VOTE AGRICULTURE IN 2012

Program Area: Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)
County Farm Bureau: Wright County Farm Bureau
State: MO
Membership Category: 0-1,000
Year: 2013
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Program Description:

This activity was a combination of events with the purpose of educating voters about the importance of electing candidates who are supportive of agriculture. Candidates running for local, area and statewide offices were invited to attend forums to speak to citizens. Wright County Farm Bureau participated in area fairs and other meetings to distribute information and register voters. It also educated candidates about agricultural issues.

Wright County Farm Bureau went to work planning meet-the-candidate forums and developed information booths to take to legislative meetings, county fairs, local businesses, business expos and farm fests. It contacted state and county offices to obtain names and addresses of candidates who had filed to run for local, area and statewide offices. The county formed a legislative committee to set dates, times and locations for events, then sent invitations to candidates (including reply cards) asking them to attend the events.

The candidate forums were held at the local YMCA and county courthouse. Prior to the event, members placed ads in newspapers and on the radio; reserved booth space at fairs and expos; and distributed literature and discussed election issues with citizens in attendance.

Because of its presence and visibility in its communities, Wright County Farm Bureau was able to reach membership quota a month early. Agriculture-friendly candidates it backed were successful in the primary election (including one of our own board members), and they
continued to work to ensure their election in November.

Photo 1: