

AgrInstitute™

Leadership, cultivated.

Golf Benefit Brings in Green for AgrInstitute

Nearly 50 golfers participated in the AgrInstitute's annual golf outing on August 30, helping to raise approximately \$6,000 to support the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program. Held at The Legends of Indiana golf course in Franklin, the golf benefit had several teams teeing it up for our organization. Our sincere thanks goes to the following golfers:

Tony Aaron, Matt Bechdol, Brian Beam, Kyle Bymaster, Matt Casner, Gary Chenoweth, Eric Clouse, Roger Curl, David Hardin, Eric Hess, Mike Honeycutt, Raylee Honeycutt, Tom Elliott, Bob Fulling, Brett Glick, Aaron Grant, Trent Gray, Joe Kelsay, Ryan Kephart, Ryan Law, Matt Legan, Greg Janzow, Jon Jordan, Cary Pearl, Amy Pelsy, Randi Potts, Joe MacDonald, Ryan Martin, T.J. Mattick, Paul Meagher, Ryan Millit, James Rice, Dave Ritchie, Mark Scheumann, Eric Schilling, Scott Strickland, Rob Swain, Andy Tauer, Rick Tolen, Kyle Tom, Scott Tucker, Luke Tusing, Kevin Underwood, Jack Webber, Josh Wells, Bob White, Rick Winkler, Kent Yeager, Ken Zanzalari



Class 12's David Hardin, Ryan Martin and Joe Kelsay teamed up to help AgrInstitute.

Our thanks go to Sarah Weibert and Abby Strickland for helping at the outing. We would also like to thank the many sponsors who helped make the event a section success. A complete list of sponsors is included in the AgrInstitute Accolades on page 5.

Now is Time to Recruit for Next ALP Class

In less than a year, AgrInstitute will begin the fifteenth class of the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP), offering up to 30 individuals the opportunity to improve their leadership skills and expand their understanding of public issues facing their businesses and communities

"Time and time again we have seen that many of our top candidates apply for the program because they are encouraged to do so by one of our network members," said Chairman Brian Buchanan. "Since applications are due shortly after the New Year and autumn is often a busy time for those linked to agriculture, we would encourage you to start recruiting for Class 15 now if you have not already done so."

To access a copy of the Class 15 ALP brochure or applications to share with prospective candidates, network members

may visit: <http://www.agriinstitute.org/program/#3>. All applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by January 17, 2012. Recommendations must be sent in separately by this date.

"We have been blessed with a very deep applicant pools in recent history," said Executive Director Beth Archer. "This makes the selection process very difficult since we have more quality candidates than available spots. At the same time, it is heartening to know that the agricultural community in the state sees the value of our ALP program."

Potential applicants, particularly those involved in production agriculture, may want to explore some "scholarships" offered by commodity or county Farm Bureau organizations. For a complete list of these opportunities, please contact Beth.

AgrInstitute

A leadership development and people capacity building organization that facilitates the network of agriculture and non-agricultural communities.

Calendar These Events

September 8-10, 2011

ALP Class 14
Seminar 8
Muncie, Indiana

September 15, 2011

Ft. Wayne Area Social
5 - 7 p.m.
Covington Bar and Grill
Fort Wayne, Indiana

December 1-3, 2011

ALP Class 14
Seminar 9
Washington, IN

Check Out :

The August issue of Indiana Farm Bureau's **The Hoosier Farmer** publication featured a nice article about AgrInstitute written by Board Member Pete Hanebutt. Thanks to Farm Bureau for being constant supporters of the ALP.

More than 70 families were honored with the **Hoosier Homestead Award** at the 2011 Indiana State Fair. To see a complete list of recipients visit:

http://www.in.gov/isda/files/Aug_2011_Web_List.pdf

The National FFA Organization is seeking volunteers to serve as judges for the upcoming **2011 FFA Convention**. To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.ffa.org/GetInvolved/Volunteer/Pages/default.aspx>

Donor Spotlight:**Grammer Industries**

Bartholomew County-based Grammer Industries, Inc., is known in the agricultural and trucking industries for specializing in the transportation of agricultural goods, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia and other potentially hazardous materials. The company also offers safety and emergency response training and emergency recovery services.

Owned and operated by Charles (Shorty) Whittington, Grammer Industries has been a longtime supporter of AgrlInstitute. In addition to annually supporting our organization for more than 22 years, the company has been a generous supporter of the annual ALP Benefit Auction, an event that Shorty and his wife, Ro Anne, make a point to attend when his busy schedule allows. He has also been a regular supporter of our organizations annual golf benefit, often participating in the day.



Shorty Whittington

"I believe that if you give, you get," shares Shorty Whittington. "The AgrlInstitute is a great example of what I believe."

In fact, Shorty's support of AgrlInstitute has not been limited to his own contributions. He has also been a great recruiter for the program, going so far as to encourage his two children to participate in the ALP program. In fact, Kristin was a member of Class 6, and John was in Class 12.

Shorty is very active and well respected in many agricultural and transportation organizations at the state and national levels, having served as Chairman of the American Trucking Association. He has been honored with numerous awards including the Distinguished Agricultural Alumni award from Purdue University and the Indiana Agri-Vision Award from the State Department of Agriculture.

AgrlInstitute and Indiana's agricultural industry are certainly fortunate to have a champion in Shorty Whittington.

**Thank you Grammer Industries
and Shorty Whittington for your
continued support!**

The Journey of ALP Class 14**Making a Difference One Step at a Time**

By Raylee Honeycutt, Class 14

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."

- Marian Wright Edelman

During the July seminar, Class 14 shared their plans for their making a difference projects. Though many class members still needed some time to finalize details other members of the class shared their visions for the coming months. Class members have planned to start with the small daily differences that will have a positive impact on their communities and work to grow their projects from there.

Youth is one of the main focuses for many of the projects. Class participants have plans to work with their local FFA chapters and alumni groups, 4-H clubs and after school programs. More specifically, one project goal is to help raise scholarship dollars for students to continue their education and another is to raising pumpkins for a local school to use as a fundraiser. Other projects will include working with animal care, violence against women, assistance with child care and volunteering with community organizations.

In addition, a group of class members have joined together to reach out further than the Indiana borders and engage other ag leadership groups from around the country. With this project, the group is developing a network of resources from Indiana as well as from alumni from other programs to create a place where resources can be found for agricultural advocacy.

With Class 14 working on their making a difference project it is a great reminder that everyone can make small daily differences in others lives. With a network like AgrlInstitute, our small differences can add up very quickly to a big difference to our industry, communities, state and nation.



Class 14's Scott Strickland, Andy Tauer, Kyle Tom and Matt Bechdol hit the course for the AgrlInstitute Golf Outing. In addition to having golfers at the event, Class 14 also paid it forward by sponsoring two holes and the meal at the event.

Our Own Indiana State Fair

The Indiana State Fair is the envy across the nation. The 2011 ISF celebrating the Year of the Soybeans offered nothing short of the outstanding caliber state fair that we Hoosiers have come to expect and enjoy.

The tragedy that occurred on August 13 has brought tremendous grief and despair to our Indiana State Fair family. The tragic loss of lives, the many other injured and still healing, and the tremendous pain felt by State Fair staff, Commission, and Board members all have taken a tremendous toll on our very souls.

The journey to recovery will be significant in our hearts, souls and lives. Our Governor demonstrated the very style of leadership we need in these circumstances. One of compassion, mercy and resiliency that provides us with the ability to show our pain and, yet, do what we must to pick up the pieces and move forward. From this tragedy will be learnings that bring about improvements not only for our Indiana State Fair, but for countless others who are watching how we handle this tragic event.

To the many of you who did and are doing your part to move forward, we say thank you. To the leadership of the Indiana State Fair, we say thank you for your competent and professional leadership. Our hearts go out to you as you rebuild and restore, showcasing the great Hoosier tradition of fortitude and resiliency.

We hope you will send notes of encouragement to the Indiana State Fair Staff, Commission and Board. They can be sent to the Indiana State Fair, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis IN 46205. Financial support for the victims can be sent to the Central Indiana Community Foundation. www.cicf.org



Bob Fulling (Class 13), Regional Vice President Rabo Agrifinance, Inc. was one of many AgriInstitute network members who volunteered time at the 2011 Indiana State Fair.

Thanks to Our ISF Volunteers

Throughout the 2011 Indiana State Fair, a number of AgriInstitute network members volunteered to staff various booths at the fair and support our IN Ag partners like Indiana Pork, Indiana Beef Cattle Association, and the Indiana Soybean Alliance for their years of support of our organization. Specifically, AgriInstitute would like to thank the following individuals for helping to fill our volunteer commitments throughout this year's fair:

Brian Buchanan, Tamara Choat, Tom Daugherty, Janelle Deatsman, Tom Dull, Chris Fenner, Kenda Resler Friend, Bob Fulling, Jack Grimble, Doug Harvey, Matt Hill, Marietta Kendall, Phyllis Legan, Scott Maple, Doug Pond, Jeff Quyle, Ed Shew, Andy Tauer, Jennifer Vandeburg, Lucy Whitehead, Julia Wickard, and Brian Wise.

Again, thanks to all of you who took time to assist AgriInstitute and our important industry partners.

Indy-Area ALP Hosts Summer Social

The Antelope Club near downtown Indianapolis was once again the venue for the Indianapolis-Area ALP Networking Group. The summer social was held on August 29. A small crowd gathered (see attendee list with photo) and enjoyed dinner and conversation in a relaxed setting.

Since 2009 ALP members in the Indianapolis area have been gathering for informal social and networking opportunities each quarter. All ALP members, their spouses and prospective members are invited and encouraged to attend. The social was organized by Sarah Aubrey.

A Christmastime social is planned for December 17th, as Class 13 will already be in town to gather at the Pacer's suite purchased by class members during this year's ALP auction. More details and an invitation for all to attend will follow. Please save the date.

To support the networking socials, host one in your area, or volunteer to provide a venue for a social, contact Beth.



Attendees included Class 3's Doug Harvey; Class 12's Joe Kelsay; Class 13's Sarah Aubrey and Mike Honeycutt; and Class 14's Raleigh Honeycutt, Marietta Kendall, Tiffany Obrecht.

Guests included Meghan Grebner with Brownfield Network, a guest of Beth Archer, and Josh Flook with Dow AgroSciences, a guest of Sarah Aubrey and Kenda Resler-Friend.

Industry Insights

Family Versus Factory Debate Continues in Indiana Counties

Kosciusko County is home to 75 confined feeding operations (CFOs) and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and more than 100 lakes, including the state's largest natural lake, Lake Wawasee. With applications for new construction or expansion of five CAFOs on the table, Kosciusko County is also now home to a heated debate on "family" versus "factory" farming.

I hesitated to even use the term "factory farm" because I simply detest it. Although most of us are using more and more technology in order to improve the way we produce feed, food and fiber, we know that farming is hardly a formulaic, impersonal process dependent on this or that widget. In fact, most of us are involved in this business because we are passionate about creating a safe, quality product from the land despite what mother nature can throw at us. 2011 has been a great example of this resolve.

Were you to listen to the opponents of the CAFOs at the Area Plan Commission meeting and IDEM question and answer session that I attended, you would think that these operations are simply huge, money hungry operations that are operated with little concern for the environment or the communities in which they operate. In fact, there is a prevalent fear that these operations will pollute area wells and lakes even though the 75 existing operations have a good track record, with few, if any, complaints logged in recent history. What's more, the list of impaired waters in the county are predominantly linked to mercury and other chemicals linked to industrial uses, not agricultural products.

Despite the good track record of animal operations in our area, it's evident that many rural residents

are distrustful and, in many ways, uneducated about larger livestock farms.

Case in point, I heard several folks allude to Grand Lake near St. Mary's Ohio as an example of how agriculture can compromise local lakes. No acknowledgement was made of the relative health of area lakes despite Kosciusko county being ranked fifth in the state for the number of CAFOs and CFOs. Instead, an impaired lake in a completely unrelated community in Ohio was held up as the reason that residents should be concerned about the new operations in our county.

I also overheard a concerned citizen ask an IDEM official if the 4,000 hogs raised on one of the proposed farms would be processed on the farm. If this rural resident does not have a concept of how animals are processed for food, it's hard to believe that any perceptions she has of actual production practices could be anywhere close to reality. Boy, do we have our work cut out for ourselves.

Unfortunately, our job of educating rural residents is complicated by the fact that sometimes others involved in agriculture are the most vocal opponents. It's amazing—and more than a little disheartening to me—that so many of the factory farm signs in our area have been posted in front of homes or fields of people who used to raise livestock or who currently farm or lease their land. Perhaps these folks missed the soybean display at the Indiana State Fair, which touted this crop's largest consumer as livestock.

If the applicants had a track record of being negligent or our county had a history of farm-related environmental problems, that would be one thing. However, as far as I know,



Factory farm signs are posted along several roadsides in southern Kosciusko County.

the farmers looking to construct or expand CAFOs in this case are simply doing so to remain viable family farming operations. There is no reason to believe that they will operate in an irresponsible manner.

Fortunately, the vast majority of the agricultural community in the county is rallying behind these operations and showing their support for these families. Although this is certainly a positive, it doesn't overshadow the larger challenge that faces our industry—how do we relate the complex issues we face as we try to produce safe, high quality feed, food and fiber products. That seems to be the age old question that agriculture simply doesn't have an easy answer to due to the diversity and complexity found amongst the different facets of our industry.

As I understand, Kosciusko County is not the only Hoosier county with rural residents voicing concerns over CAFOs. So, conversations on all of these topics are taking place throughout the state. I know that as I talk about this with others and watch this issue unfold, I feel fortunate that I have had the chance to go through the Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP) and learned how public policy and public opinion can be shaped by those engaged in the debate about a given topic.

Submitted by Janelle Deatsman, AgrlInstitute Board Member from Kosciusko County

AgrlInstitute Accolades

Numerous individuals, businesses, and organizations give of their time and treasure to make AgrlInstitute and the ALP program successful. We want to thank those who have made a contribution in August 2011.

AgrlInstitute Sponsors

*Mike and Raylee Honeycutt
Tony and Sherry Johnson*

Golf Benefit Sponsors

*ALP Class 14 (Meal)
Jim and Beth Archer (Prize)
Bose McKinney & Evans (Hole in 1)
Elisha and Brian Buchanan, (Prize)
Buchanan Hauling and Rigging
GeoSilos (Drink Cart)
Grammer Industries (Drink Cart)
Mike Ferree (Prize)
Maple Leaf Farms (Reception)
WestPoint Financial (Food)*

*Rick Winkler, Williams Industries
(Prize)*

Hole Sponsors

*ALP Class 14 (2 holes)
Beck's Hybrids
Bunge N.A.
Co-Alliance
CountryMark (2 holes)
Farm Credit Services of Mid-America
Frick Services (2 holes)
Harris Bank
Halderman Farm Mgt. Services
IceMiller LLP
N.K. Hurst
Rabo Agrifinance
Reynolds Farm Equipment
WestPoint Financial
White Farms*

If we have missed a contribution, please accept our apologies and notify us so we can acknowledge it in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you.

Thanks to Wayne Co. Farm Bureau

The Wayne County Farm Bureau recently announced that their organization will be supporting AgrlInstitute in two different ways. First, they are donating \$15,000 to an AgrlInstitute fund at the Wayne County Foundation. In addition to contributing seed money for the Wayne County Farm Bureau AgrlInstitute Fund, the organization is also establishing a tuition scholarship for Wayne County residents who may participate in an ALP class in the future.

Our sincere thanks goes to the entire Wayne County Farm Bureau organization for their generous support of AgrlInstitute. Furthermore, we would like to thank **Sara** (Class 6) and **Duane** (Class 10) **Davis** for spearheading this effort.

ALP Network in the News

Tom Dull (Class 2) has been elected at the vice president of National Christmas Tree Association.

Todd Applegate (Class 10) has received the BRAIN (BIOMIN Research & Innovation Network) award at the Nutrition Forum in Austria.

Kaye Whitehead (Class 1) has been nominated to fill a board of director position at Farm Credit Services of Mid-America. Voting will occur from through mid-October.

Bob White (Class 4) is running for election to the Indiana House of Representatives District 55 seat.

Thanks to Sonny and Scott Beck (Class 7) and the folks at **Beck's Hybrids** for allowing AgrlInstitute to have a booth and recruit applicants for Class 15 at their Becknology™ Days. It was a great opportunity to connect with those involved in production agriculture.

Newsletter Correction: *Ed Shew* was identified as a Class 4 member in the August Newsletter. This is incorrect. Ed is actually a proud member of Class 3. We apologize for the confusion.

ALP Network Updates

Joe Baldwin (Class 12) and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed Owen Matthew Baldwin to their family on August 18.

Matt Bechdol (Class 14) has left his position with ESRI to begin his own firm, GeoSilos. Contact Matt at matt.bechdol@geosilos.com to learn more about his new business.

Brad Farrer (Class 14) has changed to a new career. He has taken a position with Risk Management Commodities in Lafayette. He will be a Commodity Broker.

Andy Tauer (Class 14) will begin as the Livestock Director for Indiana Soybean Alliance/Indiana Corn Marketing Council on Monday, Sept. 12. He leaves his position as the Agricultural Liaison at the IN Department of Environmental Management. His new email address will be atauer@indianasoybean.com.

September Birthday Roster

Class 1: Donna Dunn, David Miers
Alan Kemper, Jeff Fritz

Class 2: Michael Edmondson, B.J.
Smith Roberts

Class 3: Mark Townsend, Trena
Trusty

Class 4: Ben Carter, Jon Lantz

Class 5: Ron Birt, Steve Ludwig

Class 6: Gary Horner, David Houts,
Susan McCloud,

Class 7: Mark Smith

Class 8: Sharie Wall-Drotschmann,
Gary Rodgers

Class 10: Jerry Fankhouser, Scott
Sheets, Chris Wooley

Class 11: Kent Kleeman, Keith
Payne, Mark Woodruff

Class 12: Rodney Schwoeppe, John
Whittington, Mark Guinn

Class 13: Allen Buchanan, Denise
Derrer, Bob Fulling

Class 14: Brad Farrer, Raylee
Honeycutt, Sarah Simpson,
Ana Hernandez, Greg
Kneubuhler

Happy Birthday to You!