Being able to have that one-on-one conversation and see the person that is producing the product for you is cool. When we sell our beef, they get recipes with it and we post honey recipes to show new ways to incorporate it into meals,” elaborates Sara.

The Hewitts recognize that now is the time to share the story of agriculture more than ever before. “Communication has changed how fast information is relayed and people have access to all sorts of information whether it is right or wrong, so we need to make sure we are putting out the right information about agriculture,” said Sarah. The transparency and connections that Mark and Sara are fostering cater to the consumer’s desire to know more about where their food comes from. Their desire to connect food back to the practices of agriculture bodes well for the future of agriculture.

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**Minnesota Farm Bureau Announces YF&R Discussion Meet Semi-finalists**

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Committee held the preliminary rounds of the Discussion Meet at the MFBF LEAP Conference at the Sheraton Sioux Falls & Convention Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

Contestants were judged on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to exchange ideas and information in a setting aimed at cooperative problem-solving. The two topics discussed by contestants were:

- How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting YF&R members and increasing participation in YF&R programs?
- Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries. What can we, as young farmers and ranchers, do to create a more preventative, rather than a reactive, approach to farm safety in our communities?

Eight semi-finalists were selected and will compete in the final two rounds of competition at the MFBF 103rd Annual Meeting in November. The eight semi-finalists are Amanda Cook, Amber Willis, Brady Wulf, Catie Schmidt, David Ehlers, Hart Hauge, Jeff Pagel, and Michaella Ehlers.

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**Ag Education Center**

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Working Together Works

President’s Voice
KEVIN PAAP • MFBF PRESIDENT

The lifeblood of any organization are the members. Minnesota Farm Bureau members show up, Minnesota Farm Bureau members stand up and Minnesota Farm Bureau members speak up. Members are how we get things done. But as in any organization, our grassroots members cannot do it alone, the leadership of our state board members play a very important role in the success of Minnesota Farm Bureau.

In my tenure on the MFBF Board of Directors, I have had the opportunity to work with Al Christopherson, Paul Alanson, Alibi Walsh, Andy Lorenz, Bennett Osmonson, Bill Kaschmitter, Bob Roeleofs, Bob Shepard, Brad Louwagie, Brian Hicks, Brian Molitor, Carolyn Olson, Carolyn Van Loh, Charity Void, Charles Erickson, Chris Radatz, Connie Gunderson, Cynthia Christensen, Dan Glessing, Darwin Roberts, Dave Johnson, David Van Loh, Debra Durheim, Didi Edwards, Donald Schmitz, Donavon Strobmberg, Doug Frazeau, Duane Alberts, Frank Miron, Garfield Eckberg, Glen Groth, Grant Moorse, Greg Bartz, Jeff Eckhoff, Jeff Pagel, Jim Werner, Joan Lee, John Brainard, John Gilbertson, Karin Schaefer, Keith Allen, Kelly Hanson, Kelly Schmidt, Ken Oehlke, Kristy Miron, Laray Larson, Larry Michaeletz, Layne Ebling, Mark Maiers, Mark Mattson, Mike Gunderson, Mike Rouillard, Miles Kuschel, Nada Carter, Nancy Petschel, Nathan Collins, Nathan Nelson, Nathan Roth, Pam Ulhenkamp, Paul Lanoue, Paul Stark, Paul Torkelson, Perry Asness, Pete Bakken, Pete Henslin, Rachel Connell, Roger Kegler, Ron Pelag, Shayne Isane, Stacy Hildebrandt, TaLana Mathiowitz, Terisa Vig, Tony Seykora, Tyler Nelson, Vicky Singlestad and Yvonne Erickson. I would like to publically thank each and every one of them for their commitment and service to Minnesota Farm Bureau and to me as your elected leader.

But it is not just our great Minnesota Farm Bureau state board members that make us successful, a sincere thank you to all the board members from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the other forty-nine states and Puerto Rico for their commitment and service!

Farm Bureau members know that working together works. We know that working with other organizations and our elected and appointed leaders at the local, state and national levels is critical to agriculture’s success. A sincere thank you to all the board members from the many other groups I have worked with at your elected leader of Minnesota Farm Bureau.

Thank you to the Farm Bureau members and leaders that are working together at the local, state and national level to be an advocate for agriculture.

Investing in Rural Broadband, an Investment in the Future

The Zipline
ZZIPPY DUVALL • AFBP PRESIDENT

If you are not connected to the internet. This is a frustrating message for anyone to see, and sadly, it’s one that many of us in rural America have grown accustomed to. A study by Broadband Now found that 42 million Americans, mostly in rural areas, don’t have broadband internet access. As schools, businesses and government services continue to move online, broadband access isn’t just a luxury, it’s a necessity.

I had always known the internet at my farm in Georgia was a bit slow. But when the pandemic started and I had to temporarily do my Farm Bureau work from home, I realized just how unreliable it was. I’ve had to try out different spots in my house to see if I can get a good signal. When I find one, it might not be good for long, or the internet speed is too slow. I’ve had to go to nearby county Farm Bureau offices when participating in Zoom meetings with government officials so I knew I would have reliable internet throughout the meeting.

As technology on the farm continues to advance, a fast and reliable internet connection is more important than ever.

Millions of Americans in rural communities have faced the same hurdles—struggles. When the pandemic forced schools to close and people to work from home, the digital divide grew even larger. Some people I’ve heard from had to drive over 30 miles to find a parking lot where they could access the internet for school or a Zoom meeting. Earlier this year, the American Farm Bureau joined Land O’ Lakes and 18 other organizations to form the American Connection Corps. This project aims to empower young people to move to rural areas and lead projects to expand broadband access. We can’t expect people to move to rural areas if they can’t be connected to their loved ones, their schools or their jobs through the internet.

Last year, the Kentucky Farm Bureau started providing free WiFi at almost 200 locations throughout the state to help get communities online. While our Farm Bureau family is proud to care for one another, this shouldn’t have to happen.

In 2019, the Texas legislature passed a bill to create the Broadband Development Council. One of the council members was Texas Farm Bureau member and cattle rancher Lindsey Lee. Like many rural Americans, she has experienced unreliable internet firsthand. When the pandemic closed the real estate office, she works at off the farm, Lindsey struggled to get her work done because she couldn’t connect to the internet. She told the Texas Farm Bureau, “We were all trying to work from home, but I spent more time in the office than my cowworkers because my internet access is so terrible.”

Arizona Farm Bureau member Reed Flake shared that as his family all came home during the pandemic, they had to coordinate who had to be on line and when. The bandwidth available at their home wasn’t large enough for all the family members to be doing schoolwork and attending meetings and college classes at the same time. Not far from Reed, Arizona Farm Bureau member Hayley Andrus said her veterinary practice pays a lot for satellite internet access. Even that is slow, and something as common as a strong wind can knock out service. That makes updating health papers and getting access to the latest science in veterinary medicine difficult or even impossible.

As technology on the farm continues to advance, a
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Anoka County Farm Bureau Recognizes Past and Current Farm Families

By Dennis Sabel, Membership and Marketing Specialist – East Central

For nearly 30 years, the University of Minnesota Extension has been sponsoring the recognition of farm families across the state for their contributions to agriculture and local communities. Farm Family of the Year recipients are formally recognized each year at Farmfest. Last year, when Farmfest and the recognition could not take place as usual, Anoka County Farm Bureau came up with their own way to award the deserving farm family.

The Anoka County Farm Bureau Board produced and purchased a Farm Family of the Year sign for the Pearson Family, the 2020 Farm Family of the Year, in place of the canceled events. The custom-made sign was presented to Al and Betty Pearson at their farm by the Anoka County Farm Bureau Board along with the Extension Committee last September. The sign was designed using their farm logo, farm name and the Anoka County Farm Bureau and Minnesota Extension logos. Today, the sign is prominently displayed in the Pearson barn for all the farm visitors to see.

The barn, where the sign is displayed, is transformed every fall into a delightful boutique of many of the things grown on the farm. The Pearson Family Farm hosts many family fun farm activities. Over 50 varieties of pumpkins, gourds and squash, corn stalks, broom corn, their special home-grown popcorn, fall décor and more, are for sale. The Pearson family is deeply committed to helping others understand farm life and to understand where and how food is produced.

Anoka County Farm Bureau leaders, as well as board, decided to reach out to previous Farm Family of the Year recipients and ask if they wanted a sign. The farm families were able to select from three sizes (including 18 x 24, 24 x 36 or 30 x 40) from a local Anoka printer. The families included farm logos, farm photo, the family name and logos for the Anoka County Farm Bureau and Minnesota Extension. This year the farm family signs were presented at the 2021 Anoka County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Farm Bureau Supports The Banquet Sioux Falls

Over 200 Farm Bureau members from across the state attended the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) LEAP Conference and South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDBF) LEAP Conference led by the MFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee and MFBF Promotion & Education (P&E) Committee. This was held July 16-17 at the Sheraton Sioux Falls & Convention Center in Sioux Falls, SD. During the conference, attendees conducted a service project, Project S.O.S. for the Banquet of Sioux Falls. A variety of school supplies were donated by attendees to support their efforts. In addition, through the Minnesota Farm Bureau (MFB) Foundation, those attending raised over $1,600 for the Banquet. “We are always proud to support a nonprofit in the communities we hold our LEAP Conferences,” said Ruth Meirick, MFB Foundation director. “Our members value giving back and love doing it together. Supporting those who may need help during difficult or challenging times is rewarding for them.”
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Making the Foundation Shine

Over the past few months, the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation has been very busy. A good kind of busy – in a really good way. Building a successful and sustaining foundation is not easy and it takes time, talent, and commitment on many levels to achieve success. We have held a golf tournament, a state fair campaign for educational exhibits, and just recently hosted the Pork Chop Stand at Farmfest. It took long dedicated hours, a plethora of great volunteers, participants, customers, donors, and committed staff. Each event was incredibly successful and continues to make the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation shine.

So, what makes a successful and growing nonprofit Foundation – well it isn’t just money. Let’s begin with relevancy. In a changing world are we providing and delivering programming that is relevant to our purpose. If we are focused on programs that are not relevant to our mission or a changing world than we are headed in the wrong direction and quite honestly will falter as a Foundation.

We must remain focused on our mission and we are constantly thinking of how our programs and activities work to further it. Our mission provides us our vision and reason for existence. Mission, value and purpose are key. Flexible and Adaptable – if there is one thing, we have learned over the past year it has been this. If a nonprofit is to be successful today, it needs to face change and unexpected risk and challenges. Organizations that are able to learn and adapt fast are the ones that continue to be successful in today’s environment.

As the Foundation Director, I can come up with all kinds of great programs and ideas that fall within our mission. But if I don’t have strong base of leadership (volunteers) who are willing to lead and share our story, help with our projects, or spend long hours working at events than I just have an idea. Within the MFB Foundation we strive to be able to mobilize and inspire staff, volunteers, and our donors. It is important that the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation creates meaningful ways to engage individuals and connect them to our mission and purpose.

We must have leadership that is willing to listen to their donors and volunteers. As a group we must be willing to identify, share, and apply results and lessons learned. We need to adapt and develop new or better programs that meet the evolving needs based on our experiences and results. We must always remember that connecting to a non-agriculture community through our work is our ultimate goal.

Foundation events need to be fun and enjoyable. While often times events are hard work and time-consuming, we want to also be able to walk away from them thinking “that was hard work but a whole lot of fun.” The Farm Bureau Pork Chop Stand at Farmfest is a perfect example. The days are long, hot, and extremely busy. At the end of the day, we want people smiling and willing to come back and be a part of the next year’s event.

It is important that we value our donors and remember that they are – more than a checking account – they are people and organizations with a cause. They are making an investment into a common purpose. And finally, investing into the relationships – whether a volunteer helping with a project or a donor who is willing to give to a cause, building relationships and nurturing them is incredibly valuable and incredibly rewarding.

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How to Avoid Falls on the Farm—9 Safety Precautions

The leading cause of injury on farms is from falling. Falls can happen in a number of different ways from working around animals, on a ladder or falling off machinery. Prevent farmer worker falls by reviewing these fall prevention tips.

**Seat Belts**
While operating farm vehicles wear a seatbelt when available. In case of an accident, you don’t want to be thrown out of the cab.

**Ladder Spotters**
When using a ladder is required, make sure there’s someone around to help spot you as you work. It’ll keep the ladder more stable for your safety and the spotter can help you work more efficiently.

**Railing**
Falls often occur when climbing in and out of machinery or in other work areas. Adding railings on tractors and other large equipment is a good way to prevent slips, trips and falls.

**Non-Slip Shoes**
It’s important to wear the right gear in any job, working on the farm is no different! Invest in a pair of non-slip shoes to prevent the likelihood of slips. Slipping is an easy and unexpected way to fall when you’re working.

**No-Slip Strips**
In addition to wearing non-slip shoes, it may also be a good idea to purchase no-slip strips and apply them on potentially slick stairs or walkways.

**Observe Surroundings**
Take note of anything you see that is a current or potential hazard, such as a loose railing, cluttered walkway or slick spot. Then, repair them quickly while keeping an eye on areas that could become a hazard.

**Declutter**
Make sure your work area is clear and easy to walk around with no obstacles in the way.

**Wear a Safety Harness**
Whether you’re climbing up a silo or working in a grain bin, you should always wear a harness and have someone with you. This way someone knows where you are and is able to assist you in your project.

**Review Safety Guidelines**
Routinely review safety precautions with family or employees that will be helping on the farm. It’s a good refresher to go over some of the guidelines like wearing a seatbelt, using railings and waiting for assistance if you need help.

Practicing farm safety is an important part of protecting yourself and others from harm. You can’t control everything that happens, which is why we recommend connecting with your Farm Bureau agent to make sure your insurance covers your specific operation.
Thank you to the dedicated service of staff members Josie Lonetti and Lori Wiegand

Josie Lonetti, Associate Director of Public Policy has accepted another position at AgriGrowth and her last day will be September 17, 2021. In Josie’s three years with Minnesota Farm Bureau, she has been instrumental in ensuring Minnesota Farm Bureau has a voice at the state capitol and helped strengthen our grassroots policy process.

Lori Wiegand, Accounting Associate’s last day was August 13, 2021. After almost 18 years with the Minnesota Farm Bureau, she looks forward to spending more time with her family. Lori’s dedication and willingness to go above and beyond for the Farm Bureau did not go unnoticed. She was responsible for membership and facilities management for the organization.

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Leaders Recognized at Minnesota Farm Bureau LEAP Conference

Nearly 200 Farm Bureau members from across the state attended the joint Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) and South Dakota Farm Bureau LEAP Conference, July 16-17 at the Sheraton Sioux Falls & Convention Center in Sioux Falls, SD. The state committees recognized leaders during this conference.

Promotion & Education Awards

The MFBF Promotion & Education (P&E) Committee presented two awards at this year’s conference.

“These awards are important to honor and recognize those in ag that are filling the gap between the consumer and the producer because today’s consumers lack first-hand connection to agriculture, the Promotion & Education committee feels that it is important to encourage others to follow the example set by these award winners of making their voices heard,” said Promotion & Education Committee chair DiDi Edwards.

The Golden Apple Award is presented to someone who has gone above and beyond to work with Agriculture in the Classroom programs and worked to educate others around the clock about farming and ranching. This year’s recipient was Wanda Patsche of Martin County who has been passionate about Ag in the Classroom programs and served with the Ag in the Classroom program as a Regional Curriculum Specialist.

“I am humbled and truly, truly honored. Let me just say, I did nothing extraordinary, I simply followed my passions, I know I have been blessed by the opportunities I have been given,” said Patsche.

The Advocate of the Year Award is presented to someone who advocates our profession of farming and ranching. This year’s recipient is Carolyn Olson, Carolyn speaks on behalf of agriculture when given the opportunity and is a committed member of Farm Bureau. She also serves on the Minnesota Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

“I am speechless and can’t put into words what this means. I was so surprised. I am so grateful and honored to be selected as the advocate of the year. It is such an incredible group of people that I get to hang out with and work with.”

Young Farmers & Ranchers Awards

The MFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee presented two awards at this year’s conference.

“These awards recognize those who go above and beyond to help continue to build our Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) leadership programs,” said Tyler Nelson, MFBF YF&R chair. “The Nelson’s and Ruth’s investment in YF&R’s strengthen not only the program, but also Farm Bureau as a whole.”

The Golden Pitchfork Award was presented to someone who is not afraid of hard work and heavy lifting. This year’s recipients of the Golden Pitchfork Award went to Ruth Linkenmeyer Meirick of Dodge County. Ruth is the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation Director, as well as a strong supporter of the YF&R Committee. She goes the extra mile, literally and figuratively, for YF&R’s programming and continues to be an advocate and dedicated volunteer.

“The Young Farmer & Rancher program is where I got my start with the Farm Bureau, and I could not be more honored to receive the Golden Pitchfork award for a program that I believe so much in. I’m grateful and honored that they chose me to receive the award this year,” said Linkenmeyer Meirick.

The Outstanding Friend of YF&R is presented to someone who has gone above the call of duty to assist and lead YF&R into the future. This year’s recipients were Nathan and Suzanna Nelson of Pine County. They have advocated and worked closely with young farmers.

There is no doubt they know the value of the program and promote it whenever possible.
Forums
AFBF President Zippy Duvall spoke Tuesday with a panel of other agricultural leaders on the topic of U.S. Ag Policy. MFBF President Kevin Paap joined the forum panel later in the show to discuss ways of designing the next Farm Bill. On Thursday, several Farm Bureau leaders, along with MFBF Director Carolyn Olson shared their stories of what it means to be a woman in agriculture.

Pork Chops
The Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation and the Lyon County Farm Bureau served pork chops on a stick throughout the duration of the show. This fundraiser raises funds for agriculture and safety education, agricultural leadership development and agricultural research programs.

FBFS Wellness and Safety Pavilion
The MFBF Foundation distributed prescription medicine deactivation kits to visitors. This is a great way to remind individuals to dispose of their unused prescription medicine and connect with resources on opioid misuse.

The medicine deactivation kits were provided through a grant to the MFBF Foundation received by the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) which is a partnership between the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the Addiction Policy Forum (APF) and other groups working to combat the opioid epidemic.

The pouches are meant to provide an easy and effective way for rural residents to deactivate and dispose of unused prescriptions at home before they can be diverted to abuse.

Barn Quilt Scavenger Hunt
The Agriculture Scavenger Hunt offered hands on education for children and their families as they searched the grounds for vendors displaying the quilts.

Thank you to all the farmers and Farm Bureau members who volunteered at the Pork Chop Booth. Farmfest could not be a success without your help. MFBF had more than 30 elected or appointed officials stop in to engage with Farm Bureau members about important policy topics from tax concerns to renewable fuels. Farmfest is a great opportunity meet policy leaders and share your story.

To learn more about Farmfest, visit ideagroup.com/farmfest or call 800-827-8007. Farmfest, located on the Griffian Estate in Redwood County, is the largest farm show in Minnesota and is produced by IDEAg Group LLC, a division of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"Each of the education sessions, demonstrations and exhibitor booths received engaged attendee interest and consistent foot traffic and folks were glad to be able to connect directly with each other in person."

—Melissa Sanders Carroll, Executive Director, Business Operations and Revenue Development for American Farm Bureau Federation and IDEAg.

Minnesota Farmfest Attendance Hits Three-Year High

IDEAg Group LLC, producers of Minnesota Farmfest, announces an increase in attendance at Farmfest 2021 over the past three years. The Farmfest show grounds saw more than 28,000 attendees throughout all three days of the 2021 event.

"Overall, we were so excited to see farmers and the regional rural community as a whole in attendance at Farmfest,” said Melissa Sanders Carroll, Executive Director, Business Operations and Revenue Development for American Farm Bureau Federation and IDEAg.

"Each of the education sessions, demonstrations and exhibitor booths received engaged attendee interest and consistent foot traffic and folks were glad..."
AgMags for K-6 Students and Teachers

As the 2022-22 school year begins, it's clear to see that schools and communities across Minnesota are working extremely hard to provide positive learning and growing environments for all students. The Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom program, housed within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, is supporting this work by offering the AgMag series FREE to kindergarten through sixth grade students and educators.

Since 1986, the AgMag series has been enhancing K-6 curricula by providing free, non-fiction resources to help increase agricultural literacy. These resources currently include two printed magazine issues (fall and spring) for all K-6 grade levels. The AgMag content can also be found digitally at mnmagmag.org, along with supporting interactive activities, videos and more. The AgMag content is based on Minnesota Academic Standards and National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes. Farmers and agriculturaliclists across Minnesota are featured in the AgMag stories to help students learn more about the agricultural world. As the AgMag celebrates its 35th year in 2021, it appeals to three major audiences: agricultural producers, teachers and students.

AgMag Appeals to Producers!
The AgMag series is a tool to increase agricultural literacy and help students understand from a young age why agriculture should be valued by all. Producers can talk with local K-6 teachers about the free AgMags and lesson plans available to them to help spread the word and increase the number of students growing their agricultural literacy. All agriculturalists can play an important role in helping kids learn about how food and goods get from their farms to homes and schools.

Teachers Love AgMag!
The AgMag series is a perfect accomplishment to traditional textbooks and resources, offering close-to-home examples about producers and agricultural business to help kids connect with agriculture. Teachers can use the AgMag in print or online at mnmagmag.org to add variety to their K-6 science and social studies curricula by accessing AgMag’s accompanying lesson plans and supporting resources. Here are a few comments from Minnesota teachers regarding the AgMag series:

“The AgMag has done a great job of providing engaging examples, activities and resources in all subject areas that explain the importance of agriculture to students of all ages.” Michele Melius, teacher at Waconia Middle School, Waconia, Minnesota.

“Teachers are extremely busy and strapped for time and resources. That’s why AgMag is a no-brainer – it’s free and easy to use. It fits right into our curriculum and gives my students a better understanding of where food comes from, as many of them aren’t exposed to farming on a regular basis.” Tiffany Kortbein, teacher at Green Vale Park Elementary, Northfield, Minnesota.

“The AgMag series helps students see the big picture.”

They begin to think about where things come from – and how that doesn’t just mean the grocery store. When they see a pizza, they know that the flour came from a grain, the sauce was made with tomatoes, the cheese was made from milk – they see beyond the finished product and begin to understand the “how” and think about the people who worked to get the food from the farm to table.” Dr. Steven Geis, Principal at North Trail Elementary, Farmington, Minnesota.

Kids Love AgMags!
AgMag is an exciting publication that students read and keep. It becomes their own and allows them to make notes and highlight throughout the magazine, feeling a sense of ownership and pride about what they’re learning. AgMag provides a unique piece for students to engage with beyond their typical textbooks and materials. The magazine features real-life farmers and businesses from across the state, highlighting people and organizations that kids can feel a connection to.

Members, please feel free to encourage K-6 educators in your community to visit mnmagmag.org/educators/order-free-resources/to-sign-up-to receive the AgMag! While you’re at it, invite these educators to visit the MAITC website (mn.agclassroom.org) to find additional free, standards-based lessons and resources for all K-12 grade levels. From students to teachers to producers to business owners, everyone wins when agricultural literacy is increased!

For further information about the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom program, visit minnesota.agclassroom.org/ or contact Sue Knott, Education Specialist at sue.knott@state.mn.us.

To support these efforts financially, please contact MAITC Foundation, Executive Director Ann Marie Ward, maitcexecutivedirector@gmail.com, PO Box 987, Bemidji, MN 56601, or 218-556-1436.
to be able to connect directly with each other in person,” she said.

The Farmfest Forums brought crowds to the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center stage for three days of educational, ag policy and awards sessions. The keynote address from Gov. Tim Walz on Wednesday afternoon followed by a panel discussion on the U.S. energy system was among the highest attended. All three days of sessions can be viewed on farmfest.com.

Show organizers bestowed this year’s Farmfest Woman Farmer of the Year award to Jane Goplen of Canby, Minnesota. Goplen’s work on her corn and soybean farm plus, her contribution to her family, church and community earned her the five-hundred-dollar top prize and the title of the Farmfest Woman Farmer of the Year.

The inaugural Hay Bale Art Auction benefiting 4-H and FFA groups garnered a total of six hundred twenty-five dollars for the three participating groups: Marshall FFA, Redwood County 4-H Ambassadors and the Valley Blazers 4-H Club. Ziegler Ag Equipment also donated two hundred dollars to each group allowing them to purchase supplies to create the hay bale art. The Steffes Group performed the live auction on site and donated the bales for the event.

Both the daily livestock chute demonstrations sponsored by Livestock Equipment & Manufacturing and the kids’ pedal pull event saw record crowds competing in this year’s event.

Next year’s Farmfest event will take place August 2-4, 2022.
STATE ISSUES

★ Beginning Farmers Tax Credit Still Available

A tax credit for the sale or lease of land, equipment, machinery, and livestock in Minnesota by beginning farmers is still available through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) Rural Finance Authority.

To qualify, the applicant must be a Minnesota resident with the desire to start farming or who began farming in Minnesota within the past ten years, provide positive projected earnings statements, have a net worth less than $862,000, and earning, or have completed an approved financial management program.

The farmer cannot be related by blood or marriage (e.g., a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling) to the person from whom he or she is buying or renting assets. The farmer must provide most of the labor and management of the farm.

The tax credit for the sale or lease of assets can then be applied to the Minnesota income taxes of the owner of the agricultural land or other assets.

Three levels of credits are available:

- 5% of the lesser of the sale price or fair market value of the agricultural up to a maximum of $2,000
- 10% of the gross rental income of each of the first, second and third years of a rental agreement, up to a maximum of $7,000 per year
- 15% of the cash equivalent of the gross rental income in each of the first, second or third year of a share rent agreement, up to a maximum of $10,000 per year

The Beginning Farmer Tax Credit is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications must be received by October 1, 2021.

Interested farmers should note that they can also apply for a separate tax credit to offset the cost of a financial management program up to a maximum of $1,500 per year – for up to three years.

More information and application forms can be found at www.mda.state.mn.us/btc.

★ Changes to the Cottage Food Law

Changes to the Cottage Food Law went into effect on August 1, 2021. Key changes to the law include:

- Registered Cottage Food Producers can now make and sell pet treats (dogs and cats only), provided certain conditions are met.
- The annual gross receipts cap has increased from $18,000 to $78,000.
- Labeling must include the individual’s name and registration number OR the individual’s name and address and all product labels must also include the statement, “These products are homemade and not subject to state inspection.”

More information can be found on the MDA Cottage Food Registration page: mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/cottage-food-producer-registration.

FEDERAL ISSUES

★ ITC Continues Fertilizer Import Investigations

The International Trade Commission recently determined that there is a reasonable indication that a U.S. industry is materially injured from imports of urea ammonium nitrate from Russia and Trinidad/Tobago that are sold in the U.S. at less than fair value. As a result of this decision, the Department of Commerce will continue its investigations of imports of UAN. Duties may be levied upon these imports.

Farm Bureau submitted comments to the ITC explaining how increased fertilizer costs affect U.S. agriculture.

★ EPA Bans Use of Chlorpyrifos on Food Crops

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it will stop the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos on all food crops. In a final rule released on August 18, EPA is revoking all “tolerances” for chlorpyrifos, which establish an amount of a pesticide that is allowed on food. In addition, the agency will issue a Notice of Intent to Cancel under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to cancel registered food uses of chlorpyrifos associated with the revoked tolerances. The language goes into effect 60 days from its publication in the Federal Register.

The steps the agency is announcing respond to the Ninth Circuit’s order directing EPA to issue a final rule in response to the 2007 petition filed by Pesticide Action Network North America and Natural Resources Defense Council. The petition requested that EPA revoke all chlorpyrifos tolerances, or at the maximum allowed residue levels in food, because those tolerances were not safe, in part due to the potential for neurodevelopmental effects in children.

After the tolerances are revoked under the final rule, chlorpyrifos applications to food commodities will result in food being considered adulterated; distribution of adulterated food in interstate commerce is unlawful under FFDCA. Non-agricultural uses are unaffected by the final tolerance rule. Non-food products are sold as liquids, granules, water-dispersible granules, wettable powders, and water-soluble packets, and may be applied by ground equipment.

After considering public comments, the agency will proceed with registration review for the remaining non-food uses of chlorpyrifos by issuing the interim decision, which may consider additional measures to reduce human health and ecological risks.

★ USDA Launches Two New Cattle Market News Reports

USDA recently announced that beginning this week, it will issue two new Market News reports based on Livestock Mandatory Reporting data that will provide additional insight into formula cattle trades aimed to help promote fair and competitive markets.

The first new report, the National Daily Direct Formula Base Cattle, will provide greater information into the foundational prices used in cattle market formulas, grids and contracts. The second report, the National Weekly Cattle Net Price Distribution, will show the volume of cattle purchased at different levels of pricing within those formulas, grids and contracts.

★ Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program

USDA released the highly anticipated details of its new Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP) for producers who suffered losses from supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19. Producers who were forced to depopulate animals last year due to insufficient processing capacity can apply for PLIP now through Sept. 17 via USDA’s application portal.

PLIP provides assistance for losses of livestock and poultry depopulated from March 1, 2020, through Dec. 26, 2020. The animals must have been euthanized due to insufficient processing access that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. PLIP payments compensate participants for 80% of the loss of eligible livestock or poultry as well as for the cost of depopulation and disposal.

Producers with questions about eligibility should contact their local FSA office or call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

★ Bipartisan Year-Round $15 Bills Introduced

Rep. Angie Craig (D-Minn.) and Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) recently introduced the Year-Round Fuel Choice Act of 2021. Sens. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) led reintroduction of the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act. Both bills would ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency can grant Reid Vapor Pressure volatility waivers to allow $15 and higher blend fuels to be sold at fuel retailers all year-round.

In light of the recent District of Columbia’s Circuit Court’s ruling, fuel retailers’ ability to sell $15 during the summer months is in jeopardy. These bills would ensure that EPA can grant RVP waivers for $15 and allow consumers and retailers to access $15 throughout the whole year. Farm Bureau supports both bills.

★ Executive Order Creates Opportunities for Farmers and Ranchers

AFBF President Zippy DuVall commented Friday on President Joe Biden’s executive order addressing livestock markets and “right to repair.”

“AFBF notes President Biden’s effort to address several pressing issues facing America’s farmers and ranchers comes at a time when many in the farm supply chain are frustrated,” DuVall said in a statement. “Growing concern about livestock market fairness is accelerated by the continued rise in grocery store markups while ranchers struggle to break even on the cattle they raise and poultry farmers being locked into agreements with very little recourse if they’re underpaid.”

Regarding “right to repair,” DuVall said, “Limiting who can work on a piece of machinery drives up costs and increases downtime. Ensuring farmers have the ability to perform cost-effective repairs on their own equipment will keep America’s farms running and financially sustainable.”
Your Story is an Opportunity!

**Hometown:** North Bradley, Michigan.  
**Resident:** Bemidji, MN  
**Family:** Daughter of exceptional mother and mother to two exceptional daughters.  
**Educational & Professional Background:** My career path has been that of an advocate/educator. My work in Youth Development began in Michigan and expanded in Minnesota as I worked for Lakeland Television as the Educational Consultant and then transitioned to the University of Minnesota as the Beltrami 4-H Program Coordinator. In the Fall of 2019 I accepted the opportunity to take both my passion for agriculture and education and work with the amazing team that makes up Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, as the Executive Director of the Foundation.

**Advocate for Agriculture:** Growing up in Mid-Minnesota and engaged in 4-H I had the opportunity to explore many projects. We raised cattle, showed a few, milked a few, had a few chickens and pigs, I competed in the horse arena and earned my first big county fair ribbon with Spanish onions. In addition to working on a neighboring hog farm and being "farmed out" to other family farms for planting, baling and harvest season, I grew up learning everyday I got to be outside "farming". The desire and passion of my firstborn was to have chickens the color of her hair, which lead us to the world of poultry, I should include we were helping a logger friend with his game bird farm and there were no "pretty chicken" on the property, yet! With relocation and space considerations my daughters and I have traded space for labor over 20 years now. Breeding chickens, yes even artificially inseminating, in addition to raising pigs, and turkeys. These years have produced countless research projects, and experiments focused on breeding, genetics, space management, nutrition, food science, citizenship and finance.

**Why did you get involved in P&E?** Growing up I learned through family that Farm Bureau was a great source for information, advocacy and friendships. Each morning at the end of our driveway I waited for the bus by a sign that said "stop" on one side and Proud Farm Bureau member on the other. As an adult I reflect on where and who my parents and family members turned to for support and advise, Farm Bureau was a connection of great strength and value, that holds true today. The resources, the leadership skills gained, events and opportunities to share and educate in addition to the friendships gained is why I engage in Farm Bureau and the Promotion and Education work.

"An agriculturally literate person understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life."

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**Farm Bureau is something I always knew existed; I just was not sure what it was. I think a lot of people are like that about a lot of things.**

Growing up there was a stop sign at the end of our driveway on the East side mounted on an end post of a line of power fencing, that’s Michigan speak for power lines. The other side of that sign stated, “Proud Farm Bureau Member.” That sign marked where to stop and wait for the school bus, for me and a herd of barn cats. As I grew older, I learned Farm Bureau meant peaches, potluck, family-like gatherings and a lot of discussions where they referred to regulations and policies. What I understood was that we were working together to make life better, yet still the peach deliveries and pies at potlucks were my favorite part. After a few years away and moving to Minnesota I learned much more about Farm Bureau, I learned it really is a family. Policy discussion and working together truly does make life better and Farm Bureau Members should all be very proud of this mission-driven, organization of passionate advocates for agriculture.

Being part of the Promotion and Education Committee I have found individuals excited to step out of their comfort zone to share their story of agriculture, to share their passion for education and to engage future generations in the opportunities to make the world a bit better with every effort. In mid-August I had the opportunity to participate in a District 6 Policy and Pizza evening, to better understand the event think of a large family meal that happens to have a State Senator and two House of Representative members at the table. Discussion on drought, regulation, legislation, education and health care took place that evening. Do any of those topics come up at your dinner table? Consider joining the table for your next county or district meeting.

Our engaged legislators listened, shared and discussed the topics of the evening, education, opportunities and awareness came up, always hot topics for me as the Executive Director of Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (MAITC). As scripted, they discussed implementing more agricultural curriculum into the schools starting in the middle school grades to get the ideas planted that there is a place for them in agriculture. That is exactly what the Farm Bureau P&E Committee works to do and why Minnesota Farm Bureau has supported the work of MAITC for 33 years! With a mission of Increasing Agricultural Literacy Through K-12 education, MAITC and Farm Bureau are making an impact. As of February 2021, MAITC resources are being used in every county in Minnesota. All lessons are agriculture focused and aligned with academic standards.

“Diverse crop production at the farm and community engagement log into the Minnesota Farm Bureau website, fbmn.org go to Programs and click into Promotion & Education, there you will find a local Farm Bureau resource excited to help you share your story of agriculture. Or explore Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom at minnesota.agclassroom.com Engage, enlighten and encourage educators, students, agricultural advocates, share your story and why agriculture is important to you. I am a member of Farm Bureau because someone asked, share your story, add another member to the Farm Bureau table today, and occasionally bring dessert.”
Most of us are now getting used to one of the best times of the year: the county fair. This year I got the privilege of being my local county fair veterinarian. Who doesn’t love the opportunity to work with every animal on the premise? I quickly discovered this position gets asked questions from both farmers and non-farmers equally. This opportunity allowed me to see the fair and all its flourishes from a whole new light. What better opportunity do we have as an agricultural community to show the world what we do daily? So, I began to watch interactions more closely between ag community members with non-ag members and I was honestly disappointed in both parties. It even made me realize I was disappointed in myself as I discovered some of the mistakes I had been making.

As I watched the ag community I love and grew up in interact with the larger community, I got an insight into why it is so hard to get the ag message across in a positive, interactive way. Agriculturalists put a whole year’s worth of blood, sweat, tears, resources and knowledge into getting animals and exhibits ready for the fair. This is an amazing accomplishment and I love being able to play a part in their goal. I stood at the edge of the barn and the doorway to the exhibit hall, no one took a moment to introduce a non-ag community member to all this effort! Most people adverted eye contact and continued their way to wherever they were going. Granted, the fair is beyond busy with activities to draw crowds, but if we don’t initiate that first step with eye contact to welcome conversation once they arrive where will that community member go for information? Not their local farmer, not the hard-working 4-H youth, not the dedicated FFA student. No, they will go to Google. An initial step like eye contact, a quick “hello,” a simple smile, starts to bridge the gap between these different community members. I was exposed to multiple experiences where a smile and hello initiated a conversation that ended with a “thank you” and knowledge gained on both sides. The people I had the privilege to talk to also accepted my knowledge, and I always directed them towards another ag member or discussed a plan to meet up with them later. Some of them even followed up and sought me out! They came back to me later to ask their questions. Granted, I was easy to find in green coveralls and a smile, but the point is why not start where we are showcasing our accomplishments at the fairgrounds.

Our second missed opportunity: animal movement around fairgoers. I observed people moving animals, whether it was to or from the show ring, to/from the wash bay, etc., and they would scowl at fairgoers and yell “move!” They are not used to working with livestock; they do not understand that a 1400-pound steer has a mind of its own. So instead of letting our frustration out on the poor person that we see as standing in the way, let us start with courtesy. “Please move,” “large steer coming through,” or even “crazy exhibit on a leash!” Changing how we move around the grounds helps initiate the first step to conversation. If that community member’s only interaction with agriculture was being yelled at, then next year they might not even come to the animal building or interact at all. This would be a worse situation for us because they will go elsewhere to learn.

As you plan for next year’s county fair, start thinking about how we can make the fair into a community enhancement experience. Do we need to set up stations near the barns to act as a “tour guide” to increase accessibility? Do we need a spot to gather questions from the audience? What unique ideas can you come up with that start at home to bridge the gap within the community that the ag members live in?

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**Salted Nut Roll Bars**

**Ingredients:**
- 16-20oz Salted peanuts
- 1 bag of peanut butter chips
- 3 tspb butter
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 package mini marshmallows

Sprinkle ⅓ the peanuts on the bottom of a 9x13in pan. Melt together the peanut butter chips and butter. Add in the sweetened condensed milk until warm (Do not allow to boil). Stir in the marshmallows until covered. Then spread over the peanuts. Add the other half of the peanuts and allow to cool.

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Office Depot/Office Max
Farm Bureau members in Minnesota save up to 75% off on office essentials at Office Depot. Register to save at fbmn.org/savingcenter. Call 888-868-4030.

John Deere
Farmer/Business members in Minnesota are eligible for a complimentary John Deere Rewards upgrade (Platinum 1 status) — which unlocks special discounts and offers, including valuable equipment discounts. Outcheck the savings on the following equipment categories: Commercial Mowing — $200 to $1,700 off, Residential Mowing — $50 to $520 off, Utility Vehicles — $50 to $250 off, Tractors — $150 to $250 off, Compact Construction — $550 to $1,400 off. Visit JonDeere.com/FarmBureau today to register. Make a valuable investment in Farm Bureau for 30 days. A valid member email address is required for eligibility.

Caterpillar, Inc.
Save up to $5,000 on the purchase or lease of eligible Han CD Series medium dozers, backhoe loaders, compact track loaders, multi terrain loaders, skid steer loaders, motor graders, scrapers, excavators and excavators. Members also receive an additional $250 credit on work tool attachments purchased through Caterpillar or its dealers, except for the Cat NC8A membership incentive. Learn more at Cat.com/Farming. You must present the certificate at time of purchase or lease quote to receive the discount. One certificate required per machine.

Case IH Tractor & Equipment
Eligible Farm Bureau members will receive an incentive discount up to $500 when purchasing Case IH equipment from participating dealerships. This discount is stackable, meaning it can be used with other authorized discounts, promotions, and offers that may be provided by Case IH or a Case IH dealership. Farm Bureau members in Minnesota must provide a Member Verification Certificate to the dealer at the time of purchase or lease quote to receive the discount. To obtain your certificate, go to fbmn.org, click on Membership Benefits, then click on Farm and Business, enter your member number and address. For more information call 651-788-7500.

Grainer, Inc.
Farm Bureau members in Minnesota get special member prices on selected categories and brands from Grainer, PLUS get free standard parcel shipping on all standard Grainer products. Get started with your price savings using these easy methods:
1) Present the Farm Bureau account number at time of purchase: 606000410;
2) Go to www.grainer.com and establish a new Grainer.com account using that account number.
3) Call Grainer customer service at 800-472-4643 to update your existing Grainer account with the Farm Bureau organization account number 000040390.

To be sure you get your Farm Bureau member prices, always reference Farm Bureau account number when visiting your local branch, mailing a telephone order or when setting up your personal account online. If you have questions or need assistance, call 888-905-9663 or visit your local Farm Bureau office.

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Save $5,500 a year with MnAgPlnNOW TASC & MnAgPlnNOW Seed Reimbursement Arrangement (RRA) plans save members an average of $5,000 annually by enrolling family farmers and other qualified small business owners to deduct 100 percent of their family health insurance premiums, dental, and vision and dental expenses not covered by insurance as business expenses. TASC offers an industry-exclusive audit guarantee, a money back guarantee and a TASC card to make medical expense reimbursement as easy as possible. A debit card. Farm Bureau members in Minnesota receive a 15% discount. For more information, contact TASC: 888-949-0529. For TASC Reimbursement discount code MN FA. For a free tax savings analysis, visit the MN Farm Bureau affiliate partner page at http://bit.ly/MNfarmbureau.

Business Succession
While it’s never too early to plan to pass the family farm or ranch to the next generation, well designed business succession strategies can be lucrative planning tools. In the state of Minnesota, we are fortunate to have Jon Loughwe, FBFS Regional Consultant, as a long time Farm Bureau member on farm succession planning. Jon has 22 years of experience in estate and succession planning and provides complimentary planning advice to Farm Bureau members in Minnesota. Jon can be reached at 612-590-4835 or jonloughwe@fbfs.com. To learn more, contact Jon or your local Farm Bureau agent.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Minnesota Sea Life Aquarium, Mall of America
Check out the re-designed aquarium. Members receive up to 40% discount on tickets. Order online at fbf.org.

Great Wolf Lodge
Up to 30% savings at 18 locations. Visit greatwolf.com or call 800-905-9663 to make reservations. Use code: MNFBSS1A.

HEALTH

Qualigent LASIK
Offers a 10% discount off the national average pricing on LASIK vision correction at over 900 locations nationwide. Qualigent offers pre and post-operative care and uses the latest FDA technologies. Call 877-507-4444 or visit qualigent.com/MNB1 for a doctor near you.

ScriptSave/Well RX
Save on brand name and generic prescription purchases at local pharmacies, as well as discounts on diabetic supplies, hearing care as well as use of an active learning guide. Use Group Number 941. Visit scriptsave.com and click on "Get Card" and create your own card. Or call 800-407-8156 to request your card to be mailed. Use the Well RX mobile app.

Life Line Screening
Receives the following four screenings for $135 and an additional osteoporosis screening at extra cost: stroke/cardiac artery, heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral arterial disease. For more information call 877-564-7283 or visit lifelinescreening.com/savings.

Anytime Fitness, LLC
Farm Bureau members in Minnesota and their immediate family members are eligible to enjoy the following at participating Anytime Fitness clubs: 10% off standard monthly fees; 50% off standard enrollment fees; $10 for 2 free days (valid for one free visit), 7 days a week for the first week. Anytime Fitness honors health care fitness incentives programs. Valid at participating locations. For a complete list of club locations, visit anytimefitness.com.

Clear Value Hearing
Clear Value Hearing and Starkey Hearing Technologies are partnering to make it easier for Farm Bureau members to purchase hearing aids. Includes FREE hearing assessment, FREE annual testing, 100% guaranteed custom fit, and hearing aids that are more affordable. Call 888-497-2009 or visit clearvaluehearing.com for more information.

Budget Rental
Enjoy savings of up to 30% off Budget base rates when you purchase a new or used car at participating location in the contiguous U.S. and Canada. Use Budget Customer Discount (BCD) code "MFBFB" to receive the lowest rates for your next rental. Visit www.budget.com/mfb or call 800-527-0700 to make a reservation.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Farm Bureau Financial Services (FBFS)
At Farm Bureau Financial Services, we’re all about you — your family, your future. For more than 75 years, local agents have helped members across the state with their financial needs. Let us help you find what matters most in a way that algorithms and automation just can’t.

Choice Hotels
Save up to 20% off rates at 7,000+ hotels across North America. Quality Inn, Comfort, Cambria, Sleep Inn, Clarion, MainStay Suites, Suburban Extended Stay, EconoLodge, WoodSpring Suites and Rodeway Inn. For reservations call 800-258-2847 or visit choicehotels.com. ID#00029660.

IHG Hotels
Members save 10% at 1,400 participating IHG hotels. IHG includes some of the best-known and most popular in the world. The nine hotel brands include: InterContinental®, Crowne Plaza®, Holiday Inn®, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites®, Candlewood Suites®. Even IHG EVEN and EVEN Hotels® and Midscale IHG Hotels in the Resorts. In order for a member to redeem the Farm Bureau discount, call 877-424-2449 and ask for the "Farm Bureau” hotel and ask them to enter the Farm Bureau Federation” discount, or book online at www.IHG.com, click on Advance Search option enter in the Corporate ID 100334603.

Wyndham Hotel Group
Farm Bureau members receive a rate up to 20% off at nearly 8,000 participating hotels. Call ahead to 877-670-7888 to book your reservation at Am@Club, Baymont, Days Inn, Dazzler, Dose, Esplendor, Hawthorn, Howard Johnson, LaQuinta, Microtel, Ramada, Super 8, TRYP, Trademark, Travelodge, Wingate, Wyndham, Wyndham Grand and Wyndham Garden. Refer to group number 8000002603. Visit wyndham.com.

EXTRA REWARDS

Thrift & Arson Reward Scheme
Rewards individuals up to $1,000 for offering information leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) committing theft, arson or vandalism to property belonging to Farm Bureau members. Forms available at local Farm Bureau offices or call 651-768-2100.

No-Cost Accidental Death Insurance
Accidental death insurance policy for the member, spouse and unmarried children younger than 22 years and living at home. The maximum amount of the policy is up to $2,000 for the member and spouse and $1,000 for the children. For more information call 651-768-2100. See fbmn.org.

Farm Bureau Marketeer Farm Fresh Guide
For the farmer who would like to sell their farm fresh produce directly to consumers. Sign-up to be included in online version found at fbmn.org. To be included call 651-768-2100.

Voice of Agriculture
A FREE subscription to Minnesota Farm Bureau members. A new monthly newsletter that includes legislative updates, feature stories, health and wellness tips and various articles regarding to agricultural and rural Minnesota. Available as an online reader or as a downloadable PDF at farm.org/voice-of-ag. Please send your current email to uftf@fbmn.org.

FB Benefits Mobile App
Available for free on both Apple and Android devices, the free Farm Bureau Member Benefits App includes alphabetical and categorical listings of member benefits available in Minnesota. It also features a convenient mapping feature to help you identify member benefits near you at any time. You can also find your Farm Bureau insurance account and agent information. Download the app today and get the most from your Farm Bureau membership! Search: FB Benefits Mobile on your phone.

AAA
Farm Bureau members receive up to 20% discount off AAA membership, applies to new and renewal. Wake up to 10% on enrollment fees if you sign up for all services. For more information on this exclusive service, contact AAA at 952-990-6885 during business hours. Be sure to note that you are a Farm Bureau member and refer to Group #I4107SS or aaa. For AAA memberships within Hennepin County contact Pauline Panorak at 952-927-2678 or panorak@aaaminneapolis.com for pricing and membership information.

Avvis Car Rental
Save up to 10% on daily, weekend and weekly rates. For rates and information, call 800-422-3809 or log on to avvis.com. Mention your Avvis worldwide discounts number: Minnesota Farm Bureau A298822.
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