

The Washington County Extension office is trying a few new things as part of this year's county fair. The new events include a "SWAG Search"; an Ag Hall of Fame Reception and a free farmer's health initiative. The following is information about each new program:

Swag Search

Each night fair-goers will have the opportunity to search for "SWAG" which is an acronym for See What Ag Gives.

Those who would like to participate can stop by the extension booth and they will get a piece of paper with questions on them.

Answers to the questions are located at various places throughout the fair.

The "SWAG" search will be changed nightly if anyone would like to do it more than once or every night of the fair.

For signing up to do the search, fair-goers will get some actual swag, a pair of sunglasses and those who stop back at the extension booth to turn in their answers from the "SWAG" search will get a T-shirt.

Ag Hall of Fame

Five local farmers were nominated to be considered for the local Ag Hall of Fame and one of them will be inducted on Thursday of fair week (June 26).

The event will be an Ag Hall of Fame Reception.

The meal is free and is sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America and the Washington County Cattleman's Association. Those planning to attend must pick up a meal ticket at the Extension office so enough rib-eye sandwiches are prepared.

There will be a guest speaker, Steve Wehschurack, who works for Purdue University and is a certified farm safety instructor. He will be discussing grain bin safety and rescue.

The event will be held near the 4-H building.

The event will be an annual tradition where one farmer, farm partner or Agri-business is inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame.

A nominating committee selected the winner.

Farm health initiative

The Washington County Extension is teaming up with St. Vincent Salem for the farm health initiative on Thursday of fair week.

Danielle Walker, who is the Purdue Extension Educator Ag and Natural Resources for the local extension office, said the hope is farmer's will come support the Ag Hall of Fame Reception, get some ice cream from the 4-H stand and then have health screenings done.

"On a serious note, farmers do have a tenancy to put other things before their health," Walker said. "They think they don't have time to go to the doctor because the tractor needs fixed, or they have to plant. This will give them an opportunity to have some tests done."

Walker said they'd be

For more information about any of these events or anything the extension has going on at the fair call the extension office at 883-4601.