

## Franklin twp. Farm Bureau has guest speaker

Written by Administrator

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You need to remember where you came from, as well as being aware you're headed to as you go through life, according to Indiana Farm Bureau 2nd Vice President Isabella Chism.

Chism lives in Galveston (near Gas City in north central Indiana) with her husband Kent, and has three adult children. They raise corn and soybeans on their farm.

Chism said that it takes three things to live the good life: persistence, patience, and pride in what you do.

She asked the audience, "How many of you are activists?"

Several people raised their hands, and she said, "Every one of you are activists. It means you're out doing something."

Chism was born in Austria, and immigrated over to the United States with her parents when she was six years old. Her father had been a school teacher in Austria before they came over to the US.

She said that whatever she has done in life or whatever has happened to her in life throughout the years, she truly believes that "every one of us has the seed to be what we are to be."

A good example was when her husband Kent had a bad asthma attack in the field during harvest time. Her two sons had just gotten home from a cross country meet at Northwestern High School one fall, and while the boys were cleaning up, she got a message that her husband had suffered an asthma attack in the field. Chism said she immediately went to the field where he was at; which was about five miles from their house. She didn't want to scare the three kids (all at home and not yet adults), so she didn't tell them anything was wrong. In the course of the incident, she saw a shooting star. She took that as being a sign that things would be okay. He stopped breathing after she got there at the site, and she went with him to the hospital in an ambulance.

"Every time I hit a bump in the road, there are hands there to catch me," she said.

When she had her first date with her husband Kent, she rode around a field with him while he was cultivating soybeans. The farm ended up being a team effort for the two of them, and later on the kids became part of the team as they were born.

They would like to see her kids be able to farm in the future.

"Our greater purpose right now is to make sure our children can farm," said Chism.

Chism said that only 2 percent of the population are farmers in the US, and pointed out that many of the people moving into what had been rural areas for generations are not farmers. Some of them, she said, don't exactly like the smells, dust, and dirt that go with rural life.

Being proactive with people that move into rural areas without a farming background is very helpful. She said that she and her husband Kent will often give a warning to non farming neighbors that they will be doing certain tasks before they do them, and try not to work in the fields when those neighbors will be trying to sleep. Join St. Mary of the Knobs to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style! Their 4th Annual Reverse Raffle is set for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. Only 100 tickets sold in increments of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Total cash prizes of \$5,500 – even losers have a second chance to win!