



Tyson Foods donates \$25,000 for Louisa County Youth Center Building



August 30, 2012 – The Louisa County Fair Board this week accepted a check for \$25,000 from Tyson Foods to help fund the Youth Center Building under construction at the local fairgrounds.

Various groups and organizations are expected to use the new facility, including local 4-H and FFA chapters. The building is scheduled to be completed by July 2013, in time for next year's county fair.

"We're pleased to support this project, especially since it will benefit so many people in the county," said David Duncan, Human Resources Manager at Tyson's Louisa County pork plant. "This donation is also consistent with our company's charitable giving objectives, which include supporting education and community development efforts."

Tyson's Louisa County plant employs more than 1,100 people and last year purchased more than \$400 million worth of hogs from pork producers in the region.

Drought drives discussion of crop insurance

Iowa Farm Bureau Wraps Up Summer Policy Conference in West Des Moines

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa – August 31, 2012 – Iowa Farm Bureau voting delegates shared concerns about crop quality and insurance as they gathered in West Des Moines August 30-31 to set state and national legislative policy for 2013. The drought-stricken crops and low river levels also brought additional discussion of the importance of maintaining the condition of the Mississippi River and its important role in transporting grain.

"What a difference a year can make; last year's conference focused on the flood conditions in the western part of the state, while this year's delegates are keyed in to the drought and its effects on the Mississippi River's ability to move grain on the

eastern side of the state," said Craig Hill, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) president. "Our unique grassroots policy development process truly represents the concerns of our members and where they live and farm."

Iowa's largest grassroots farm organization called for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize funds for cleaning the channels of the Mississippi River to navigate the current low water levels to allow large barges to continue moving through the waters. The river represents one of the nation's largest methods of grain transportation.

IFBF delegates gather each year to discuss and set state policies which impact not just farmers, but all Iowa taxpayers. In addition, national policies approved this week will be ratified and sent up for national debate in January at the American Farm Bu-

reau Federation (AFBF) annual meeting in Nashville.

Another lively discussion at the IFBF Summer Policy Conference concerned the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) closing of several Farm Service Agency offices. "We support consolidation of government service facilities to create efficiencies, but there has to be careful consideration, because if farmers have to drive 50 miles back and forth to conduct essential business, those closures quickly become inefficient, both to the government and the folks who rely on the services," said Hill.

Farm Bureau voting delegates moved to continue support of the Renewable Fuels Standard and increase the use and development of renewable fuels.

Iowa's Transportation Infrastructure Funding also found consensus among IFBF farmers, who agreed that

additional revenue for the state's roads and bridges should be generated from an increase in the state fuel tax and that hybrid and electrical vehicles should contribute their fair share to the repair of the very roads they share with all Iowans. "Since the Transportation Infrastructure Fund is likely to come up in our 2013 legislative session, we believe Iowa lawmakers will take careful consideration of that issue and appropriate funding levels," said Hill.

The IFBF Summer Policy Conference is a step in Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process and is subject to national debate during American Farm Bureau Federation policy discussions in January. All state Farm Bureaus meet in January to finalize the organization's national policies.

Louisa County Trails Bike Ride

The Louisa County Trails Council will be sponsoring a bike ride called "Pedal the MRT" (Mississippi River Trail) on Sunday, September 16 from 1:00 – 5:00pm. The ride will begin at the Louisa County Conservation office located at 12635 County Road G56, travel south on the Great River Road X61, turn left at County Road X99 and travel south to end at the Oakville Community Center.

The ride is approximately 14 miles long, one way, and will run from 1 pm – 5 pm. For avid cyclists, the ride would be 28 miles round trip or you can extend your ride as you wish. We encourage riders to begin as early as possible. All cyclists are required to wear a helmet. A shuttle van and trailer will leave the Conservation office at

12:30 pm and travel to the Oakville Community Center. It will make runs back to the Conservation office at 2:45 and 3:45 pm stopping at Toolesboro Interpretive site along the way. ASAG wagon/truck will also be driving the route to assist riders. Water, Gatorade and cookies will be provided at Toolesboro and the Oakville Community Center.

Louisa County offers abundant opportunities to enjoy many natural and cultural resources. Informational maps and flyers identifying these sites will be available at all three locations.

The "Pedal the MRT" event is one of four events being offered around Louisa County to help showcase the various types of trails found in Louisa County. The series of events labeled, "Pedal Paddle Walk Trot" also features the following events.

Paddle Odessa is a canoe and kayak trip on the Odessa Water Trail

to be held on Saturday, September 8. Limited number of canoes and kayaks available.

Walk the Hoover Nature Trail is a hike along the Hoover Nature Trail near Morning Sun on Saturday, October 13.

Trot Cairo is a horseback ride along the horse trails at Cairo Woods on Sunday, September 9 – participants must provide their own horses.

Registration is requested for all four events and is available online, along with more information, at www.NaturallyLouisaCounty.com or by calling 319-523-8381.

to provide a bicycle lane along the Great River Road, X61, in Louisa County. Great River Road is part of the Mississippi River Trail System. The Mississippi River Trail is a national trail that offers approximately 3,000 miles of bicycle pathways and extends from New Orleans to the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

Louisa County Trails Kick-Off

We invite the bicyclists and community to join us for a "Kick Off" Presentation at 2:30 pm at the Oakville Community Center on September 16. This presentation is being held to recognize the completion of a Louisa County Trails Master Plan as well as acknowledgement of several grants that have been awarded for trails.

The council received two grants from the Community Foundation Louisa County. One grant is for \$980 to install bike route signage along the Mississippi River Trail in Louisa County. The second grant for \$2,500 is for a marketing campaign to promote trails in the county.

The county has recently been awarded a \$1.35 million grant to provide a bicycle lane along the

Briefly -

City of Columbus City to meet

The next council meeting for the City of Columbus City will be Monday, September 10th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Class of 1982 to hold Reunion

Attention Columbus Community Class of 1982 (and parents): Some of us have been making plans for our 30th year class reunion. We still need some addresses; if you can help – that would be great! We want to find as many classmates as possible. Our plans are: Columbus Day Weekend – Friday, October 12th at 7 p.m. meet and greet at Rumors and Excuses; Saturday, October 13th watch parade at Rumors and Excuses, 5-8 p.m. dinner at the Thirsty Camel, then go to an exclusive location for a night of fun. Any questions or addresses please call Deb (Sands) Halstead at 319-750-2636.

Jack Cecil Memorial Car Show

The 2nd Annual Jack Cecil Columbus Day Car Show will be held on Saturday, October 13th from 8-noon. Registration ends at 10 with awards at 11:15. Bring your hot rod, custom, muscle or classic car or truck, even motorcycle to join in raising money for a local family impacted by cancer. This is held in conjunction with the Columbus Day Celebration. Come join the festivities, join in the parade after and have fun with the crowd. We are asking a \$20 entry donation to help raise funds. Top 25 awards, Best of Show, special awards also. Door prizes are being sought. For more information contact Curt Larkin 641-990-4436 or curt.larkin@johnston.k12.ia.us. Special invite to the class of '82 to bring out your special rides and relive some of the "high school" spirit during your reunion!

Columbus Day ideas wanted

Please submit ideas for the Columbus Day theme or for the Columbus Day Distinguished Citizens to Sue Johnson at Plants and Things or John Carpenter at the GAZETTE office by Friday, September 14th. Columbus Day will be celebrated on October 13th.

OES to meet on September 12th

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Emma Beckman Chapter 445, Order of the Eastern Star, will meet on September 10, 2012, at 2 p.m. at the Masonic Center.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 12:30 p.m. at the Columbus City Methodist Church. It will be guest day with a potluck salad luncheon. Club officers will be hostesses. Program: Kay Perkins, Club Historian; Rita Chaney, Christmas Shoe Boxes. Roll Call: My Club History.

Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club and the Washington Area Amateur Radio Club will present the 28th Annual Southeast Iowa Hamfest on Sunday, October 7th, at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds, in West Liberty, Iowa. The Hamfest features indoor and outdoor electronics flea market, commercial vendors, license testing, food and drink. For more information, visit www.muscatinehams.org or contact Tom Brehmer, N0LOH, at (563) 263-3097 or n0loh@arrl.org.

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting our county meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2012. Supper will be served at 6 p.m., with a meeting to follow. Please plan to attend. We still have some unpaid dues.

Historical Society Fall Festival

On Saturday, September 15, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Louisa County Historical Society will hold its Fall Festival. The meal (eat in or carry out) will include: creamed chicken on biscuits or loose hamburgers, cole slaw, baked beans, pie and desserts. Area craft vendors from Wapello, Burlington and Columbus Junction will be attending. Come visit the museum and displays, come eat (a free will offering will be accepted), come look and buy. Help to support YOUR Louisa County Historical Museum in Wapello, Iowa. Thanks for attending the FREE museum stops on Sunday, August 5, 2012!

Morning Sun Health Fair

Mark your calendars! The 10th Annual Morning Sun Care Center Health and Wellness Fair will be held Monday, September 24 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Morning Sun Community Building. A wide variety of vendors will be offering health screenings and information for all ages. Flu shots will be available. More details coming soon!

U of IA Mobile Clinic in Col. Jct.

The University of Iowa's Mobile Clinic program will be holding upcoming clinics in Columbus Junction to provide physicals, health screenings, health education and other services. The clinics will be on Saturday, September 22nd, Saturday, October 20th and Saturday, November 17th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Wilma Sime Roundy Elementary School.

Muscatine Friends of NRA

Muscatine Friends of the NRA banquet will be held on September 13, 2012 at the Clarion Inn, 2915 Highway 61, Muscatine, Iowa. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Great River Road, X61, in Louisa County. Great River Road is part of the Mississippi River Trail System. The Mississippi River Trail is a national trail that offers approximately 3,000 miles of bicycle pathways and extends from New Orleans to the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

Remember: Columbus Day will be held on October 13, 2012.

Get your floats and parade entries ready.

Help make this the best

Columbus Day ever.

