

IAA District 7 Meeting Looks At Several Different Issues

By Doug Godke

Each spring and fall, David Miess, IAA District 7 Director on the IAA Board, holds a meeting for the Farm Bureau leaders in his district. Each meeting is rotated to one of the four counties in the district which include Tazewell, McLean, Woodford and Marshall/Putnam Counties. It was Tazewell County's turn to host the meeting this fall. The meeting was held at Avanti's in Pekin on August 18th.

In an attempt to try something different for this meeting, it was decided to try something new. To start out the evening, Farm Bureau leaders in the district were invited to attend a director training program. Lori Laughlin, Director of Issue Management for the Illinois Farm Bureau, was invited to present a director training program on issue management and how to deal with the media.

For those who are not directors, an alternative program was also offered. That program included Jason Haupt, from the University of Illinois Extension Service. His presentation was on a new training program being offered by the Extension Service to train people how to be Master Naturalist. A Master Naturalist is a volunteer that informs people about issues involving nature. Examples would be those that serve as volunteers at locations such as Wildlife Prairie Park. Jason's presentation also discussed the relationship between agriculture and nature. Farmers have the best opportunity to make a difference in the success of nature ecosystems. He discussed things that farmers and land owners can do to improve and work with nature on their farms.

Following the presentations, the participants all came together for supper. Following supper, there was a short District 7 meeting to discuss issues of concern to Farm Bureau leaders in District 7.

Following the meeting, Steffan Nass, WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) for the FBI was introduced as the guest speaker. Nass covers most of the state of Illinois outside of the Chicago area.

In his presentation, Mr. Nass discussed international terrorism and its possible impact on agriculture. He explained the basics of terrorism and how it can be effective. There are several major groups in the world that use terrorism to disrupt the world. Although many of these groups live overseas in faraway countries, they have learned to make use of modern multi-media to their advantage. Nass showed several examples of terrorism on multi-media that are aimed at the U.S. Unfortunately, agriculture and rural America are not exempt from the terror threats. He gave examples of several techniques that could be used to cripple American agriculture.

According to Nass, it does not take a chemist or an explosives expert to make a deadly very destructive bomb. There are many articles on the internet that can instruct an average person to construct a bomb out of normal items that you can purchase at the local hardware store.

Nass said his agency is constantly on watch to identify and stop possible threats, but they cannot be everywhere all of the time. The best tool they have is the general public. Agriculture is no exception. Nass said if anyone sees something that is not normal or seems unusual, they should contact

local authorities and let them deal with the situation. Even if it turns out to be nothing, it is better than letting something happen that could create damage, injuries or even death.

Many of the items that Nass covered were very alarming. He stated that some of the people in the world do not think or have the same morals that most of us do. They have no respect for life. They have their own agenda and do not care what they have to do to accomplish that goal, even if it means killing others.

Following Nass's presentation, there was a question and answer period. Participants came away from the meeting with a different view on international terrorism. It isn't something that only happens in a large city or a faraway country. The threat is real and it can happen anywhere, even in small towns or rural areas. The terrorist have said they are coming to get us. The one thing that is sure is that they are determined to accomplish their goals no matter what it takes.

Above all, we all need to be on the lookout. Agriculture is not exempt, we need to understand that and be aware of what is going on around us. The only way we are going to combat the plans of those that wish to harm us is to know what they are doing and foil their plans before they take action.

We live in a world that is quite different than it used to be. The use of multi-media has changed the way that we do things and look at things. The world has become a smaller place. Most of us do not think of agriculture as a terrorist threat, but don't kid yourself. We could be a prime target.



AGRICULTURE NEEDS TO DEAL WITH MEDIA

Each day, modern agriculture comes under attack for some issue in the media. Some of the issues are real and some are created just to make headlines. Unfortunately, many of the people reporting the story do not have a good knowledge of agriculture. For this reason they need to be encouraged to get agriculture's side of the story. For this reason those involved in agriculture need to learn how to work with media on issues that are of importance to the public understanding agriculture. Lori Laughlin, Director of Issue Management for the Illinois Farm Bureau shown above recently presented a director training program to the leaders in IAA District 7 concerning issue management and working with the media. Farmers need to tell about their industry using true facts that are backed up with real situations. According to Laughlin, it is important for farmers to make contacts with local media so they are contacted for the agricultural side of the story when an issue surfaces. If farmers don't speak up for their industry, someone else will. Unfortunately, it may not be the true facts and it may not favor the public's image of modern day agriculture.

The participants came away from this meeting with a different perspective on terrorism. It needs to be a concern of us but all, especially those that are involved in agriculture.



FBI AGENT SPEAKS TO FARM BUREAU LEADERS

People in rural America probably don't worry much about international terrorism because it is something that usually only affects those in large cities or far away countries. But Steffan Nass, an agent from the FBI in charge of Weapons of Mass Destruction for the State of Illinois recently caused Farm Bureau Leaders to think twice about the threats of terrorism against agriculture. Nass was the guest speaker at the IAA District 7 meeting on August 18th. He said that terrorist groups are recruiting young Americans to support their causes. This is being done through mass media. Once recruited, these people can be trained over the internet to strike in the most unconventional ways. Small towns and agriculture are not exempt from their methods. Their objective is to disrupt the life of their enemies. Anyone that does not believe the way they do are their enemies. Nass said the best tool that his agency has is a public that is aware of anything that does not appear normal. They need people that are willing to inform law enforcement of possible situations and let them investigate and deal with the possible problems. Shown above, Nass discusses some of the techniques that some terrorist groups have proposed for causing disruption of people in the U.S. Nass's presentation made people think twice about what could be possible if terrorist decide to strike agriculture in the U.S.

Men Never Learn

A woman runs a red traffic light and crashes into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished, but amazingly, neither of them is hurt.

After they crawl out of their cars, the woman says; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replies, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continues, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of wine didn't break."

Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune." She then hands the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opens it, drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman.

The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

The woman replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Adam ate the apple, too. Men will never learn...



AGRICULTURE AND NATURE CAN WORK IN HARMONY

Jason Haupt, with the University of Illinois Extension, recently presented a program for a small group of people attending the IAA District 7 meeting on August 18th. Haupt is one of the people that work with a new program offered by the Extension Service to teach people how to become certified as Master Naturalist. A Master Naturalist is a person trained on key items associated with nature. After being certified as a Master Naturalist, a person must continue their training and they will be required to provide a certain number of volunteer hours to maintain their certification. During his presentation, Haupt discussed the relationship between agriculture and nature. According to Haupt, farmers are in an ideal position to help agriculture and nature work in harmony. Their land is the home to birds, insects, wildlife and plant life. The actions taken by the farmers could make a difference in the future of some of the items in the natural world around us.



YOUNG LEADER COOPERATION NEEDED FOR SUCCESSFUL ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL

For a while this year the Young Leader Committee was unsure if they would sponsor their annual antique tractor pull at the Tazewell County 4-H Fair. However, several determined committee members combined their efforts to get the job done. In the end, many of the committee members worked on various items of the pull to make things come together. The pull is a lot of work and takes the efforts of many just to make things run smoothly. Shown above Angie Schoenbein and Morgan Mooberry record the distances, keep the scores, announce the drivers and hand out the trophies. Overall, the tractor pull was a YOUNG LEADER TEAM EFFORT!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH Country Apple Dumplings

Prep time: 20 minutes Ready in: 1 hour 5 minutes
Cook time: 45 Minutes Servings: 16

"Who knew that fresh apples, crescent roll dough and citrus soda could make such a wonderful treat!"

Ingredients:

- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
- 2 (10 ounce) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 1 cup butter
- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (12 fluid ounces) can or bottle Mountain Dew

Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
- Cut each apple into 8 wedges and set aside. Separate the crescent roll dough into triangles. Roll each apple wedge in crescent roll dough starting at the smallest and Pinch to seal and place in the baking dish.
- Melt butter in a small saucepan and stir in the sugar and cinnamon. Pour over the apple dumplings. Pour Mountain Dew over the dumplings.
- Bake for 35 to 45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.

(Some hints that have been used to reduce the calorie count is to use Diet Mountain Dew and use Splenda for half of the sugar and reduce the amount of butter.)