

REMEMBERING A LEGEND IN FARMING INNOVATION

By Ryan Klassy, Information Director



It's October, which means that our farming members will be busy in the fields soon. Please keep that in mind as you travel country roads, and be careful if passing farm vehicles. Or, maybe just take the few extra minutes it'll take to follow that tractor or combine and appreciate the crispness of the air and the blue in the sky that only comes on an October day, or maybe even to think about how that one farmer you're following is able to feed 143 other people.

In September, a man who helped make the task of feeding the world possible, passed away in Texas at the age of 95. Dr. Norman Borlaug was a Nobel Prize winning agricultural scientist whose developments in crop varieties and crop manage-

ment earned him recognition as having saved millions of people from starvation and famine.

According to the website of the World Food Prize, which Borlaug founded, he learned his work ethic on a small mixed crop and livestock family farm and obtained his initial education in a one-room rural school house. To be sure, there are many stories in American history of men and women who came from humble beginnings going on to do great things; after all that is the "American Dream". But, it can be said of very few that their work resulted in saving millions of lives.

Borlaug is known as the father of the Green Revolution, a term first used by William Gaud, former director of the United States Agency for

International Development, in describing the spread of new technologies to feed the world. Specifically, Borlaug developed wheat varieties with broad and stable disease resistance, adaptation to growing conditions across many degrees of latitude, and with exceedingly high yield potential. His work was done primarily in Mexico, but the techniques he developed spread throughout the world and helped crop production to double between 1960 and 1990.

The foundation that Borlaug laid can be seen everywhere. The near record soybean and corn harvests predicted for 2009 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture are due in part to technologies such as those developed by scientists like Borlaug. At the time, Borlaug and his counterparts were put to the task of figuring out a way to feed more people with less land, and he is rightly recognized for the great thing that accomplishment is.

Most of us will not even dream of affecting millions of

lives, but we can make a difference in our own communities. We can help shape the conversations we have about farming, and how it is that so relatively few are able to feed so many. And, we can be reminded of the impor-

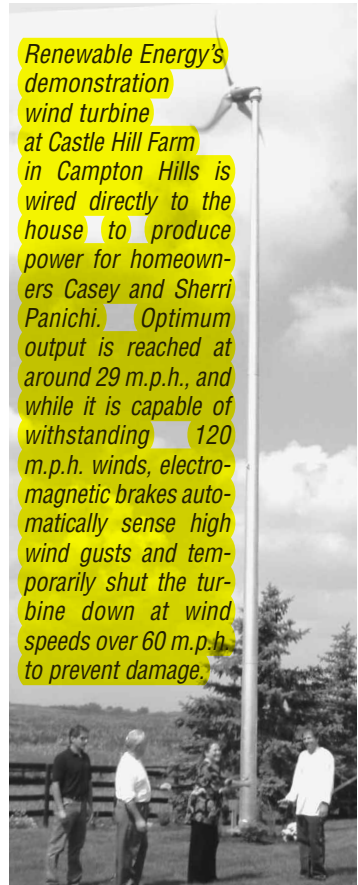
ance of agriculture in our daily lives, and the many people along the chain that it takes to produce the food we eat, from the scientists developing new breeds of crops, to the farmer we're following down a country road.

A new spin on wind energy

Homeowners and small businesses in Kane County may soon have a new option for producing their own electricity – wind power. Monarch Renewable Energy of Elgin recently unveiled a demonstration model of its Skystream wind turbine at Castle Hill Farm in Campton Hills. The turbine, which has three six-foot blades and stands atop a 45-foot metal pole, is capable of producing a significant portion of a household's energy needs. Monarch is currently working with county and local officials on ordinances for the turbines,

which are considerably smaller than some you may have seen on wind farms elsewhere in Illinois and around the country.

Monarch representatives say that the wind turbines may appeal to consumers who want to lessen their footprint on the environment, wean themselves from traditional energy sources, or simply save money. Monarch plans to offer several models, including roof-mounted turbines, with varying energy outputs and costs. For more information visit www.recreateyourenergy.com.

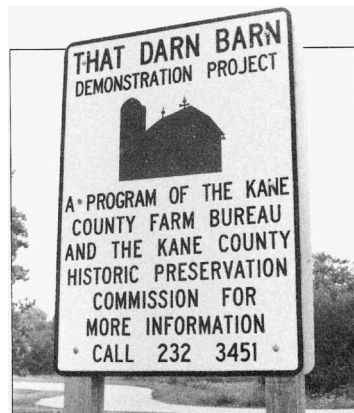


Renewable Energy's demonstration wind turbine at Castle Hill Farm in Campton Hills is wired directly to the house to produce power for homeowners Casey and Sherri Panichi. Optimum output is reached at around 29 m.p.h., and while it is capable of withstanding 120 m.p.h. winds, electromagnetic brakes automatically sense high wind gusts and temporarily shut the turbine down at wind speeds over 60 m.p.h. to prevent damage.

Darn Barn

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LaFox Museum Corp. have restored the building to how it looked in 1920, along with the inner workings of the elevator. They plan to open it to the public in 2010 to give visitors a glimpse of vintage farm machinery, agricultural equipment, historical items and photos dating back to the time when the elevator was built in 1868. LaFox was added to by the registry of Historic Places by the Kane County Board in 1994.



That Darn Barn was established to recognize those who had preserved their old farm buildings and to generate ideas on returning them to productivity.



(L to R) Wayne Schneider, Randy Pauli, David Marshall, Mike Kenyon, Frank Carlson, and Alan Volpp were among the Farm Bureau volunteers who pitched in at the Used Motor Oil Collection in August. The Kane County Farm Bureau once again co-sponsored the collection program with the Kane County Department of Environmental Management and the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District. 177 people participated in the oil drop off, with 3,300 gallons of oil and an estimated 1,350 filters being collected. The Kane County Farm Bureau and its members have participated in this program for the past 16 years, helping to collect nearly 185,000 gallons of oil and over 30,000 oil filters. Steel mills purchase filtered recycled motor oil to blend with fuel and use to heat their furnaces. The used oil filters are crushed, baled, and recycled with other ferrous metals.

LOCAL APPLE ORCHARDS AND PUMPKIN FARMS

* This is not a complete list, but one with the latest information the Kane County Farm Bureau has on file from the 2009 Bounty of Kane directory. Visit www.bountyofkane.org for a full list of direct farm markets and farmer's markets in Kane County, along with an interactive map.

What is more fun than spending a day at the local apple orchard or pumpkin farm? With fall here, there is no better time of year to take the entire family outdoors. Spend a day picking apples or deciding on the perfect pumpkin for your Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. Check out this list of apple orchards and pumpkin patches to plan your next family outing.

- Norton Farm**
39W389 Route 64
St. Charles, IL 60175
(630) 377-8118
Pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and corn bundles
- Kuiper's Family Farm**
01N145 Watson Road
Maple Park, IL 60151
(815) 827-5200
Family u-pick apples (1/2 bushel minimum, call for dates and varieties)
- Gould Cider Mill**
2S230 Green Road
Elburn, IL 60119
(630) 365-2233
Fresh cider, apples, pumpkins, squash gourds, honey, tomatoes (u-pick apples). 10 acres of woods to walk, watch 110 year-old cider press and petting zoo.
- Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch**
Rt. 47 & Reinking Road
Hampshire, IL
(847) 464-5952
Pick your own pumpkin, petting zoo, pony rides, corn maze, 3D Haunted Maze, and much more for the entire family.
- The Pumpkin Wagon**
12N860 Rt. 20
Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 697-2538
Pumpkins, squash, straw.
- Pine Apple Acres**
41W651 Powers Rd
Huntley, IL 60142
(847) 669-3251
Apples, orchard, and u pick.

- Ben's Giant Pumpkins & Farm Market**
43W200 Jericho Rd
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
(630) 466-1331
Giant pumpkins and fall decorations
 - Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse**
10214 Algonquin Rd.
Huntley, IL 60142
(847) 669-3421
Pumpkins and fall ornamentals
- Numerous other direct farm markets offer pumpkins for Jack-O-Lanterns, squash, Indian corn, and other fall harvest decorations. Among those Kane County Farm Bureau members listed in the Bounty of Kane directory are:
- Klein's Farm & Garden Market, Elgin and Udina, (847) 683-9647
 - Randy's Vegetables, Elgin, (847) 428-5244
 - Wiltse Farm Produce & Greenhouse, Maple Park, (815) 739-2573
 - Windy Acres Farm, Geneva, (630) 232-6429
 - Regole's Harvest Shoppe, St. Charles, (630) 584-2024
 - Heinz Bros. Greenhouse, St. Charles, (630) 377-6288



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