

The Profit

THE PROFIT MAGAZINE • VOLUME 1 • 2020

For what shall it profit a man to gain
the world and lose his soul. - Mark 8:36

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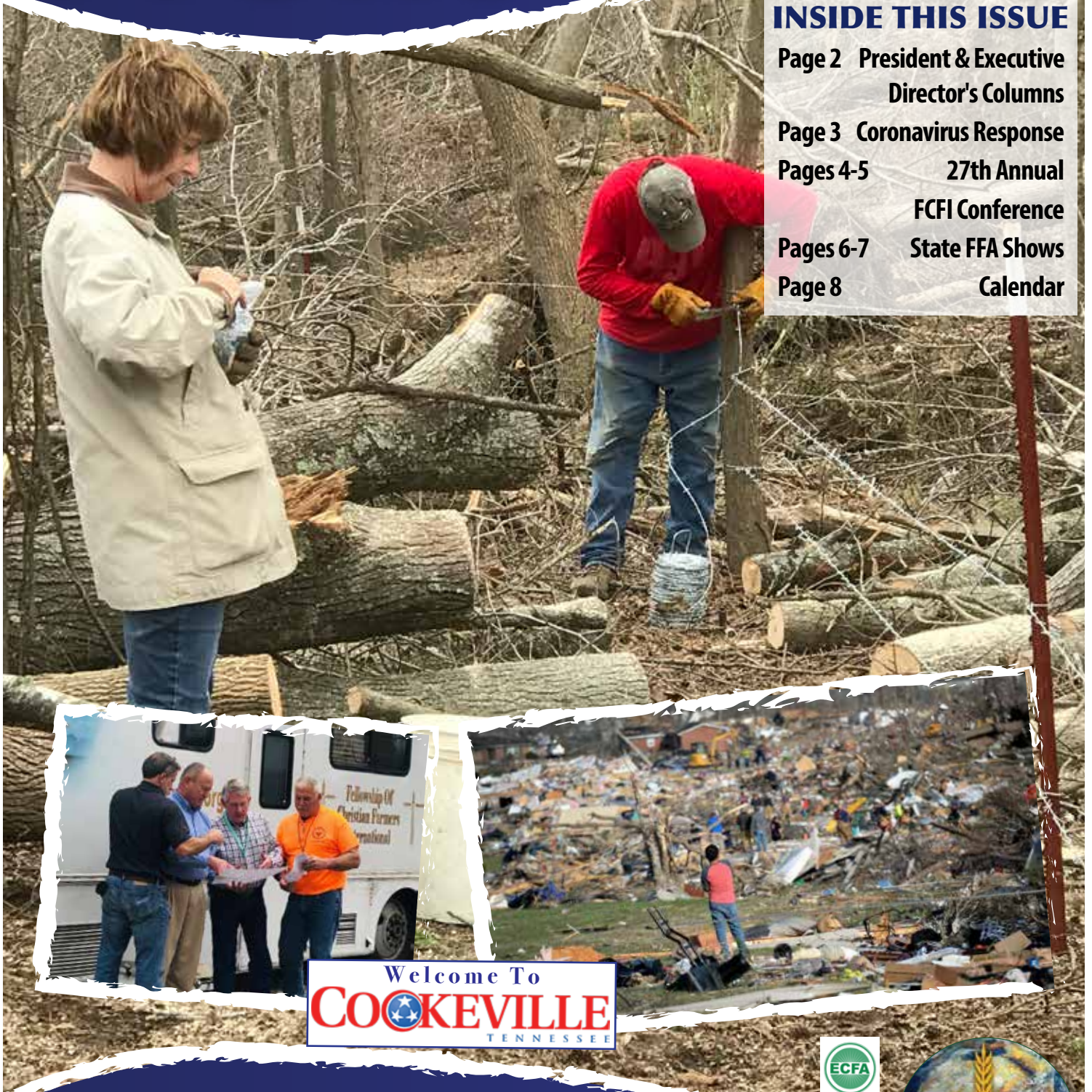
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Sowing, Serving, Reaping for Christ Around the World





Dave Carter
FCFI President

As I write this, our world as we know it seems to be changed for the near future. The news stories are all about COVID-19. If it isn't the latest number of infections, it's news of stores running out of sanitizing and health items. There have been all kinds of information with varying degrees of accuracy in the media and seemingly much panic across the country. The stock market is crashing and the commodity markets are going down due to all the uncertainty around the world. Even before this, farmers were having trouble being profitable because of low prices and a difficult season last year. USA Today recently ran an article on the increase in farmer suicides. Stress levels are high and there seems to be no end to the bad news.

Constant change sure seems to be the trend now but, one constant hasn't changed. God is still in control. In his book, Faith Like Potatoes, Angus Buchan tells of a time that he had great stress in his life, even to the point of being unable to sleep. Angus tells of being asked of which side is he

feeding, the one of focusing on the stress or the side of seeking after the things of God. When he examined himself and saw what was happening, he refocused on seeking after God and not dwelling on the stress. Gradually, he was able to get back on the path that God had for him. If you are having too much stress and fear in your life now, why not do a search of Scriptures about not being fearful? God has given to us in His Word all that we need. Get outside of yourself. Do something for someone else to take the focus off you. In 2 Corinthians 2:15-16, Paul says "For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?"

In these times, show those with whom you come in contact, the peace that passes all understanding. Be the one who is calm as the rest of the world goes berserk and you will have an opportunity to share about the one, Jesus, who makes you unconformed to the world. I pray that you will be obedient as you show others Who is in control.

Dave Carter, FCFI Board President



Dennis Schlagel
FCFI Executive Director

(On the cover) The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International has set up a base camp with a 12 bed motor coach and a shower trailer on the Putnam County Fairgrounds in Cookeville, Tennessee. On March 3rd an EF-4 tornado struck a 56 mile path through several rural counties including Cookeville, Tennessee. In the bottom left photo on the cover of Profit in front of the FCFI Motor Coach are Kevin Burgess, Kevin Tucker, Randy Adams, and Matt Zemle. Mike Weaver, FCFI Area Director and a team of workers, moved the base camp from Marianna, Florida where Hurricane Michael disaster relief work had been taking place since October 2018, to Putnam County on Saturday, March 7th. "What a blessing this is for us! The assistance the FCFI team provides in so many ways is greatly appreciated by all in the community," stated Kevin Tucker, Putnam County Emergency Management Agency Volunteer Director. "We know not all things are good, but as we are promised in Romans 8:28 all things work together for

good. We will continue this effort to bring glory to God through the tragedy. We truly appreciate FCFI and all they are bringing to our community."

The Coronavirus "Stay at Home" orders in Illinois and Tennessee have slowed teams returning to Cookeville until it is safer. Putnam County EMA will guide FCFI how to return to help Putnam County farm families rebuild. Please pray for Putnam County. For those of you close to Tennessee and can get away from spring planting, contact the FCFI Home Office to join a team.

Following the Super Tuesday March 3rd tornado, retired Extension Agent, Mark Beeler, connected FCFI with Putnam county leadership. Beeler organized a similar FCFI tornado disaster relief effort in March 2008—also on Tennessee's Primary voting day. Mark Beeler is a massive brother and partner of FCFI.

Also on the cover, bottom right, is a scene in Cookeville where 19 people were killed and 88 people injured. Thank you for praying for families in Putnam County dealing with tornado damage and the coronavirus.

Your Friend in Christ

Dennis Schlagel, FCFI Executive Director

FCFI

The purpose of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers is to build, maintain, and strengthen faith in God for the farmer, the farm family, and the farming industry through presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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Fellowship of Christian Farmers International
P.O. Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753
E-mail: fellowship@fcfi.org
Web: www.fcfi.org

Dennis Schlagel, *Executive Director*
Kevin Cernek, *Assistant to the Executive Director*
PO Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753
Ph. (309)365-8710 dennis@fcfi.org

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819-242-8063 | fcfccanada@bell.net
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The Profit Cover, Design & Layout

Melissa Larson
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Photos

Jerry Druhan
jerry@jerrydruhanphotography.com



Pastor Kevin Cernek
FCFI, Assistant to the ED

For 27 years Kevin has been the Lead Pastor at Martintown Community Church located in Martintown, Wisconsin. He has worked bi-vocationally his entire adult life as a pastor/farmer. On January 1, 2020 he officially came aboard FCFI as the Assistant to the Executive Director.

The world is a mess. I don't have to tell you. There's pandemic panic, there's financial turbulence with the stock market, people are still digging through the rubble in Tennessee – everyone it seems, is dealing with loss.

If you have been reading the headlines the past few days, you may have wondered whether the world is coming to an end: *"Stock Market Bloodbath"; "Anxiety Grips Companies Across the World as Virus Spreads"; "Italy Extends its Quarantine to the Entire Country"; "We're Past the Point of Containment"; "Coronavirus Will Cause a Childcare Crisis in America"; "Universities Shut Down"; "Thirty Day Travel Ban to Europe."*

Sporting events, churches, and public meetings have all been cancelled. The worst is yet to come, they're saying. These headlines are alerting us of a very real and urgent threat the world is facing. Fears about the coronavirus are not unwarranted nor to be taken lightly. Lives are at stake.

But we are also not to let fear control us. Did you know that fear makes you more vulnerable to sickness – even the coronavirus itself? Fear can weaken your immune system.

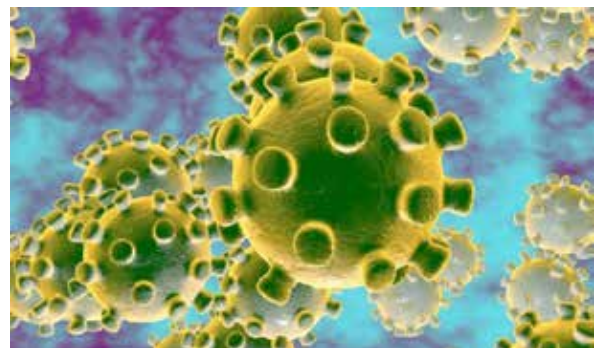
Worry is a synonym of fear. When you worry, you live through it once when you worry about it, then if it happens in real time, you live through it again.

My first inclination as a pastor is to look to Jesus for words of comfort and guidance. He said, *"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid,"* (John 14:27). Jesus also said: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world,"* (John 16:33).

Jesus knew that fear paralyzes us and hinders our ability to respond effectively to God and to the challenges of life. When you face unstable and uncertain circumstances, what do you do? In situations that stir fear and anxiety and kind of pull the rug out from under my life, I discover in those moments I find out if what I believe about God is really true.

Some people will say: "Oh man, here go those Christians again, they're not dealing with reality, this is a pandemic," (or this is a financial disaster, or this is a health issue, or this is life and death!) And they don't understand why we are looking to the Bible like we are. What do we say to people who say that? Well, first of all, we say: "Where or to whom are you looking for security?" Most people don't have an answer for that. This is a chance for us to share what we really trust in. If my treasures are in heaven, where nothing can impact them, then what's happening to my 401K does not have me in turmoil and anxiety. Because my heart is going to go where my treasure is. Have I been looking at that 401K for my sense of confidence about my future? If so, God is giving me a wakeup call. If you're thinking that this virus is going to kill us all, that our days are numbered – well, it is not this virus that is going to determine our days. God is.

These times are a test for the believer. When the storm rolls through, you can look at the circumstances and say: "Ok, am I really standing on the solid rock? Or am I in this only for the quid pro quo – You do this for me, God and I will trust in You."



These calamities can be very helpful occurrences even though nobody wants them. Even the difficulties in our world or in our personal lives are doing a work inside of us showing that God's word is true. On the night Jesus was to be betrayed, He told His disciples: "Let not your hearts be troubled." He was saying, put your faith, put your hope in Me.

What happens when we are troubled? We don't sleep well. Our anxiety goes up, our adrenaline goes up. We might even find ourselves moving into a little depression. And that is not for what God made our bodies. And when we let those things grip our hearts, grip our digestive system, grip our mind, then that trouble is going to shake us, and that is not what God has for us.

We tend to cede control to that which makes us fearful and anxious. But we have a choice on what we will allow to control us. Am I going to give myself over to fear and anxiety and all that other stuff that's going on or will something else control me in the middle of that? I'm not saying we put our heads in the sand and ignore these things, there are very responsible things to do – like do what our moms told us to do since we were old enough to understand – wash your hands. (It took a world-wide pandemic to get us to finally listen.) But our trust is not in those things. It is in the Lord. God wants us to be aware, He wants us to watch and pray, but He does not want us to be tormented in these situations.

*"I lift up my eyes unto the hills, where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth," (Psalms 121:1-2).*



27th Annual Conference

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

July 24 - 26, 2020 - Shipshewana, Indiana

FEATURING

- Rapid Action Reports
- Mission Reports
- FCFI Auction
- Informative Workshops
- Great time of fellowship and reconnecting with friends
- Opportunities to tour Amish Casket Shop, rug weaving, basket weaving, leather shop, Dutch Country Market, Heritage Ridge Creamery, Yoder's Popcorn Farm Grist Mill, Amish Home Dinner

Keynote Speaker

Kevin Cernek



Pastor, Assistant to the FCFI Executive Director

Special Music

Keith Barkley and Family Tradition



Saturday Evening Concert

Blue Gate Garden Inn, Shipshewana, IN

For more information, contact: FCFI (309) 365-8710 or fellowship@fcfi.org

Register and Pay with your Credit Card at www.fcfi.org

Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Registration Form

27th Annual FCFI Conference
July 24 - 26, 2020 - Shipshewana, IN

Name _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Conference fees include; 6 meals and 2 nights lodging per person

of additional Nights, please specify dates _____

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

Additional Conference Activities

CHECK OPTIONS BELOW AND INCLUDE
PAYMENT ALONG WITH REGISTRATION FEES

- ☐ Amish Shop Tours (\$6)
- ☐ Amish Home Dinner (\$22 each)
- ☐ Menno-Hof Museum (\$7 each)
- ☐ Dutch Country Market (FREE)
- ☐ Heritage Ridge Creamery (FREE)
- ☐ Bonneville Grist Mill (FREE)
- ☐ Yoder Popcorn Farm (FREE)

Conference Registration Fees

FRIDAY EVENING, SATURDAY, SUNDAY NOON

- ☐ Adults _____ \$300.00 US each
- ☐ Children _____ \$100.00 US each
- Total** _____ \$ _____

Early Arrival Activities

Please include additional fees with conference registration where indicated.

Thursday, July 23

11:30 am - Lunch

Rise N Roll

1065 N 1150 W, Middlebury, IN 46540 (on your own)

Tours of Shops:

Rug Weaving - \$3

Basket Weaving - FREE

Casket Shop - \$3

Silver Star Leather - FREE

5:30pm

Evening Meal at Amish Home - \$22 each

Friday, July 24

8:30 am

Leave Blue Gate Garden Inn

Bonneyville Grist Mill, Krider Gardens, Yoder's

Popcorn - All Free



12:00pm - 1:00pm

Auction Restaurant

345 S. Van Buren St., Shipshewana, IN

(on your own)

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Menno-Hof Museum - \$7

510 S. Van Buren St., Shipshewana, IN

2:30 pm

Horse Auction or Shopping

Please pay for additional conference activities when registering for conference.



Executive Director, Dennis Schlager, with Colquitt, Georgia FFA members, at the 2019 Georgia State FFA Convention Career Show.

Georgia

The Georgia State FFA Career Show featured a wide variety of career opportunities. Trade schools, Technical colleges, Universities including Louisiana State University, Tennessee, and the University of Georgia. Students learned about the Fellowship of Christian Farmers organization that involves high school students in disaster relief projects and collecting used shoes for shipment to countries where shoes are needed. Gospel presentations are made in the FCFI booth. Many students desire to get extra “free stuff” so they can share the gospel with their friends.



View of the 2019 Georgia State FFA Convention Career Show.



FCFI Area Director, Jeff Goss, presents the gospel to a group of Arkansas FFA members.

The coronavirus “Stay at Home” proclamations by State Governors has caused many State FFA Conventions to postpone to a summer date. The Fellowship had registered to exhibit at 22 State FFA Conventions during the months of March-July. Now we will possibly have 4-5 State FFA conventions running at the same time during June-August. Please prayerfully consider helping staff an FCFI exhibit at a State FFA Convention near you. This is a first class problem! Ask your church to pray for the State FFA Convention exhibits. Contact the FCFI Home Office for each state’s FFA convention details.

2019 Arkansas State FFA Convention

The FFA Creed states in the fifth paragraph, “I believe that rural America can and will hold true to the best traditions of our National life; and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid — for my part, in that inspiring task.” Faith in God is one of the best traditions of our National life. FCFI exhibit workers desire to interact with students regarding their spiritual life. Thank you for your partnership with us.



The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International has been an exhibitor at the National FFA Convention and FFA Expo for 25 years. In February 2018 the National FFA Expo Staff called the FCFI Home Office to explain that exhibit space would not be granted to FCFI for the 2018 National FFA Expo. The National FFA wants the FFA Expo to be more “inclusive” in compliance with the U.S Department of Education “Diversity and Inclusivity” goals. The FCFI Board of Directors chose to start attending State FFA Conventions. Your help is needed in 2020 to make these new State FFA Convention exhibits happen.

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers Area Director, Mike Weaver is shown in the center of the FCFI exhibit at the Arkansas State FFA Convention. 22 State FFA Convention Exhibits are planned in 2020. 2019 average costs were \$1400 per exhibit.

In August 2019 a church in Mechanicsville, Iowa asked FCFI to set up a 10' X 20' Fellowship display at a Cedar Rapids, Iowa Farmer's Market. 123,000 people live in Cedar Rapids. 30 church members were trained to share the gospel using wordless walking sticks. Over 2500 people stopped into the exhibit to hear the gospel.

It was a thrilling event. There may be young people we meet at FFA exhibits that would like to organize a Farmer's Market with their church.



How many other cities in America could we do this?

FCFI Area Director, Jeff Goss is presenting the gospel with FFA members at the Oklahoma State FFA Convention. Jeff led several of the 17 FCFI Exhibits at 2019 State FFA Conventions. Many Vo-Ag Instructor/ FFA Advisors asked Jeff what would it take to organize a Fellowship of Christian Farmers Club for high school students? Would you pray for the FCFI Board of Directors as they plan how we could do this with high school

agriculture students? In 1985, Fellowship of Christian Athletes help found the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International. Thank you for praying.





	APRIL	30
1-3	Nebraska FFA Convention - Lincoln, NE Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835 - <i>Postponed</i>	
3-5	Flowerton Festival - Summerville, SC Bill Brown - 315-749-6823 - <i>Postponed</i>	
17-19	FCF - Canada Annual Meeting Dalkeith, ON, Canada - <i>Postponed</i> Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	1-2 2-4
18	Maddox Farm Days - Dotham, AL Pete Singer - 239-849-5527 - <i>Postponed</i>	2-3
20	South Dakota State FFA Convention Marlyn Bunger - <i>Pending</i>	4-5
19-21	Iowa State FFA Convention - Ames, IA Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835 - <i>Cancelled</i>	6-7
20-22	Arkansas State FFA Convention Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386 - <i>Postponed</i>	6-7
23-25	Oklahoma City Farm Show Oklahoma City, OK Tony DeGiusti - 405-381-4383 - <i>Postponed</i>	6-7 9-11
23-25	Georgia FFA - Macon Centreplex Pete Singer - 239-849-5527 - <i>Postponed</i>	9-11
23-24	Missouri FFA - Columbia, MO Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835 <i>Postponed</i>	9-11
25	Bloomsburg Renaissance Jamboree Bloomsburg, PA - <i>Cancelled</i> Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414	10-13
28-29	Oklahoma FFA - Oklahoma City Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835 - <i>Cancelled</i>	12-14
	MAY	14-18
2	Danville Spring Fling - Danville, PA Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414 - <i>Pending</i>	13
14-16	Washington State FFA Convention WSU Campus Terry Morrison - <i>Postponed</i>	13
15-17	Middlecreek Valley Antique Association Michael Steele - 570-494-1240	11-13
16	Nescopeck Community Wide Yard Sale Doc DeVoe - 570-204-2110	13-14
27	Kansas State FFA Convention Manhattan, KS Jeff Goss - 304-610-1835 - <i>Postponed</i>	13-14 15-19
29-30	Nittany Antique Machinery Show Centre Hall, PA - <i>Pending</i> Michael Steele - 570-494-1240	17-19

FCFI Golf Tournament	16-18
Woodgate Pines - Boonville, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	17-18
	26-7/4
JUNE	
Louisiana FFA - Alexandria	
Mississippi FFA - Starkville, MS	
Nick Korn	4
Alabama FFA - Montgomery	
Pete Singer	6-10
Vermont Dairy Festival - Enosburg Falls, VT	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	9-12 Nov
Western NY Dairy Festival - Springville, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	11
Meredith Dairy Fest - Meridale, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	12
Antique Tractor Show - Madrid, NY	
Dave Porter - 315-771-4514	11-12
Kentucky State FFA Convention	
Jeremy Stout	14-16
Illinois FFA State Convention	
Springfield, IL	18
Dennis Schlager - 309-530-7004	
South Carolina FFA - Greenville, SC	8-18
Jeff Goss, Thomas Herlong	
New Zealand National Fielddays	14-19
Hamilton, NZ	
Dennis Schlager - 309-530-7004	21-23
Violet Festival - Dolgeville, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	24-26
Wisconsin FFA - Madison	
Mike Brehm - 262-632-3519	
Chenango County Dairy Day - Norwich, NY	29-31
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	
Branford Festival - Branford, CT	27- 8/1
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	
Pennsylvania FFA - State College	
Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386	8/1-8/8
Strawberry Festival - Owego, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	7/27-8/1
Antique Tractor Show - Sharon Springs, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	
Florida FFA - Orlando	1
Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386	
Four State Farm Show - Pittsburg, KS	
Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	

North Carolina FFA - Raleigh	1-4
Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386	
Sandhills Ranch Expo - Bassett, NE	
Millville Carnival, Millville, PA	2-3
Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414	
	2-4
JULY	
Farmers Market - Cedar Rapids, IA	2-8
Joel Brown - 319-521-2620	
Texas State FFA Convention - Dallas	4-6
Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	
th Stonington Fair - North Stonington, CT	5-9
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	
Cheddar Cheese Festival - Adams, NY	8
Dave Porter - 315-771-4514	
Cowlesville Flea - Cowlesville, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	10-15
Madison County Fair - Brookfield, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	12
Stick Work Days - Marcy, NY	
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	
Ilion Days - Ilion, NY	13-16
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	
Lycoming County Fair - Hughesville, PA	
Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414	14-15
Benton Rodeo - Benton, PA	
Doc DeVoe - 570-204-2110	17-20
WI Farm Technology Days - Eau Claire, WI	
Mike Brehm - 262-632-3519	18
FCFI 27th Annual Conference	
Shipshewana, IN	18-20
Dennis Schlager - 309-530-7004	
Empire Farm Days - Seneca Falls, NY	20-22
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	
Troy Fair - Troy, PA	20-23
Michael Steele - 570-494-1240	
AUGUST	20-22
Clinton County Fair - Mackeyville, PA	
Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414	21-22
Montour-Delong Fair	
Washingtonville, PA	22-23
Ernie Reese - 570-764-3937	
Old Home Days - Vernon Center, NY	22-25
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	

Loyalsock Valley Antique
Machinery Show - Williamsport
Michael Steele - 570-494-1240
Wilton Blueberry Festival - Wilton, ME
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Corn Festival - Eden, NY
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Union County West End Fair - Laurelton, PA
Pete DePinto - 570-988-6215
Minnesota Farmfest - Redwood Falls, MN
Doug Peterson - 507-236-6460
Niagara County Fair - Lockport, NY
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Centerpoint Church Music Festival
Barneveld, NY
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Tioga County Fair
Michael Steele - 570-494-1240
Antioch Baptist Church Block Party
Williamsport, PA
Michael Steele - 570-494-1240
58th Annual Steam, Gas and Thrashing
Show - Pinckneyville, IL
Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835
Sunbury River Festival - Sunbury, PA
Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414
Turner County Fair - Parker, SD
Marlyn Bunger - 605-647-5991
Roseboom Antique Show - Roseboom, NY
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Dakotafest - Mitchell, SD
Marlyn Bunger - 605-647-5991
Wolcott Fair - Wolcott, CT
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Woodsman's Field Days - Boonville, NY
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Wolcott Fair - Wolcott, CT
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Maine Farm Days - Clinton, ME
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Madison Anson Days - Madison, ME
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
Brooklyn Fair - Brooklyn, CT
Bill Brown - 315-749-6823