



Farm Bureau members can help tell county's livestock story



By Ryan Whitehouse Illinois Farm Bureau

Farmers need to continue to tell their stories, sharing hardships they face and ways they overcome them, with people outside our industry. By connecting names, faces and families to the resiliency of agriculture, we can help educate local elected officials on the importance of livestock in meaningful ways.

While there are many facts that highlight the ways livestock farms contribute to their counties, such as environmental stewardship, job markets, tax bases and community economic development, there is no better advocate than the local farmer.

So, how can Farm Bureau members share their stories?

Farmers can start by beginning conversations with local officials. Initiate conversations by asking "what questions do you have for me?"

After that, prepare to share basic information by thinking through these questions:

- Where is your farm located?
- How do you operate?

- How do you care for livestock or crops?
- How do you give back to the community?
- How do you provide food for the community and the world?

I know it can be intimidating to talk to local officials, so it's important to remember that these folks are our neighbors. They want to see the counties and communities they represent thrive, and agriculture is part of that success. We should all be proud of that!

In addition to livestock farmers, grain farmers should also be part of conversations with elected officials. These individuals have a vested interest in animal agriculture because the livestock industry consumes the bushels of corn and soybeans they produce. Support from a range of farm families only enhances the significance of livestock farms.

While this article provides a 10,000-foot overview of how to engage with local officials, I hope it inspires Farm Bureau members and leaders to take steps toward becoming the face of livestock in your county.

IFB-backed deer nuisance bill heads to governor

BY HANNAH SPANGLER FarmWeek

The Illinois House unanimously approved Illinois Farm Bureau-backed legislation May 30 addressing deer overpopulation, sending the bill to Gov. JB Pritzker's desk for his signature.

"This bill is the result of meetings with constituents who annually have to deal with significant financial loss to their crops as a result of nuisance deer and other wildlife," said state Rep. Norine Hammond, R-Macomb, chief co-sponsor of Senate Bill 710. "Working together with the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those affected has resulted in a significant piece of legislation to address this problem."

A key provision of the new Evans Jr., D-Chicago, who was legislation requires the IDNR to the sponsor of the legislation in

update its Deer Removal Permit (DRP) procedures. Among the changes: IDNR biologists must respond to DRP requests within a specific timeframe, helping farmers address deer-related issues more quickly. The department must also publish clear information about the DRP process, including eligibility criteria and application instructions, on its website. These updates stem directly from farmer feedback and discussions with IDNR facilitated by county Farm Bureaus around the state.

"Agriculture is the economic engine of Illinois, but many of our farmers have been bogged down by red tape that prevents them from eliminating nuisance wildlife until damage has already been done," said Rep. Marcus Evans Jr., D-Chicago, who was the sponsor of the legislation in

the House. "I am proud of this bill because it empowers farmers and landowners to address problems proactively before they get out of hand."

For Saline County farmer and landowner Randy Anderson, the legislation could make a big difference. In 2024, deer damage was so severe that he didn't harvest four acres of corn in a 36-acre field, meaning those four acres produced zero revenue to cover his expenses.

Under the new DRP provisions, landowners like Anderson who harvest at least 50% of the deer authorized under a permit will automatically qualify for additional antlerless-only permits during the regular hunting season. If they fulfill 80% of the permit, they become eligible for an additional nuisance permit —

(See Deer page 11)

Trains, Tracks, and Tractors: What Every Farmer Needs to Know About Rail Safety

By Aisha Jackson, State Coordinator, Illinois Operation Lifesaver

As someone deeply involved in rail safety, I've seen firsthand how easily tragedy can strike when caution is overlooked, especially in rural areas where agriculture and railroads intersect every day. With planting and harvest seasons in full swing, it's time we talk frankly about the critical role rail safety plays in protecting our farmers, their families, and their livelihoods.

Farms and rail tracks often share space. Rail lines running through fields and across rural roads are lifelines for moving grain, livestock feed, fertilizer, and other essential products. But these same tracks can quickly become danger zones if approached carelessly, particularly when large equipment, heavy loads, and tight schedules come into play.

It's easy to get complacent.

(See Safety on page 3)

FRANKLIN CO. FAIR 10-18 MASSAC CO. YOUTH FAIR 11-20 SALINE CO. AG FAIR 20-26 PULASKI CO. FAIR 27-2

WILLIAMSON CO. FAIR* 2-9
ILLINOIS STATE FAIR* 7-17
UNION CO. FAIR 15-23
DU QUOIN STATE FAIR* 22-1

AUGUST



Brown Hired as Pulaski-**Alexander County and Massac County AITC** Coordinator

Pulaski-Alexander County and Massac County have hired a new Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator, Emily Brown. Emily is from Burna, Kentucky and is finishing her Masters' of Science in Agriculture Sciences focused towards Precision Agriculture. Emily received her Bachelors' of Science in Agricultural Science, minored in Unmanned Aerial Systems. Emily was raised on an the agriculture industry.

equine farm and once at Murray State University, she started crop spraying with drones and did several internships as an aerial applicator. She's been heavily involved in the agricultural organizations such as 4-H and FFA, as well as the Racer 1 and Equestrian Teams at Murray State. Emily is ecstatic to work with the youth and help develop the next generations of

17th Annual Member **Appreciation Picnic**

and COUNTRY Financial Representatives Trudee Wynn, Leann Stilley and Dana Wylie will be hosting a Member Appreciation

Franklin County Farm Bureau Picnic at the Franklin County Fair. The event will be on Tuesday, July 15th at 5pm. Please join us for good food and good



Cobden Peach Festival returns in August



Love peaches and community fun? The annual Cobden Peach Festival returns August 8th and 9th. The annual festival is held at the City Park. You can stop

by for carnival rides and games, a Peach Queen contest, homemade food and of course, peach cobbler. On Saturday, August 9, a 5K run/walk will take place in the morning and a parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. Come out and enjoy the free entertainment, eat some peaches and explore

2025-2026 PAFB Scholarships Awarded

The Pulaski Alexander Farm Bureau Foundation awarded 5 scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year. Congratulations to all of our recipients this year!

Madison Reichert was awarded the William "Fred" Hannan Scholarship. She is currently attending SIU- Carbondale for Radiologic Sciences.

Mary Beth Cox was awarded the William "Fred" Hannan Scholarship. She is currently attending Union University to achieve her degree in Nursing..

Riley Wright was awarded the William "Fred" Hannan Scholarship. She will be attending Shawnee Community College for Agricultural Education.

Emilee Korte was awarded the William "Fred" Hannan Scholarship. She will be attending Shawnee Community College for Agricultural Business and Management.

Caden Crain was awarded the Andy "Charlie Brown" Helman Scholarship. He will be attending Shawnee Community College for Agricultural Business.

All recipients will be recognized at the Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau County Annual Meeting in November.

Local FARMERS MARKETS

Franklin County

Benton Market: Benton City Park: May 1-October 30 Thursdays, 3-6 pm

Jackson County

Murphysboro Market: 1101 W Walnut St, May-September Carbondale Market: 2001 W Main St, April-November DeSoto Comm. Market: 101 S Walnut St, June-October

Elverado Market: Corner of Coal Rd & Hwy 51 S, Elkville , June-October

Johnson County

Johnson Co. Market: Vienna City Park, Mon-Sat, All Day

Massac County

Massac Co. Market: Dorothy Miller park, Metropolis 8- Noon, Saturdays, April-October

Perry County

DuQuoin Market: 127 N Division St, May-October, Saturdays, 7:30-11 am

Pulaski County

Pulaski Co. Market: Ullin Park, June 8 - September 28, Saturdays, 7-11 am

Saline County

Harrisburg Market: 1 E Poplar St., Harrisburg, IL 8:00- noon 2nd & 4th Saturdays during the summer

Eldorado Market: across from Eldorado Post Office (900 E 4th St.)

8:00 am - noon; Saturdays until August 30

James Bond Market: New Hope Christian Academy parking lot by Legence Bank Fridays 1-5 starting in June

Union County

Union Co. Market: Davie St, Anna, April-October, Tuesdays 7-Noon

Williamson County

Johnston City Market: 116 W Broadway Blvd, Fridays 7-11am Marion Market: 507 W Main St, Sat. 6-Noon, Wed. 7-11am LEAF Food Hub: 1620 Venable Ln, Carterville

618-924-1290, Pickup/Delivery every Thursday

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Safety (Continued from Page 1)

Many rural crossings are on private or lesser-traveled roads. They may seem quiet. Inactive. Safe. But they're not. Freight and passenger trains run around the clock, including nights and weekends, and they don't stop quickly. Farm equipment like tractors and combines often takes longer to cross tracks than a standard vehicle. Meanwhile, trains, due to their size and speed can be difficult to judge and need more than a mile to stop completely. Visibility may be limited. And the natural pressure to keep moving and stay on schedule can make it tempting to rush. But when it comes to trains, rushing is never worth the risk.

We need to treat rail safety not as a side concern, but as an agricultural priority. One bad decision can lead to devastating, preventable outcomes. I've seen the consequences, both in data and in heart-wrenching stories from communities who lost someone they thought would be home for dinner.

So, here's my plea to our farm-

- Slow down. Never try to beat
- Always stop, look, and listen before crossing, especially on private or less-traveled rural roads.
- Never assume a track is inactive. Trains can run at any time,

Saline County Member **Appreciation** Lunch **Wednesday, July 23**

Starting at Noon, at the Fairgrounds day or night.

- Avoid shifting gears or stopping on the tracks. Make sure there's enough room on the other side before crossing.
- Use extra caution in low-visibility conditions like dawn, dusk, or fog which can all hide an oncoming train.

We owe it to our families, our workers, and our communities to make safety a priority. Railroads are vital to agriculture, but they must be respected.

As farmers work hard to feed the world, let's do everything we can to ensure they make it home safe at the end of the day. A moment of caution can save a life, and that life could be your own. The safe choice is always the right choice.

For more rail safety tips, visit us at oli.org

DA



SALINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE INVITED TO STOP BY THE FARM BUREAU OFFICE TO PICK UP A FREE PARKING PASS FOR THE SALINE COUNTY FAIR!



JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Union Co. Fairgrounds 6pm Buy a junior exhibitors project to support our local youth and their farms.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT What's Your View? PROG

NUISANCE PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT:

1. A wildlife nuisance permit program that embodies three elements to control nuisance animals causing damage to crops and property. Those elements are:

- A. Harvest time and management flexibility.
- B. Transferability of permits.
- C. Sufficient permits to reduce property damage.

Illinois Farm Bureau's grassroots policy-development process provides mem-

bers 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

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 approved at the annual meeting direct IFB's legislative priorities and

at the organization's annual meeting each December.

- provides for an IDNR permit to control wildlife where it is causing damage to crops or property.
- 3. The American Farm Bureau Federation in

2. Assisting members seeking landowner auin utilizing the law which thority to control federally regulated wildlife that is creating a nuisance.

> 4. Year-round usage of IDNR issued nuisance permits.

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@ilfb.org or 309-557-3929 or your County Farm Bureau.

Jackson County Farm Bureau Foundation to Bring Back Fish Fry Event

The Jackson County Farm Bureau Foundation is bringing back the annual Fish Fry Event! The Fish Fry will be held at Southpaw Bar and Grill in Murphysboro on August 2, 2025. Dinner and a silent auction will be from 6:00-8:00 PM with live music from

8:00 PM – 12:00 AM. Dinner will include fish, fries, coleslaw, baked beans, and tea or water. Those in attendance can purchase soda or other beverages from Southpaw. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased by contacting the Jackson County

Farm Bureau at (618) 684-3129, or at the door of the event. If you would like to make a contribution to the silent auction, please contact the Jackson County Farm Bureau Manager, Jayclynn Presutti, at (618) 684-3129 or manager@jacksoncountyfb.com.



AGBIES: 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!



Ingredients

- 1 (11 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
 - e) can sliced black 1 diced avocado
- 1 (4 ounce) can sliced black olives, drained
- 2 tbsp olive oil

• 2 tbsp fresh lime juice

• 11/2 tsp minced jalapeno

11/2 cups diced roma tomatoes

• 3/4 cup diced red onion

• 1 tsp salt

pepper

1 red bell pepper, seeded and diced

Directions

- Mix together corn, olives, tomatoes, onion, red pepper, and jalapeno pepper in a large bowl.
- Gently fold in diced avocado, olive oil, lime juice, and salt.
- Enjoy with tortilla chips!



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Summer Horticulture Field Day hosted at Flamm Orchards

Fruit and vegetable production were the focus during a special event at Flamm Orchards June 12. The Cobden farm hosted the Illinois State Horticultural Society annual Field Day.

Dozens of attendees from across the state of Illinois and neighboring states came to southern Illinois to tour strawberry fields, fruit trees, and the Flamm's vegetable fields. Participants received a behind the scenes discussion and tour of the family operation.

Fruit varieties, disease pressures and protection strategies were discussed, along with the utilization of plasticulture. The tours also included talks on fruit thinning trials, pruning tech-

niques, crop load management, implementing drainage tile and insight into research being conducted on the farm through local university scholars.

Union County Farm Bureau, one of nearly a dozen vendors on hand at the event, showcased all the other specialty crops grown in our county. Visitors to the farm also received a rare treat, having peaches and strawberries available at the same time.

The Illinois Specialty Growers Association, one of many sponsors, also provided soft serve and apple cider slushes The annual field day was a huge success and brought many people to experience agriculture in southern Illinois.



Deer

(Continued from Page 1)

valid for harvesting up to five deer — usable between June 1 and Sept. 15 of the following year.

"This is very encouraging," Anderson said. "Automatically getting permits for the next year would save so much time and hassle of me calling and asking a biologist to come to my farm, especially when sometimes there aren't enough biologists to go around."

Another provision allows landowners to designate a hunter to receive one guest landowner permit, which includes one either-sex permit and one antlerless permit for every 240 acres owned in Illinois. Anderson said this will also help him manage deer populations more effectively by enabling others to assist with the issue.

Anderson has been involved in the legislative effort from the start. As a delegate at the Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in December, he voted to include updates to wildlife management practices in the organization's policy book. Now that this bill has passed through the General Assembly, he said, "It finally seems like our voices were heard.

"That's one of the things I feel is an advantage when you get a group together like Illinois Farm Bureau. It's not just one voice, it's the voice of many," Anderson told FarmWeek.

"It's great to see this much-needed, bipartisan legislation make its way to the governor's desk," said Anna McKinley, IFB assistant director of state legislation. "We're grateful to Sen. Patrick Joyce and Rep. Marcus Evans for their leadership, to the Department of Natural Resources for their collaboration, and to the many County Farm Bureau members who helped advocate for this important change."

Pending Pritzker's approval, SB 710 will officially go into effect Jan. 1. For more details about the legislation, visit bit.ly/ DeerNuisanceBill.

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Franklin County Ag in the Classroom



In June the Franklin County Ag in the Classroom teamed up with the Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom to provide a Summer Ag Institute for local teachers. Over three days teachers attend field trips to local Ag entities as well as attend presentations from Illinois Ag in the Classroom and commodity groups to gain professional Scruggsys Pecans in Mount

development hours.

This year we had 16 teachers in attendance from a variety of counties besides our own. On Tuesday we learned how The Twisted Twins in Woodlawn got their start. We also got to see how things are done at the Mount Vernon grain elevator. On Wednesday we visited

Vernon and got a visit from Illinois Ag in the Classroom. Thursday, we visited The Hop in Christopher and learned about the brewing process, we learned the history of Rend Lake, and we learned how Forestry Coffee got their start.

It was a fun and very educational three days! We are looking forward to next year!

Jackson County Summer Ag Institute



The Jackson County Summer Ag Institute took place June 5-6th at the Jackson County Farm Bureau office. There were over 20 teachers present to learn about how to better implement agriculture in their daily curriculum. Teachers were able to learn through hands on lessons, presentations, and tours of local

industry businesses. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Jackson County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Julianna Berg, for the time spent planning and preparing for this event, as well as her great communication and commitment to getting teachers to attend. As well as thank you to all of the presenters from Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Jackson County Extension, Big Muddy Peddler, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Beef Association, Viterra, and Southpaw Bar and Grill, as well as the individuals who presented special lesson topics! We could not have done this without all of

Saline County Ag in the Classroom



Ms. Raegan had Harrisburg students playing soybean putt-putt for prizes at their Fun Day.

Although school is out for the summer, Saline AITC is not stopping!

The summer schedule is a lot

lighter, though with monthly Library Summer Reading, summer school classes and the Saline County Fair. We hope to see

you out at one our programs this summer. Look us up on Facebook to keep up with our schedule and see what we are doing!

CLASSIFIED ADS

FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: Wheel Horse garden tractor, 19.5 HP Koehler 48 inch deck, \$975. Shopsmith woodworking machine with attachments, \$250. Please call 618 922-3630.

FOR SALE: Side winder rotary ditcher RD16, 3 pt. hitch, 540 rpm, \$750.00. 618-534-7772.

FOR SALE: Vicon disc mowers CM1700 and CM2400; New Holland square baler 268; New Holland round baler 848; 930 Case tractor. All ran last year. 618-759-2073.

FOR SALE: John Deere 2510 with loader, duals and new tires. Needs paint and minor repairs. \$4,000. Call 68-827-3598.

FOR SALE: New Holland 69 small square baler, A-C 6 row planter, 10ft Tye no-till drill, gravity wagons - one 150bv & one 200bv, 2002 Chevy Silverado. Call 618-534-7010.

LIVESTOCK

For Sale: Rabbits for sale, meat or pets \$20. Quail and quail eggs available. Will take orders. Please call 618 985-6789.

FOR SALE: Reg. Red Angus Bull Peyweight Bloodline Low Birth Weight 10 Month old Farmed at Hardin County 618-841-8861.

FOR SALE: Registered Angus, Bulls Jan-Feb yearlings, semen checked, calving ease & growth, EPDs. BQA, bremerbrothers.com Metropolis, IL618-638-7693,618-638-6200.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 2017 Honda Accord Sport. Original owner, 136,000 miles, routine maintenance, tires 80%, leather interior, never had any problems. Located in Vienna, IL, asking \$13,000. 618-713-1244.

FOR SALE: 2005 Impala, 2000 Buick LeSabre, 2010 Tye No-Till Drill - 10ft, New Holland #352 grinder/mixer, New Holland model 69 Small Square Baler. Call 618-534-7010.

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED: Looking for a house in Southern Illinois, moving from a large city. Nice yard, quiet town, 2-3 bedroom, 1 to 1 ½ bath. Send information to PO Box 235 Cristopher IL 62822.

FOR SALE: Whirlpool Limited series, almond color refrigerator with ice maker, two door, upper freezer department, lower fridge. \$150 cash. Call 618 751-2791

FOR SALE: 12 ammunition boxes, \$10 each. 8x10 shed, you move, best offer. Call 618 579-4449.

FOR SALE: Performa Maytag washer, oversize capacity plus, heavy duty, quiet series. Kenmore dryer, electronic moisture sensing, heavy duty, extra-large capacity. \$50 each, must move. Please call 618 751-2791

FOR SALE: 3 Lane Virginia Maid Tables/Made in the USA, excellent like new condition. 1 Coffee table, ½ beveled glass insert, 2 end tables. \$235 call 618 304-8619

FOR SALE: Rebuilt Toyota Siena A/C compressor \$25. Stihl 211 chainsaw for parts, \$25. Washable chicken nest pads, \$1.50 each. Call 618-201-5952 Mon – Sat. No Sunday calls.

WANTED: Someone to hand quilt a quilt top, size

88x73. Call 618-534-1845 FOR SALE: 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath, gas heat, central air, new roof, garage, 2 fenced in lots. Older home sold as is. \$95600. Marion area. Call 618-889-7354.

WORK: Tutoring for most school subjects. All grades or subjects, rate by request. Text at 618 925-0013.

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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.

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

Classification____

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___AUTOMOTIVE
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Johnson County FB, PO Box 335, Vienna, IL 62995
Massac County FB, PO Box 908, Metropolis, IL 62960
Perry County FB, PO Box 20, Pinckneyville, IL 62274

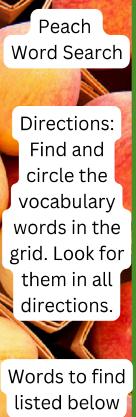
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AITC CORNER • FARMERS MARKETS









Peach Orchard Pit Sweet Fuzzy Stonefruit Tree Ripen Summer Juice Harvest Blossom Fresh Georgia Skin

Peaches are grown throughout the United States in areas with the correct growing conditions. The number one producer of peaches in California. They

In 2022, the United States produced over 625,000 tons of peaches on about 75,000 acres of land. While Illinois isn't the most common place to find peaches, there are about 1,470 acres dedicated to peach production across

the state.