

Fair Board expresses thanks to those who serve

As the weather gets cooler, the leaves begin to fall, and summer becomes a distant memory, it seems to be a perfect time for giving thanks to and reflecting on those who have made the Scott County Fair a great community event. The Scott County Fair Board would like to thank the Junior Fair Board members, emergency personnel, employees, volunteers, and sponsors for all they did this past year.

This was the first year the Scott County Agricultural Society had a Junior Fair Board! The ten members of the board helped with promoting the fair, getting the grounds ready, and assisting with many things during the fair. These young people brought a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas to help create a bigger, better fair.

The Scott County Fair Board would also like to give

thanks to all of the emergency personnel -- such as police officers, mounted patrol, fire departments, and medics -- for partnering with us to create a safe and fun environment at the fair. We appreciate the help with barn clean out, Kid's Day, grandstand events, draft horse shows, overflow parking, and keeping fairgoers safe.

Friday of the Scott County Fair is a day to honor and recognize all of our seniors/veterans who contribute to our community. Words cannot describe how thankful we are for all of our veterans who have served and all active duty military personnel who continue to serve our country.

The Scott County Agricultural Society and its Fair Board would like to say thank you to all who helped make the Scott County Fair a great, fun, and safe fair. We are looking forward to working with you again next summer at the Scott County Fair (July 22-26)!



I need info for cutline.



Emergency providers from departments around Scott County sent personnel and equipment to the Scott County Fairgrounds for Kids Day.



Members of the Savage Fire Department were on standby in case of an emergency during the demolition derby.



The Red Bull Band performed patriotic music for fairgoers on the last day of the Fair.



The Scott County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol carried the colors at the start of the horse shows.



The Scott County Agricultural Society has started a Junior Fair Board. Members performed a variety of tasks prior to and at this year's Fair.

Ag census shows 740 farms in Scott County

The results for the 2017 Ag Census -- conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) every five years -- were published in late May. Here is a look at the numbers in Scott County.

Scott County is home to 740 farms, representing 1,213 producers (of which 780 are male and 433 are female), and the majority of farmers are between the



ages of 35 to 64 years old. The number of new farmers (i.e., those that have been farming for less than 10 years) comes in at 206 farmers. The average farm size in Minnesota is 371 acres, compared to 156 acres in Scott County.

The top crops for Scott County are corn for grain (at 38,670 acres) and soybeans (38,130 acres), followed by 10,000 acres of forage crops, hay, and haylage. Corn for silage and oats for grain complete the list. Although fruits, tree, nuts acreages, as well as nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod are not listed by acreage, these enterprise categories contribute over \$2.5 million in sales of ag products. Livestock inventory includes 15,279 cattle and calves (including dairy animals), which ranks Scott County number 43 in sales and number 37 in milk from cows. Around



Scott County has 1,213 farmers, 780 male and 433 female.

1,200 horses graze in the County.

The market value of all ag products sold is \$75.5 million, with the crops contributing \$44.5 million and livestock products a little over \$31 million.

Scott County is experiencing a downward trend from 2012 Ag Census, losing 13 percent of farms and 18 percent fewer farmland acres. Farm-related income is down 13 percent, while the

net cash farm income was down 55 percent to \$21,543. The number of dairy farms has declined from 45 in 2012 to 34 as of Jan. 1, 2019.

Agriculture crop production and livestock enterprises continue to contribute to the economic viability of the County, and our local farmers are looking for ways to survive given the current impacts of weather, crop commodity prices, and dairy milk prices.



Land rent workshop offered

The issue of land rental rates is one of the most important financial topics farmers and landowners deal with. To learn important skills necessary to successfully manage and negotiate farmland rental arrangements, you're encouraged to attend an upcoming land rent seminar hosted by the University of Minnesota Extension Ag Business Management Extension Educator, David Bau.

The program will cover historical land rental rates, contract management -- including lease types, tools to assist with determining a fair rental rate, and improving negotiation skills. All of these are aimed at making contract negotiations fair and reasonable for pro-

ducers and landowners.

In Scott County, these land rent seminars will be held:

Friday, Nov. 15, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Extension Office at Scott County Fairgrounds (room 1), 7151-190th Street West, Jordan, and
Thursday, Dec. 19, 1:30 -3:30 p.m.
Elko New Market Library, 110 J. Roberts Way, Elko New Market

For further discussion of land rental rates, sample leases, and decision making tools, contact Colleen Carlson, Extension Educator, Ag Production Systems, at traxl042@umn.edu or call her through the Scott County Extension office at (952) 492-5386.

Farm transition workshop offered

Are you thinking about how to transfer your farm business or land to the next generation? University of Minnesota Extension is hosting a workshop on farm transition and estate planning on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elko New Market Library (110 J. Roberts Way, Elko New Market, MN). This is a *free* workshop, and a light lunch is included.

This workshop covers many aspects of the farm transition process, including family communications, farm goal setting, business structures, inheritance and transition, estate and gift taxes, along with retirement planning. Farmers and farm families at *any* stage, from beginning farmers to retired farmers,

can benefit from the workshop materials and discussion.

The farm transition and estate planning workshop is offered through a partnership of the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota State College and University System. Funding for this grant project is provided by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center.

To learn more and register for the event go to z.umn.edu/farmtransition. For registration assistance, contact Colleen Carlson, Extension Educator, Scott County, at (952) 492-5386. Additional locations, dates, and times are listed at www.extension.umn.edu.