



# The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

"SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE"

*fairburyrotary.com*

## 2002 - 2003 Officers

President . . . . . Jon Bachtold  
 Pres. Elect . . . . . Jeff Schweizer  
 Vice President . . . . . John Strong  
 Sec/Treas . . . . . Leroy McPherson

Editor. . .Leroy McPherson

**DATE/TIME/** April 8, 2003 12:00 Noon at McDonald's  
**PLACE:**

**ATTENDANCE:** 19 plus Stan Blunier, Darrel Tinges & Brad Brown

**MISSING:** J. Capasso, R. Davis, K. Ernst, W. Fugate, D. Kinate, D. Oelschlager, E. Palen,  
 M. Petersen, P. Pogue, M. Prost, D. Roberts, J. Schweizer, M. Steffen, R. Stevens,  
 K. Stewart, J. Strong, T. Taylor, L. Weber, M. White, F. Wing

**SING-A-LONG:** My Wild Irish Rose - Mary's A Grand Old Name

**LOTTO:** "Steve" Moser and Bob Nussbaum

## ACTION ON THE AVENUES

### CLUB SERVICE:

#### Programs:

04/15 Tracy Taylor  
 04/22 Jeff Schweizer  
 04/29 Ella Bellot

Phil took over the Presidency since Jeff's wife was sick.

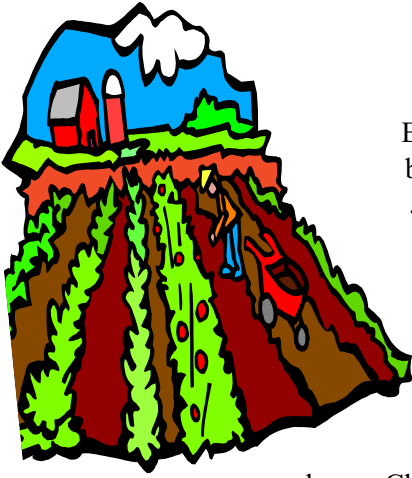
### AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thursday	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:15 p.m.	Wednesday	Bayern Stube
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tuesday	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	11:50 a.m.	Wednesday	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wednesday	Bone Student Center
Piper City	6:15 p.m.	Monday	Azz Izz Tavern
Pontiac	12:00 Noon	Tuesday	Mary's Family Rest.

### QUIPS AND QUOTES:

*If you're going to be a bride, you've got to be prepared to be walked upon.*

*Fairburyrotary.com*



## 21st Century Producers - Stan Blunier

Bud introduced Stan with a brief history and this quote . . . "Fix them, don't bitch about them!" That is exactly what Stan has been trying to do. He was a member of the Illinois Farm Bureau, The Corn Growers Assoc., Country Company's Board,

and now Chairman for 21st Century Producers, Inc. In 1995 the new Farm Bill was signed. In it, for the farmer, was a decline in support for their product. This caused Stan and others to look for added value projects. In 1999, Produce Alliance was formed. 21st Century Producers were made up of 3 Alliances. They looked for Ag business opportunity in products, marketing and value added investments like ethanol, corn chips, etc. Producers Alliance was formed to help groups with projects. They want to get farmers more organized in developing value added projects. He noted the rate of return for agriculture is 3-4% while the distributors & processors enjoy 18% on food. They will attempt to start new business. Some businesses started - Washington County Dairy, Bean Processing, Ladder Creek Dairy (*they learned a lesson of the need of extra investment for highs & lows*), Golden Forrest Ag Fibers - (*presently bad deal due to timing*), Grain

Merchandising LLC, Thumb Oilseed Producers Coop (*1997 soy products*), Midwest Grain Processors (*started in Nov and has made a profit every month*), Michigan Alfalfa Processors (*failed*), Minnesota Soybean Processors. They have investigated several other businesses like cereal snack food but found no margin in snack foods. Soy milk production pulled out due to strong competition, Tortilla Manufacture - Biodegradable Packing - A13 Certification - Bakery - Dairy Processing - corn processing - sunflower processing and pizza dough plants. They have learned it is not easy. Competition is great. Equity is critical, markets take time to develop. We tend to still think too small. We still have that "in my back yard" mentality. They have found farmer groups are not thinking strategically. There are too many groups out there duplicating efforts. We need to get more organized, utilize our experiences, and network with experienced professionals. We need to become leaders and help existing farmer groups. Eventually their goal is to be recognized as a national leader. They also started a consultant group called Business Solutions. Some new projects in the last year are . . . Illinois River Energy in Rochelle, Illinois producing ethanol. This plant will also sell CO<sub>2</sub> and corn products for feed. American Nature Beef - Tany Creek Dairy - Premium Producers Assoc, - Michigan Edible Bean Corp and American Premium Pork/Allied Producers. They are working on the old Farm Valley line of products.

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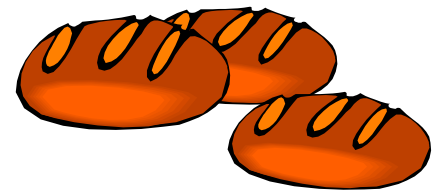
### BITS & PIECES

*A mixture of horse sense and common sense about working with people.*

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## Bread of Love



During a beautiful spring day, a young woman decided to eat her lunch in the park. On the nearest bench sat an old beggar who clutched an empty paper bag. His clothes were unkempt and he looked as if he had not eaten in days. So, the young woman sat next to him and offered him half of her sandwich.

With this act of kindness the beggar was transformed into a clean-shaven, well-dressed man. The empty bag he once held was now filled with three loaves of bread. "I am no beggar, but a genie here to reward your act of kindness with a gift," he said. "I have three loaves of bread and you may have one. But choose wisely. A bite from one will give you unlimited success, to eat from another is key to never-ending wealth, and a taste from the third will ensure undying love."

The young woman thought for a moment. With suc-

cess, she would always have a good job, but with wealth she would never have to worry about money or a career. Then she thought about her parents, grandparents, and friends - and how much they meant to her. "I will take the bread of love," the young woman answered.

The genie handed the young woman the bread. After she took a bite of it, he handed her the remaining loaves and said, "You have chosen wisely. The bread of love bestows endless wealth and countless success upon those who possess it. Go in peace and share your gifts with the world."