



# Southern Illinois FARM BUREAU NEWS

See the Southern FS section on pages 7-10 and Free Classifieds on pages 15.  
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

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## Elections Provide Opportunity to Engage with Local Government

**LINK Publication**  
**Illinois Farm Bureau**  
Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) policy supports “the participation in the political process, both as individual citizens and members of the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA).”

In many ways, the most fundamental way to participate in the political process is to have a say in which individuals serve in governmental office and which questions of public policy are adopted by governmental units by casting your vote in an election.

2026 is a mid-term election and provides two opportunities to do exactly this: By participating in the March 17 primary election and the November 3 general election.

Voter participation in primary elections has historically been very low. Although 70.24% of registered voters participated in the November 2024 general election, only 19% took part in the primary election that same year, according to the Illinois State Board of Elections.

While the primary election may be seen as having “lower stakes” than the general election, you should keep in mind that the candidates nominated at the primary ultimately go on to participate in

the general.  
If you’ve ever been disappointed with your candidates on the ballot in November, now is the time to do your homework and work to ensure your candidate of choice advances past the primary.

Additionally questions of public policy, also known as referenda, as sometimes on the ballot during primary elections and these can have a significant impact on your day-to-day lives. Questions like:

- “Shall the office of County Reorder be eliminated and all duties by transferred to the office of the County Clerk?”
- “Shall a special tax for highway purposes be levied within the County?”

• “To pay for public safety costs, shall the County be authorized to impose an increase on its share of local sales tax by one half of a percent?”

The local government impact of this election cannot be overstated. Several local officials, including countywide officers and county board members/ commissioners will be selected, the outcome giving sway to how our local communities are managed for the next four years.

Want to know what you are voting on before the primary election? Head to your local county’s website or call your county clerk’s office for a full list of candidates and races.

## BenefitHub: Illinois Farm Bureau’s New Member Benefit Platform

Illinois Farm Bureau members now have a simpler, smarter way to access and maximize their member benefits. BenefitHub is the new, easy-to-use platform where you can explore all your favorite discounts—and discover new ones—across dozens of everyday categories including travel, tickets, auto, electronics, and more. Many of the top brands in the U.S. are featured, giving members meaningful savings on the things they buy most.

Follow these four quick steps to get the best value and maximize savings:

1. Start in the BenefitHub portal to compare deals across retailers.
2. Buy a discounted gift card when one is available.
3. Complete your purchase through the merchant link in BenefitHub, using your gift card.
4. Enjoy both the retailer discount and cash back.

**Getting Started:**  
If you previously had an Akenity account, you can sign in to BenefitHub using your existing email and password. New to the platform? Create an account and start saving today.

Visit: <https://ilfb.benefitHub.com>

**Need Help?**  
For account questions, contact BenefitHub Customer Care at 18136752210 or [customer-care@benefithub.com](mailto:customer-care@benefithub.com)

BenefitHub members save an average of \$2,500—so why wait? Start exploring your savings at <https://ilfb.benefitHub.com>.



### DESKTOP

1. Go to <https://ilfb.benefitHub.com>.
2. Sign in with your existing username and password or register as a new user by selecting “Don’t have an account? Sign up. You will need your membership number to complete sign up.”
3. Find the best deals and start saving!

### MOBILE APP

#### ANDROID

1. Go to Google Play and search for **Illinois Farm Bureau Member Benefits** and install the app.
2. Once installed, you will see a log in button. Click it and sign in with your existing BenefitHub account or register to create one. You will need your membership number which can be found on the front of your membership card.
3. Once logged in, you will see a welcome page, spotlight offers and a search bar to explore all the savings offered on the platform. Click on the menu button (gear icon at the bottom of the screen) to see all categories.

#### iPHONE

1. Go to the App Store and search for **Illinois Farm Bureau Member Benefits** and install the app.
2. Once installed, you will see a log in button. Click it and sign in with your existing BenefitHub account or register to create one. You will need your membership number which can be found on the front of your membership card.
3. Once logged in, you will see a welcome page, spotlight offers and a search bar to explore all the savings offered on the platform. Click on the menu button (gear icon at the bottom of the screen) to see all categories.

# Rules for the Road Meeting



Nearly 2 dozen southern Illinois Farm Bureau members gathered in Union County for a Rules for the Road meeting. Illinois Farm Bureau's Rodney Knittel presented the latest information about USDOT numbers, farm exemptions and all the updated transportation regulations that impact agriculture.

# 2nd Annual "Blessing of the Tractors" drive to be held in Union County

The Union County Farm Bureau is hosting a tractor drive fundraiser to help support the Ag in the Classroom and Scholarship programs.

The "Blessing of the Tractors" will take place on Saturday, March 28. Check-in starts at 9 a.m. and the drive will kick into gear at 10 a.m. The drive will have a lunch break and blessing at Bald Knob Cross.

This event is open to the public and membership is not required. Entry into the "Blessing of the Tractors" drive is \$25, with a 10 mph min. and a 14 year-old-age minimum to drive.

For more information on the route, start and end location and how to sign up, call 618-833-2125 or visit unioncountyfb.com

**GET OUT the VOTE 2026**

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY IS**

**MARCH 17, 2026**

**POLLING PLACES OPEN 6 AM - 7 PM**

**Blessing of the Tractors**

Saturday, March 28, 2026  
 Check-in at 8:30 a.m.  
 Drive begins at 9:30 a.m.  
 \$25/entry

More info: 618-833-2125  
 unioncountyfb.com

Drive benefits the Union County Farm Bureau Foundation, to provide scholarships and fund the Ag in the Classroom program.

## HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

**WHEN:** March 21st and 22nd, 2026

**WHERE:** Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge  
 Welcome Center

Register on Illinois DNR website.

For more information and to reserve, call  
 (after 4pm) Dennis Harmon, 309 831-5482

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# FARM BUREAU NEWS

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# 26th Annual Pope County FFA Tractor Show



The 26th Annual Pope County FFA Tractor Show is coming to Golconda, IL on April 11, 2026. The show held on Main Street in Golconda will feature tractors of all makes and models.

The Pope County FFA Chapter will welcome all exhibitors and spectators. The show will officially begin at 9 am on

Saturday, April 11. Exhibitors will be welcomed by members of the FFA Chapter to register their tractors and will be given a tractor show button while having a picture of their tractor taken (to be framed and presented to them later during the show).

Pedal pulls and pedal races are on the agenda for the kids

starting at about 10 am. Also, a “kids area” will be set up for the young ones to play and learn about agriculture.

The FFA Chapter will be selling pork burgers, rib eyes, chips and drinks. Support your FFA Chapter by coming to Golconda and enjoying a delicious meal.

Tractor games will begin in the early afternoon. The games,

yet to be determined, will be played on Main Street. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the games.

The show will close with a parade of tractors. The parade will follow immediately after the games.

For more information call 618-309-1105 or email mgfarm3@gmail.com

## 2026 Scholarship opportunities Williamson Co. FB Foundation

**Williamson County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship**  
1 \$2000 available or 4 \$500 or 8 \$250.

Must be a Williamson County Farm Bureau member or a spouse or sibling of active member.

Must provide proof of enroll-

ment.

**Allan and Wanda McCabe Scholarships**  
\$2500 available per scholarship.

Must be a Williamson County Farm Bureau member or a spouse or sibling of active member.

Must be a Junior or Senior en-

rolled in a university studying in a agricultural related field.

Must provide proof of enrollment.

Deadline to apply for all scholarships is March 31st, 2026

Monetary scholarship funds will not be presented until proof of

enrollment in September.

Applications can be emailed or picked up at

**Williamson County Farm Bureau**  
1517 E DeYoung  
Marion, IL 62959  
618 993-2609

## Williamson County Livestock Show Saturday May 16, 2026

Summer show season is quickly arriving. The Williamson County Livestock Association invites you to the Williamson County Youth Livestock Show, Saturday

May 16th at the Saline County Fairgrounds in Harrisburg.

Entries need to be completed online no later than May 11th. Friendly reminder that this is a “No Fit” show - please refrain

from using paint and aerosol adhesives and glues for fitting. For those showing cattle and swine, we will require 840 tags.

Please pass information on

to any youth who might be eligible (age 6-21 for cattle or 5-21 other species).

<https://www.wmsncolive-stock.org/> for more information.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

### What's Your View?

## WEED CONTROL

#### 36. WEED CONTROL WE SUPPORT:

1. Seeking to improve the enforcement of the Illinois Noxious Weed Law.
2. Efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to restrict the importation and sale of viable Niger Thistle seed.
3. Providing information to coun-

ties on the process by which weeds can be classified as noxious.

4. Seeking to improve the purity of crop and bird seed and sterilization of all weed seed included in bird seed to deter the spread of viable weed seed.

5. Working with the Farm Service Agency and other governmental agencies in developing an effective eradication program for multiflora rose.

6. The development of a control program for autumn olive and bush honeysuckle, and seek the necessary funds from the state and federal government to adequately eradicate the weed.

7. Legislation to require all governmental agencies to develop, coordinate, and implement proper management practices to control the population and spread of noxious and other weeds on all their properties.

8. Working to add Shattercane, Bull Thistle, Tall Thistle, Teasel and Poison Hemlock to the Illinois Noxious Weed List.

9. Encouraging the IDOA to notify the county boards whenever there is a change to the Illinois Noxious Weed Law and/or rules.

10. USDA requiring that seed for program acres be free of pesticide resistant weed seed such as Palmer Amaranth.

*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](mailto:rwhitehouse@ifb.org) or 309-557-3929 or your County Farm Bureau.*

One dollar of the individual membership fee in the County Farm Bureau is for the subscription to this publication.

**Farm Bureau News Advertising Rates:**  
**\$6.50 per column inch paid 6 months in advance. \$7.00 per column inch monthly. Advertising deadline is the 10th of each month prior to publication date.**

To place an ad, or for more information contact your local Farm Bureau manager at the offices listed above.

Farm Bureau reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisements. Farm Bureau is not responsible for any misinterpretation or misleading information of any advertising in this publication.

# Perry CFB Foundation's Tyler Smith Memorial Scholarship

The Perry County Farm Bureau (CFB) Foundation is announcing the availability of the Annual Tyler Smith Memorial Scholarship.

This opportunity will provide one (1) recipient with a \$1,500 scholarship in remembrance of Perry County Young Leader Tyler Smith.

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant MUST:

- Be a Perry CFB member or dependent, or a Farm Bureau member or dependent of their respective CFB if attending Trico High School.
- Be a high school senior or already attending a post-secondary

school (preference will be given to sophomore level post-secondary students).

- Be enrolled in fall classes at a post-secondary school to study an agriculture-related field, as determined by the Foundation Board.

- Exhibit potential for successful completion of course of study.

- Attend one (1) Perry CFB Young Leader Committee meeting or event to pick up the scholarship check.

- As a reminder, eligibility also includes students attending Trico High School (Campbell Hill) that intend to pursue agriculture in college.

Applications can be picked up at the Perry CFB office, from the high school Ag teachers and guidance counselors, or requested electronically at washperrymgr@washingtncfb.org. Completed applications must be submitted electronically or dropped off at the Perry CFB office or postmarked by March 31st, 2026. The winner will be selected by the end of April and recognized at the Perry CFB Annual Meeting in November.

If you would like more information, or have questions, please contact the Perry CFB office at (618) 357-9355 or washperrymgr@washingtncfb.org.

## Perry CFB Foundation Scholarships Available

Perry County Farm Bureau® Foundation scholarship applications for 2026 are now available. Applications can be picked up at the Farm Bureau office, requested electronically by sending an email to washperrymgr@washingtncfb.org or picked up from FFA Advisors at the high schools.

Applicants must be a member,

or a member's dependent, of the Farm Bureau and enrolled at a post-secondary school studying agriculture or an agriculture-related curriculum. The number and dollar amount of Foundation scholarships awarded will vary depending upon availability of funds.

A new member must be approved no later than the March

meeting of the Perry County Farm Bureau board. Completed applications must be submitted electronically or returned to the Perry County Farm Bureau office by March 31, 2026.

For more information contact the Perry County Farm Bureau at (618) 357-9355 or washperrymgr@washingtncfb.org.

## 2026 Pulaski-Alexander CFB Scholarships

### Andy "Charlie Brown" Helman Scholarship

This is a scholarship strictly for SCC students interested in the Agricultural Industry or from the Agricultural Communities in Pulaski or Alexander Counties. Applications are included in the SCC Scholarship Booklet. This scholarship is provided by the Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau

Foundation.

### William "Fred" Hannan Memorial Scholarship

The Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau Foundation is now accepting applications for the William Fred Hannan Memorial Scholarship for graduating seniors. This scholarship is intended to support students from an agricultural background; how-

ever, all applicants who meet the requirements will be given equal consideration. To be eligible, students must be pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related field, and the scholarship may be used at any college or university in any state. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2026. Please email pulalexfb@gmail.com for an application.

# Union Co. COUNTRY Financial Agent Retires after 50 Years

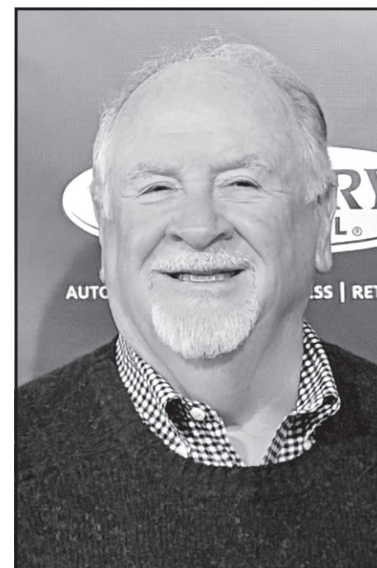
After a half century of service to COUNTRY Financial and his clients in Union County, Agent Mike Meisenheimer is hanging it up.

Meisenheimer's journey started on December 5, 1975, when Carl Orr gave him the opportunity to start what became a 50 year career. He said there was no way to imagine the relationships, friendships and experiences that would follow.

"Heartfelt thanks go to the generations of customers who placed their trust in me and allowed me to serve their families," He said. "Many relationships have spanned decades – watching families grow, businesses develop and farms pass from one generation to the next."

Meiseheimer continued, "Deep appreciation is also extended to the Union County Farm Bureau board and its members for their continued support and partnership over the years. That confidence and cooperation played a vital role in the success of this career."

Meisenheimer said that while technology has changed how business is done, there will always be a preference for the old way. He said personal connection is what made his profession meaningful.



Mike Meisenheimer

In his retirement, Meisenheimer will spend more time with his wife Marilyn, their children, Lindsay and Lance, their horses and traveling.

"Eric Boreup will be stepping in to continue serving you and every confidence is placed in his professionalism and dedication to carry things forward," he continued. "Thank you for the opportunity to serve for the past 50 years. It has been an honor and a privilege."

Mike Meisenheimer's last day on the job will be March 31, 2026.

Massac County Young Leaders

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**March 28, 2026**  
 Doors open at: 5:00pm  
 Game starts at: 5:30pm  
 At The Elks in Metropolis  
 \$25 per Person  
 Silent Auction on site!

Register your team:  
**Call: 618-524-5811**  
 Email: [massacfb1@gmail.com](mailto:massacfb1@gmail.com)  
 Or Register on site!  
 \*Pay at the door upon arrival!

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## 58<sup>th</sup> Annual SWAP MEET

**Rain or Shine**

**Sunday March 22, 2026 7:00 AM -2:00 PM**  
**DuQuoin State Fairgrounds**  
**655 Executive Drive DuQuoin, Illinois 62832**

Indoor 10x10 Space \$20 in a 32,500 sq. ft. Exposition Hall

Outdoor Space (Covered and Open air) \$20 Car Corral Space \$10 Tables for Rent \$2each

Food Concessions      Free Parking      50/50 Drawing

**Vendor Drawings at 2:00 for 2 Free 2027 Spaces (Must be set up and present to win)**

**Vendor Pre-registration**

Indoor Space \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor Space \_\_\_\_\_ Car Corral Space \_\_\_\_\_

Total Spaces \_\_\_\_\_ Total Tables \_\_\_\_\_ Total Fee \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form and payment to:

**Egyptian Antique Auto Club**  
**11537 Reservoir Road**  
**Marion, Illinois 62959**

**Contact Information**  
**Richard Hope 618-944-1426**  
**Fred Taylor 618-684-3707**

The Fairgrounds, Egyptian Antique Auto Club, and members assume no responsibility for loss or damage to persons or property.

\$2 admission fee

Saturday setup  
Available for vendors

WASHINGTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU      RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU      PERRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

# MARKET OUTLOOK MEETING

**MARCH 12, 2026**

**10:30 - 11:30 AM**

**PISTOL CITY RESTURANT**

Speakers from Country Financial and MID-CO  
**RSVP to your local County Farm Bureau**

# 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!

### COCOA NUT BUTTER BITES



Ready In: 25 minutes

Serves: 15

#### WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Large bowl
- Spatula or spoon
- Measuring cups
- Measuring spoons

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup Peanut Butter or Almond Butter
- 1/4 cup Maple Syrup, Honey, or Agave Syrup
- 1 cup Rolled Oats
- 1/3 cup Unsweetened Shredded Coconut
- 2 tablespoons Cocoa Powder

#### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, mix all ingredients together, starting with 1/2 cup nut butter and adding more if the mixture seems too dry. Chill for 10 minutes.
2. Shape into small balls, about 1 inch in diameter, and enjoy!

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.



## Soybean: Small bean with a big resume

If I were a crop, I might be a soybean. I’m short, low drama and work best behind the scenes. My mood can shift from tolerant and forgiving (planting season) to an annoying attention to detail (harvest). But chocolate holds it all together. (Soy is the key; I’ll explain).

All of that is really by comparison to corn, the primary crop alternative in Illinois. We live in the Corn Belt. Corn gains name fame for its visual dominance in acres. We find fascination in corn mazes, and the most common consumer-facing farm policy conversations – like ethanol – involve corn.

Unbeknownst to most citizens, Illinois grows more than 20 million tons of soybeans annually and claims the reigning title of No. 1 soybean state in the nation. The achievement reached the heart of Springfield, where legislators voted the soybean as the Illinois state bean in 2025.

Soybeans make a great team with corn as a rotational crop companion and literally bring the muscle with their protein punch. Our FFA chapter packed 4,000 non-perishable meals for local food pantries using soy protein, a budget-friendly, high-protein staple. Soy protein is a common ingredient in meat, both plant-based alternatives and the real thing. Soybean meal, the byprod-



## Farm Gate

by Joanie Stiers

uct after removing the seed’s oil, is the nation’s top high-protein feed that brings chicken, pork, eggs and dairy to the table.

The average American consumes nearly half a cup of soybeans in some form every day, which could include cooking oil, margarine, soy milk and protein shakes. Soy lecithin keeps chocolate and cocoa butter from separating. Hooray for soy holding together my bite-sized sweet fix after lunch, which likely was a salad that wouldn’t exist without dressing, a soy-dominant lifeline for the fresh greens.

Our farm fuels its tractors and trucks with soy-based biodiesel. Soy oil is a named ingredient in plastics for John Deere and the foam in the seats of Ford vehicles. This month, I will see the bean more than my family as I plant some 300 million of those pea-sized seeds across our farm.

Thankfully, soybeans tolerate a wider range of “good-enough” conditions during planting season. Corn prefers perfection. The tides turn come harvest, when the bean gets moody: moisture content rapidly shifts from too wet to too dry, and the mature, standing crop’s harvestability is notoriously sensitive to weather.

Beyond that, soybeans check the boxes for Illinois: rotational cropping systems, soil types, climate and access to exports in a state literally shaped by rivers. As the top U.S. agricultural export crop, soybeans bring billions of dollars to America’s economy.

Those are some cool beans.

*About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her parents and brother in west-central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans and hay, raise beef cattle and operate side businesses related to the family operation.*





## Pole Barn Metal Panels And Complete Building Packages

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## 2026 Jackson County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship Available

The Jackson County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship is open January 1st – March 31st. High school seniors and college students who reside in Jackson County and are Jackson County Farm Bureau

members or direct relatives of Jackson County Farm Bureau members are encouraged to apply. Students do not have to be going to school for agricultural opportunities but are highly encouraged to relate their field

of study to agriculture and rural communities. Those interested in applying can find the application at [jacksoncountyfb.com](http://jacksoncountyfb.com) or email [manager@jacksoncountyfb.com](mailto:manager@jacksoncountyfb.com) to have the application emailed to them.

## Saline County Students: Scholarship Applications Are Now Open!

Saline County students, it's time to apply! Several scholarship opportunities are now open through the Saline County Farm Bureau, and applications are due April 1st:

- Saline County Farm Bureau Scholarships – 2 awards of \$750 each. Applicants must have a par-

ent or grandparent who is a Saline County Farm Bureau member.

- Ag in the Classroom Scholarship – For students pursuing a degree in agriculture. Parents or grandparents must be a Farm Bureau member.
- Saline County Foundation Scholarship – Open to graduat-

ing high school seniors who are themselves members of the Saline County Farm Bureau.

Be sure to gather your activities list and all supporting materials and submit your application by April 1st. Contact the Saline County Farm Bureau for full details and application information.

## Stonefort Farmers Market Opening April 11

The Stonefort Farmers Market will open for the season on Saturday, April 11, at the Reunion Grounds in Stonefort. The market will be held every Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Community members can look forward to a wide selection of fresh, locally grown produce, baked goods, handmade crafts,

and other locally produced items. The market provides area farmers, growers, and small businesses with an opportunity to connect directly with consumers while showcasing the quality and variety of products available right here in our region.

The Stonefort Farmers Market continues to serve as a gathering place for neighbors to sup-

port local agriculture and small businesses. By shopping at the market, residents are investing in local families and strengthening the rural economy.

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend opening day. For updates and additional information throughout the season, follow the Stonefort Farmers Market on Facebook.

## Williamson County Soil & Water Conservation District 4th Grade Poster contest Winners

Thank you to all the teachers who participated this year.

We had 664 students participate this year! 33 classes, 9 schools.

1st place certificates were given to students that followed all the rules.

2nd place certificates were given to those who didn't follow

all the rules.

**The winner of the \$100 was:**  
Anderson Hayter from Mrs. Pearce's class in Washington School in Marion.

**Top four students were:**  
• Sawyer Broombaugh from Mr. Lennox's class in Carterville Intermediate School  
• Kresyn Miles from Mrs.

Bloomenstock's class at Jefferson School in Marion

- Morgan Mosler from Mrs. Bloomenstock's class at Jefferson School in Marion

- Ella Ogden from Mrs. Millikan's class at Herrin Elementary School

Thank you to Dominoes Pizza for your donation of the Pizza's

## Franklin County Farm Bureau Farm Emergency Plan

Franklin County Farm Bureau is starting a new project this year to assist emergency services in getting to farms in a timely manner when emergencies arise. Fire services and EMS have had difficulty locating farms and their equipment shut offs when needed. Our new program is

designed to bridge that gap.

Our plan is to number bins and add them to the GIS program Fire and EMS use. Additional information will be added to show where the control panel for bins are, contact persons for the farm, electric, water, mechanics, etc. and any other

information farmers think would be necessary.

For more information or to sign up, please call (618) 435-3616 or email [fcb028@gmail.com](mailto:fcb028@gmail.com). We would like to help our entire farming community in the county, so a Farm Bureau membership is not required.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
FOUNDATION & YOUNG LEADERS  
SCHOLARSHIP**

The Franklin County Farm Bureau Foundation and Young Leaders are offering a scholarship for 2026. Applications can be found online or in our office starting February 1st and are due April 1st!

**Foundation  
UNION COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Open to HS Seniors & College students pursuing a degree in an agriculture/vocational field.

**OUR PROGRAM:**

- ✓ UCFB Foundation \$1,000 scholarships
- ✓ Halford Dillow Memorial Scholarship
- ✓ William "Bill" Flamm Memorial Scholarship

**FEB 1-APR 3**

[manager@unioncountyfb.com](mailto:manager@unioncountyfb.com)  
[unioncountyfb.com/scholarship](http://unioncountyfb.com/scholarship)

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

## FARMER'S SHARE BREAKFAST

Kick-off National Ag Week with the cheapest breakfast around! Just \$1 gets you pancakes, bacon, sausage, OJ and coffee!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21  
7 A.M. - 9 A.M.**

Union County Farm Bureau basement  
104 W Broad St, Jonesboro, IL

**FARM EMERGENCY PLAN**

FRANKLIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU IS WORKING WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES TO BETTER SERVICE FARMS. THIS PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO ALL FARMERS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY AND MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED.

CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION  
**618-435-3616**

## Union Co. FB \$2,500 Dough for Does Raffle Winner



Union County Farm Bureau selected a winner in their \$2,500 Dough for Does raffle. After more than 60 entries this fall, Kaleb Stover (pictured) was drawn as the winner of the raffle. Thank you to all our members who made this year's contest a success.

## Illinois Farm Bureau Awards \$120,000 in Rural Development Grants to Local Projects

In an effort to elevate rural communities, Illinois Farm Bureau partnered with county Farm Bureaus (CFBs) to award 30 Rural Development Grants totaling \$120,000 to support local efforts across the state, including projects in Franklin, Hardin, Jackson, Massac, Pope and Union Counties.

Of the grants awarded, nine address rural emergency services needs, and 21 are projects focused on supporting community and economic development or enhancing quality of life.

The Rural Development Grant Program provides resources and support to help local communities and counties successfully implement projects and overcome challenges inherent in rural development projects, such as lack of funding and volunteers or complicated grant applications. In selecting grants, IFB searches for projects that will meet a need in a community, county or rural area and get residents excited about what is happening in their community.

**Grant recipients this year include:**

- Franklin County Senior Services, through Franklin CFB, received a grant to a new modern and energy efficient walk-in freezer and cooler, replacing 40-year-old equipment that is structurally compromised and at risk for catastrophic failure. The equipment is essential for safely storing food used to prepare daily meals for nutrition programs that serve around 1,500 meals weekly to older adults throughout Franklin County.
- Grand Tower Food Pantry,

through Jackson CFB, received a grant that will support the ability of the food pantry to provide fresh food for meals.

- Arrowleaf, through Pope-Hardin Farm Bureau, received a grant that will support the launch of a retail merchandise assembly line at Arrowleaf's Developmental Services in Golconda. The project, Crafting Change, will provide meaningful, hands-on work opportunities for adults with disabilities residing in Pope and Hardin Counties who face barriers to traditional employment.

- Massac County Youth Fair & Community Center, through Massac CFB, received a grant to support renovations to the Massac County Community Center Building kitchen, including necessary repairs to make it functional and safe. The community center is a key hub used year-round by the Massac CFB, sheriff's department, fire department, county government, Extension, local schools, organizations/clubs and local families. It is the only facility large enough to accommodate many of the activities that take place in the county.

- Wolf Lake Community Center, through Union CFB, received a grant to replace siding on the Wolf Lake Community Center. The current siding, which is rotting and leaking, is the original from when volunteers constructed the building 49 years ago. The community center is the hub of Wolf Lake, serving as a meeting place for businesses and youth organizations, and community events such as the local farmers' market and elections.



Congressman Mike Bost made a stop in southern Illinois to meet with farmers about the 2026 Farm Bill. During a roundtable discussion at the Williamson County Farm Bureau members asked about the potential of a Farm Bill moving forward, year-round E-15 sales, Prop-12 changes, solar farms, pesticide labeling, farmer assistance and programs to help farmers feed communities.



## COUNTRY Financial and Illinois Farm Bureau Host Ag Summit for Southern Illinois Farmers

COUNTRY Financial and the Illinois Farm Bureau provided essential economic and financial information for farmers at their joint Ag Summit on February 18 at Walkers Bluff Casino Resort, in Carterville, IL.

The event featured presentation from David Widmar, Agricultural Economist and Researcher, as well as Kris Kline, CLF, Manager, Financial Specialist at COUNTRY Financial, Amy Rademaker, Rural Health and Farm Safety Specialist, and Kenneth Hughes and Jessica Visage of Barrett, Twomey, Broom, Hughes & Hoke, LLP.

Illinois Farm Bureau members who attended received a Peace of Mind planner, a booklet that consolidates important documents and information in one place.

"It's no secret that the farm

economy has been tough, especially for crop producers," said Widmar. "What's often overlooked is how we got here and how farmers should position their business. It's important for producers to be specific about the unique risks and challenges their operations face and to connect those realities to broader market trends and decisions to be made in 2026."

Kline, along with Hughes and Visage discussed estate and succession planning for farmers. Reviewing key components of a strong succession plan and the key steps to take without feeling overwhelmed by the process. "Estate and succession planning works to keep Illinois farms in the hands of Illinois families," said Kline. "Death, disability or illness can change the farm operation

overnight. Estate and succession planning ensures the operation can continue and the family is protected."

"Illinois farm families are facing rising costs, financial pressures, and ongoing stress that can make it difficult to step back and plan for the future," said IFB President Philip Nelson. "These ag summits bring together trusted experts and practical resources to help farmers have important conversations about their finances, their well-being, and how to preserve their farm legacy for the next generation."

We appreciate all members, agents, and Farm Bureau leaders who attended the Ag Summit. For more information about farm succession planning, please reach out to your local COUNTRY agent, or County Farm Bureau Manager.

## Jackson County Promoting Pollinators Program

The Jackson County Farm Bureau is once again partnering with Southern FS, Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Illinois Farm Bureau, and GROWMARK to host its annual Promoting Pollinators Program.

The initiative supports local pollinator populations by providing Jackson County Farm Bureau members with up to five pounds of pollinator seed at no cost. The seed can be used to establish habitats that benefit bees, butterflies, and other essential pollinating species throughout the community.

Organizers plan to distribute a total of 150 pounds of seed this year to active Jackson County Farm Bureau members. The program continues to reflect the organizations' shared commitment to conservation, sustainability, and strengthening the agricultural landscape across Jackson County.

Applications are due March 30, 2026. Pollinator seed will be

delivered to the Jackson County Farm Bureau and Jackson County Soil and Water Offices in late April. Applicants will know by mid-April how much seed they are receiving and which location to pick their seed up at.

Members interested in partici-

pating are encouraged to contact the Jackson County Farm Bureau and Jackson County Soil and Water for additional details about eligibility and seed availability. You can contact the Jackson County Farm Bureau at (618) 684-3129 or [manager@jacksoncountyfb.com](mailto:manager@jacksoncountyfb.com).

# 2026

## POLLINATOR SEED SALE PROGRAM



**SCAN**

for more information on seed mix or fill out the order form online at [on.ilfb.org/jacksonseedsale](http://on.ilfb.org/jacksonseedsale)








# Williamson County Farm Bureau Wildlife Nuisance Program a Success



Williamson County Farm Bureau would like to thank the members that participated in the inaugural program that also included many generations. Pictured is Trip Merrow with his father, Ryan Merrow, Grandfather Rick Baltzell and Great Grandfather John Biver.

# UCFB to host end of school year Ag Bash

Union County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom is kicking off the summer and celebrating the end of the school year with an Ag Bash!

The event will take place on May 1, 2026 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial Park in Jonesboro. The free event is open to the public.

The inaugural Ag Bash will include activities, crafts, a petting zoo, farm equipment exploration, snacks, and more!

We invite families to come out and celebrate all things agriculture with us! Have questions? Email [aglitcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:aglitcoordinator@gmail.com) for more information.

Come and visit the

## UNION COUNTY FARM BUREAU AG BASH

Join us for a celebration with all sorts of agriculture activities, a petting zoo, and wonderful presentations from businesses throughout Union County!

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds  
521 N Main St  
Jonesboro, IL 62952

SEE YOU THERE!



SIU Collegiate Members

# Southern Illinois Young Leaders Represented At IFB Young Leader Conference in Peoria

PEORIA – Young leaders in agriculture from across the state met in Peoria for the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Conference, held Feb. 6-7.

Among them, Sarah Birchler represents District 16, Samuel Deisher represents District 17 and Katelin Korte represents District 18 on the 2026 State Young Leader Committee.

Members from Franklin county as well as 24 SIU Collegiate Farm Bureau members attended the 2026 conference, which featured industry experts from across the ag landscape, educating the attendees on a wide range of topics, including succession planning, on the farm tools, agribusiness management, young professionals, education and engagement, trends on the horizon and much more.

The keynote address was given by Lance Weaver. Weaver is a former Ag Bank turned Business Coach, focused on helping American producers organize and improve their operations for long-term success.

The state Young Leader Committee is comprised of 18 district representatives between ages 18 and 35 who are passionate about promoting agriculture and Illinois Farm Bureau. Committee members engage with others from around the state at



Pictured left to right are Franklin County Young Leaders Michael Browning and Derek Sample.

conferences and workshops and through their district and county Farm Bureau.

IFB President Phil Nelson

and Vice President Evan Hultine were in attendance, along with several members of the IFB board of directors.

## JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### UPCOMING EVENTS

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>19</b> MARCH 2026</p> <p><b>Adult AITC Sourdough Workshop</b></p> <p>Grand Tower Civic Center<br/>Workshop begins @ 5:30</p> | <p><b>16</b> APRIL 2026</p> <p><b>Adult AITC Gardening 101</b></p> <p>Grand Tower Civic Center<br/>Workshop begins @ 5:30</p> | <p><b>18</b> APRIL 2026</p> <p><b>Tractor Drive and Poker Run</b></p> <p>Trico Elementary School<br/>Registration @ 8:30<br/>Drive starts @ 8:45</p> |
|--|---|--|

For more information on our upcoming events, check out our website at <https://jacksoncountyfb.com> or our Facebook page at Jackson County Farm Bureau

## JACKSON COUNTY TRACTOR DRIVE & POKER RUN

**8:30 AM**.....Registration

**8:45 AM**.....Drive Begins

Drive starts and ends at Trico Elementary School

**\$30**.....Registration (includes food and drink)

**\$5**.....each additional poker card

# April 18, 2026

## COUNTRY Financial hires new Union County agent

A new agent is coming to town in Union County. Eric Boreup will take over after the retirement of Mike Meisenheimer.

Boreup didn't initially grow up in Union County, but has now called the Anna-Jonesboro area home for the last 20 years. Eric said growing up on a grain farm in Nashville, IL instilled in him a "raised on a grain farm in Nashville, IL, where I developed a strong work ethic and deep appreciation for community and relationships."

Boreup's wife Amanda grew up in Union County on a vegetable farm and together they have three children, Hayden, Ava, and Paxton.

Boreup said, "I firmly believe that no matter the industry, people deserve to be treated with honesty, fairness, and genuine care just as you would want to be treated yourself. As I continue my journey with Country Financial, I am excited for the opportunity to serve our community with dedication, integrity, and commitment to ongoing growth. I look forward to building meaningful relationships with both current and future clients and helping them protect what matters most."

Boreup will officially take over his position on April 1, 2026.

## 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.



Mike Meisenheimer (right) pictured welcoming new agent Eric Boreup (left) to COUNTRY Financial.

**Cost:**  
\$25 members  
\$30 non-members

104 W Broad St,  
Jonesboro, IL

618-833-2125

unioncountyfb.com

Go to our website to RSVP!

UNION COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
Farm. Family. Food.™

CREATE YOUR OWN INDOOR

# HERB GARDEN Class

Join us for an afternoon creating your own indoor herb garden! Learn how to grow your own herbs and how to add them into your every day meals from local growers, **All Seasons Farm.**

APRIL 25, 2026  
1-3 P.M.  
RSVP BY APRIL 20, 2026

## Helping you protect what matters most



Carrie Alsip  
Vienna  
(618) 658-2891



Ted Boulds  
Marion  
(618) 993-3176



Kristin Bremer  
Metropolis  
(618) 524-7031



Charlotte Clover  
Anna  
(618) 833-8100



Martin Duffy  
Gallatin  
(618) 272-3251



Matt Duffy  
Murphysboro  
(618) 684-4123



Jamie Green  
Murphysboro  
(618) 687-5691



Mike Harris  
Carbondale  
(618) 457-5373



Mitch Helm  
Metropolis  
(618) 524-2629



Travis Holtkamp  
Jonesboro  
(618) 833-2123



Gene Kennedy  
Mounds  
(618) 745-9429



Mike Meisenheimer  
Jonesboro  
(618) 833-2123



Natalie Melzer  
Marion  
(618) 364-3808



Paul Melzer  
Murphysboro  
(618) 684-5327



Scarlett Miller  
Marion  
(618) 997-3583



Linda Mott  
Cave-In-Rock  
(618) 289-4330



John Raski III  
Carbondale  
(618) 351-9811



Ian Reinhart  
Marion  
(618) 997-9441



Justin Rogowski  
Herrin  
(618) 988-4006



Natasha Stearns  
Marion  
(618) 997-9442  
Goreville  
(618) 995-2241



Rhiannon Storm  
Herrin  
(618) 988-8440



Dillon Street  
Vienna  
(618) 658-2881

"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.  
0225-018MM



# Eldorado Ag Night on the Court



Ag Night on the Court at Eldorado was a huge success and provided an excellent opportunity to engage consumers from across the community. The event coincided with Eldorado High School's cheer clinic night, which brought in a larger and more diverse crowd than a typical game, including many families and youth with little direct connection to agriculture. This created an ideal setting to share positive agriculture messages in a fun and welcoming environment.

More than 50 youth stopped by our Ag in the Classroom station where they learned about agriculture through a hands-on

activity by creating agriculture themed bracelets. The activity encouraged conversation about where food comes from, the role of farmers, and how agriculture impacts daily life. We thank Eldorado High School for hosting, Eldorado FFA for providing free popcorn, and Banterra Agricultural Lending for supporting the FFA concession stand with half price BBQ sandwiches and Tacos in a Boat. Events like this strengthen community connections, increase consumer awareness of agriculture, and celebrate our farmers and the next generation right here in our community.



# Saline County Ag in the Classroom

It has been a productive few months for Saline County Ag in the Classroom! Here are a few recent highlights: First graders explored the "farm to table" journey by learning about the origins of their favorite pizza toppings before having the opportunity to make their own personal pizzas. At Eldorado's Ag Night on the Court, over 70 children discov-

ered the vital role agriculture plays in basketball. Each child created a bracelet where every bead represented an agricultural product connected to the game.



# Adopt-a-Classroom sponsors engage with Union Co. Students

Students in Union County are learning about agriculture from local business owners. Several Adopt-a-Classroom sponsors have been going into the classroom recently to talk about the agriculture around Union County.

Elevated Ag owner/operator

Brock Buckner visited with 2nd graders in Jonesboro to discuss drones. He talked about how they work and what they are used for in farming.

Anna-Jonesboro National Bank loan officers Megan McClellan and Evan Hughey visited 3rd grade students at Anna

District 37. They talked about how the water cycle works and why it is so important for agriculture.

Want to join in on the fun? Sponsor a classroom next fall by contacting Ag Literacy Coordinator Haley Bode at [aglitcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:aglitcoordinator@gmail.com).



## REAL ESTATE LAND AUCTION

On-Line and Live In-Person Auction

**There Is 630 +- Acres In Multiple Tracts**

**(Along Alleghany and Grant Brick Roads NE Williamson Co IL)**

**FARM-HUNTING-RECREATION GROUND**

**SATURDAY March 21, 2026 AT 10AM**

**Auction to be held at: Aquatic and Activities Center at (City Park)**

**1100 E Cleveland St. West Frankfort, Illinois**

**PROPERTY TO BE OFFERED BY TRACT NUMBERS 1 thru 10**

**Auctioneer Note:** There is a 3% Buyers Premium that will be added to final bid. Successful buyer on Real Estate will be required to make a 3% down payment on auction date with balance due at closing and sign a Purchase Agreement. Owner has final determination of accepted final bid. Taxes will be pro-rated to the date of closing. Any and all desired inspections/financial desires to be done prior to auction date. Announcements made on auction date take precedence over all notices and printed material. Not responsible for errors, omissions, accidents or health conditions. Buyer has full responsibility to complete any/all due diligence may be desired.

On-Line Bidding go to: [www.hibid.com](http://www.hibid.com) to Register and Bid

SEE WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION OF  
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# CLASSIFIED ADS

## FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: ICON pull scraper, 18 cubic yard, four tires, rear hydraulic hook-up, new paint. \$32500.00 please call 618 967-8761.

FOR SALE: New Holland hay bailer, square bale, wire tie, call 618-234-1854.

FOR SALE: 2000 Honda Foreman 400. 4-wheel drive, manual shift, clean title in hand. \$3,250 OBO. 618-499-6070.

FOR SALE: Ferguson Tractor \$1000. Ferguson Plow \$300. Located Ava, IL area. Please call (618) 967-3127.

FOR SALE: Sears garden tiller \$100. Wheelbarrow \$50. Sears air compressor \$100. Please call 618 997-6732.

FOR SALE: New Bush Hog 181 10 foot rear blade. Triple hyd., skid shoes. \$9,000. Call 618-527-8289.

## LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE: Young peacocks born June 2025. Two males blue India and three black shoulder females. Call (618) 967-4994 for more information.

FOR SALE: Round 4x5 net wrapped bales of grass, clover, alfalfa. \$40.00. Some large squares are available too. Good for cows or horses. Please call (618) 759-1511.

FOR SALE: Large round bales of Grass Hay, 5x5 plastic twine

wrapped Herod area loading available \$40.00 per bale small squares available \$5.00 per Bale 618-499-0846.

FOR SALE: Reg.Corgis, Australian Shepherds, and Toy poodles, Vaccinated and Wormed Please Call Judy Turner 618-499-1282.

## REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: Pope County 30-100 acres for sale or lease for regenerative Agriculture. 3 + years Chemical free so could be certified Organic. Owner financing Possible 512-903-2906.

## FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 29 Acres plus Bamlic soil excellent for growing crops available immediately. Located southeast of Carrier Mills; one large flat open field. Call (618)303-5079.

FOR RENT: Wanted tenant to farm 188 acres based on wheat/soybean rotation under 3-year contract through the 1st of each year. Ava, IL area. Contact Brent at (618) 521-5014.

## WANTED

WANTED: Buying sports card collections large or small. Please call or text to turn your collection into cash. (618) 967-6608.

## MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Culvert, 32 inch x 20 ft 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.

FOR SALE: Treated Utility poles, cut to 10 ft lengths. Great for corner posts. \$10 each. Please call M-F 618 993-2020.

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

FOR SALE: 2012 Chevy Silverado Pick-up truck, 2 door, short bed. 2450 miles (actual) Please call 618 925-1222.


FOR SALE: Vintage Illinois licenses plates for years ranging from 1919 through 1979. Also Indiana licenses plates 1918 through 1963. (618)967-6608.

FOR SALE: Les Paul Epiphone Electric Guitar \$225: Austin Electric Guitar \$150: 1st Act Guitar \$50: Peavey Amplifier with microphone and stand \$200. Call (618)534-2036.

FOR SALE: 4 washers \$185 each. 3 electric dryers \$185 each. 1 gas dryer \$185. 1 gas stove \$225. (5) 2 ton central a/c units \$585 each. 1 electric stove \$295 each. 1 full bed/frame/mattress/headboard \$85. Contact (618) 521-5014.



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**ROE 21**  
 Safety. Support. Success.


**9:00am - 1:00pm** | \$20 Registration Fee (must be paid PRIOR to event) | 502 W. Jackson St. Marion, IL 62959

**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!



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

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

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF CLASSIFICATION FROM THE LIST BELOW. ADS WITH NO SELECTION WILL BE PLACED IN THE MISC. CATEGORY.

- \_\_\_\_\_ FARM EQUIPMENT
- \_\_\_\_\_ AUTOMOTIVE
- \_\_\_\_\_ LIVESTOCK/HAY
- \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSEHOLD
- \_\_\_\_\_ MISCELLANEOUS
- \_\_\_\_\_ WANTED
- \_\_\_\_\_ REAL ESTATE
- \_\_\_\_\_ FOR RENT
- \_\_\_\_\_ WORK
- \_\_\_\_\_ FREE

# County Farm Bureaus Work to Advance Legislative Priorities at GALC in Springfield



SPRINGFIELD – Southern Illinois Farm Bureau members learned how to harness the power of grassroots advocacy during the organization’s annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC), held Feb. 17 in Springfield.

Centered on the theme “The Power of Grassroots,” this year’s conference highlighted the impact of member voices shaping policy at every level. Local, state political leaders and legislators met with Farm Bureau leaders from across the state, including dozens of members from southern Illinois, to discuss IFB’s 2026 legislative priorities. The event culminated in a legislative reception for elected officials, who met with IFB members.

“The power of grassroots is in each and every one of you,” IFB President Philip Nelson said during his opening remarks.

“You are the people who develop the policies. You’re the people that work with legislators to see those policies get implemented.”

Attendees also heard from numerous lawmakers, including Illinois House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch and Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, as well as U.S. House Ag Committee Chair Glenn “GT” Thompson, outgoing Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood.

“The Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference is where grassroots power comes to life,” said Kevin Semlow, IFB executive director of governmental affairs and commodities. “We’re focused on equipping members to advocate for the policies they care about. It’s an opportunity to learn, engage and connect, because when our members lead, agriculture’s voice is heard.”



## We Sell Land !!

**160 +/- Acres Jefferson Co.**  
Tillable and wooded with 5 acre shared lake.

**11.15 +/- Acres Jackson Co.**  
5 Bed/3 bath home with large shop, and 1 acre pond.

**40 +/- Acres Williamson Co.**  
Great homesites! Great hunting!  
3 Ponds, Electric and Water on property.  
35 Tillable acres.

**40 +/- Acres Crawford Co.**  
30 Acres tillable Cropland

**17 +/- Ac Williamson Co. 5 Ac Lake**

Call The Farm Team ...  
Jamie Keller - Mg Broker 618-713-7677

buyafarm.com



## Weathering the Storm: Stress management workshop to be held at SIC

HARRISBURG, Ill. – Life moves fast. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by responsibilities, finances, and a rapidly changing world. You need a plan to manage stress and stay healthy, for yourself and your loved ones. Illinois Extension can help.

Join Extension Educator Robin Ridgley for a workshop for agricultural producers and all community members to help identify and manage stressors in life and resources to use when feeling distressed. Chronic stress can take a huge toll on your health. Learn to identify common stressors, recognize symptoms, and access practical management tools and techniques to reduce

the effects of unwanted stress.

### Program topics will include:

- Stress signs and symptoms
- Everyday strategies for managing stress
- Where to go for more help and resources
- How to make an action plan for managing stress

The program will take place at Southeastern Illinois College, Building G – Room 120 on March 24 from

6 – 8 p.m. For more information or to register, visit [go.illinois.edu/weatheringthestorm](http://go.illinois.edu/weatheringthestorm). There is no fee to attend, but registration is strongly encouraged.

If you will need an accommodation in order to partici-

pate, please email Bronwyn Aly [baly@illinois.edu](mailto:baly@illinois.edu). Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

This program is presented through a partnership between Illinois Extension, Southeastern Illinois College, Illinois Small Business Development Council, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Source: Bronwyn Aly, local food systems and small farms educator, [baly@illinois.edu](mailto:baly@illinois.edu), 618-695-2441

Writer: Lindsay McGuire, office support assistant, [lindsaym@illinois.edu](mailto:lindsaym@illinois.edu), 618-382-2662