



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

"Lend a Hand"

Fairburyrotary.com

2003 - 2004 Officers

President Jeff Schweizer
 Pres. Elect John Strong
 Vice President Mike Petersen
 Sec/Treas Leroy McPherson

Editor. . .Leroy McPherson

DATE/TIME/ February 24, 2004 - 12:00 Noon at McDonalds
PLACE:

ATTENDANCE: 21 plus Willa Virkler, Kay Stevens, Marty Travis & Kris Travis

SING-A-LONG: Stodola Pumpa & My Gal Sal

LOTTO: Mark Steffen and Tracy Taylor

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

"Bits & Pieces"

Programs:

- 3/02 PCHS Spring Sports
- 3/09 Debbie Oelschlager
- 3/16 PCHS Solo & Ensemble
- 3/23 Bill Fugate
- 3/30 OPEN

A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew.
 Herb Caen

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

THE SPENCE FARM

Program: Rod Stevens; Speakers: Marty and Kris Travis



Settled in 1830, Spence Farm is the oldest family farm in Livingston County, Illinois. It is a place where people can come to learn about diversity, heirloom crops, heritage breed animals, conservation of natural areas, woodland management, restoration of buildings, and preservation of heritage.

The historic buildings are being restored and the cabin area recreated in order to offer you a look into the past. You'll be able to enjoy the sounds of an old blacksmith shop, the smells of heirloom flowers, and the feel of life in the country.

The seven-acre prairie can give you a glimpse into what much of Illinois looked like before settlers arrived. And, by careful management of the woods, an enduring habitat for wildlife and colorful native wildflowers is provided.

The Scale House Farm Stand has fresh produce and handmade items created on the farm. Historic crafts, crops and trades of the farm's history from 1830 to present are represented.

Many crops that are today considered "alternative" or specialty" crops are being introduced. Heirloom fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, Christmas trees, and native plants are being organically grown. Seeds from heirloom flowers and native prairie plants can be found for sale in Spence Farm seed boxes in local stores. Heritage breed animals including chickens, turkey, sheep, goats, and cows will be acquired in the next few years in order to teach about endangered livestock breeds. Honey bees are being reintroduced, blacksmith items are being made, and many other products are available on the farm.

The mission of the Spence Farm is:

- 1) Historical preservation of the oldest farm in Livingston Co., Illinois, for future generations. This includes preservation of the buildings, crops, artifacts, county history, and natural areas.
- 2) To provide public education on all levels in areas of the above. Giving the education system a place to teach about the history and preservation of the subjects mentioned above.
- 3) To create an awareness of and adaptation of the traditional trades/crops for today in order to teach that more environmentally sound farming practices are available for residents of this area.
- 4) To create a "living farm" where traditional crops, heritage breed animals, and heirloom plants provide a viable means of income to continue to do the above items.

Tours and programs are available through reservations and the farm stand is open most Saturdays throughout the summer months. For tour information, please call Marty and Kris at **(815)692-3336**. Through education it is their hope that the rich heritage of the people of central Illinois will survive and a future can be seen for small family farms. They look forward to sharing the Spence Farm with you.