

Springfield to host IFB conference

THE theme for this year's Illinois Farm Bureau Commodities Conference is "Ag Extreme Makeover." The conference will be held Wednesday, July 29, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

General session speakers will discuss how green policies may rewire the way you farm and agriculture's bright future given global trends.

Extreme Global Food and Fuel Trends will be covered by a trio of experts: Neil Conklin, Farm Foundation; Tami Craig Schilling, Monsanto Public Affairs; and Robert Thompson, University of Illinois Gardner Chair for Ag Policy.

Jay Lehr, science director of the Heartland Institute, will talk about the great future ahead for American ag.

Breakout sessions

■ **The Ethanol Market: Time to Retool?**
Bill Tierney, LMC International Ltd.

■ **Proposition 2 and Animal Welfare Issues**, Ria di Grassi, livestock director, California Farm Bureau

■ **Nuts and Bolts of Wind Energy**, Rob Sharkey, Bureau County Farm Bureau president, and Jerry Quick, IAA Foundation senior counsel

■ **The China Market Revisited**, Henry Kallal, IAA director, and Scott Bidner, Champaign County Farm Bureau past-president

■ **Market Outlook**, Rob Huston, AgriVisor

■ **Weather Outlook**, Jon Davis, Chesapeake Energy

■ **Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Project**, Robert Finley, U.S. Geological Service

■ **ACRE — A New Revenue Tool**, Doug Yoder, Illinois Farm Bureau

■ **Rural Financial Markets: Built to Survive the Economic Earthquake**, Paul Ellinger, U of I Extension

The program begins with registration and viewing of exhibits at 7:30 a.m., followed by opening remarks at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes all conference materials, lunch and breaks. Pre-registration is encouraged through your local county Farm Bureau. Deadline for pre-registration is July 17.

Credit card payments will be accepted from those wishing to register directly with IFB as well as for on-site registration. Prior to the registration deadline, this option will be available in the general access area of the Web site (the "Conferences/Seminars" section within "Programs & Activities"). Those county Farm Bureaus registering electronically and not paying with a credit card will be invoiced for the registration fees following the conference.

Source: Illinois Farm Bureau

■ For additional information, visit www.iffb.org, or call Mike Doherty at 309-557-3268 or Nicole Branum at 309-557-3343.

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