County Activities of Excellence
2015 Winners

Project: Agriculture and Commerce - Partnering for Progress

Program Area: Education and Ag Promotion

County Farm Bureau, State: Effingham, IL

Membership Category: 3001-5000 members

Program Description: Farm Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Business After Hours titled Agriculture and Commerce - Partnering for Progress. Business persons were invited to meet at a rural church and then were transported to a robotic dairy and a monoslope cattle barn. The seventy-five attendees learned about livestock farms, how technology plays a part in their operations, and how these farmers care for their animals. Following the tours, the business persons enjoyed dinner cooked by the Farm Bureau Board. The farmer members were delighted that Farm Bureau is educating the non farm public about rural living as well as the agriculture industry. The business community was grateful for the opportunity to tour modern family farms and learn more about the source of their food and fiber. Because many of the attendees only remembered visiting a grandparent's farm, they had no idea that technology was such a vital part of farming today. It also helped the non farming public to realize the importance of agriculture to our local and state economy. Overall, this program promoted an appreciation and better understanding for the farming community.