Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

# From Farm to Fork

A Promotion & Education Newsletter

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## Wheat Council

On Saturday, May 19 moms across the country united in support of the first ever "Mom, the Everyday Athlete" nationwide run/walk. The ongoing campaign educates moms about the importance of grains in a healthy diet and their role in fueling the body for physical activity and everyday life. The day is sponsored by the Wheat Foods Council.

The "Mom, the Everyday Athlete" program recongizes moms of all ages and stages as "everyday athletes" and empowers them to make nutrition and activity choices that will maximize their health and stamina.

For more information on this program visit www.wheatfoods.org.

## Faces of Ag Pictures

The Minnesota State Fair is just around the corner, and we are looking to update the Faces of Ag photos. This project contains photos of Farm Bureau members or families with their commodities. The county name as well as the commodity pictured needs to be identified.

These photos will also be used throughout the year in presentations, brochures, the website and *The Voice of Agriculture*. Submit photos to info@fbmn.org.

## Ag Pen Pal Program

The Ag Pen Pal program provides an educational opportunity for students from Minnesota to communicate with farm families from across the state. The program pairs up a farm family with a classroom. While participating in the Ag Pen Pal program, farm families will tell about their experiences in agriculture while teachers and students share their lifestyles. The only requirement of the Pen Pal Program is that farm families and classrooms write to their assigned pen pal at least three times during the school year - fall, winter and spring.

If you would like more information about the Ag Pen Pal Program, call 651-905-2118 or email info@fbmn.org. Applications for the upcoming school year are available by visiting fbmn.org.

## New Farm Facts Books

American Farm Bureau Federation has revised the Farm Facts book. Farm Facts is a colorful 29-page booklet with realistic illustrations of farmers, consumers, livestock and crops.

It features charts and graphs with facts about todays agricultural system, food consumption and safety, biotechnology, international trade, historical highlights, and agricultural terminology. New sections on aquaculture, silviculture, nursery and greenhouse, and the farmers' share of the retail food dollar are included. A one-sided poster map (38 x 27) is included with each booklet.

Log onto ageducate.org to learn more or to place an order for the Farm Facts books.

## Activities of Excellence

The American Farm Bureau is sponsoring the Farm Bureau County Activities of Excellence (CAE) Program designed to recognize and share successful county Farm Bureau programs and activities.

Fifteen county Farm Bureaus from across the nation will be selected to present a display of their winning activity during the AFBF Annual Meeting Showcase, Jan. 13-14, 2008, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Those counties selected will receive $2,000 toward expenses incurred to participate in the CAE program.

Enter your county's outstanding program now. You may be showing it to members from across the nation in January! To apply visit fb.org.

## 911 Simulators

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation purchased two 911 simulators this spring. Both simulators have been placed in the safety trailers to travel throughout the state from May 1 - November 1. During the winter months, the simulators are available for check-out separate from the safety trailers.

Forms for reserving the 911 simulator or the safety trailers are available on fbmn.org. For more information contact Karin Nordling at 651-905-2117 or knordling@fbmn.org.

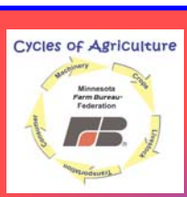
# Recommened Book List

*The American Farm Bureau® Foundation for Agriculture continues to expand its agricultural literacy efforts with the latest edition of our recommended book list.*

*The newly expanded list contains 160 recommended books for ages two through adult. Each book on the recommended list has been reviewed and is as accurate a book on the topic as can be found. This does not mean that every book is perfect. With the newly revised list any flaws are described and identified as areas which need to be discussed as "teachable moments." This is actually a very good lesson for students of all ages to learn that just because a statement is in print does not make it true. Learning this lesson is probably more important today than ever before. Overall, however, the books recommended depict agriculture accurately and with modern images and text.*

*Each listing provides the book title, author, International Standard Book Number (ISBN), retail cost, age levels best served by this book and a description. You will find any flaws the book may have and what areas may need to be addressed in this description.*

*The list is updated frequently, so check the list on a regular basis to keep your own recommendations up to date. Visit ageducate.org for the latest edition of the book listing.*




**Volunteer at the Minnesota Farm Bureau building at the 2007 Minnesota State Fair, August 23 – September 3. The Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit will feature "A Sticky Situation" showcasing maple syrup production, as well as the Cycles of Agriculture, the Century Farm display and the Faces of Agriculture. Volunteering is a great way to educate attendees on the important role agriculture plays in our everday lives. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt and free admission into the fair.**

**Sign up by emailing Megan Nelson at mfbfstatefair@yahoo.com or call 651-905-2120.**

## Career Exploration

Have you ever thought about talking to a classroom about careers? There are many careers available in the agriculture field, so take time and showcase these careers to students in your area. Below are some resources that are available to you.

*www.ffa.org*
This site allows students to search ag careers based on their interests. Type in your interests and it will generate a career.

*www.ageducate.org/careers*
Agriculture generates some 22 million jobs in the United States, and most are located off of farms.

*www.farmbureaukids.com*
Agriculture careers crossword puzzle, educational resources and links.

## Calendar

**July**

National Blueberry Month
National Picnic Month
National Ice Cream Month

**August**

National Peach Month
3, National Watermelon Day
8, National Zucchini Day

**September**

National Chicken Month
National Honey Month
16, National Guacamole Day

## On The Web

**Agriculture Education Websites:**

**Papaya Month - www.dole5aday.com**

**Catfish Month - www.planetcatfish.com**

**Mushroom Month - www.mushroomcouncil.org**

**Baked Beans Month - www.bushbeans.com**

**Hot Dog Month - www.hot-dog.org**

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