

Crop Plan 2015

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

Dear Friends of FCFI,

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International for the fifth spring in a row finds itself involved in helping families in Northern Illinois with tornado damage that has destroyed homes, barns, fences, and left fields covered with trash that has to be removed before planting. Our base camp was set up on Paul and Barbara Taylor's farm near Esmond, Illinois. FCFI cooperated with several other disaster relief ministries including Samaritan's Purse, to organize volunteer "trash pickers" to clear the farm fields.

Spring is also the time of the year when the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International has to apply and submit payment for space at fall and winter farm shows. This is a cash flow drain for the ministry just as planting corn and soybeans is a financial strain for farmers across North America. Farmers plant expensive seed into a hostile soil with the hope of a hundred fold return. The Fellowship invests in public farm shows as a way to interact with Christians and prospective Christians regarding faith in Jesus Christ. FCFI got its start 30 years ago in the midst of the farm credit/inflation crisis. (Remember the 80's?) Only the Lord knows the future of agriculture and our country. The Fellowship wants to be ready this summer and fall to interact with farmers about their spiritual life. Thank you for your faithful support of FCFI enabling the ministry to move forward with confidence.

The Lord continues to open the door for ministry in New Zealand. In March FCFI NZ set up an outdoor tent display at the South Island Agricultural Field Days, March 25-27th in Kirwee near Christchurch. New Zealand's farm crisis was the topic of discussion. Drought and milk prices which are half of last year's prices combined with rapid conversion of sheep farms to dairy farms has put farming operations into a severe cash flow situation. The Director of Rural Support Trust told me more farmers are committing suicide in New Zealand this year than there are traffic fatalities in the country. This parallels the situation in America in the 80's. Northern Canterbury farmers desire to organize "fellowship for farmers" in New Zealand. Pray for the farmers in New Zealand who need the encouragement that only comes from the Lord.

This is a very important time in our nation's history for the ministry to continue sharing the gospel message with people at farm shows. Your prayer and financial support keeps the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International well-funded to continue being a witness unto the Lord Jesus Christ this year.

Be sure to send the Home Office your e-mail address and place FCFI as an approved sender in your address book. This saves printing and postage costs. Be sure to "like" FCFI on its Facebook page at www.fcfi.org.

Your Brother in Christ,



Dennis Schlagel, Executive Director
Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International



Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

P.O. Box 15, Lexington, Illinois 61753 • (309) 365-8710 • Fax (309) 365-7023 • www.fcfi.org

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The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, Oklahoma are preparing for the next wave of tornadoes in the High Plains Region by designing a six stall shower trailer with washer and dryer to handle disaster worker clothes and towels. The new trailer will be stored in Tuttle, Oklahoma on Tony DeGiusti's farm. Exiss Sooner Trailers in El Reno, Oklahoma built the 28 foot unit. The original FCFI shower trailer was used in Moore, Oklahoma in May 2013. It will be positioned in Illinois for use in Midwest storms.

Funding for the new FCFI Disaster Relief shower trailer was raised by the 14 Farm Credit Associations of Oklahoma. Oklahoma Farm Credit Associations are affiliated with CoBank in Denver, Colorado. Shown in the photo are six of the Farm Credit Association bankers who work directly with farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma and the states Oklahoma touches. CoBank director and Tuttle, Oklahoma farmer, Tony DeGiusti, is standing third from the right in the photo. Tony's inspiration following the Moore, Oklahoma tornado in May 2013 led to the shower trailer project getting built so it can be deployed in the High Plains Region. An official "ribbon cutting" ceremony was held April 17th at the Oklahoma City Farm Show.



FCFI responded to an EF-4 tornado that hit the Northern Illinois community of Fairdale on April 11th. FCFI Board member, Steve Cernek and his wife Sheila, helped coordinate the initial farm field trash collection on a farm northeast of the village of Fairdale. Local farmers were within a week of corn planting. Tornado trash from the homes destroyed in Fairdale were picked up and hauled away by hundreds of volunteers. A base camp for workers needing lodging was set up on the Paul and Barbara Taylor farm near Esmond, Illinois. Your help is needed in future disasters. Sign up to be a future disaster relief worker at www.fcfi.org.

Spring is the time when farm show managers send invoices to FCFI for booth space. The National FFA Career Show, for example costs \$4800. You have been faithful in the past to enable FCFI to have the funding to pay fees on time. Exhibit fees is a \$95,000 line item in the Fellowship budget. It is more important than ever to talk to people about the Lord.



This fine group of Oklahoma high school vocational agriculture students attended the Oklahoma City Farm Show on April 17th. All heard the gospel message in the FCFI booth and received a wordless walking stick. This photo represents the thousands of young people who hear the gospel in Georgia, Ohio and New York where FCFI Area Leaders, Walter Powell, Omega, Georgia; Gary Beery, Radnor, Ohio; and Bill Brown, Marcy, New York are making plans for FCFI exhibits this summer and fall. Please pray for these men and their wives as they serve the Lord.

YES Dennis,

I / We will partner with FCFI to make a difference!

Please Check All that Apply

- RAPID RESPONSE** Support FCFI Tornado and Flood Relief efforts \$50,000.
- FARM SHOW MINISTRY** Help cover the exhibit fees in the coming months of \$95,000.
- MOST URGENT NEED** Please use our/my gift wherever it is **NEEDED MOST** on the day it arrives.

My/Our Gift Amount: \$30 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ Other Amount \$ ___

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Bus. _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____ E-mail 2 _____

Your email address in our database with fellowship@fci.org in your address book enables us to send you e-newsletters at low cost. Thank-you for helping FCFI get more digital in communicating with you.

- We will partner with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers in praying for its ministry outreach.

Please pray for us: _____

* Please make your tax deductible gift mail your check payable to Fellowship of Christian Farmers International
To make your tax deductible gift securely on-line please go to www.fci.org and click the 'Donate' button.

FCFI * P.O. Box 15 * Lexington, IL 61753 * fellowship@fci.org * (309)-365-8710

Registration Form

22nd Annual FCFI Conference – July 31 - August 2, 2015
Shipshewana, Indiana

**Registration Deadline
is on or before
July 1, 2015**

Name _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday morning:

Adults _____ @ \$250 US each

Children (10 and under) _____ @ \$ 80 US each (Cost of conference includes six meals

RV Adults _____ @ \$100 US each and accommodations per person)

**Make Checks Payable to:
FCFI Conference
P.O. Box 15
Lexington, IL 61753**

**Register and Pay
with your credit card
at www.fcfi.org**

For More Information, contact:
Dennis Schlager
Phone: 309.365.8710
Email: fellowship@fcfi.org

22nd Annual Conference

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, and of some have compassion, making a difference.” - Jude 21 & 22 (KJV)

**Blue Gate Garden Inn, Shipshewana, Indiana
July 31-August 2, 2015**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

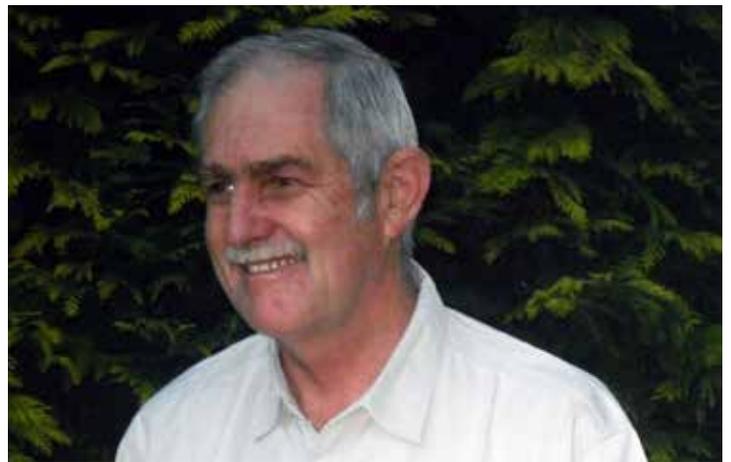
Our theme this year is “Making a Difference” and it all starts with this 3-day conference and investment you won’t soon forget! Worship, fellowship, keynote presenter Craig Deall and special music from “By Grace”. Don’t forget we’ll be enjoying great food, renewing old friendships, and the FCFI Auction!

Don’t miss this event as we highlight the many farm show and mission trip opportunities, stateside and abroad. As well, you’ll hear reports on the work FCFI is doing as we move forward with God’s plan for 2015!



**Special Music: “By Grace”
Pictured: Amos Raber and family**

Inspirational Speaker: Craig Deall



22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Keynote Address with Craig Deall, *Foundation for Farming*
- ❖ Special Concert with “By Grace”
- ❖ Several great workshops including Women’s Workshops with Laura Loveberry
- ❖ Opportunity to tour a local Foundations for Farming Plot
- ❖ Early arrival tours including Jayco Trailer Factory, Log Cabin Furniture Factory, Grist Mill, Quilting with the ladies @ Goshen College
- ❖ Childrens Track - Puppets, Clowns, Magic, Bible Lessons