

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 13, 2019: MFF DINNER MEETING, Details to be announced in next Newsletter.

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### Gary's Gleanings

I am writing my article while sitting in my chair listening to Christmas music, even though it is after Christmas. I enjoy listening to Christmas music. It reminds me of good times with family this past Christmas. In Emily's kitchen she has a plaque hanging on one of her walls that says, "The Best Gift is a Family all Wrapped up in Each Other!" I hope you had a wonderful Christmas.

We had a good turnout for our Michigan Chapter get together in December. Fourteen of us enjoyed wonderful company, lots of laughs and big smiles!

The week after our chapter get together we finally finished harvest. Our harvest was drawn out this year because of untimely rains and snow (in November!). Due to lack of rain when needed, our corn and soybean yields were down. They produced about 75 percent of our average yield. The good news though, this past month when I sold my fat cattle I did not lose money. It's been about a year and a half since there was a profit in the fatten cattle business. Three to four years ago we made good money on our cattle. I guess it averages out. We take a load of seven head of finished cattle (Holstein steers) to market every other week.

Change is the order for Wilcox Farms in 2019. Our daughter Jacquelyn, who has been working on the farm for the past 6 years, decided to go to college and get a degree in social work. She would like to help keep children with their birth parents or something along that line of helping kids in the Child Protective Services area.

Kevin, who came to the farm 5 years ago when his job at University of Michigan was eliminated, just got hired in at Michigan State University in the same area of his previous job. He told me just before Christmas that this new job would start the second week of January. Luckily, we had a new guy start working on the farm in December. More of that story in the next newsletter.



### The Airplane Ride

Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the State Fair every year. Every year Stumpy would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that airplane." And every year Martha would say, "I know, Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars."

This one year Stumpy and Martha went to the fair and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 71 years old. If I don't ride that airplane this year I may never get another chance." Martha replied, "Stumpy, that airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars." The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you, but if you say one word it's ten dollars."

Stumpy and Martha agrees and up they go. The pilot does all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word is heard. He does all his tricks over again, but still not a word. They land and the pilot turns to Stumpy, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't." Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but ten dollars is ten dollars."

## Presidents' Quiz

Based on the description below, can you name the president? Good luck!

1. Which president was called "The father of his country"?
2. Which president said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick"?
3. Which president gave the longest inauguration speech ever and died one month after his inauguration?
4. Which president was a peanut farmer?
5. This president was the only president born on the 4th of July and was sworn into office by his father, a justice of the peace.
6. Which president was called "Father of the Constitution" and his picture is on the \$5000 bill?
7. Which president was a Rhodes Scholar and our nation's longest serving governor?
8. Which president signed the Louisiana Purchase and wrote the Declaration of Independence?
9. He was the only president to serve two inconsecutive terms and his picture is on the \$1000 bill?
10. He was called "Gentleman Boss" and was the third president in a single year.

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(President Quiz answers: 1. George Washington, 2. Theodore Roosevelt, 3. William Harrison, 4. Jimmy Carter, 5. Calvin Coolidge, 6. James Madison, 7. Bill Clinton, 8. Thomas Jefferson, 9. Grover Cleveland, 10. Chester Arthur )