



# *Southern Illinois* **FARM BUREAU NEWS**

**FARM BUREAU - THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURE - WHERE YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**  
A Farm Bureau Publication - Serving Farm Bureau Members in the Southern Illinois Counties of Alexander, Franklin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union and Williamson

Volume 69 • Issue 12 • December 2025



**MEMBER BENEFIT**  
**SAVE UP TO 20%**

**WYNDHAM**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

## Rules for the Road seminar scheduled for southern Illinois

Illinois Farm Bureau will host Rules for the Road transportation seminars for members in February and March. These seminars are designed for IFB members of all experience levels, whether driving semi or pickup trucks, to learn about the latest transportation laws and trucking regulations. Each seminar will typically feature Illinois State Police and representatives from the Department of Transportation. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about real-life experiences and agriculture-related questions about trucking regulations. IFB Associate Director of Transportation and Infrastructure

Rodney Knittel will present information about compliance, new regulations and safety. A seminar will be held in Union County at the Union County Farm Bureau office on February 24, 2026. A meal will be provided at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 6 p.m. A virtual seminar will take place on March 19, 2026 for those who cannot attend the in-person meetings. More in-person options are available statewide. All Illinois Farm Bureau members are invited to attend the seminars. Those interested can contact their local county Farm Bureaus for more information or to register.



**FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>** DINNER AT 5:30 PM  
PROGRAM AT 6:00 PM  
Hosted by: Union CFB

Union County Farm Bureau  
104 W Broad / Jonesboro, IL

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members.

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>.  
Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.

**SAVE THE DATE**



## Scouts earn Farm Mechanics Merit Badge with Farm Bureau



Earning a scouting badge isn't always easy and that's why southern Illinois Farm Bureaus teamed up with the Greater St. Louis Area Council Scouting. The partnership included a Merit Badge Clinic at John A. Logan College in November. Nearly 10 scouts from southern

Illinois came to the community college to learn about mechanics on the farm. As part of earning their Farm Mechanics badge, scouts had to learn about how to properly maintain a shop, what different types of tools and equipment do, and how to maintain your equipment.

Local Williamson County member Will McKinney helped teach the clinic. He took time to explain the most important tools on his farm, how they maintain their equipment during the planting and harvest season, and safety precautions everyone should take  
*(See Scouts on page 12)*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**PEACE & JOY THIS SEASON**







## Perry County hires new Ag in the Classroom coordinator

Faith Still will be joining us as the new Ag in the Classroom coordinator for Perry County. Faith graduated with her BS in Family and Consumer Sciences from The Ohio State University and taught Family and Consumer Sciences at the secondary level for 10 years in Ohio and Illinois.

Faith also earned a Masters degree in Career and Technical Education from Murray State University in 2019. She loved teaching FCS and the many opportunities for active learning that it provided.

An avid cook, Faith created her own website, Home Ec @ Home (homeecathome.com). She is in the process of remodeling the site, with her sister's help and hopes to bring the new improved site live this winter. It has been a creative outlet and has allowed her to continue sharing her love of food and homemaking with others.

Faith and her husband, who is an Associate Professor of Agriculture Education at Southern Illinois University, along with their four boys, garden and raise sheep, chickens, pigs, rabbits, and bees on their small homestead in Du Quoin. Her boys are active in 4-H and FFA. They enjoy showing their livestock and participating in the many enriching activities that both 4-H and FFA provide.

Faith is excited to take on this new role of helping students in Perry County learn more about agriculture and where their food comes from. If there are any questions feel free to reach out to our office at 618-357-9355 or email Faith at aitec@perrycfb.org.

## Unlocking Your Leadership Potential



**By Connor Graham  
Section 25 FFA Reporter**

On October 6th-10th, your Section 25 Officers and two of the Illinois FFA State Major Officers were busy conducting workshops at LTS and leading chapter visits all around the section. The main focus of LTS is to provide ways for members of the section to grow their leadership, bring back ideas to their chapters, and form new connections. The Section 25 Officer team spent countless hours preparing our workshops for the section to enjoy! "LTS was very fun and a learning experience. It taught me to work in groups and overall socialize with new people," shared Zada Barnett, a Gallatin County FFA member.

In Kevin Morris (President) and Mady Bergmann's (Vice President) LTS room they focused on choosing core values and how it plays a role in an individual's life. In Connor Graham (Reporter) and Emily Morris' (Treasurer) LTS room they highlighted ways to elevate your adaptability, leadership roles, and communication skills. In Justin Williax (Secretary) and Cole Hamson's (Sentinel) LTS room they focused on cooperation and teamwork, with a splash of creativity. LTS is an event that is looked forward to by many members. "My favorite part was the amazing food that was prepared for us and the teamwork that my fellow officers and I used behind the scenes to make this happen," states Justin Williax.

Chapter visits week is a journey throughout the entirety of the Section, from top to bottom. We had the pleasure of hosting both the Illinois FFA State Vice President, Koben Tate, and the Illinois FFA State Reporter, Ethan Bremmer. Cole Hamson stated, "My favorite part of chapter visits was seeing the members at their own school. It reminded me that each person's journey is different, but we are working toward a common goal- The Future of Agriculture." During chapter visits the section team along with the major state officers shared how perspectives can be different but they can all be beneficial. We also talked about how "disadvantages" may not always be as bad as they seem, and perhaps a brighter day is ahead! Just like within agriculture, you may come across the "goods" and the "bads" of life. However, being able to work with the negatives and celebrate the positives will lead you to success. Fun was had by all, memories were made, and many skills were developed. We hope everyone had a great time.

This year during LTS and Chapter Visits, Section 25 truly unlocked their leadership potential!

## Life insurance will never be more affordable than it is today



**Blake Brachear**  
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(618) 994-2389



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Benton  
(618) 435-8191



**Dana Wylie**  
Sesser  
(618) 625-5100

Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. "COUNTRY Financial®" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois.





FARM BUREAU NEWS

SEC 684-840  
Published monthly

Periodical postage paid at  
Marion, IL 62959.

For address changes, send  
Postal Form F3579 to  
Williamson County Farm Bureau  
1517 E. DeYoung  
Marion, Illinois.

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Farm Bureau is for the  
subscription to this publication.

Farm Bureau News  
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Saline County Farm Bureau's Dough for Does Program is Underway



Saline County Farm Bureau has already had members stop by to take part in our Saline County Farm Bureau Dough for Does program. A big congratulations to Tim Craig, who became our very first Farm Bureau member to participate in this year's program. We're excited to see more members get involved.

Does are the primary drivers of deer overpopulation, which can lead to crop damage, car acci-

dents, and strain on local ecosystems. By harvesting does, hunters play a vital role in keeping deer herds balanced and healthy.

Every harvested doe helps protect farmland, improve safety, and support conservation efforts across Illinois. Don't miss your chance to participate — stop by the Saline County Farm Bureau office to learn how you can get involved in the Dough for Does program.

Pope-Hardin County FB Christmas Pecans for sale

Pope-Hardin County Farm Bureau will be offering discounted pecans for sale in December. 1-pound bags of pecans will be selling for \$5 a bag. Limit of 1 discounted bag per membership. Ad-

ditional bags may be purchased at \$11 per bag. Supplies are limited! Please stop by the Pope-Hardin Farm Bureau office to purchase your pecans or call 618-683-3651 for more information.

Johnson County FB Christmas Pecans for sale

Johnson County Farm Bureau will be offering discounted pecans for sale in December. 1-pound bags of pecans will be selling for \$5 a bag. Limit of 1 discounted bag

per membership. Additional bags may be purchased at \$11 per bag. Supplies are limited! Please stop by the Johnson County Farm Bureau office to purchase your pecans.



Saline County Farm Bureau Supports Eldorado FFA Grain Drive with Harvest Safety Bags

Saline County Farm Bureau recently donated Harvest Safety Bags to the Eldorado FFA for their annual Grain Drive. Each bag contained a bottle of water, a first aid kit, resource brochures, and other useful items to promote farm safety. The bags were handed out to local farmers as a reminder to stay safe and take care during the busy harvest season.

Adopt-a-classroom for  
\$100 or make a donation  
toward the 2025-2026 Franklin County  
Ag in the Classroom program.

Franklin County  
AGRICULTURE  
in the Classroom<sup>SM</sup>

OUR PROGRAM'S  
IMPACT

Franklin County AITC saw a  
total of 6,699 students  
contacts last school year.

Donate by December 31, 2025  
Contact Franklin CFB 618-435-3616

POLICY DEVELOPMENT  
What's Your View? NUTRITION

94. NUTRITION  
WE SUPPORT:

1. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) efforts to expand the use of dietetically wholesome and nutritious foods in all school meals and other nutrition pro-

grams and shall not be limited to locally-grown or organic production.

2. Renaming high fructose corn syrup to corn sugar.

3. Greater flexibility with the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs to ensure local

school districts are able to determine how to meet the nutritional needs of their students.

4. Equal access to pasteurized dairy products, including whole milk, by the USDA national school lunch program and by the armed forces.

WE OPPOSE:

Financial penalties on local school districts for serving meals that do not meet current federal mandates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs.

Illinois Farm Bureau's grassroots policy-development process provides members the opportunity to express thoughts and ideas on important issues impacting agriculture. When properly supported through the grassroots policy-development process, these concerns are considered and may be adopted by the voting delegates at the organization's annual meeting each December.

Policies approved at the annual meeting direct IFB's legislative priorities and programming. It is from this grassroots input and direction that Farm Bureau realizes its strength as an organization to serve the needs of the members. Adopted

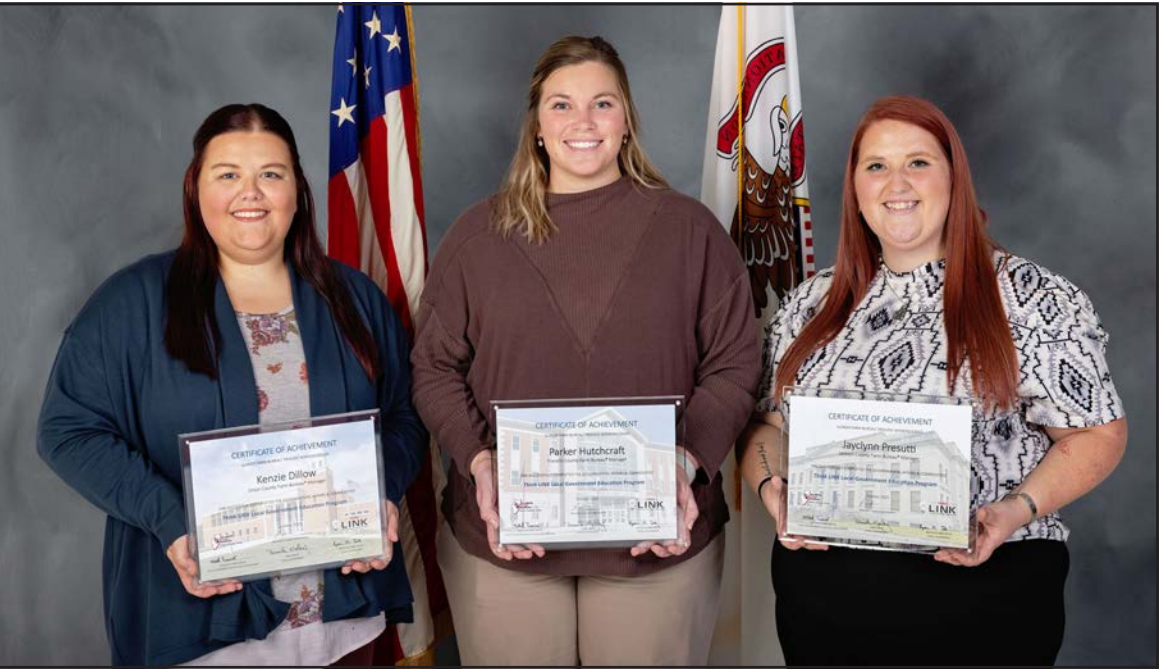
policies become the public policy positions of IFB.

IFB policies that are national in scope are forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration during its policy-development process. Policies adopted at the AFBF annual meeting become both AFBF's and Illinois' public policy positions on national and international issues.

If you have questions on the policy-development process or Illinois Farm Bureau policy, contact Ryan Whitehouse at rwhitehouse@ifb.org or 309-557-3929 or your County Farm Bureau.



# Southern Illinois County Farm Bureau Managers complete Think LINK program



(Left to right) Kenzie Dillow, Union County; Parker Hutchcraft, Franklin County; and Jayclynn Presutti, Jackson County receive their plaques for completing the Think LINK program.

Three county Farm Bureau managers have completed the Think LINK program. The local graduates include Parker Hutchcraft, Franlin County; Kenzie Dillow, Union County; and Jayclynn Presutti, Jackson County. Other participants from this year’s class include Korbin Collins, Kankakee County; Kacie Claire, Ford-Iroquois; Sydnee Shafer, Piatt County; and Lindsey Vogt, Jasper & Clark

Counties. Think LINK targets relatively new county Farm Bureau managers and is intended to build awareness, experience and understanding of local issues, local government structure and authorities, and help CFB managers become more familiar with the local officials in their county. To help achieve these goals, Illinois Farm Bureau staff spend a year working with the partici-

pants. Much of that time is spent in the county with learning exercises aimed at producing results that have practical application. During the program, managers and staff also meet with a local official in their county to grow that relationship, explain what Farm Bureau does and how we can partner together to promote agriculture. Congratulations to this year’s graduates!

## Pesticide Applicator Testing

12/17/25 Murphysboro Ext. Office -- All Day

1/16/26 Pinckneyville Ext. Office -- 9 a.m. to Noon

1/20/26 Murphysboro Ext. Office -- All Day

2/03/26 Carmi Ext. Office -- 9 a.m. to Noon

2/04/26 Nashville Ext. Office -- 9 a.m. to Noon

2/05/26 Pinckneyville Ext. Office -- 9 a.m. to Noon

2/10/26 Vienna Ext. Office -- 9 a.m. to Noon

2/20/26 Union Co. Farm Bureau -- All Day

2/27/26 Franklin Co. Ext. Office -- All Day

3/05/26 Union Co. Farm Bureau -- All Day

3/10/26 Nashville Ext. Office -- 9 a.m. to Noon

3/30/26 Franklin Co. Ext. Office -- All Day

4/09/26 JALC Hancock Center -- All Day

### Commercial Training & Testing

1/7-8/26 Mt. Vernon DoubleTree

2/18-19/26 Collinsville -- Gateway Center

3/03/26 Mt. Vernon DoubleTree

Visit [agr.illinois.gov/pesticides/in-person-testing.html](http://agr.illinois.gov/pesticides/in-person-testing.html) or call 800-644-2123 to register

# AG BITES:

## Family Approved

Our members are great cooks. And, many not only are great cooks, they do the ultimate balancing act of cooking on the go for a busy family, while keeping it healthy to meet various dietary needs and tastes, and keeping it affordable. Whew – that’s a big job!

### NO-BAKE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT COOKIES



*Serves: 24 cookies*

*Prep time: 20 min*

*Cook Time: 10 min*

#### INGREDIENTS

4 candy canes or

8 peppermints

12 ounce dark chocolate, chopped

1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract

24 butter crackers (such as Ritz Crackers)

1 pinch flaky sea salt, for topping

#### DIRECTIONS

**Step 1** Line a cookie sheet with parchment or wax paper. Set aside.

**Step 2** Place the candy canes or peppermint mints into a zip top bag. Using a rolling pin or heavy skillet, crush the candies. Remove the candies from the bag into a bowl and set aside.

**Step 3** Fill a sauce pot with a few inches of water. Place the pot onto the stovetop and bring to a simmer. Put 3/4 of the chocolate into a large glass bowl and place the bowl over top of the simmering pot of water to create a double boiler. Stir with a rubber spatula until the chocolate is completely melted. Once smooth, remove the bowl from the heat. Add the rest of the chocolate and the peppermint extract and stir until fully melted. (Adding in the last 1/4 of the chocolate will prevent the chocolate from getting too hot.)

**Step 4** Using a fork, dip the butter crackers, one at a time into the chocolate, shaking off any excess. Place the chocolate dipped cracker onto the parchment lined sheet tray and sprinkle the top with the crushed candy. Repeat with remaining crackers.

**Step 5** Let the chocolate set at room temperature. Once dry, store in an airtight container in a cool, dark place.

Do you have a favorite family recipe that you want to share? If so, submit your recipes to your local County Farm Bureau and it may be featured in a future edition of the paper.





More than one hundred trick-or-treaters made a stop at the Union County Farm Bureau in late October. During the annual business trick-or-treating in Jonesboro, kids were given candy, a farm animal and a sticker to remind them about agriculture.



Agriculture was spotlighted during the final home game of the Anna-Jonesboro HS football season. Union County Farm Bureau gave away free popcorn to those who attended. Each bag dawned a sticker that gave several facts about the delicious crop. COUNTRY Financial Agents Mike Meisenheimer and Travis Holtkamp also served as the game sponsors for the evening.

**Saline County Farm Bureau**



# DOUGH FOR DOES

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- ☒ Farm Bureau Member
- ☒ Timestamped harvest photo from the 2025 hunting season
- ☒ Valid doe tag



**\$25 PER TAG**





# Carrier Mills Stonefort Elementary School Teacher Erin Parks Gets Recognized



Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom and Saline County Farm Bureau is proud to recognize Erin Parks alongside Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom. Mrs. Parks is a sixth-grade teacher at Carrier Mills-Stonefort Elementary. Mrs. Parks has inspired countless students throughout her teaching career with her passion

for learning and creativity in the classroom. She finds ways to integrate agriculture into her lessons every day through hands-on, cross-curricular activities. From desktop greenhouses and pumpkin catapults to composting projects, Mrs. Parks brings science and STEM to life for her students. She also weaves agriculture into English Language

Arts lessons, including a special STEM unit that connects the story of Colonel Gail Halvorsen's candy and food parachutes with the holiday season. We are excited to share that Mrs. Parks was selected as the runner-up and will represent Illinois as the nominee for the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's White-Reinhardt Award!



# SUBS FOR SUBS

9:00am - 1:00pm

\$20 Registration Fee  
(must be paid PRIOR to event)

502 W. Jackson St.  
Marion, IL 62959


## DECEMBER 3RD

## FEBRUARY 11TH


## APRIL 8TH

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES:**

- On-site assistance for short-term substitute or substitute license
- Short-term substitute training
- Q&A Time
- Complimentary fingerprinting for individuals joining the ROE #21 substitute listing (\$55 in savings)
- A DELICIOUS sub sandwich for lunch compliments of Subway
- Substitute Tool Bag from Ag in the Classroom



For more information and to sign up for a training, [click here](#) or scan!





# Union County Farm Bureau holds successful 108th annual meeting



Mike Meisenheimer is presented his “Friend of Agriculture” award by President Mark Eddleman for serving as a COUNTRY Financial agent and Farm Bureau member for 50 years.

Union County Farm Bureau held their 108th Annual Meeting Thursday, November 6th at the Barn Event Center in Anna. This year nearly 100 members and special guests gathered to enjoy a



Nearly 100 members gather at The Barn Event Center for Union County Farm Bureau's 108th Annual Meeting.

meal and conduct business.

During the meeting voting members elected six members to the Board of Directors: Matthew Follis, Carl Dillow, Kaleb Treece, Jim Meller, Allen Plott and Dale Moreland. All were elected for two-year terms which expire in 2027.

During the event, a raffle for two processed half-hogs was held to raise money for the Union County Farm Bureau Foundation. Nearly \$500 was raised on the raffle. We want to thank Rich Farms for donating the hog this year.

This year, UCFB awarded our “Friend of Agriculture” award to a longtime member that has had a large impact on our organization. We honored COUNTRY Financial Agent Mike Meisenheimer, who is wrapping up his 50th year as an agent in Union County. We appreciate all Mike has done throughout the years for our members and to support agriculture.

Union County Farm Bureau would like to thank 3D Auctions, Carl & Suzanne Dillow, for serving as the host for the evening,

Anna-Jonesboro FFA for helping serve, and the members, businesses and COUNTRY Financial agents that donated items to be given away. Thank you also to affiliates and friends of the Farm Bureau who attended including District 18 Director Jeff Webber and COUNTRY Financial’s Jennifer McDade.

The Union Co. Farm Bureau Annual Meeting is held every year in November. The Board of Directors meets monthly, on the third Tuesday, at the county Farm Bureau office.

## Union County COUNTRY agent Clover retires



COUNTRY Financial Agent Charlotte Clover presented with a gift by UCFB President Mark Eddleman for her 31.5 years of service.

During the 108th Union County Farm Bureau annual meeting, a COUNTRY Financial agent was honored for her years of service.

Charlotte Clover retired at the end of November after serving as an insurance agent for thirty-one and a half years. Charlotte has been a Farm Bureau member the entirety of her career.

Along with retiring from the

insurance business, Charlotte and her husband also retired from the lavender business. She closed her Shawnee Hills Lavender Farm this summer.

Charlotte has used her farm and position as a COUNTRY Financial agent to support local agriculture and be a true friend to the Farm Bureau. We thank her for her many years and wish her the best in retirement.

# BIGGEST DOE



## CONTEST

**FIREARM SEASON: November 21-23 & December 4-7**

- Must be field dressed before weighing
- Must have a valid IL hunting License
- Must be legally tagged with a Perry County tag
- Doe must be weighed - in at Kellerman's Feed & Supply

 1031 S Main St. Pinckneyville, IL 62274

Monday - Friday 7a.m.- 6p.m.  
Saturday 8a.m. - 5p.m.  
Sunday 10a.m. - 3p.m.



Sponsored By: Perry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders  
Kellerman's Feed & Supply



**Biggest Doe**  
\$400 Store Credit to Hick's Trading Station

**2nd Biggest**  
Ladder Deer Stand

**Raffel Prize**  
\$150 Gift Card to Kellerman's Feed & Supply

Any Question Call or Text  
(618) 571-5322 OR  
(618) 314-6514

Contestants are allowed only one entry and all entries will be added to the raffle drawing. Winners of the biggest and 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest are not eligible for raffle.



# Franklin County Ag in the Classroom News



Students across Franklin County had fun in October! Kindergarten and first graders learned about corn and received corn crowns courtesy of Illinois Corn. Older students learned about pumpkins, how they grow, and the fact that Illinois grows more pumpkins here than anywhere else in the world! 7th and 8th graders in Christopher were able to see the chemical reaction in an exploding pumpkin.



## Pope-Hardin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Held

Pope-Hardin Farm Bureau held its 104th annual meeting Monday, November 10th, 2025. The meeting was held at the Farm Bureau office in Golconda. This year's meeting was an abbreviated business only meeting. Directors elected to serve a three-year term were Randy Barnard, Jim Jennings, and Butch Hart. We truly appreciate all the members who returned their proxies. If you haven't received your gift yet please stop by the office to pick it up, your gift will be held through the end of the year.

As a reminder to all our members, our Annual Meetings are always open to our members as are our regular monthly meetings. Minutes and financial reports from our meetings are also available for inspection upon request by our members. Please feel free to contact our Directors and Staff with any questions or concerns you may have. We appreciate your support and membership and look forward to serving our members in the coming year!!

## Scholarship Recipients recognized at Pulaski-Alexander Annual Meeting



At the Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau's 105th County Annual Meeting, our scholarship recipients were recognized with banners and a certificate for their achievement. The scholarship winners were Madison Reichert, Mary Beth Cox, Emilee Korte, Riley Wright and Caden Crain. Pictured is Caden Crain, the winner of our Andy "Charlie Brown" Helman Scholarship.

## WATCH YOUR MAILBOX for Partners!

All Farm Bureau members now receive Partners for **FREE** as a **MEMBER BENEFIT!**



**Johnson County Farm Bureau is pleased to support our members who aid in the management of the over-populated deer herd in the county. Our "Does for Dough" program offers members the opportunity for a \$25.00 award for each legally harvested doe.**



# Franklin County Farm Bureau and Southern FS Farmer Appreciation



Darrell Smith

In October, Franklin County Farm Bureau and Mulkeytown and Macedonia Southern FS locations showed their appreciation to Franklin County farmers by delivering lunch to them in the field. We wanted to let our farmers know how much we appreciated their hard work and hope they had a safe harvest season!



(Left to Right) Joey Hutchcraft, Ike Hutchcraft and Mason Morris



## Scouts

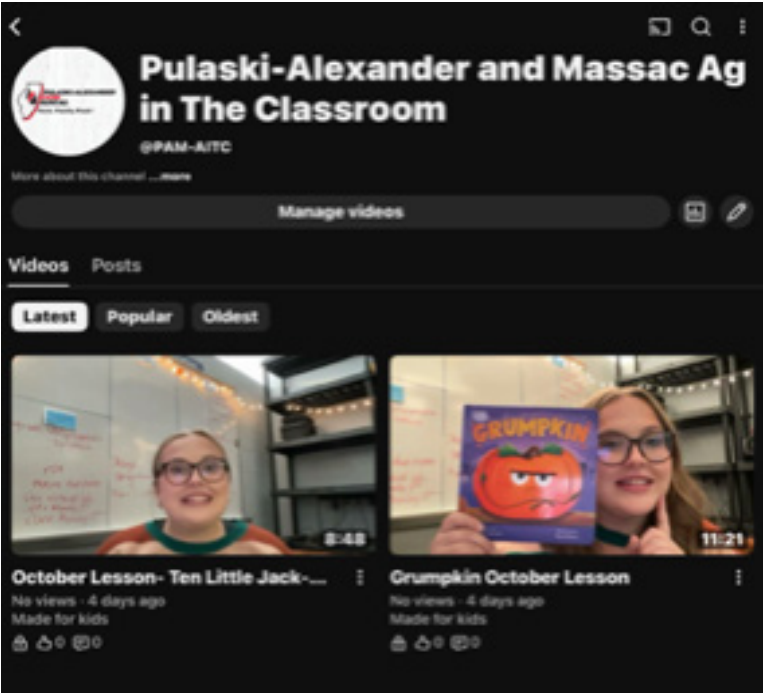
(Continued from Page 1)

around large equipment. McKinney brought a tractor and auger wagon to the clinic to allow the scouts an up close look at how the machines work. Students received the chance to get inside the tractor to see how it runs and all the different capabilities. They also were tasked with finding all the warning labels on the equipment, to better learn how to read them and their importance. Each student showed they gained knowledge about the equipment and how to maintain it, earning them a Farm Mechanics Badge. We thank the Greater St. Louis Area Council Scouting for partnering with us to teach kids the importance of agriculture. We also extend a big thank you to the McKinney family for the use of their equipment and teaching and John A. Logan College for hosting.

# New programs and resources hitting the Pulaski-Alexander and Massac Agriculture in the Classroom!

This month's lessons were all about pumpkins, from counting jack-o-lanterns to making pumpkin pie in a bag! Some schools were missed due to fall breaks and to help with drop-off lessons, Pulaski/Alexander/Massac AITC have started a YouTube channel to access monthly lessons with Miss Emily. It's been made completely free and accessible to the public, because everyone deserves an agricultural education!

Our older students learned how to make pumpkin-pie-in-a-bag this month entirely from shelf-stable ingredients. To continue that lesson and encourage some healthy competition with community benefit, Pulaski/Alexander/Massac AITC is hosting a food donation initiative! There will be a prize, which includes a teacher gift and a gift card for classroom supplies, given at each school to the classroom with the most donations. The classroom with the most donations between the three counties will receive a second, larger prize! All donations will be dispersed to local food banks and blessing boxes in the Pulaski/Alexander/Massac areas. Refer to the Pulaski/Alexander/Massac Agriculture in the Classroom page for food donation suggestions, pumpkin recipes, and more information!



## Time for a FOOD DRIVE

In the month of November, Pulaski-Alexander and Massac Agriculture in the classroom is fostering some healthy competition to help the community!

Whether your class participates in our Agriculture in the Classroom or not, we ask that you join in! You just have to be in one of our 10 regularly visited schools! Students will bring in non-perishable items for donation. Our AITC Coordinator will pick up everything! The class with the most donations in each school will win a prize including a gift card for resources for their classroom! The Classroom with the most donations across the three counties will receive an even larger prize, so donate, donate, donate!

Acceptable items include:

- canned food
- dry cereal and pasta
- seasonings and pantry staples, like flour and sugar
- oil, crisco
- box cake mixes and box meals, such as hamburger helper
- boxed liquids, such as boxed broth, shelf-stable milk, or juice boxes/pouches

All donations will be dispersed back to food donation centers and blessing boxes throughout the counties we serve!

Food donations will be picked up from Massac Schools November 20<sup>th</sup> and from Pulaski-Alexander November 21<sup>st</sup>.



## DOUGH FOR DOES RAFFLE 2025

**PRIZE: \$2,500**

- October 1 - January 18
- Doe harvested in Union Co.
- Entries accepted each Thursday from 8-4:30 at UCFB office in Jonesboro



**UNION COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
Farm. Family. Food.™

More info: [unioncountyfb.com](http://unioncountyfb.com)



# Local FFA Chapters attend Acquaintance Day with Farm Bureau

Over the last ten years, the County Farm Bureaus have continued working with local FFA Chapters through the FFA Acquaintance Days. The event has evolved from a conference to a rotation between educational and fun activities. The 2025 event was teaching students table manners during etiquette training at Shawnee Community College.

At the etiquette lunch, FFA Chapters were able to hear from Illinois Farm Bureau’s Membership Engagement Manager, Ashley Buetke, to learn about the opportunities for youth within Illinois Farm Bureau. Shawnee Community College President Dr. Tim Taylor also spoke to the students about the college and all of its exciting opportunities after high school.

The main event for the day was a catered lunch for students, while they learned the basics of etiquette while attending a business meal. The presentation was given by Sarah Boyles with Etiquette St. Louis. The presentation taught students the basics of setting a table, how to eat in an appropriate manner, and the best way to interact with others at the table, while having a meal.

The southern Illinois County Farm Bureaus extend a thank you to Shawnee Community College for hosting and providing the meal, as well as Sarah Boyles for her presentation.

## Thank You!

A safe, wholesome, sustainable food supply for you and your family starts with a farmer.

Illinois Farm Bureau and your county Farm Bureau are your places to support Illinois family farmers and food security. Thank you for supporting Illinois farmers. You are reaping the benefits of being an Illinois Farm Bureau member.

Membership gives you access to a huge selection of discounts. But your membership also makes you part of the Farm Bureau family in Illinois, a place to support Illinois family farmers and food security.

It’s also a way for you to support the Agriculture in the Classroom program and help students understand how farming impacts their lives. And your membership gives you access to Illinois and county Farm Bureau programs, events, and more.

We thank you for supporting Farm, Family, and Food!! Be sure to explore all the benefits of being a Farm Bureau Member in Illinois.



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Williamson County Ag in the classroom has been busy making 3-D pumpkins and pumpkin pie in a bag. It's a great way to celebrate our farmers who are number one in growing pumpkins.



October was a busy month for Saline County Ag in the Classroom with Teachers Conferences and classroom visits. Here is a little snapshot. Children at the Eldorado Memorial Library learned about pumpkins and that Illinois is #1 in pumpkin production in the world while making pumpkin catapults. Preschoolers also learned about pumpkins and their life cycle with the help of the Saline County Fair Queen, Miss Gracelynn Cox. First graders learned about Farm Safety. Second, fourth, & fifth grades learned about wheat and even got to mill their own wheat!

October 1, 2025–January 18, 2026

# DOES for Dough



~Must show valid hunting license and doe tag with confirmation number  
~Firearm tag must be for Franklin County  
~Must be a Franklin County current Farm Bureau member or dependent of one

-Bring in a tag and picture for a legally killed doe to Franklin County Farm Bureau  
-Members will receive \$25 for each doe harvested

~The program will end once a total of 25 does have been turned in

get \$25 per doe





CLASSIFIED ADS

FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: JD 1530 drill 20 ft., 15 in. markers; Yetter caddy \$17,500.00. Oliver plow, 3 bottom \$500.00 618-534-7772.

FOR SALE: Mighty Merc Wood Splitter \$600.00, Four Bottom Ford 3 pt. Hitch Plow \$300.00, 1975 MF750 Combine 354 Perkins Turbo Engine W/MF 9116 Flex Header. Stored inside \$2,500. Phone: (618) 306-4016.

LIVESTOCK/HAY

FOR SALE: Great Pyrennes Pups 6 weeks old - Chickens laying hens variety of breeds - Ducks - seven different breeds adults, Simpson, IL 618-695-2453 - 618-967-2847.

FOR SALE: Puppies Jack Russell, Corgi, Australian Shepherds, and toy and standard poodles and toy aussiedoodles. wormed and vaccinated please call Judy Turner 618-683-3651.

FOR SALE: Small Square bales Lespadeza, orchard grass \$5.00 in barn \$6.00 Deliverd - 100 bale min. in Herod, IL Area 618-499-0846.

HOUSEHOLD

FOR SALE: Starck Cabinet Grand Piano, Brass flange action, double repeating. #106878. \$500. Please call 618 579-4449.

FOR SALE: Quilt for Christmas. Green, red & white

colors. Hand embroidered blocks, hand quilted. Approximate size 86"x96". Call 618-973-3929.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: ICON Pull Scraper, 18 cubic yards, four tires, rear hydraulic hook-up, new paint, \$35000.00 Grace pneumatic tire roller, runs good. 11 tires. \$750 Please call 618 967-8761.

FOR SALE: Culvert 32 inches x 20Ft, corrugated steel, fair condition, \$250. Canning jars, \$7.50 per dozen. Boat Lift, aluminum manual, \$750. Wheel Horse garden tractor, mower, 48 inch, 19.5 hp Kohler \$975. Please call 618 922-3630.



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Farm Bureau Classifieds

Farm Bureau members may run classified ads free in the Farm Bureau News.  
**ONLY ONE FREE AD** per membership per issue. All additional ads cost \$5.00 per month **No commercial business ads.** 25 word limit.

Deadline is the 10th of each month. Farm Bureau reserves the right to accept or reject any ad.

**ALL ADS MUST BE SUBMITTED AND/OR REMITTED EACH MONTH.**

Classification \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE  
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\_\_\_\_ LIVESTOCK/HAY  
\_\_\_\_ HOUSEHOLD  
\_\_\_\_ MISCELLANEOUS  
\_\_\_\_ WANTED  
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\_\_\_\_ WORK  
\_\_\_\_ FREE

Mail your classified to your local farm bureau office listed below:

Franklin County FB, PO Box 457, Benton, IL 62812  
Jackson County FB, 220 N. 10th, Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Johnson County FB, PO Box 335, Vienna, IL 62995  
Massac County FB, 1436 W. 10th, Metropolis, IL 62960  
Perry County FB, PO Box 20, Pinckneyville, IL 62274

Pope/Hardin County FB, PO Box 418, Golconda, IL 62938  
Pulaski/Alexander County FB, PO Box 310, Mounds, IL 62964  
Saline County FB, PO Box 423, Harrisburg, IL 62946  
Williamson County FB, 1517 E. DeYoung, Marion, IL 62959  
Union County FB, PO Box F, Jonesboro, IL 62952



## AITC CORNER • CHOCOLATE

# FROM TREE TO TREAT

### Chocolate Farming

The cacao tree grows in the tropics. This delicate tree lives in the understory of the tropical forest, where it is sheltered from the sun and wind by taller trees.



In the past, some cacao farmers cut down large sections of rain forest to open up new fields to grow a hybrid variety of the cacao tree without shade. In addition to destroying valuable rain forest land, farmers needed to apply chemical fertilizers and pesticides to ensure the growth of the hybrid trees.

Fortunately, most of today's cacao farms practice sustainable methods of growing cacao under the shade of taller trees. Sustainable farmers use environmentally-friendly techniques such as planting tall, beneficial, native crops such as banana, cashew, or coconut trees among the cacao trees, thus providing shade canopy. These "shade farms" provide the habitat needed to host the insects that naturally pollinate the cacao as well as those that feast on cacao pests. These types of farms also maintain the natural systems that keep the soil fertile—eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers.

### Harvesting Cacao Seeds

Chocolate is made from the seeds of the cacao tree. They grow in a football-shaped fruit called a pod. Farmers harvest the pods by hand, then cut them open and scoop out the pulp and seeds, which they cover with burlap or banana leaves, or place in wooden boxes, to ferment. This process reduces the cacao's natural bitterness and begins to release the chocolate flavor. After a few days of fermentation, the seeds from the cacao pod darken into

rich brown cocoa beans, which the farmer dries in the sun before taking them to a collection site for shipment to chocolate factories around the world.



### There are three main varieties of cacao tree:

- ➔ **Criollo** produces a very high quality bean. It is most rare and highly prized for its flavor. It is grown mainly in Central America and the Caribbean.
- ➔ **Forastero**, cultivated in Africa and Brazil, produces a bean with a strong chocolate taste. It provides approximately 80% of the world's cacao.
- ➔ **Trinitario**, a disease-resistant and easily-cultivated cross between the Criollo and the Forastero, has smooth pods and flavorful beans. It is grown mainly in Central and South America and Asia.

Now it's time to find out more. With your team, do some research to learn more about sustainable cacao farming and how sustainable farming practices may be applied to growing other tropical crops such as sugar cane, coconut palm trees, and coffee. Present what you have learned to your classmates.

Use the space below to begin focusing your thoughts.

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To learn more about how cocoa is grown and chocolate is made, visit **The Story of Chocolate** at [www.thestoryofchocolate.com](http://www.thestoryofchocolate.com).

