



Walsh Farm

Bernard Walsh of Durand, IL. is no stranger to the agriculture industry. Being the third generation to operate his 131 year old family farm, he knows a thing or two about the industry. He has been a member of the Farm Bureau for the past 52 years.

The thing Walsh appreciates the most about the Farm Bureau is the effort put towards hiring lobbyists in Springfield, Ill. “I think a lot of people don’t realize that this is a big function of the Farm Bureau. It gives us (farmers) a strong voice in Springfield and Washington. These lobbyists continue to let legislators know which bills would be good for agriculture and which ones wouldn’t be. But, without that I think we would really be left out in the cold,” said Walsh.



As well as supporting the lobbyists, the Farm Bureau has participated in an “Adopt a Legislator” program. The Winnebago-Boone has “adopted” Illinois Legislator Elaine Nekritz. This program allows for Legislator Nekritz to learn more about agriculture to help her make educated decisions while in Springfield. “We have adopted a legislator and she has come to the area to learn more about agriculture so that when agricultural bills come up in Springfield, she knows a little more about them and it gives her a better knowledge,” said Walsh.

Walsh sees the importance in educating Legislator because his career depends on the decisions they make. Walsh operates his family’s grain farm and is also in the business of seed sales. Having those involved with politics in favor of agriculturalists makes it easier for farmers to do their jobs.

The job of a farmer is to produce safe and healthy food for consumers. “I’ve been doing this for a long time. This is the third generation on this land and just by being here through all those generations, we have gained the ability to be the best producers we can be. We live here and eat the food we grow too so of course we want it to be safe” Walsh stated.

Walsh’s wife, Deb, also commented on the issue by saying “I grew up in Rockford, so I didn’t know much about farming until we got married. But, I have learned a lot. Our family consumes what we produce and we would never want to do anything to hurt our family nor any other Families.” (Published August 21, 2015)