

*Welcome Back! The St. Louis AgriBusiness Club September Meeting Luncheon and Professional Development..*

**When: Wednesday, September 9, 2009, Luncheon Meeting & Professional Development (1 day later due to Labor Day Holiday)**

**11:30 a.m. Networking**

**12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Meal and**

**Program**

**Program: "111th Congress: An Update from MO and IL Farm**

**Bureaus" - livestock issues, cap and trade, renewable fuels, commodities and pointers for lobbying in DC.**

**RSVP: By Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, email your reservation to: [stlouisagclub@yahoo.com](mailto:stlouisagclub@yahoo.com) or call Amy Kolweier, secretary, at (314) 292-2371 to reserve your meal. No-shows will be invoiced.**



**Speakers: Mark Gebhards** is the Executive Director of Governmental Affairs and Commodities, Illinois Farm Bureau. He supervises a staff that handles all lobbying and political action functions of the IFB at state, and national levels, and assists county Farm Bureaus in local governmental activities. He also administers programs for all commodity activities of the IFB, including matters related to farm bill implementation, biotechnology, trade, and other commodity issues. Gebhards also coordinates IFB activities with closely related commodity groups, including Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Soybean Association, and Illinois Milk Producers Association.

Raised on a grain and livestock farm near Springfield, Gebhards serves as a managing partner in the farm operation. He earned his bachelor's degree in Administrative Science from Southern Illinois University, and his master's from the University of Illinois. Prior to joining IFB, Gebhards served as Executive Director of the Illinois Pork Producers Association from 1994 to 2003, and was Director of Association Marketing for the American Soybean Association from 1989 to 1994. He also served as a county manager in Macoupin and Stark counties between 1982 - 1989.

He and his wife, Beth, have four children Shane, Grant, Logan, and Molly.



**Garrett Hawkins** serves as the Director of National Legislative Programs for Missouri Farm Bureau. In this capacity, he directs the organization's national lobbying activities and policy development process. Prior to accepting this position, Garrett was involved in a number of the organization's youth programs including the ambassador program and collegiate Farm Bureau. He was a legislative intern at Missouri Farm Bureau in the summer of 2001.

Garrett was raised on a family farm near Appleton City, Missouri. His family's main enterprise consists of a commercial cow-calf operation. Garrett received an agricultural business degree from Missouri State University. He is a graduate of the Agriculture Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) Class XII and serves on the organization's board of directors.

Garrett, his wife Jennifer, and daughter Adelyn reside in Jefferson City.

**Sponsors:** Thank you to the Missouri and Illinois Farm Bureaus for sponsoring this meeting.



**Where:** Plaza I & II rooms, Doubletree Hotel at Westport, 1973 Craigshire Road, St. Louis, MO 63146

### **Luncheon and Professional Development Registration -**

**\$25** which can be paid at the door (cash or checks payable to the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club) or by credit card online at <http://www.stlouisagclub.org/meetingform.html>. If you do RSVP and you find out by Tuesday afternoon or early Wednesday morning that you cannot attend, please contact Dean Dittmar on his cell phone - 618.604.1622, so that you will not be invoiced.

**Congressional Reception Raffle at Monthly Meetings:** Congratulations to Norm Coats, Missouri, and Kim Haywood, Illinois. These two club members were the lucky winners of the drawing for a FREE trip to attend the Congressional Reception in Washington, DC.

### **Congressional Reception Committee & Board Meeting will be held immediately following our September Meeting:**

RSVP to Stephanie Regagnon if you plan to attend - [sregagnon@ethanolresearch.com](mailto:sregagnon@ethanolresearch.com)