

March/April CWL Newsletter

“When people honor each other, there is a trust established that leads to synergy, interdependence, and deep respect. Both parties make decisions and choices based on what is right, what is best, what is valued most highly.” – Blaine Lee

It's not as pretty, but this is the new look of your County Woman Leader Newsletter. This format will allow us to get information to you much faster, links to websites that may be of importance to you, and the ability to send you more information than we could in a single sheet of paper. You will have the ability to print off the information or cut and paste information that you may want to share with your county boards.

Message from Isabella

WOW! Thank you for all you did to make this year's Spring Conference a huge success. It was truly amazing to hear all of the things you shared with me. It is your input that tells the WLC how to plan. Be sure to thank your DWL for all she did to make it a successful conference. While you're at it you may want to say a big Thank You to your Regional Manager as well. Without them there would be a lot of communication lost and a lot of loose ends with no one to tie them up. I am proud to be a part of an organization that works together for a common cause, Agriculture, without caring who gets the credit. Thank you!

What are you doing differently in your county this year? Who will you call on to help with an event, program or task that you've never asked before? How many members will you add to our numbers, to help us tell our story?

I hope you will consider applying for the AFBF Communications Boot Camp this year or pass it on. This is the perfect time. Indiana Farm Bureau needs your voice, Agriculture needs your voice. This training is invaluable. It will give you the confidence to tell your story to everyone.

Do you have your elevator speech ready? If you're not sure what I'm talking about, ask me.

Spring Conference

This newsletter is late since we were busy getting ready for Spring Conference. It was a great year all around! Great weather, great speakers, great breakouts, and great attendance! We had 723 guests for dinner on Friday night. Official registered guests that signed up at registration was 637; 100 more than last year. Thanks to all of you who promoted the event and sold meal tickets in your counties, you make this event what it is. Hopefully you kept your program; all the contact information for the speakers was included with the information about their sessions.

The live and silent auction was very successful this year. We raised \$1,000 more than last year for a total of \$6,612.00. All money will be donated to the Little Red Door Cancer Agency for their Camp Little Red Door, which sends children with cancer to a week long camp, where they can concentrate on being a kid and not their disease. Thank you to all of those that helped!

Congratulations to Lynette Whitsitt of Dubois Co. and Brandon Wells of Posey Co. They were selected as the State Lugar Essay winners. They along with their families will be traveling to Washington, DC in June to visit the Senator and tour our nation's capital.

1st Quarter Market Basket

We had a great response to the first market basket of the year. This project has really taken off and many of you seem to enjoy taking the time to fill it out. Later this spring when the 2nd quarter market basket goes out, we

will have a special Indiana market basket to look at the prices of having a family cookout in Indiana. It should be fun, stay tuned! After all the surveys were in, we held a drawing for a basket of goodies. The winner this time was Aleta Crowe. She was presented her basket at Spring Conference. Congratulations Aleta!

Coloring Contest

We had 10,678 entries this year, that is down from last year when we had 15, 405. Prizes have been couriered to county offices so the county woman leader can make the presentation to the students. Congratulations to:

K-1

Abigail Faught – Lake Co

Jaylyn Nelson – Pike Co.

Dalton Rogers – Allen Co.

2nd & 3rd

Megan Routh – Franklin Co.

Grace Erwin – Noble Co.

Wyatt Hoover – Randolph Co.

That brings us to the future of the contest. The women's leadership committee has been going through all their programs and discussing how they relate to the organization, if they are meeting the strategic goals and if there are things that can be changed to improve the programs. The committee decided that the coloring contest would be a program that we would no longer do at a state level, but counties are still encouraged to keep it up at the county level. Many counties were already giving their own awards before sending them to us. Now counties can host the contest at anytime in the year, use any kind of picture (we will still provide a picture that counties can use if they wish), give their own prizes or even extend the age groups that participate. The coloring contest reached a lot of kids, but for some counties it was just a coloring contest, there was no education factor to it. We hope that now counties will find a way to incorporate the contest into lessons that they can do in the classroom or at the county fair or other activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to let us know.

National AITC Conference

The National AITC conference will be taking place in St. Louis, June 24-27. We had planned to offer a charter bus to the event, but were unable to get enough interest to fill the bus. If you or others from your county plan to go you may want to touch base and consider pooling rides. Once you actually register for the conference, let Joni know so we can be sure to look for you once we get to St. Louis. For more information or to register please visit www.agintheclassroom.org we hope to see many of you there!

Summer Council

Summer Council will be taking place on Wednesday, June 10th here at the home office. Be sure to save the date! There are no plans this year for an event the evening prior to summer council. We are trying to put together an informal social for those of you who may be coming in to stay the night before this event. We will keep you posted as details become available.

AFBF Women's Communication Boot Camp

The AFB Women's Leadership Committee is sponsoring the third annual Farm Bureau Women's Communications Boot Camp, July 21-24, 2009 in Washington, DC. Applicants must be women who are Farm Bureau members. The program is open to all women, not just those involved in women's committees.

A copy of the application form can be found at www.fb.org or email us and we can forward you a copy. The deadline for submitting applications for the Boot Camp is **May 8, 2009**. A maximum of fifteen applicants will be selected to participate. Once you complete the application, please forward it to Joni, as it must be signed by the state office before going to Washington.

All those who applied will be notified by May 29, 2009 as to whether or not they have been accepted in the program. Applicants who are selected to participate will pay a \$200 registration fee. Participants will also be responsible for their transportation and hotel. If, within three months of completion of the seminar, the applicant uses the skills she gained and reports on the activity, she will have half her registration fee reimbursed.

We are excited about the opportunity to host the Communications Boot Camp. The evaluations from participants in 2008 were excellent. We request that you promote this boot camp to women who you think would benefit from the experience by speaking out for agriculture and Farm Bureau.

Promotional Items

Many of you are preparing for ag days and county fairs. This is just a reminder that many of our promotional items are available in limited quantities and go fast this time of year. If you are interested in any materials you can view the catalog on our website www.infarmbureau.org under the members only section. To place an order please contact Jena at jhalcomb@infarmbureau.org or 317-692-7830.

Interesting Poll

SHOULD ANIMALS HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS PEOPLE?---COSTCO has placed a poll on its Web site asking if animals should have the same rights as people. Matt Prescott, director of corporate affairs for PETA, and David Martosko, director of research for the Center for Consumer Freedom, express opposing views on the issue. Voting is open to anyone. As of March 11, the poll stands at 93.8 percent of 16,242 respondents voting "no" and 6.2 percent voting "yes."

<http://www.costcoconnection.com/connection/200903/?pg=16>

When visiting the page click on the "Click Here To Vote" button on the right side of the page.

If you visit the above website, email Joni at jwallman@infarmbureau.org and tell her the web address for the research center that David Martosko who is featured in the article works for. All entries received by March 30th will be put in a drawing for a FB merchandise surprise pack! Good Luck!

Food Check Out Week

We hope that you all had successful FCO events in your county. Many of you have reported your numbers to your District Woman Leader. If you have not reported your numbers to your DWL, please email Joni with the number of people reached by your events this year and a little bit about the events by March 27th. In many cases counties were trying new things or hosting events for the first time. Here is a picture from St. Joe

County. CWL Linda Sikorski prepares to meet customers with their message of “Stretching Your Food Dollar”.

Ivy Tech Organic and Local Food Survey

Ivy Tech Community College is conducting an online survey of organic and local food production and is encouraging area producers to complete the survey. The survey, found at www.ivytech.edu/surveys/Org_Food/orglocalfood.htm, addresses use of nonconventional production practices and marketing of agricultural products to local consumers. Results of the survey will influence the college’s future course offerings and training resources targeted at the agricultural sector. The 25-question survey takes approximately five to 10 minutes to complete.

The survey, partially funded by a Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant, is targeted at producers in the 14 Indiana WIRED counties. Those counties are Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Fulton, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Wabash, Warren, and White.

That’s all for now, keep in touch!