



Rival White County plat book marketed

We have received notification that Rockford Map Publishers has been marketing their version of the White County plat book to farmers in the county. Please note that the Rockford book IS NOT affiliated with the White County Farm Bureau, nor are they the publishers of the current White County Farm Bureau plat book.

The 2014 edition of the White County Farm Bureau plat book is in its final year of availability. A new book is scheduled for production

next year and should be released in the fall of 2017.

While White County Farm Bureau members already receive a \$10 discount on the plat book, we are currently offering an additional \$10 coupon, making our plat book only \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

The coupon does not apply to online sales.

For additional information, stop by the Farm Bureau office or call Amanda at 382-8512.

Meeting for irrigators

Owners of high-capacity water wells (>100,000 gallons/day) in White County are required to report your water usage to the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) per Illinois law. Under the Illinois Water Use Act, agricultural irrigators are allowed to aggregate their data through a unit of local government. The advantage to aggregation is to provide the irrigator some anonymity from public record disclosure of your water usage.

White County irrigators are strongly encouraged to attend the annual

Aggregation Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, 2016, at the White County Farm Bureau.

At this meeting irrigators can submit their water usage data, where it will be aggregated with other wells in your zone. There are three approved zones for White County: Hawthorne Township, Emma Township and the remainder of the county. Farm Bureau and Soil Water Conservation District staff will be on hand to assist you.

If you do not attend the meeting, or provide your forms to Farm Bureau/

SWCD staff prior to the meeting, you will be responsible to report your water usage individually to ISWS.

Irrigators are strongly encouraged to have the ISWS estimation forms completed prior to attending the meeting, as well as have your water wells registered with the ISWS. These forms, and additional information, can be found at www.sws.uiuc.edu/gws/iwip/irrigation.

Contact Doug Anderson at 618-382-8512 if you have questions about the new water reporting requirement.

Tile testing report available

The highly anticipated final report of the "Tile Drain Monitoring in the Wabash River Valley" project will be released to the public Oct. 14.

The Tile Drain Monitoring Project was a collaborative effort of nine county Farm Bureaus, Wabash Valley Service Co. and Wabash Valley College, with grant support from the Illinois Farm Bureau. The project involved water testing on field tiles in 37 fields as well as soil and tissue testing, with the goal of calculating the economic loss of nutrients in those fields. Test

results included in the report occurred from March to July, although samples are being taken through the fall months. While data in the public version of the report is aggregated, individual field reports will be made available to participating farmers.

When summarizing the results of the project, White County Farm Bureau Manager Doug Anderson said, "The test results provide real-world data for our farmers, putting an economic value on the nitrogen they're losing from their field; while confirming that

field tiles are not a primary source of nitrogen or phosphorus loss into our watershed." While other science-based testing does confirm nutrients in the watershed, the tile testing results also confirm that those nutrients did not come from sub-surface tiles. Nutrient loss is likely occurring more from surface erosion than from field tiles.

A limited number of printed copies are available in the county Farm Bureau office. The public can download a free copy of the report at www.whitecfb.com/tiletesting.html.

'16 Farmland property taxes higher

The Farmland Assessment Law in Illinois is critical to the solvency of Illinois' No. 1 industry... agriculture. In 2013, the Illinois Department of Revenue introduced legislation that made a fundamental change to how farmland's assessed values are determined. Area county Farm Bureaus have developed resources to help landowners understand the impact of the change.

Why are farmland taxes based on the land's use instead of fair market value like my house?

The original goal of taxing farmland based on the land's use was to prevent urban sprawl and inflation from decimating agriculture in Illinois. It also provided statewide uniformity of assessed values on like soils across the state. In the late 1970s, farmland was being developed at a rate of 100,000 acres each year, driving up the land values for development. Farmland values tripled from 1974 to 1980. The farmland assessment law prevents farmland from being taxed as residential or commercial due to urban sprawl. Homes built on farmland are taxed like other residential property at 1/3 its fair market value.

How are assessed values calculated under the Farmland Assessment Law?

Under the farmland assessment formula, the value per acre is based on the soil's ability to produce a crop. Each soil in Illinois is given a Productivity Index (PI) value; these values can be found in the resource "Bulletin 810." Gross income per acre minus the production expenses equals the return-to-land value. The return-to-land value is divided by the five-year average of Farm Credit Bank interest rates for

farm mortgages. The result is "equalized" by dividing it by three, as Illinois property is assessed at 33.3 percent of value. The year-to-year change in this calculated value is limited to 10 percent of the change in the median soil compared to the previous year. This "certified value" is multiplied by your local tax rate to achieve your property tax per acre, before debasements.

Why did the Farmland Assessment Law change in 2013?

IDOR's plan shifted the annual 10 percent maximum change in the assessment on an individual soil productivity index (PI) to the percentage change in the median cropped soil found in Illinois. The median cropped soil in Illinois has a PI of 111. As a result of this change, calculated values on lower PI soils will increase at a faster rate, while higher PI soils will increase at a slower rate.

Why was it necessary to make this change?

The primary reason for the change was to correct an ongoing disparity in the assessed value from the lowest PI soil to the highest PI soil. The 10 percent limitation on changes in assessed value from year to year was artificially keeping the assessment on lower PI soils from rising as fast as they should have under the farmland assessment formula.

When will the change go into effect?

The change will apply for 2015 assessments, for taxes payable in 2016.

What are debasements?

Your farmland may be debased for a number of reasons. The most common debasements are flooding and slope. As the severity of debasement increases, so

does the level of adjustment to the PI value. The debasement will be reflected on the property tax record for your parcel.

What is my tax rate?

Tax rates vary throughout the county based on where your parcel is located. Taxing districts may include county government, local school district, township, community college, park district, drainage district and others. These taxing districts determine how much money they need to collect to provide services. Those monetary needs are calculated against the total real property value in their jurisdiction. This creates a tax rate in terms of a percentage needed to raise revenue. That percentage is applied to the assessed value of your property to determine the amount you pay in taxes. Taxing districts and their rates will be listed on your property's tax record.

Will my taxes go up this much every year?

It is estimated to take 15-20 years for the assessed values of all PI soils to reach their calculated value under the formula. However, there are many factors that go into the farmland assessment formula. The time estimate assumes that farmland assessments will increase the maximum allowed under the law each year. The amount of property taxes you pay is also determined by the tax rates set by local taxing districts.

For additional information about changes in Illinois' Farmland Assessment Law, contact the White County Supervisor of Assessments or the White County Farm Bureau. Additional resources are available at www.whitecfb.com/farmlandassessment.html.

White County Plat Book

\$10.00 COUPON

Members of the White County Farm Bureau can use this coupon for \$10.00 off their purchase of the White County Plat Book, in addition to their member discounted rate.

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. No photocopies. Not applicable to plat books purchased on the website or on previous purchases.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE

AITC gets good start on new school year

By Ryan Smith

AG LITERACY COORDINATOR

White County Ag in the Classroom is off to a great start this school year, reaching 500 students in September!

Second- and third-grade students learned more about our state and our history. They made a bracelet representing our state symbols, including our state bird (cardinal), our state grass (big blue stem), and our major cash crops (corn and soybeans).

The fourth- and fifth-grade students looked at the different counties in Illinois; and what each county is known for... McLean County is where John Deere equipment was first made; Tazewell County is where Libby's Pumpkin Processing Plant is located.

Students were able to use a White County Plat Map, and look up different farmers they knew. Students discussed the crops farmers grow in White County.

Gun raffle winner named

Congratulations go to our Tammy Seifried of Grayville. Tammy was the winner of the 2016 AITC Gun Raffle, winning a Ruger LC9s pistol. The drawing took place at the Member Appreciation Lunch in August. This year's raffle netted \$210 for the 2016-17

Ag in the Classroom program.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated an item to the AITC Silent Auction this year. \$240 was raised in the auction, all of which will support AITC programming for the coming school year.

VOTE

2016

my voice. my vote.

Election: Nov. 8

Thanks for completing member survey

We would like to thank everyone who completed our 2016 Member Interest and Communication Survey this summer. From the submissions, we drew names of two members who won a \$50 gift card. Congratulations to

Gene South and Dan Harris!

Your Board of Directors will use the results of the survey in their planning for future programming for our members.