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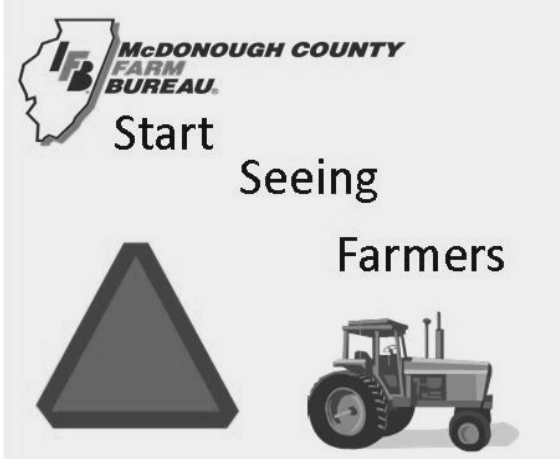
Our Mission:

“An agricultural grassroots organization-devoted to ensuring the quality of life for our county Farm Bureau members- today and tomorrow.”



We're in full on “nesting” mode at the Grant household. There is something spectacular about having a baby that convinces you that certain things just must be done. There's no convincing me otherwise! Like those curtains I've lived with in the bedroom since we bought the house— gone! The wall paint on the trim that never got touched up— consider it done! Cleaning the gutters— trust me, if my husband would let me hang off a ladder, I'd be right up there happily cleaning away. All of that of course doesn't take into account the expense of nesting. Quite frankly I think it would have been a cheaper endeavor if I had walked into Target and asked for one of everything! Cha Ching!

The “nesting” of pre harvest for farmers is over and the rush is on to get the crops out of the field and to the elevator or the nearest grain bin. Did you know that farmers don't get to set their prices for their products? They'll receive the price that the market is at that day regardless of what their input costs to plant and maintain the crop were. Farmers are price takers not price makers. That's why sometimes you'll see farmers filling grain bins so they can store some grain until there is a better price. It's sort of like when I go to Target and watch a certain item until it goes on sale. Similar idea.



As you see farm implements on the roadways this fall, please slow down. I know it's easy to get frustrated that they move slower than other traffic but they're just trying to do their jobs. Here's to a plentiful harvest!

Sarah Grant is the Manager of the McDonough County Farm Bureau.



Jeff, Melissa, Evan & Will Butler. Third generation farmers from Blandinsville, IL.

Let's Talk

We know you have questions about how your food is grown. We want to answer your questions, and show you how we grow safe, healthy food for our family, and yours. We're Illinois Farm Families— 94% of all Illinois Farms are family farms— and we'd like to share what happens on ours.

Let's start the conversation at:

www.watchusgrow.org



Spotlight on Discounts!

Members of the McDonough County Farm Bureau receive discounts from local businesses just like this for being members and presenting their membership card at the time of purchase!



Free month with purchase of a 12 month membership plan.

1601 W. Jackson Street, Suite 104
 Macomb, IL 61455

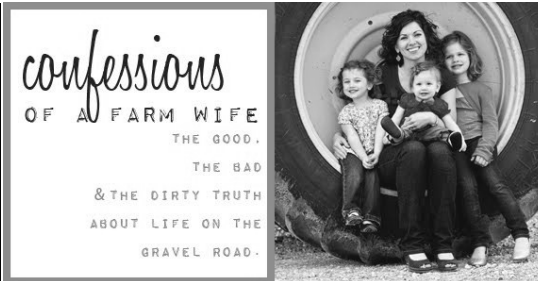
Phone: 309-836-9336

Discounts are not intended as an endorsement. Benefits may change without notice.

Fast Farm Facts:



- The number of farmers markets has more than tripled in the past 15 years and there are now more than 7,175 around the country.
- In 2009, 13 billion bushels of corn were produced. 36% was used as feed for livestock, 31% for ethanol (which resulted in 1.5 billion bushels of distiller grains that can be used to feed livestock), 14% was exported, 9% was used for human food, seed and industrial use and 11% was carried over as a surplus.
- Farmers use antibiotics strategically and under the guidance of their veterinarian. Farmers must eliminate the use of antibiotics during a withdrawal period prior to harvesting an animal. This withdrawal period is mandated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for each drug approved for use. The withdrawal period ensures the safety of meat and animal products that enter the food chain.
- The National Restaurant Association declared "locally sourced meats and seafood" and "locally grown produce" as the top two trends for 2011.
- Ag programs make up 2% of the total federal budget. 75% of the farm bill goes to food and nutrition programs, 9% to crop insurance, 7% to conservation programs and 7% to farm program payments. In relation to the total budget, farm program payments make up .14% of all federal expenditures.



You Can Eat Chicken, Emily...

..and it won't offend me."

My father-in-law stated this as we sat down to a dinner out at the Mom and Pop restaurant in town last night.

Wait, *what?* I can, *what?*

You see, my dear father-in-law is a life long pork producer. One of those guys who has weathered the storms of bad prices and bad press. He is an innovator of sorts in the pork world, moving the family's operation from outside pigs in the 80s to a successful and safe confinement operation today. He rebuilt after a devastating tornado that flattened most of his buildings, but amazingly hardly harmed any animals.

He's a good guy. However, he's a little bit opinionated where a menu is concerned. When I first started dating Joe, he used to scan the menus whenever we were out to dinner for all the "pork options," honoring his father's profession. When we were married, we served *the best* pork tenderloin one could serve to nearly 300 guests, in honor of his family's livelihood.

Therefore, when I was granted permission to order Amelia chicken strips, I nearly fell over.

I, however, ordered an awesome deep fried, ginormous pork tenderloin...which is what you absolutely should order at any mom and pop restaurant in Illinois. Seriously. Thank heavens I ran that morning.

Anyway, pork producers have been the target of so much bad press, but really, what is the honest to goodness truth is that they are usually the most careful, cutting edge, and meticulous farmers of the bunch. They have to be. In order to follow most EPA regulations, pork producers must keep buildings up to par. It takes an act of God to get my father-in-law off the farm for more than a few days because of the insane amount of work it takes to feed the pigs twice a day, make sure water lines are working properly and temperatures are kept comfortable for each little piggy.

It's a thankless job. I don't understand the profession completely, but I absolutely respect it, and in my father's presence, will always order pork to make him proud. However, I did serve chicken enchiladas for dinner last week but we won't mention that.

A city girl turned farm wife, Emily Webel regularly blogs about her experience at webfamilyfarm.blogspot.com. Emily and husband Joe, have three girls and a new baby boy!

Birkey's Partners with Farm Bureau Foundation



Birkey's of Macomb recently partnered with the McDonough County Farm Bureau Foundation in an effort to improve and continue agriculture education through a \$500 donation to the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program sponsored by the McDonough County Farm Bureau Foundation. AITC provides agriculture classroom presentations and resources to local teachers and students free of charge. Last year over 300 presentations were given in McDonough County.

The McDonough County Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit. For more information about the AITC program or how to support the Foundation, please contact Sarah at 309-837-3350.

Pictured above is FB Manager Sarah Grant and Birkey's Store Manager, Dave Berlet.

Get a Great Card Help a Great Cause

As a member of Illinois Farm Bureau®, you can show your support for agricultural literacy with the IFB® Visa Card. Every time you use it, the IAA Credit Union makes a contribution to Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC). All it takes is one quick swipe to help teach a child about agriculture.



Great Card!

- No annual fees, or hidden costs
- Low variable rate based off prime – no surprise jumps
- Use for all your purchases - business or pleasure
- Accepted worldwide

Great Cause!

Your contribution helps provide:

- Classroom resources
- Lesson plans about Illinois agriculture
- Training for teachers and volunteers
- Teacher and county grants

Last year alone, IAITC helped nearly half a million kids understand where their food comes from. You can help that number grow!

Go to iaafoundation.org and click on the IFB Visa card.



With the IFB VISA, giving has never been easier!