



Community Foundation
of Morgan County, Inc.
Investing in Our Quality of Life

CFMC to Host Free Farmers Breakfast August 3 at the Morgan County Fair

July 9, 2010

MORGAN COUNTY, Ind. – Morgan County farmers and business owners are invited to enjoy a free meal and “food for thought” at the third annual Farmers Breakfast hosted by the Community Foundation of Morgan County on Tuesday, August 3. The event will take place in the Morgan County Beef and Sertoma Building at the Morgan County Fair at 7:30 a.m. Although it has been geared toward only farmers in the past, business owners are invited this year as well.

Guests will be treated to biscuits and gravy, brats, eggs, fruit, juice, milk and coffee catered by the Morgan County Beef Cattle Association. Each person will also receive a special gift for attending.

Jamie Updike, county executive director of the Morgan County Farm Service Agency, will share information about the agency’s programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program. Updike, a Morgan County resident, grew up on a farm in Huntington County and has been the local FSA director for two years.

The FSA provides farmers with services such as farm loans, commodity operations, disaster assistance, education, price support, and energy and conservation programs.

Updike’s main topic will be the Conservation Reserve Program, which helps protect topsoil from erosion and also helps protect groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. She will be sharing new options available under this program.

“With all of the flooding in the past couple of years, the ground has sustained significant damage in some areas,” Updike said. “The CRP program is designed to help prevent further damage and to repair gullies or other issues that have formed due to erosion.”

The Farm Service Agency will work with farmers to establish government-approved conservation practices. Participating farmers receive annual rental payments as well as a portion of the cost to establish the practice.

“FSA provides cost share to establish the practice, along with a signing incentive and a practice incentive payment,” Updike said. “In some cases, this amount would cover 100 percent of the cost to establish the specific practice.”

The Community Foundation of Morgan County's Executive Director Tom Zoss, who is an attorney, will also briefly share ideas on how farmers can create a legacy for the future using mostly saved tax dollars.

A recent example of how a family can leave a legacy is the Estate of Dorothy Asher. Dorothy was a teacher and her husband Orville was a farmer. In 2008, the Estate of Dorothy Asher established two scholarship funds at the Community Foundation of Morgan County upon her passing. Because of their love of Morgan County, she wanted to ensure that they supported students entering the field of teaching and health care for years to come. For the 2010-2011 school year, the CFMC awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$32,500 from the income to the funds the Ashers created. Because the funds are endowments, scholarships will be awarded annually in perpetuity.

The breakfast will kick-off the CFMC's Sponsor of the Day activities at the fair. Foundation board and staff members will be at the Sponsor of the Day booth all day. Patrons can visit the booth to see how the CFMC helps Morgan County, learn about upcoming events, and pick up free giveaways.

For more information on the Farmers Breakfast or the CFMC, contact the foundation office at (317) 831-1232 or toll-free (877) 822-6958. More information on the foundation can be found at www.cfmconline.org.