

Be a Farmer in Boone County

Why We Do This

The Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau is dedicated to promoting agriculture within the counties of Boone and Winnebago. As County Board Members, it is important to understand your community and the local industries, including agriculture, that benefit the local economy.

As a member of the County Board, we invite you to contact one of our Farm Bureau Members to spend some time side by side with an agriculturalist and learn first hand what it is like to be a farmer in Boone County! Choose from a list of various farming enterprises including cattle, grain and dairy goats. Winnebago and Boone County agriculture is full of many opportunities!.



Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau

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Winnebago- Boone Farm Bureau

“Be a Farmer”





Farmers

John Cleland

John Cleland is the third generation on his family farm in Capron, IL. However, the history that has unfolded in merely three generations is very intriguing. Cleland's great aunt's father, W.W. Wilson, bought the 320 acre farm in 1904. W.W. Wilson's brother, James Wilson, was the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1897 to 1913. Mr. James Wilson holds the record for the longest-serving United States Cabinet member. He served under William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and for only a day and a half under Woodrow Wilson. W.W. Wilson's daughter, Ruth Wilson, married Cleland's Great-uncle, K.W. Cleland, in 1913 and took over the farm where Cleland currently lives. Cleland's father, uncle, and grandparents came to the farm in 1951 and farmed until 1973. Cleland joined his father in 1976 and he and his wife, Diane still farm there today. Cleland and his wife have two children, Scott and Daria. Both children are very active on the family farm. The Cleland's farm has grown in size and has modernized over the years. Today the Cleland's raise crops, beef cattle, and show hogs for the kid's 4-H projects. However, in the past they had a farrow to wean hog operation. John is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau. Join John in the spring, summer, or fall to work the crops. To visit the Cleland Farm, call John at (815)742-7501.

Jeremy Franseen

The Franseen family farm in Poplar Grove, now known as Friendly Franseen Acres, started out as a dairy cattle operation, began in 1940 when Jeremy's grandfather, Ken, started farming on shares. However, upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Jeremy decided he wanted to try his hand at a different type of dairy. Today, Jeremy and his father, Rick, milk 220 dairy goats twice a day. Jeremy's brother, Josh, cash crops the 240 acre farm. The Franseens also offer handmade soaps, lotions and skin care products made from their goats' milk. Join Jeremy for a day on the dairy farm. Help feed kids, milk goats, and more. Jeremy is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau and hosted the past two Farm Breakfasts. To visit Friendly Franseen Acres, call Jeremy at (815) 289-5759.

Curt Greenlee

Curt Greenlee of Caledonia, IL knows the term "start fresh" all too well. The Greenlee family farm has been in the family for seven generations. The original property, located on highway 173 across from Rock Cut State Park, was purchased in 1853. However, that

"Be the voice, resource, and advocate for farm families and agriculture, while promoting stewardship for today and future generations." - Mission Statement



property had been displaced by development. The state widened Highway 173 and used eminent domain on the Greenlee property. Curt purchased land from his father and started over. Despite the move, the Greenlees actually farm a little more than what they did in the past. Curt and his family have overcome some of the biggest struggles a farmer can face. However, they still stay true to the ideas and purposes of their forefathers, those that farmed long before them: to be the best producers they can be. Curt, also serves on the Board of Directors, and partners with his father in their grain operation where he grows and harvests mainly corn and soybeans. Join Curt in the spring, summer or fall to help plant, care for, and harvest his crops. To visit the Greenlee farm, call Curt at (815)218-4316.



Brent Mueller

Claretta Farms, the Mueller family's dairy farm, is located in Garden Prairie and has been in the capable hands of the Mueller family for more than 50 years. Originally stationed in Peotone, IL, and then St. Charles, the Mueller dairy is now located in Garden Prairie. Fourth generation, Brent Mueller and his wife, Amber, and their children Samantha and Logan, are milking the registered Holstein herd. Join Brent for a day on the dairy farm. Help feed calves, milk cows, and more. Brent is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau. To visit Claretta Farms, call Brent at (815)509-3797.