

March Newsletter

March 1, 2024

Save the Date and Help Save a Life! **SFAL Blood Drive**

**Monday, April 15
2:00 - 6:00 pm
SFHS Commons**

Appointments are suggested but walk-ins are welcome. The Blood Drive is a few weeks later due to SFHS blood drive being postponed in January due to bad weather.

Wine About It

March 8, 2024 at Alma Telephone Banquet Room

We are once again booked with 45 ladies planning to come out and paint wood signs this year! A portion of each ticket sale will be added to the fund we created with HCC Network to help those who need services in the local area.

Early Spring

Advisor - Brittany Hemme

Although the official first day of Spring is a few weeks away, we've had an incredibly mild February that makes it feel like Spring-time already. And I hear (as I'm sure most of Saline and Lafayette County has as well) that there's even been some beans planted already too! There's no telling what kind of Spring we'll have, but I hope with El Nino being back, we'll get a more average amount of moisture this year.

The series of winter meetings went well this year; it's hard to believe we are already to the end of them. With the early January weather that was so severe, we postponed the Kickoff Meeting till March 4. Everything has

been planned the same as if we had hosted it in January. Janet Adkison will be our guest speaker, we will draw for the Raffle items, dues will be collected (if you haven't already paid) and we will enjoy a great meal from Plowboys BBQ. We hope you'll join us next week!

March will also be filled with a few other events like the Wine About It event for ladies on March 8, KMMO Ag Day on March 14 and the annual Career Ag seminar for high school students on March 26.

The Career Ag seminar is one of my favorite events of the year. Every year that I begin to plan it, I think about what the information would have

done for me as a middle/high school student. My love for agriculture was strong, but with no FFA program at my school, I didn't realize all the possibilities the Ag industry had to offer. With new technology and innovations coming out all the time, the Ag industry has so much to offer. From drones and cutting edge technology to sustainability initiatives, there really is something for everyone. My goal is to make sure students are aware of how relatable their interests and strengths can be to a future career in Ag. We need them!

I hope to see many of you next week, and I wish a successful and safe planting season for each of you.

"Kickoff" Meeting coming up March 4

Since we are at the end of the Winter Meeting series, this will technically be a 'Wrap Up' but whatever you want to call it, we hope you'll join us on Monday evening

for a great meal catered by Plowboys BBQ, guest speaker Janet Adkison and the Raffle drawing! Doors open at 6:00pm. You can pay dues if you haven't already.

We hope to see you on Monday, March 4 as we truly wrap-up a great series of winter meetings. Thank you to those of you who came out to the meetings this winter!

Matters from the Minutes

The Santa Fe Agri Leader Board met on Monday, February 19 at 6pm

- Blood Drive date (April 15) set for later than usual due to spacing between other local drives & SFHS drive being postponed
- Wrapped up Stewardship Conference items & starting to look into next year's speakers
- Scholarship Applications due April 12
 - Jody Bergman Memorial funds earmarked for SFAL/Scholarship was put into a CD
 - New Weather Tower sponsor: Burchett Seed

Career Ag Day at SFHS - March 26, 2024

Each year we host a seminar-style Career Day centered on jobs related to the Ag industry. We have welcomed a wide range of professionals who represent the industry well and share valuable insight with students at Santa Fe. All students who are in FFA, or take an Ag class, 8th-12th grade attend this event. We look forward to welcoming professionals from the following:

Missouri Soybean Association, Agri-Spray Drones

John Deere Tech Program, Ag Education/Teach Ag

Department of Agriculture, Brownfield Network

KMMO Ag Day

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Hisle/Stapelton Family Farm

32298 Guide Ave. Miami, MO

Come enjoy a meal and hear from Director Chris Chinn and Art Hains, Kansas City Chiefs Broadcaster.

3rd Annual Mo Ag Stewardship Conference sees biggest crowd yet

The Stewardship Conference was held on January 25 inside the Concordia Community Center. We welcomed Russell Hedrick, Dr. Jerry Hatfield and Jeremia Markway as the featured speakers. The day began with coffee and donuts at 8:30am. Concordia and Santa Fe FFA students were on hand to help introduce speakers and serve refreshments & lunch. The students also assisted with the set up process as well as cleaning up at the conclusion of the event. We welcomed nearly 100 attendees from multiple counties surrounding Lafayette, and served lunch to 120 people. Four main vendors were set up including Ag-Power, MFA Inc., Crown Power and Frieling Ag Solutions. These vendors

were also the top tier Sponsors for the event. Other sponsors included MFA Inc. Charitable Foundation, Missouri Dept. of Ag, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, FCS Financial, Missouri Corn Growers, Parallel Ag, Yetter Farm Equipment, Yield Technology Service, Missouri Fertilizer Control Board, and Green Cover Seed. Members of the Santa Fe Agri Leaders attended for free. Plowboys BBQ catered the event. With very positive feedback and continuous growth each year, we are already beginning to plan the 2025 event and look forward to bringing you even more valuable education.

