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Mary L. Heckel-Blickle Memorial scholarship pays tribute to “farm girl”

St. Charles, Ill. – The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to announce a new scholarship for 2015. The Mary L. Heckel-Blickle Memorial Scholarship will provide a \$1,000 college scholarship annually to a student residing in Kane or Macon County, Ill. pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related career field.

Mary’s son, Jim Blickle of Geneva, Ill. said the scholarship will help the family’s agricultural legacy live on. After his mother passed away in 2010, Jim and his wife Charlotte have been looking for a fitting tribute to her memory.

“Mom was a farm girl, it was important to her and she told us a lot of stories about her time there,” Jim Said. “We thought this would be the perfect opportunity to honor those memories and promote the growth of future generations of farmers.”

Born in 1915, Mary’s parents farmed in Long Creek Township in Macon County. There, she attended a one-room school house and was responsible for farm chores, which she did in a dress, Jim said, it being the days when young ladies didn’t wear pants.

The family still owns the Macon County farm which Mary’s grandfather acquired through the 1812 land grant program. While they don’t farm the land themselves, they are very close to the local farmer who does. He lives in the farmhouse and has raised crops on the farm for years.

Jim Blickle said it’s the spirit of handing the land down to the next generation that drives his desire to provide annual scholarship funds. He added, “If the scholarship can help even one young person get their start in farming or an agricultural field of study, I think that’s important.”

Visit www.kanecfb.com to download an application used to evaluate candidates for all scholarships offered by the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. Applications are due February 15, 2015 and recipients will be named in April. Founded in 1989, the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is celebrating 25 years of promoting education, leadership development & research in agricultural fields.

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Kane County Farm Bureau is a not-for-profit membership association serving members, local agricultural producers and Kane County communities since 1912. With over 15,000 member families, Farm Bureau membership is open to all in Kane County who support a stable, profitable and permanent agricultural sector as a vital part of a strong economy in a free society. The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports education, leadership development, research & charitable activities for the benefit of agriculture and farm families.