



Illinois
Association
of
Agricultural
Fairs

December 2016

TentTalk

Convention Theme: 'Dreams & Memories'



Jeremy Parsons, the IAAF keynote speaker at Saturday morning's breakfast, is the general manager of the Clay County Iowa fair in Spencer, Iowa. He and his family, pictured above at their fair, are emblematical of this year's IAAF Convention theme "Dreams and Memories".

We can have great memories from a county fair experience – showing cattle, spending time with children and grandchildren, reconnecting with friends. And we have dreams for the future of county fairs.

The upcoming 107th Annual IAAF Convention will help you continue to build those Dreams and Memories for your fair and citizens of all ages in your communities.

It can start with a networking opportunity at the pre-convention "Can't Miss It" hospitality event on Thursday evening. Then you will be challenged at the Friday afternoon "Get Acquainted" session with a presentation on effective ways to use social media at your fair. You can also share and hear some of this summer's successes from your colleagues in the fair industry.

The Trade Show will open with free beer and popcorn on Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. There will be a full display by vendors with lots of new products and services being offered. Don't forget to visit those with hospitality rooms in the Holiday Inn Express as well as those on the 12th floor of the Crowne Plaza.

All convention guests, including associates, are invited and encouraged to attend the Saturday morning breakfast and program. We will honor a new class of "Friends of Illinois County Fairs." Our keynote speaker is Jeremy Parsons, general manager of the Clay County Iowa fair in Spencer, Iowa. You can still order tickets if you haven't yet.

All fair secretaries and treasurers will benefit from an opportunity to learn from Rhonda Jachino and Gina Merano, Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of County Fairs. The meeting will be held at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday. They will offer suggestions on how to make your jobs (and theirs) easier.

The popular Friday evening Showcase of fair entertainment will feature a great lineup of acts along with snacks, Prairie Farms Ice Cream and Illinois wine, courtesy of Tom and Pam Schahrer.

The Queen Pageant and the Talent Contest both have great participation. Seventy-two county fair queens will be vying to be crowned Miss Illinois County Fair on Sunday evening. Both events showcase some of Illinois' finest young talent.

Plan to have a Breakfast Sandwich on Sunday morning, courtesy of Fantasy Amusements. You can enjoy this while participating on one of the many Roundtable discussions. There will be 10 different topics to help you improve, market and build Dreams and Memories at your 2017 fair.

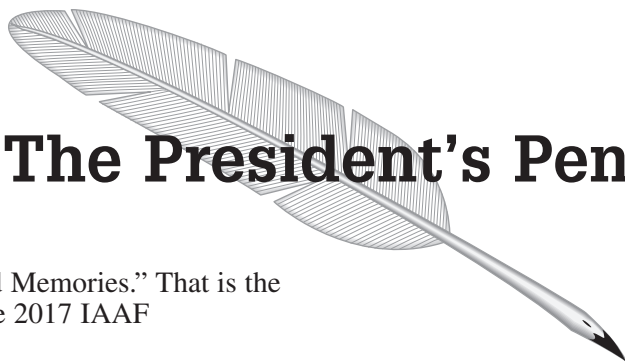
Don't forget to attend the annual business meeting on Sunday at 11 a.m. In addition, there will be a livestock meeting at 1:30 p.m. with Ray Hanks, of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, leading discussion. And our big finale will be the queen pageant finals Sunday evening.

Please plan to join us for Dreams and Memories on Jan. 19-22. Remember it starts after Martin Luther King's birthday this year.

New Look for TentTalk

After 30 years, this issue of TentTalk brings a new look with the addition of full color photographs. New printing technology and lower costs have made possible this "plus" for the IAAF membership with no increased costs for your newsletter.

The President's Pen



"Dreams and Memories." That is the theme for the 2017 IAAF Convention.

You will not want to miss this one. We have an outstanding convention planned and I am certain it will benefit your County Fair if you take advantage of the meetings and round table events that are planned.

Be sure to visit the Trade Show and visit with all of our Associate members. The entire schedule of events for the 2017 IAAF Convention is printed in this Tent Talk.

The Zone Meetings were well attended and I enjoyed catching up with old friends and getting new ideas to take back to our Fair.

Anytime we get a chance to spend with our "Fair Family", I always have a great time. The Queens were in attendance and had the opportunity to experience mock interviews to help them prepare for the pageant in January.

I would like to thank Charlyn Fargo-Ware for her dedication to the IAAF Board and its members. She has taken on a huge undertaking, filling Bill Fugate's shoes, and she is doing a great job. Bill and his wife Kay have been the backbone of our



Bill Redshaw

organization for many years. It was great to see Bill at the Northern Zone meeting.

Margaret Vaughn, our Legislative Lobbyist, as well as Marvin Perzee, Legislative Chairperson for

IAAF, encouraged everyone at the Zone meetings to be sure and get to know your new Legislators. It is so important to County Fairs to get the support of the Legislators from your district.

A special thanks to all the volunteers that work countless hours to make our fairs the best of Illinois.

Please be sure to make your reservations for the Convention, January 19 thru January 22 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. It is sure to be a great weekend.

Bill Redshaw

Dates to Remember

• **IAFE Convention, Las Vegas, NV**
Nov. 27-30, 2017
Theme is Revolution
Paris & Bally's Hotel

• **F & E Reports; Dec. of Intent**
due to IDOA — Dec. 31

• **IAAF Convention, Springfield, IL**
Crowne Plaza
January 19-22, 2017

• **IAFE Zone 5, East Peoria, IL**
March 3-5, 2017

• **Illinois State Fair**
August 11-20, 2017

• **County Fair Day**
Illinois State Fair—Aug. 11, 2017

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

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www.IllinoisCountyFairs.org

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IAAF Office
1400 Mound Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-553-1120

Thanks to Contributors to Advocacy Fund

Thanks to all the fairs and associate members who have contributed to the Advocacy Fund.

In these uncertain budget times and changes in the Legislature, your funds are more important than ever before.

Since last November, IAAF has had donations from: Crawford Co. Fair Assoc.; Iroquois Co. Ag. & 4-H Club Fair Assoc.; David & Sherry Spann; Marion Co. Ag. Fair Assoc., Inc.; Boone Co. Fair Assoc.;

Winnebago Co. Fair Assoc., Inc.; Georgetown Ag. Fair Assoc., Inc.; Western Illinois Fair Assoc.; North American Midway Ent.; DuPage

County Fair; Will County Fair Assoc.; Christian Co. Ag. Fair Assoc.; OABA; Calhoun County Fair; Schuyler County Fair; Fisher Community Fair; Jersey County Fair; Clay County Fair;

Moultrie-Douglas Fair; Crawford Co. Fair Assoc.; Nashville, Washington Co. Fair Assoc.; Adams Co. Fair Assoc.; Sandwich Fair Assoc., Inc.; Effingham Co. Fair Assoc.; Edgar Co. Fair Assoc.; Calhoun County Fair; and Okawville Ag. Products Fair Assoc..

Please consider a donation to the Advocacy Fund to help our efforts to keep county fairs funded.



Pictured are 21 queens who attended the Northern Zone meeting who will be competing with 51 other county fair queens in January for the honor of being named Miss Illinois County Fair Queen.

72 Vie for Illinois County Fair Queen

Cathy Redshaw, Illinois County Fair Pageant Director, announced we have 72 contestants vying for the coveted crown of 2017 Illinois County Fair Queen.

Don't forget to get your banquet tickets ordered for the Sunday Banquet, which starts at 4:30 p.m. (Doors open at 4 p.m.; ticket required)

Many of those queens were in attendance at one of the three Zone meetings, where they had mock interviews, helped pass out door prizes and introduced themselves to attendees.

That's just one of many reasons to attend the Zone meetings and to attend this year's annual convention. Here are a few other reasons that

attendees spent their Sunday at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield for the central zone meeting; the Pitstick Pavilion in Ottawa for the northern zone and the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington for the southern zone. And here are some reasons to attend the annual convention in Springfield, Jan. 19-22, 2017. (Remember it's the weekend after Martin Luther King holiday this year).

Networking – Roundtables at the central zone are a great way to find out something new for your fair or to get an update on fair issues. Don't miss the Roundtables on Sunday morning of the annual convention.

Win a door prize – Everyone loves to win and the chances of bringing

home locally grown popcorn or a handmade Christmas decoration or bottle of Illinois wine are pretty good.

A few lucky winners even take home cash. Thanks to all the donors of those gifts. We will have door prizes at the Saturday morning breakfast of the convention as well.

Have a great meal – including dessert. Great salads, fried chicken, prime rib and desserts just add to the fun at the zone meetings. There will be great food and fun at the convention as well – even wine and ice cream at our Friday evening get together.

Friendships – County fair folks are some of the nicest you'll meet, and while you may be good friends with those you work with to put on your fair, the zone meetings and convention offer a great time to reconnect with others and to make new friends.

Book a new act for your fair – The showcase events at the zone meetings and the trade show at the convention offer lots of new talent and new acts to bring to fairgoers and add excitement to your fairs. Stop by the Talent show and Showcase on Friday and Saturday of the convention to hear some great music.



A large group of fair enthusiasts attended the Northern Zone meeting.

Parsons Tells Importance of Your Fair

Does your community know how important your fair is?

Jeremy Parsons, our keynote speaker for the IAAF Convention, will help participants learn ways to bring our fair's importance to light. You won't want to miss his session on Saturday morning.

"We all wear many different hats



Keynote speaker Jeremy Parsons

and hold many different titles at our fairs (often its multiple hats and titles on the same day - more often, its multiple hats and titles on the same day at the same time)," said Parsons.

"For some, we are the CEO's or managers of our organizations; others are volunteer superintendents. Some of us literally unlock the gates every morning and shut the lights off at night. Others might order ribbons or sell tickets. Some might clean the restrooms or the barns. But despite the varied titles, hats, duties and responsibilities, we all have the same job at our respective fairs - we are caretakers."

Parsons provides the tools to "Take Care" of your fair, specifically how to track your economic impact and your local relevance. Does your community know how important the fair is and why it needs caretakers?"

Jeremy Parsons has served as CEO/Manager of the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa, since November 2011. Billed as "The World's Greatest County Fair" and

home to the largest farm machinery and ag equipment show at any fair in the United States, the Clay County Fair draws nearly 330,000 people each year during its nine-day run in September.

Parsons also served as executive director of the Missouri State Fair Foundation, and prior to that, spent 11 years as a high school English teacher and basketball/track coach so his summers could be free to work at the Iowa State Fair and later the Missouri State Fair.

He is active in the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), and has served as chair of the membership committee and the YPI (Young Professionals Initiative) steering committee.

Originally from Leon, Iowa, he has four priorities in life (all in the proper order) - faith, family, the Chicago Cubs, and fairs. He and his wife Kelsi have three sons (Creighton, Silas, and Milo) and are active members of Spencer First Baptist Church.

Reports Due December 31

Hello to all.

As many of you know, our State Fair staff hosted Karaoke contests at some of your fairs.

We received a lot of positive feedback about them and I'm pleased to announce that we plan to expand them to even more fairs next summer. Stay tuned for more information.

In this day of technology, remember that visitors to your fairs will be trying to enter the address of your fairgrounds into their phones so "Siri" can guide them to you.

One thing I heard from a couple of the Karaoke contestants was that they couldn't find your fairgrounds. Since I know you want more visitors at your fairs, be sure that you have your address and written directions on your website and/or your Facebook page.

You might also consider working

with your city and county boards to have signage put up during fair time directing visitors to you from each direction. Be sure it's easy for new visitors to find you.

For the Fairs & Expositions, please remember your reports are due December 31st and everyone's Declarations of Intent are due on December 31st.

As always, should you need assistance from anyone in our Bureau, please contact us at 217-782-4231 or call us directly at the numbers listed below. I look forward to seeing all of you at the IAAF County Fair Convention in January.

Rhonda Jachino, Acting Bureau Chief, 217-785-0110

Gina Merano, County Fairs, 217-524-0666

Kelly Beck, Horse Racing, 217-785-0106

Zone 5 meeting returns to state to Peoria in '17

"How SWEET it is"!!

The 2017 IAFE Zone 5 meeting will be held in East Peoria, IL March 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2017 at Embassy Suites.

It's Illinois turn to host the event and we'll have something for everyone and lots of surprises in-between!

Please plan to attend this weekend of education, fun, networking and lots of energy as we move into 2017!

More information will be handed out at the IAAF Convention in January. Be looking for it!

Vaughn: Election Shakes Up Statehouse

You are probably relieved that you won't have to watch another political commercial for at least a year but here is an overview of what the election results may mean at the Statehouse.

MADIGAN LOOSES VETO PROOF MAJORITY in HOUSE

With Governor Rauner spending \$14 million on Illinois legislative races to attack Speaker Madigan's super majority in the House, the GOP was able to net 4 House seats and two in the Senate.

Incumbents Representatives Cloonen (D-Kankakee), Deputy Majority Leader John Bradley (D-Marion), Mike Smiddy (D-Moline) and Andy Skogg (D-Spring Valley) all lost and the GOP won the open seat of Jack Franks (D-Woodstock) who ran for county board.

The Democrats did defeat incumbent Representative Dwight Kay (R-Edwardsville). On the Senate side, Senate President Cullerton was able to hold onto his veto proof majority, but the GOP picked up the open seat of retiring Senator John Sullivan (D-Quincy) and defeated Gary Forby (D-Benton).

To put in in perspective, over \$4 million dollars was spent on Rep. Cloonen's race for a position that pays \$67,000.

IMPACT of NEW COMPTROLLER on STATE BUDGET

Madigan's candidate for State Comptroller former State Representative Susana Mendoza did defeat Leslie Munger, Governor Rauner's handpicked replacement for Judy Barr Topinka.

This could have an impact on the budget because the Illinois Constitution is explicit and courts have upheld that the State cannot issue payments without approval by the General Assembly and Governor of the appropriation (a position backed by Attorney General Lisa Madigan).

It would have been impossible for state government to limp along for a year without a budget if no paychecks to state employees were

issued.

If the new Comptroller follows the Illinois Constitution and refuses to issue checks to state workers without a budget, the whole crisis could come to a head a lot sooner which means concessions will have to be made to get an agreed budget.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

In addition to the upset wins, there were also a great number of legislators who did not seek re-election

which will leave the General Assembly with high percentage of new faces.

A date for the spring legislative reception will be set at the January IAAF Board meeting. It is important that we continue to get a high turnout of IAAF members to become better acquainted with the new wave of legislators.

—Margaret Vaughn
IAAF Lobbyist

Calling Young Members



"5 For 5"

Are you or one of your fellow Fair Board members 35 years of age or younger?

The IAAF is offering five awards to attend the IAFE Zone 5 conference in March at East Peoria.

The IAAF would like to encourage leadership with some new generations as we "Build for the Future."

Five awards to fair directors/board members under 35 years of age will be awarded. The package would be for a total of \$200 per recipient. The award would be used to cover registration and some of the recipient's expenses to attend the Zone 5 meeting in Peoria.

An applicant must be 35 years of age or younger, be an actual fair board member/director of an IAAF fair and be willing to learn. There can be no more than one applicant per any one fair.

In the event that more than 5 qualifying applications are received, the IAAF Board will conduct a drawing for the actual recipient. Hear more about it at the IAAF Convention in January.

Applications will be due February 1st, 2017. See any IAAF Board member during the convention for the application. This is an awesome opportunity for your younger members to educate themselves on our industry!

Roundtables Are Back!

We have an exciting group of roundtable discussions this year at the IAAF Convention in January.

The Roundtable date is Sunday, January 22nd. There is quite a variety of topics to choose from.

Come and have some "free" breakfast sandwiches that morning and then join us at the tables!

- Open Carry/Concealed Carry Laws/Regulations on your fairgrounds
- Insurance – Do you have everything covered on your fairgrounds
- 72 hour Livestock rule – to

change or not to change?

- Ideas on how to retrieve more revenue off-season
- Is your fair prepared for an Emergency?
- How do you operate your gates?
- General Session – Bring your unanswered questions!
- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter – Where are you at with Social media at your fair?
- Ideas for Gate and Grandstand ticketing
- NICA – What can they do for your fair

Schedule of Events for 2017 IAAF Convention

"Dreams & Memories"

107th Annual Convention

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs
Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Express
Springfield Illinois

Schedule of Events for 2017 Convention

All events open only to registered guests
with a convention badge.

Thursday January 19, 2017

8:30-11 AM Queen Registration—*Plaza Lobby*
1:00 PM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*
6-8:00 PM Carnival Amusement Safety Board
Mtg. — *Winter Garden—14th Floor*
8:00 PM Associate Registration —*Plaza Lobby*
8-11 PM "Can't Miss IT" Pre-convention
hospitality and fun—*Capital View*
—*12th floor*
Sponsored by the North American
Midway Ent., the Northern, Central
and Southern Zones and the Miss
Illinois County Fair Pageant Crew.

Friday, January 20, 2017

8:30 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsals — *Ballroom*
9:00 AM Registration Counter Opens
—*Plaza Lobby*
10:00 AM IAAF Board Meeting
—*Lincoln Board Room*

1:30 PM **IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ALL**
—IAAF Director Bill Jennings

**"Using Social Media Tools to improve your
Fair's and your Business's Bottom Line."**
*Important information as a cost effective way to
market your fair.*
Sponsored by Red Frog Events, Tim Heller

What did your fair do differently in 2016?
Moderated by Paul Johnson, Variety Attractions,
and IAAF Director Bill Jennings
—*Plaza FG—1st floor*

3:00 PM **Trade Show opens with a reception.**
Skinners Amusements and Event-Text
hosting.— *Plaza A-E*

6:00 PM Trade Show closes for the day

4:00 PM Fairs and Exposition Fund Meeting
—*Capital VI - 3rd floor*

5:30 PM Audit Committee Meeting
—*Turquoise—2nd floor*

7:30 PM **Showcasing—Plaza H-J**
Drinks and Snacks Sponsored by
Burnham & Flower Insurance,
Illinois Wine by Tom & Pam
Schahrer, Ice Cream by Prairie Farms

**MC: Kent Casson of Central
Illinois Farm Network.**

Dennis Stroughmatt (National Fiddlers Assn),
Forgotten Highway (Upper Deck Concerts); Eric
Burgett; Adam Webb; Brian Shartzter; Alexandra Kay
(Elsenpeter Productions); The Martin Family Circus
(Variety).

**Associates who have hospitality rooms may be
hosting during other hours than those listed for
the trade show.**

Saturday, January 21, 2017

7:00 AM Registration Desk Opens
8:30 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*

7:30 AM "The Eye Opening Breakfast" doors
open. — *Plaza F&G*
Tickets Required
Sponsored by Red Frog Events and
Skinner Amusements
Special door prize for breakfast partici-
pants — \$50 Cash

7:45 AM **Breakfast**
Opening remarks:
IAAF President Bill Redshaw
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: Bill Redshaw

8:15 AM **All non ticket fair members and assoc-
iates are welcome to join the meet-
ing after breakfast.**

8:30 AM Welcome & committee appointments:
Bill Redshaw, IAAF President

8:45 AM Presentation of "Friend of Illinois
County Fair" Awards, Marvin Perzee
Drawing for "Early Bird" door prize -

9:00 AM Remarks: Department of Agriculture

9:30 AM **Jeremy Parsons - "Take Care" Clay
Co. Fair, Iowa,** presented by Luehrs
Ideal Rides.

10:30 AM **Drawing**—All door prize winners must
be present to win at the time of each drawing.

10:45 AM Secretaries and Treasurers Meeting
—Rhonda Jachino & Gina Merano
—*Plaza F&G*

Please visit the associate member rooms
or trade show booths.

11:00 AM Trade Show & Associate Rooms open
—*Plaza A-E*

12:15 PM Jr. Talent Competition—*Plaza H-J*

1:00 PM Afternoon Queen Pageant Prelimi-
naries—*Ballroom*

3:00 PM Central Zone Pres. Mtg.—*Capital View*
12th floor

5:00 PM Trade Show closes

5:15 PM Past State Queen Dinner - *Plaza F*

5:30 PM Mass —*Winter Garden-14th floor*

5:45 PM Sr. Talent Competition- *Plaza H-J*

7:00 PM Evening Queen Pageant Preliminaries
—*Ballroom*

8:00 PM Registration Desk Closes

**Associates who have hospitality rooms may host
during other hours than those listed for the trade
show.**

Sunday, January 22, 2017

8:00 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*
8:15 AM Protestant Worship - Jeremy Parsons
and Sharon Alderks

—*Winter Garden-14th floor*

8:30 AM Egyptian Colt Stakes

—*Rosewood Dining Room*

9:00 AM Registration Desk Opens—*Plaza Lobby*
9:30 AM Queen Devotional & Farewell Luncheon
for Retiring Queen, Abby Foster

—*Plaza H-J, ticket required*

8:50 AM Enjoy a Breakfast Sandwich & Coffee
—sponsored by AFantasy Amusements

Convene for Round Tables—*Plaza F-G*
Sponsored by Illinois Tractor Pulling
Association
Moderated by Jill Hardesty

9:15 AM Roundtables: First Session

10:00 AM Roundtables: Second Session

• Open Carry/Concealed Carry Laws/Regulations
on your fairgrounds

• Insurance - Do you have everything covered on
your fairgrounds?

- 72-hour Livestock rule - to change or not to change?
- Ideas on how to retrieve more revenue off-season
- Is your fair prepared for an Emergency?
- How do you operate your gates?
- General Session - Bring your unanswered questions!
- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter - Where are you at with Social Media at your fair?
- Ideas for Gate and Grandstand Ticketing
- NICA - What can they do for your fair?

11:00 AM Annual IAAF Business Meeting
—*Plaza F-G*

Please Register for Door Prizes
A Crowne Plaza Package for the 2018 IAAF
Convention will be awarded.

Welcome -Bill Redshaw, IAAF President
Minutes
Introduction of Directors

Committee Reports:

- Secretary-Treasurer report - Charlyn Fargo
- Audit Committee report - Ken Tyrrell
- Grievance Committee - Tom Moore
- Advocacy Report - Margaret Vaughn
- Legislative Committee - Marvin Perzee

Old Business
New Business

**Drawing for prizes donated by Swyear
Amusements and other prizes.**
All door-prize winners must be present to win.

1:00 PM Thoroughbred Racing Mtg.
—*Winter Garden-14th floor*

1:15 PM Livestock Issues, *Illinois Room-3rd floor*—Ray Hanks (Bureau of
Meat and Poultry Inspection,
Consumer Safety Officer) IDOA
Zone Officers Meeting
—*Capital View-12th floor*

2:00 PM Past Presidents Meeting
—*Capital View-12th floor*

2:45 PM Doors Open for Banquet—*Plaza A-J*
Banquet - Served

*Please stay seated until our Banquet
Chairman, Tom Schahrer, releases you.*

4:00 PM Queen Pageant Finals —*Ballroom*
5:00 PM Reception for the new Queen
—*Lobby and Rosewood Dining Room*

6:30 PM

9:30 PM

Monday, January 23, 2017

8:00 AM IAAF Directors And Spouses
Breakfast—*Ruby Room*

9:00 AM IAAF Directors Meeting—*Ruby Room*

**A Special Thanks
to all Convention
and Pageant Sponsors!!**

'County Fairs, Why?' by Baxter Black

One of the items shared at the Zone meetings was this essay, written by Author, Baxter Black.

by Baxter Black

"Most people just don't get it," said Ron, bemoaning the urban politicians that continue to whittle away at funding for county fairs and the Ag Extension Service. "It's all about the kids learning real life."

To their misfortune, urban children have much less opportunity to connect with real life. They look at some farm kid working on his show steer every day for months. It is beyond their comprehension. "Why", they think, 'Would anyone want to waste their time in such a mindless pursuit?' and then they whip out their Game Boy and fall into a trance.

Thank goodness there are some politicians, corporations and influential associations that DO get it. As farmers and livestock raisers continue to decline in numbers, it is even more critical that parents, county agents, ag teachers, 4-H leaders, scientists and teachers instill in the next generations the realities of life that farming depends on. Does America want to become a net importer of food in fifty years?

I appreciate Mrs. Obama's garden, Whole Foods specialty markets, organic and natural producers. They have a niche market. But who is going to feed the other 99% of our burgeoning population, much less a hungry third world?

Those kids, our kids who are fitting steers, doing chores, picking apples, showing hogs, driving the grain truck, learning to weld, riding pens, irrigating strawberries, managing a pasture, hosing the milk room, stacking hay and learning to read the sky are assimilating the mountain of knowledge that it takes to make dirt and rain into food.

Farm kids start learning the land and the livestock when they are old enough to carry a bucket. When they help with the daily chores they are practicing. It's like taking piano lessons or tennis lessons except what farm kids learn has a much more profound objective; feeding us all.

Our culture expends a great deal of effort on future

NBA stars, astronauts, environmental lawyers, doctors, and political science majors. But for every 100 rock stars, Rhoades Scholars and Heisman trophy winners our country produces, we better make sure we spend enough to train at least two future farmers, so the rest of them can eat. That is the essence of the county fair.

Beneath all the fun, auctions, and show ribbons, the serious business of learning how to make a living off the land continues like an underground river.

The list of 'essential professions' is a short one. That's the reality of real life. Farm kids hold our future in their hands. They are in training to feed the world. And fair board members and county agents get it.
www.baxterblack.com



Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Abby Foster is raising money for a book project to give each queen at the January pageant by raffling off a \$400 Pandora bracelet.

Correct addresses

Tent Talk has a continuing need for correct addresses as more and more of you switch from rural routes to "911 addresses". Also, there are some phone numbers that have a new area code that we won't know about unless you tell us.

The Eye Opening Breakfast

Tickets may still be ordered for the Saturday morning IAAF breakfast.

Tickets will be held for pickup at the registration desk.

Name: _____

County Fair or Associate: _____

Town: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of tickets: _____ @\$15/ticket = \$ _____ Due no later than Jan. 6th, 2017

Please send this request and check to:

IAAF, c/o Charlyn Fargo Ware, Secretary, 1400 Mound Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650

IN MEMORIAM

Russell Burdette “Ram” Carter, Jr., passed away peacefully at his home in Mazon surrounded by his family on Sunday, November 13, 2016. Born on December 7, 1931 in Morris, he was the son of the late Russell and Olive Mae (Crane) Carter.

He proudly served in the United States Marine Corp from 1952 to 1954 as an aircraft mechanic. On March 12, 1954 he married Barbara Nell Bolen.

All his life, Burdette was very active in stock car racing and county fairs throughout the state. Early in his life, he spent many a summer traveling to county fairs showing sheep at livestock exhibitions.

His love for county fairs continued for over 60 years with the Grundy County Fair both in Mazon and Morris. He served on the Grundy County Fair Board in many capacities including Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President.

Over the years, many honors were bestowed upon Burdette for his dedication and service to the Grundy County Fair. Burdette made many lifelong friends over the years at the fair.

His passion for racing began at the Mazon Speed Bowl as a car owner and mechanic with his driver friends, Bob Watters and Dick Thetard. They spent many a late night preparing their stock car for the next day’s race. Together they celebrated many checkered flags.

His passion for stock car and midget racing continued at the Grundy County Speedway as a promoter and fan. He loved being in the stands for the Friday night stock car races and the Saturday night midget races. In 2007 he was inducted into the Mazon Speed Bowl & Grundy County Speedway Hall of Fame.

Nancy Jahn Mielke, 80, of Coal Valley, Illinois, well known area business woman and singer, died Sunday, September 25, 2016, in



Nancy Mielke

UnityPoint Health – Trinity Rock Island, Rock Island, Illinois.

The former Nancy Jean Jahn was born November 8, 1935, to Paul F. and Evelyn Johnson Jahn. She married Donald R. Mielke on December 27, 1954, in Rock Island.

She owned and operated Regal Faire Inc. in Coal Valley since 1982, and previously was a co-owner and officer in Regalia Manufacturing, Rock Island, from 1969 to 1981.

She was also a professional vocalist. She sang with the Kix Band in the Quad Cities, sang at many local restaurants, especially Hunter’s Club in Rock Island, and recorded her own album, “In the Wee Small

Hours.”

She was proud of her Swedish heritage and was a member of Clara Lodge of Vikings. She was a Trustee of the Robert R. Jones Public Library in Coal Valley, and an active member of the Quad City Chamber where she served as an Ambassador for many years. She was a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Musicians Union Local 67 in Davenport, Quad City Multi-Chords, and Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs.

She was a member of the Republican Women of Rock Island County, had been active in Republican politics, and was proud of her son, Drue, serving on the Rock Island County Board.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Donald; two sons, Dwight Mielke, and Drue Mielke and friend Dale Seaholm, all of Coal Valley. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Paul R. Jahn.

Michael E. Mundy, 63, of Belvidere, IL, passed away Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016. He was born March 27, 1953, the son of Leon and Patricia (Johnston) Mundy. He graduated from Belvidere High School. He worked in shipping and receiving for Marshall Fields for 28 years. Mike was a member of Flora Grange, Capron Grange, Pomona Grange and was on the Boone County Fair board.

Charlyn Fargo Ware, Secretary
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