

Salute to Ag 2021 carries on key initiative for area ag students

Salute to Ag Week 2021 took place March 22-26.

Typically, a breakfast and speaker event is held at The Barn at Hornbaker Gardens. Unfortunately, last year's event was cancelled due to COVID, but new Executive Director of the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce Jenica Cole did not want the six-year-running Salute to Ag program to miss out on another year.

"Even though we still could not host the live event, our committee still thought it was important to continue as much of the initiative as possible," she said.

For the last six years, the Salute to Ag committee has provided scholarship opportunities to high school seniors in Bureau County. Applications are sent to all Bureau County high schools in hopes to help graduating high school senior(s) who have been accepted into an agriculture or agricultural-related curriculum at a university, college or community college. The applicants must be pursuing a degree in an agricultural-related field.

Criteria selection is based on a combination of academic achievement, community and agricultural youth organization involvement, and the future goals of the applicant. Applications are judged by the Salute to Ag committee. This year's applications were due by March 1, and winners were announced on March 23 — National Ag Day.

Scholarship winners for 2021 are: Carli Wright of Princeton High School, Shelby Hardy of Bureau Valley High School and Sean Fitzpatrick of Ohio High School.

Samantha Bohm of Bureau Valley High School, scholarship winner from 2020, was also recognized this year due to the cancellation of all events last year.

The Salute to Ag initiative would not continue to exist without its generous sponsors.

Harvester Level Sponsorships: Capital Agricultural Property Services, Clifton Larson Allen, Compeer Financial, Corteva Agriscience, Country Financial, Heartland Bank & Trust Company.

Seed Sower Level Sponsorships: Ag View FS, Bureau County Farm Bureau, Hefty Seed Company, Michlig Energy, North Central Bank, Prairie State Tractor, River Valley Cooperative.

Cultivator Level Sponsorship: First State Bank.

Jill Frueh, manager of the Bureau County Farm Bureau and a Salute to Ag committee member, also tried to keep ag in the minds of the younger students by still holding the annual coloring contest, which was a Facebook-vote event this year. There were



Photo contributed

Three area ag students received Salute to Ag scholarships this year despite the annual breakfast event having to be cancelled another year due to COVID-19. The committee also recognized Samantha Bohm (front row, from left) who was last year's scholarship winner but was not publicly recognized due to the pandemic. The 2021 scholarship winners are Shelby Hardy of Bureau Valley High School, Sean Fitzpatrick of Ohio High School and Carli Wright of Princeton High School. The students are pictured with the Salute to Ag committee members Scott Smith (back row, from left) of Michlig Energy, Chad Taylor of Nutrien Ag Solutions, Dan Legner of Compeer Financial, Derek Fetzer of Heartland Bank & Trust Company, Jenica Cole, executive director of the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Rachel Denton of Hefty Seed. Committee members not pictured are Shellee Monier of Meadows Home Décor & Gifts, Jill Frueh of Bureau County Farm Bureau, Deb Schultz of North Central Bank and Tim Harris of Capital Agricultural Property Services.

three winners in three different age groups. Those winners and their coloring page submissions can be found on the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce website at www.princetonchamber-il.com.

Thank you to all of those kiddos who participated and congratulations to Izzy (age 5), Avery (age 9) and Abby (age 10).

Winners and other Salute to Ag info can be found on the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce web-

site.

"Congratulations to all of our Salute to Ag Scholarship recipients and best wishes in college," Cole said.

Applications and event information for 2022 will be released early next year.

Be on the lookout for the exciting schedule of events for this year's Beef & Ag Days to be held June 18 & 19.

NEWS BRIEFS

Perry Memorial Hospital will offer PSA screening on April 22

PRINCETON — The Perry Memorial Family Health Clinic will be offering a reduced-price prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22. This PSA screening is \$33.

Men who are age 50 and above, currently not under the care of a urologist and who have a "first-degree" family member (father, brother or son) who has had a prostate-related diagnosis should consider attending the prostate screening. Patients are encouraged to discuss the risks and benefits associated with PSA screening with their primary care provider to identify if it is suitable for them.

Dr. S. Das Pamnani will be available during the

screening to answer questions you may have about the prostate screening and men's health. The PSA test does not require a provider order, results will be sent to the provider on your form.

"It is very easy to screen for prostate cancer with a simple blood test. With the PSA screening, we can identify this cancer in the early stages and refer patients to a specialist in a timely manner," said Dr. Pamnani. "Please consider attending the PSA screening event at the Perry Memorial Family Health Clinic and I would be glad to answer any question that you may have."

One in nine men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. Payment is by cash or check. No insurance will be billed, and no additional lab tests will be performed. Pre-registration is required; call 815-876-2050 or 815-876-3313.