

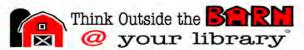
#### FARM PROGRESS SHOW, 2019

The goal of Think Outside the Barn @ your library- Illinois is to raise awareness of libraries in small and rural communities and call attention to their value.

#### A Committee of Librarians

- Oversee the planning and organization of the booth.
- Solicit donations for the rental of booth space at the show.
- Solicit books from member libraries.
- Oversee the sorting of the books.
- Schedule workers for the set-up, manning of the booth, and takedown.
- Setting up the booth from the donated books to tables and crates used to display the books for giveaway plus decorations.
- Maintain an account with the Decatur Community Foundation for funds.

### One step is to solicit books from libraries



#### **CALL FOR PAPERBACK BOOKS**

Please help us promote that Libraries are relevant, current and amazing by donating books with these characteristics.

#### **ACCEPTABLE**

- Paperback
- · Picture Books
- · Board Books (hardback OK)
- J and Y Fiction/Nonfiction
- Cookbooks
- Large Print
- Christian Fiction
- DIY, Current Nonfiction
- Current Biography
- Westerns
- Mystery
- Mainstream romance authors
- Shows minor wear from normal use and is clean in appearance, intact cover, pages, binding, and no tears

#### UNACCEPTABLE

- Hardbacks
- · Out-of-date Nonfiction
- Textbooks
- Magazines
- Mass market/Harlequin Romance
- · Yellowed, Dirty
- Water damaged
- Broken spine or binding
- Torn or taped cover or pages
- Strong odor of any kind (musty odor, cigarette odor, etc.)
- Anything weeded from library shelves due to age or condition

#### It Would be Helpful If You:

- LABEL the front of the books with our "Gift from your Illinois Library" sticker (avery label 5160) Find file at: www.facebook.com/ThinkOutsideTheBarnIllinois
- . SORT the books by audience or genre and label the boxes accordingly
- . MARK the boxes "Think Outside The Barn"

Illinois Heartland Library System will assist our efforts by picking up the books from your library beginning August 7th - 21st. Please do not send books before August 7th.

Questions: 217-672-3621 barclaypld@yahoo.com

## Thanks to IHLS Delivery

The delivery drivers pick up boxes of donated books and take them to Richland Community College Library.

We specify that the boxes be clearly marked with Think Outside the Barn and that they weigh no more than 20 pounds per box.



# Sorting Books



## Setting Up the Booth

Transporting books, and decorations to the booth from the Richland CC Library.

Thanks for the use of the IHLS Box Truck!! Soooo much easier than several trips by pick-up truck!!!











# The Set-Up Crew



#### Started the show with free PR

Upon entering the grounds, Bev Obert stopped by the WZUS Talk 101 Radio booth to leave info about the Think Outside the Barn Booth. They were on a break and asked Bev to sit down and talk with them.

Scott Busboom and Doug Wolfe asked questions and Bev was able to plug our booth and let them know that we even had groupies that come to the booth every year.

### Groupies

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"This is what I look for every year." – from Indiana
"This is my highlight every year." – from Western Tennessee
"This is always my first stop." – Carlyle, IL
"I've been out advertising for you."
"I look forward to this booth every year." a Steeleville patron
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## Day One: 467 people entered the booth

Comments from Day One—

A gentleman hates paying property tax, but at least likes that libraries get the dollars. He praised us for getting out spreading the word.

A Chevy booth vendor: "This is overwhelming. I have to come back!"

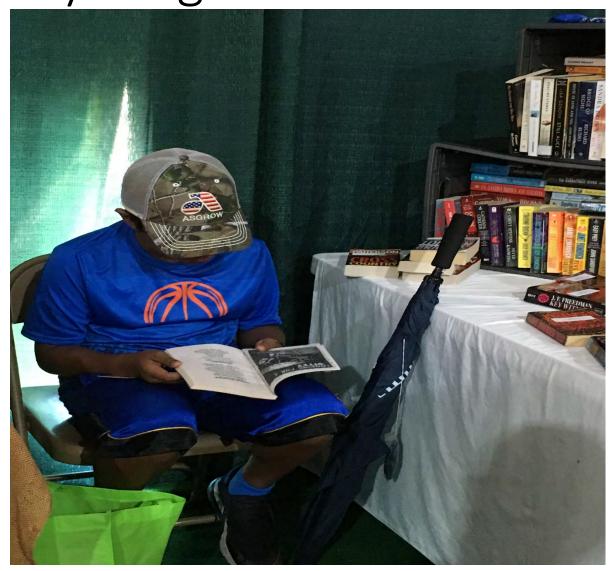
One man showed us pictures of a full wall of bookshelves his father-inlaw made them as a wedding present.

A gentleman said, "The last Farm Progress Show (FPS) I came home with a bunch of junk. The books were the good things I got!"





One of our younger visitors



## Day Two: 736 people entered the booth

Comments from Day Two—

"This is the most exciting booth at the show!"

A teen with a group: "You are the first ones in this tent to talk to me. Everyone else is on their phone or behind the table not paying attention." They said we were a friendly booth.

A South African mother told us a story about reading to her 2<sup>nd</sup> child for 10 min. before bedtime making a difference between a reader and non-reader. With her first child there was no time to read when he was little.



Where do booth visitors come from? These are just some of the places we identified.

Indiana Italy

Florida Argentina

Tennessee Brazil

Missouri South Africa

Wisconsin Great Britain

lowa Russia

Many, many states And other countries

## Day Three: 368 people entered the booth

This is traditionally the slowest and shortest day of the show.

The difference between Tuesday and Thursday in the look of the booth was easy to see. Nearly all the teen books were gone. There was room for all the remaining picture books to be showcased. Large print and cookbooks were gone and many Christian fiction also.

This was the day that ALL the Decatur students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade came to the show. Many stopped and took books.



#### **PUZZLES**

This year a donation of 14 farm puzzles were given to us. To receive a puzzle they had to show us their library card. A few of the patrons were from:

- Omni catalog group from Northern IL
- James Kennedy Public Library in Dyersville, Iowa
- Raymond from Coles County, age 93
- The last puzzle went to a man who saw an old combine in the picture. It was the same one that he used to work on with his grandfather!



### A Great Show for 2019

Thank you to all the libraries that sent donations, books, and volunteers for the booth

Special thanks to IHLS and their staff for all their help.

Without all your help and support this special Library outreach would not be possible!!

