



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



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Manage stress to increase farm safety

Farming often is listed as one of the most stressful occupations, yet most farmers say they wouldn't trade it for any other job. The love of farming, in spite of all the hassles, indicates farmers must be doing something right to manage their stress. However, stress that goes unrecognized and is not managed well can play havoc with the farm family and the farm operation. When stress levels get too high, farmers are more likely to make poor farming decisions and be involved in farm injuries. Relationships between spouses and between parents and children also suffer during stressful times, as can health.

This article will help you recognize things many farmers consider stressful, common symptoms of stress, and effective ways to manage stress. "Stressor" refers to the things that may cause stress; "stress" is the reaction you may

have to that stressor. Farming has many ongoing situations that can cause stress, such as large debt loads, the presence of government regulations, high interest rates, and lack of control over the weather. Farmers also face daily hassles including machinery breakdowns, long work hours, weather delays, livestock problems, unexpected interruptions, crop yield uncertainty, and disagreements with other family members in the operation.

Common Stressors - No event or situation by itself is stressful. However, some kinds of events are likely to add more stress than other kinds of events. Negative events are most likely to produce stress. Although all change can bring stress, situations considered undesirable, such as bad weather or trouble with livestock, are more likely to cause stress than situations viewed as less negative.

(See Safety on page 4)



Understanding the 2025 Illinois Farm Bureau Bylaw Changes

By Champaign County Farm Bureau What Members Need to Know

Each year, delegates from County Farm Bureaus across Illinois gather at the Illinois Farm Bureau™ Annual Meeting to conduct the organization's business and vote on policy and governance matters. One important responsibility of those delegates is considering proposed changes to the organization's bylaws.

At the 2025 Annual Meeting, delegates approved several bylaw amendments related to membership categories and membership timelines. These changes were adopted with the required two-thirds vote of the delegate body and will take effect in stages through 2026. County Farm Bureaus™ operate under their own bylaws, but those bylaws must remain consistent with statewide Illinois Farm Bureau policies. This is due to the "Uniform Cooperative Agreement" that every County Farm Bureau and IFB have signed that governs the membership relationship between the two organizations.

While the updates involve some administrative changes, the goal is simple: keep Farm Bureau's membership structure clear, current, and easy to manage as the organization continues to grow and serve Illinois agriculture.

Simplifying Voting Membership Categories

One of the most significant changes approved by delegates is the consolidation of two current membership classes.

Under the existing structure, Illinois Farm Bureau recognizes both Voting Member (MM) and Professional Member (PM) classifications. Beginning September 1, 2026, these two categories will be combined into a single classification known as Voting Membership.

The new category will carry the same statewide privileges that Voting Members currently hold. This means that members who currently hold voting membership status will continue to enjoy the same voting rights and participation opportunities within the organization.

It is important to note that voting rights will continue to apply only to individual members. Business entities such as partnerships, corporations, and trusts may hold memberships but will not have voting privileges under the bylaws.

The primary purpose of this change is to simplify the membership structure and make it easier for members to understand their role within the organization.

Removal of the MS Membership Category

Delegates also approved a bylaw change that removes the

MS membership classification from the statewide bylaws. This change will take effect September 1, 2026. While this category has existed for many years, it represents a relatively small portion of total memberships across the state. The removal of this classification is part of a broader effort to streamline membership categories and reduce administrative complexity.

For current MS members, the most important message is this: your support of Farm Bureau continues to matter. Members in this category have long played an important role in strengthening the organization, supporting agricultural advocacy, and helping maintain a strong voice for Illinois agriculture. Even though the category itself is being phased out, the individuals who hold these memberships remain valued members of the Farm Bureau family.

If you are a current MS member, your local county Farm Bureau office will be reaching out to discuss your membership options as we move through this change.

Updated Timeline for Membership Dues

Another bylaw amendment adopted at the Annual Meeting updates the timeline related to dues payments and membership status. This policy falls under what is called Membership in

(See Bylaw Changes on page 6)



Market Outlook Meeting Recap



On March 12, 2026 Perry, Washington, and Randolph County Farm Bureau members gathered at Pistol City Restaurant in Coulterville, IL to get a better insight to what spring of 2026 holds for the farming markets.

We welcomed Carrie Morris

of Country Financial and Nick Aupperle of MID-CO.

Carrie Morris spoke to the group about crop insurance and what farmers can expect to see this year. Carrie took the group back to crop insurance 101 and did a little explaining of different plans and how to gauge some

numbers on their own.

Nick Aupperle focused in on the grain, fertilizer, and chemical markets. He provided detailed slides on years past and what the future may hold.

We had a great turnout and want to thank all those who joined us.

Your Wellness Matters Promotion

Johnson County Farm Bureau is offering a Mental Wellness survival kit to our members! Kit includes Mental Wellness information, stress reliever and a hot/cold eye mask. Kit is provided as an appreciation gift to our members and to help raise awareness of the importance of mental health in our community. Kit is available at the Johnson County Farm Bureau Office and may be available at Country Financial Of-

fices located in Johnson County. Members can visit our office to

receive their kit beginning May 11 and while supplies last!

ATTENTION POPE-HARDIN FARM BUREAU MEMBERS!

Pope-Hardin Farm Bureau is not a Licensed Remitter for Illinois Secretary of State. This service is no longer available through Pope-Hardin Farm Bureau. You will need to visit the nearest Secretary of State office or another Licensed Remitter in your area for assistance.



Union County Farm Bureau now has “Start Seeing Farmers” road signs available for FREE to members. Members can take 1 sign and put it near their field, house, or busy intersection. Stop by our office to pick up yours. Once you get it placed, send a picture so we can see the support spread county-wide!

Massac Young Farmers Host 5th Annual Trivia Night

In March, the Massac County Young Farmers Committee held their 5th annual Trivia Night to raise funds for COPE Food Pantry in Metropolis. While this year was a smaller crowd, the committee still made over \$1,500 to donate to the pantry. The funds

come from both registration fees, as well as a Silent Auction, where over 20 local businesses donated an item/items to help the cause. We are thrilled to have had another successful year, and are already planning next year’s event!

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PCFB FFA Ag-tivity at Du Quoin and Pinckneyville High schools



As we wrap up National Ag Week and National Ag Day in the month of March, Perry County Farm Bureau would like to highlight those students who participated in an Ag-tivity at Du Quoin and Pinckneyville High schools. PCFB Young Leaders supported these students by donating doughnuts, milk, and juice!

Pinckneyville FFA hosted a Drive Your Tractor to School Day and had 16 students participate!

This event is a highlight of many individuals day. This helps educate the public about rural road safety and allows all students at the high school the opportunity to see farm equipment up close!

Du Quoin FFA hosted their annual Ag Safety Day! Teaching pre-k through 4th grade all about safety! Equipment, animals, fire, home alone, handwashing and sun safety stations ran by FFA students made for a great event for National Ag education.

18th Annual Member Appreciation Picnic

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

Picnic at the Franklin County Fair. The event will be on Tuesday, July 14th at 5pm. Please join us for good food and good company!

Member Appreciation

PICNIC

you're invited to join us

FRANKLIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU **COUNTRY FINANCIAL**

Hosted by Franklin County Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial

Tuesday, July 14th | **5pm during the Franklin County Fair**

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

What's Your View?

WE SUPPORT:

1. Agricultural practices that recognize economic benefits and the ability to manage risks involved with production agriculture.

3. Farmer participation in voluntary, third-party environmental assessments as a means to demonstrate compliance prior to an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) inspection as a means to meet IEPA requirements.

15. Increased government funding to ensure that landowners are adequately compensated whenever farmland is used for purposes intended

to achieve the government's natural resource goals.

16. Increased dollars for educational, promotional, incentive-based, and technical assistance programs and developing the guidelines for the implementation of programs at the local level. We also support developing a separate source of funding either under conventional agricultural conservation programs or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for the establishment of buffers.

20. Efforts by the IDOA to protect pollinators that involve

farmer stakeholders and arrive at reasonable solutions that protect both crops and pollinators.

21. The planting and maintenance of pollinator habitats.

22. The planting of pollinator habitat on land currently enrolled in USDA programs.

We oppose:

1. Efforts to place restrictions or moratoriums on a farmer's ability to manage his or her farming operation in a manner consistent with BMPs. Existing operations should not be restricted from expansion nor have undue limits placed upon them due to the encroach-

ment of others.

2. Regulations for septic systems that are not science-based and do not take into consideration the economic impacts on the homeowner and on the local government.

3. Requiring a NPDES permit for pesticide applications when the applicator complies with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

4. The requirement of a CAFO to need an NPDES permit if it does not discharge.

5. Efforts by the IEPA to regulate stored hay as a stored feed.

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jackson County FB Promoting Pollinators 2026 Wrap Up

Committed to protecting Illinois’ resources and the environment through farmer-led, locally-developed programs, Jackson County Farm Bureau was awarded 1 of 17 grants across the state for pollinator projects.

The Environmental Stewardship Grants support the education, outreach, and implementation for nutrient management and pollinator restoration, providing direct funding to support county Farm Bureau projects. This year, IFB more than doubled the number of Pollinator Conservation Grants awarded.

Jackson County Farm Bureau has seen success with their pollinator program in the past. This year utilizing the program as another growth opportunity for the organization. Jackson County Farm Bureau members had the opportunity to apply for the Promoting Pollinators program through the Jackson County Office from March 1st-31st. There were over 500 applications received from members and non-members of the organization.

Through partnership with Southern FS, the Jackson County Farm Bureau is able to provide 175 pounds of pollinator seed throughout members in the

county. This opportunity allows members to grow and expand pollinator plots – or simply start a new one at no cost for the seed. It is a program that is truly meaningful to the participating members and one that will continue to take place in the future.

The Jackson County Farm Bureau aligns this program with the priorities of Illinois Farm Bureau’s environmental programs. Offering free seed to the members is a benefit of our organization – and one that has meaningful development throughout the county for members and non-members.

The Pollinator Conservation Grant Program provides CFBs and farmers with opportunities to engage in locally led pollinator projects. The program was developed based on interest and recommendations from CFBs and farmers who wanted to access additional support for farmer-focused pollinator programming and materials.

IFB maintains an active role in supporting CFBs and local partners to develop projects that address farmer needs for research, education and outreach, and implementing best management practices for nutrient loss reduction and pollinator conservation.

Safety

(Continued from Page 1)

Uncontrollable or unpredictable events are stressful. Many situations in farming are beyond human control, such as the weather, prices, government policies and operating costs. Ambiguous events are often stressful. Stress is more likely to occur when it isn’t clear what the problem is or how you can cope with it. Long-lasting problems are more dangerous than short-term ones. Most families can get by for a while with a difficult situation, but when the stress continues to build over months and years, it’s harder to handle.

Symptoms of stress - People experience stress in different ways. Some people react to stressful situations physically, others have emotional responses, and some respond with changes in behavior or relationships. Most people react to stress in more than one way at the same time. High levels of stress can affect several areas of people’s lives. Stress can show itself in physical symptoms, such as headaches or stomach problems, or in emotional symptoms, such as angry outbursts or depression. Behavior changes, like increased smoking or drinking, also can be a reaction to stress. In most people, stress affects their relationships with others, such as having difficulty getting along because of irritability or feelings of sadness.

Differences among farmers - Even under similar circumstances, farm operators vary in the amount of stress they experience. Some people may have many negative stressors, but experience low levels of stress because they have developed effective ways to cope. For other farm men and women, however, pressures may exceed

their coping resources and they may show signs of chronic stress.

How farmers and their spouses experience stress is influenced by factors like these:

- Age and past experience with stressful times
- Type of farming operation
- Time and energy demands from off farm jobs
- Availability of opportunities for supplementary income
- Emotional support from family members
- Shared goals of spouses
- Flexibility and adaptability

Ways to manage stress:

- First, recognize your symptoms of stress and decide to do something about them.
- Brainstorm with your family members about alternatives and options that might reduce stressors in your life.
- Watch what you eat. Just as machinery needs top quality fuel, your body needs nutritious food. Breakfast is an important meal for farm operators. Breaks for mid-morning and mid afternoon snacks are helpful, especially during field work.
- Take time to talk, especially to your family. Let them know if you are feeling pressured or stressed. Find a friend who can listen to your problems.
- Do something relaxing every day. During busy times you may be able to relax for only a few minutes. During less hurried times, take at least a half hour every day to do something for yourself.
- Do some form of aerobic exercise at least three times a week. Even though farmers get a lot of exercise, vigorous exercise is needed to get the heart pumping. It also will help lower your stress level. Making these changes may seem difficult at first, but the investment of time and energy can really pay off in feeling better and having a more productive farming operation.

Adapted from article originally prepared by Colleen Jolly, extension family life specialist, with Iowa State University



Williamson County Farm Bureau recently sponsored a Hunter Safety Education class held at the Welcome Center in the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Dennis Harmon and IDNR staff were the instructors. Please stay safe while hunting on ground and in tree stands. Every time you or someone you know head out to go hunting, review and think about firearm safety each and every time. Check with your local county farm bureau for more hunter safety training courses available.

Bland Named Outstanding Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter President

Illinois Farm Bureau has named Wes Bland of Eldred the Outstanding Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter President for the 2025-26 academic year.

Under Bland’s leadership, the Southern Illinois University (SIU) chapter increased paid membership by 9.4%, while participation in statewide Illinois Farm Bureau events grew significantly, including a 60% increase in attendance at IFB’s Annual Meeting.

Bland, a senior and Greene County Farm Bureau member, also played a critical role behind the scenes, managing large-scale logistics for state events, coordinating funding with multiple county Farm Bureaus and responding to unexpected challenges to ensure students could participate at little or no cost.

“Wes sees challenges as opportunities, not as excuses to fail,” Gracie Murphy wrote in her nomination of Bland. “He takes action. He doesn’t just talk. He delegates and keeps everyone informed to allow leadership opportunities for others, not just himself. It’s easy to lead when things are going good, but what makes Wes so outstanding is that he shows up and leads when

things get tough. Our chapter wouldn’t have been as successful this year without his leadership and guidance.”

Meanwhile, IFB named SIU’s Collegiate Farm Bureau as the Outstanding Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter for the second academic year in a row. Service and outreach were central to the chapter’s efforts throughout the year. Members organized a campuswide “Fill the Bucket” Harvest for All food drive, bringing a tractor to the center of campus to collect donations while engaging students in conversations about agriculture. The event raised more than 600 pounds of food for the Saluki Food Pantry and introduced agricultural literacy materials to students unfamiliar with the industry.

The chapter also expanded its commitment to agricultural education by completing 13 Ag in the Classroom visits across nine elementary schools in southern Illinois. IFB noted SIU’s chapter distinguished itself through strong partnerships with Jackson and Union county Farm Bureaus, working together on educational outreach, sponsorship opportunities and student engagement.

“Building on an exception-



Wes Bland

ally successful year, the SIU Collegiate Farm Bureau continued to thrive under President Wes Bland’s leadership,” said Taylor Hartke, IFB’s youth and collegiate program coordinator. “Through welcoming, student-led opportunities such as industry tours, legislative experiences, community service initiatives and other engaging programming, the chapter maintained a strong presence from campus to the national level while representing Farm Bureau with excellence.”

Both the SIU chapter and Bland will be recognized for their efforts at IFB’s Annual Meeting in December.



The Southern Illinois University (SIU) Collegiate Chapter poses on campus to close out their end of year meeting. (Photo courtesy of SIU)

2nd Annual “Blessing of the Tractors” a huge hit



Union County Farm Bureau’s 2nd annual “Blessing of the Tractors” drive was a huge success. The organization concluded National Ag Week with a tractor drive from Jonesboro to Bald Knob Cross of Peace.

A total of 20 tractors were a part of the caravan through Union County, with several passengers joining the drivers. The drive went through Jonesboro, Anna, Cobden, and Alto Pass, with many people stopping along the route to see the different tractors.

Once at Bald Knob Cross, members fellowshiped over lunch and then a blessing by Farm

Bureau Director and Pastor Carl Dillow was held in front of the Cross. Anna-Joinessboro’s FFA Chapter received the Driver’s Choice award for their orchard tractor and the members from Cutler in Perry County received an award for driving the furthest.

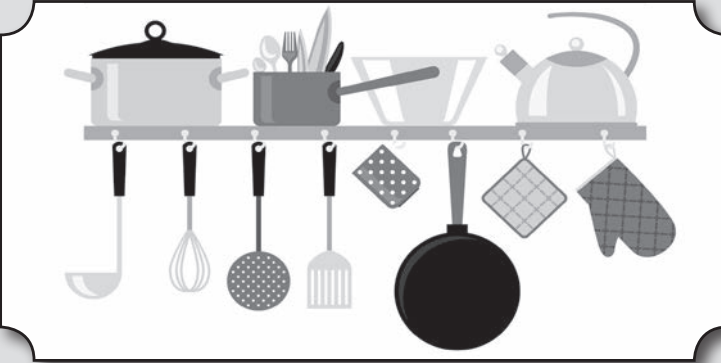
UCFB would like to thank Bald Knob Cross for hosting and the Union County Sheriff’s Office for providing multiple deputies to follow our drive and keep our driver’s safe. They stopped traffic and made sure all intersections and turns were clear. We cannot thank them enough for their support and assistance.

New this year, we had two photographers help capture the day. Macayla Nance Photography took pictures of all participants, which they were able to take home. CB Photography, Campbell Belcher, took photos at the start, throughout the route and at Bald Knob Cross. We thank them for their help and beautiful work celebrating agriculture!

Members and non-members from Union, Jackson, Perry and Hamilton Counties participated. Union County Farm Bureau is planning for the 3rd annual event next year and plans to keep this an annual tradition.



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!

BACON BISCUITS WITH STRAWBERRY BUTTER



INGREDIENTS: Biscuits:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon salt
- 8 tablespoons shortening
 - 2/3 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup crispy bacon bits
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted

Strawberry Butter:

- 1/2 cup strawberry preserves
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup strawberries, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Cut in the shortening until the mixture forms coarse crumbles resembling small peas. Stir in buttermilk and bacon until just combined.
3. Roll out dough and cut into 8 biscuits (about 2 1/2 inches each). Brush tops with melted butter and bake for 10 to 12 minutes until golden.
4. While biscuits bake, prepare the strawberry butter. In a medium bowl, combine strawberry preserves, butter and strawberries. Stir until creamy and combined.
5. Serve biscuits warm with strawberry butter on top.

~ From Farm Flavor, Partners Magazine

AG NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK June 12th at Mt. Dew Park



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.

Local Project Receives Rural Development Grant



Golconda, Ill. – 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 Pope & Hardin Counties.

Of the grants awarded, nine are addressing 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, get residents excited about what is happening in their community and benefit farm families.

For the 2026 grant program, IFB and COUNTRY Financial invested \$100,000 and \$20,000, respectively.

Arrowleaf, through Pope-Har-

din FB, received an \$8000 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.

Pope-Hardin Farm Bureau President, Lonnie Lewis, presented the funds to Arrowleaf CEO, Sherrie L. Crabb and Arrowleaf Board Member, representing Pope County, Scott Trovillion.

Johnson CFB Annual Meeting Held & Scholarships Awarded



Ethan Hook - Son of Adam & Julie Hook, Vienna



Iris Mount – Daughter of Justin & Jennifer Mount, Vienna



Kelli Stewart – Daughter of David Stewart, Vienna

Johnson County Farm Bureau held its 107th Annual Meeting, Tuesday, March 18 at the Vienna High School Commons. Over 80 members were in attendance to enjoy a roast beef dinner and fellowship. David Stewart offered the invocation. Ethan Hook, Iris Mount, Kelli Stewart, and Abigail Thornton, all Vienna High School Seniors, were awarded \$1000 scholarships. Three di-

rectors, David Stewart, Marshall Dunn and Jerry Pirtle were elected to serve a three-year term on the Johnson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. The evening concluded with a door prize drawing. Several door prizes were donated by Country Financial Representatives Josh Wagner, Dillon Street, Natasha and Tony Stearns and Carrie Alsip. We appreciate all those who attended

this year and look forward to seeing everyone again at the 108th Annual meeting next year!

Johnson County Farm Bureau Scholarship winners are pictured with Johnson County Farm Bureau President – David Allbritten. Abigail Thornton, Daughter of Jack & Cessinee Thornton - Cypress, was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments.



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Bylaw Changes

(Continued from Page 1)

Good Standing (MIGS).

Under the previous system:

- Membership became delinquent after 90 days past the paid-through date.
- Membership was canceled after 120 days past the paid-through date.

Beginning May 1, 2026, the new timeline will be:

- Membership becomes delinquent after 1 month past the paid-through date.
- Membership is canceled after 2 months past the paid-through date.

This update applies to new memberships and renewals that occur on or after May 1, 2026. Members whose renewal dates occur prior to that time will continue under the current timeline until their next renewal cycle.

In many ways, this change simply returns the policy to timelines that existed before the implementation of combined

billing. It also helps ensure membership records remain accurate and up to date across the organization.

Communicating the Changes to Members

Illinois Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus will be working together to make sure members are aware of these updates. Several communication steps are planned:

- Renewal notices will include a printed insert explaining the updated membership timelines.
- The MyIFB online system will display reminders about the new delinquency and cancellation rules.

Members renewing after May 1, 2026 will begin seeing these reminders as part of their renewal materials.

What This Means for You Key Takeaways for Farm Bureau Members

- Your membership benefits and voting rights remain unchanged.
- Two voting member cate-

gories will be combined into a single Voting Membership class beginning September 1, 2026.

- The MS membership classification will be phased out, but those members remain valued contributors to the organization.
- Beginning May 1, 2026, membership dues must be paid sooner to avoid delinquency or cancellation.
- Paying dues on time will ensure no interruption in your membership status or benefits.

Illinois Farm Bureau and your local County Farm Bureau continue to evolve to better serve our members and represent agriculture across Illinois. These bylaw updates are designed to simplify the membership system, keep records accurate, and ensure the organization remains strong and responsive to its members.

As always, if you have questions about your membership or these changes, your local CFB office is ready to help. Don't hesitate to reach out to your local office and ask questions or give your concerns.

Ag Week celebrated in Union County with Farmer's Share Breakfast



Community members left the Union County Farm Bureau's Farmer's Share Breakfast with full stomachs in March.

Nearly 100 people came through to eat breakfast celebrating agriculture and learning about the portion of \$1 that goes back to the farmer.

Those that came through enjoyed bacon, sausage and pancakes for just \$1, while get-

ting to mingle with the Union County Farm Bureau Directors, COUNTRY Financial agents and their fellow community members.

The Anna-Jonesboro High School softball team even stopped by to fuel up on their way to an all-day tournament.

Thank you to all those who stopped by for breakfast and we hope to see you again next year!



Franklin County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Pork Loin Sale



Pictured left to right are Michael Browning and Rob Hutchens



Pictured left to right are Ike Hutchcraft, Jason Balding and Derek Sample

On April 2nd, Franklin County Farm Bureau Young Leaders had their annual Pork Loin Sale to raise money for their scholarship. They were able to raise a gross profit of \$1,810.00. Thank you to everyone who supported the sale!





Saline County Farm Bureau Hosts Hunter Safety Course

The Saline County Farm Bureau recently hosted a hunter safety course at Southeastern Illinois College, providing local youth with important education and hands-on experience focused on safe and responsible hunting practices.

Participants in the course learned essential skills including firearm safety, proper handling techniques, wildlife conservation principles, and outdoor ethics. The program is designed to help young hunters build confidence while understanding the responsibilities that come with hunting and outdoor recreation.

In addition to classroom instruction, students gained knowledge about real-life scenarios, decision-making in the field, and the importance of respecting both wildlife and fellow hunters. The course plays a vital role in prepar-

ing youth to safely participate in Illinois' strong hunting tradition.

As part of the event, Saline and Gallatin County Farm Bureaus provided lunch for all participants and gave each student a fishing pole, encouraging continued engagement in outdoor activities and conservation.

A special thank you is extended to Martin Duffy and Aaron Phelps, COUNTRY Financial agents, for their generous sponsorship and support of the program. Their contribution helped make the event a success and ensured participants had a positive and rewarding experience.

Through initiatives like this, the Saline County Farm Bureau continues to invest in youth education, outdoor safety, and the future of agriculture and natural resource stewardship within the community.

Union County FB Awards Scholarships



Kenzie Stover



Kaylee Stover



Cash Hodges

The Union County Farm Bureau Foundation and Board of Directors are pleased to announce the 2026 scholarship recipients.

This year, the Union County Farm Bureau Foundation is awarding \$5,500 to a total of 5 students.

Cash Hodges, Layne Murray, and Kenzie Stover will be receiving \$1,000 scholarships from UCFB. Kaylee Stover and Addison Bonner will receive \$500 scholarships from the UCFB Foundation.

Cash Hodges is currently a sophomore at Missouri S&T studying mechanical engineering. Layne Murray, a senior at AJCHS, has plans to attend Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) in the fall for Ag Business and Kenzie Stover is already attending SEMO for elementary education. Kaylee Stover, also a SEMO student, is studying for a degree in medical sonography and Addison Bonner, an AJCHS senior, has plans to attend Shawnee Community College in the fall.



Layne Murray



Addison Bonner

Layne Murray will also be receiving the \$1,000 Halford Dillow Memorial Scholarship and Cole Pender will be the recipient of the William "Bill" Flamm Memorial Scholarship, worth \$500.

All of these candidates have shown talent within their academic career and throughout their communities.

Congratulations to the 2026 Union County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship recipients. The scholarship program is administered annually and is possible due to the generous support of Union County Farm Bureau members. If you wish to give, please contact the Jonesboro office at (618) 833-2125.

AITC Spring Teacher Workshop Series



In March, we held an Ag in the Classroom Spring Teacher Workshop Series. It was a collaboration with Perry County AITC coordinator, Faith Still, Washington County AITC coordinator, Kerri Krawiecki, and Randolph and St. Clair County AITC coordinator,

Lexi Birrittier. Each county hosted a workshop for one evening of three consecutive nights. We were able to reach 23 teachers in all three workshops combined. We shared resources and engaging hands-on learning activities with teachers in each county. Topics

included pollinator lessons, animal science STEM lessons, and resources and ideas for teaching sourdough concepts. As part of our sourdough lesson, we made bread pets for sourdough starter. There were so many creative ideas!

Franklin County FB 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 fcfb028@gmail.com. We would like to help our entire farming community in the county, so a Farm Bureau membership is not required.

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 18, 2026

PULL FOR AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

World Shooting & Recreational Complex • Sparta, IL

The Pull for Ag Education is designed to provide participants with a fun and exciting day of shooting while raising funds for the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programs in Perry and Randolph Counties.

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

Williamson County Farm Bureau Foundation names McCabe Scholarships Winners

Former Williamson County Farm Bureau Board President and past IAA District 18 Director Allan McCabe established the McCabe Scholarship to invest and support young Williamson County residents seeking agriculture careers.

Williamson County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarships



Macie Groves from Creal Springs has been awarded the McCabe Scholarship. Macie is attending SIU-C majoring in Pre-Vet Medicine. Macie is the daughter of Carlos and Ellen Tanner of Creal Springs.



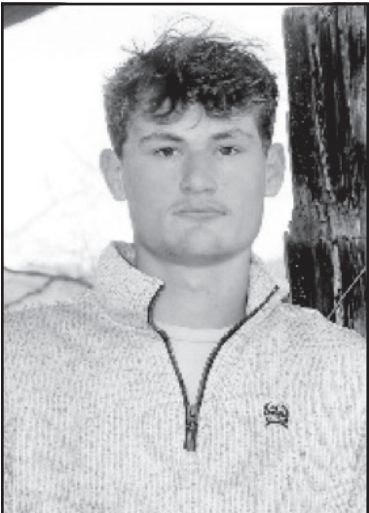
Hayden Lees from Marion has been awarded a McCabe Scholarship. Hayden is attending SIU-C majoring in Crops and Soil Science. Hayden is the son of Matt and Angela Lees.



Lydia Phelps from Marion has been awarded a McCabe Scholarship. Lydia will be attending the University of Nebraska College of Law in agricultural law. Lydia is the daughter of Ryan Phelps.



Levi Tanner from Creal Springs receives a McCabe Scholarship. Levi will be a junior at SIU-C in Ag Business Economics. Levi is the son of James and Melissa Tanner.



Tate Miller from Marion receives a Williamson County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship. Tate is attending Quincy University majoring in Science and future plans include SIU-C in Aviation. Tate is the son of Greg and Kim Miller.



Peyton Smith from Johnston City receives a Williamson County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship. Peyton is attending Frontier College majoring in Nursing and playing softball for the Frontier Bobcats. Peyton is the daughter of Kirk Smith and Angelica Vickers.

Williamson County Farm Bureau congratulates all the winners.



Helping you protect what matters most



Carrie Alsip
Vienna
(618) 658-2891



Ted Boulds
Marion
(618) 993-3176



Kristin Bremer
Metropolis
(618) 524-7031



Kevin Sherwood
Anna
(618) 833-8100



Martin Duffy
Gallatin
(618) 272-3251



Matt Duffy
Murphysboro
(618) 684-4123



Kat Beckman
Murphysboro
(618) 687-5691



Billy Aldrich
Carbondale
(618) 457-5373



Mitch Helm
Metropolis
(618) 524-2629



Travis Holtkamp
Jonesboro
(618) 833-2123



Gene Kennedy
Mounds
(618) 745-9429



Eric Boreup
Jonesboro
(618) 833-2819



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



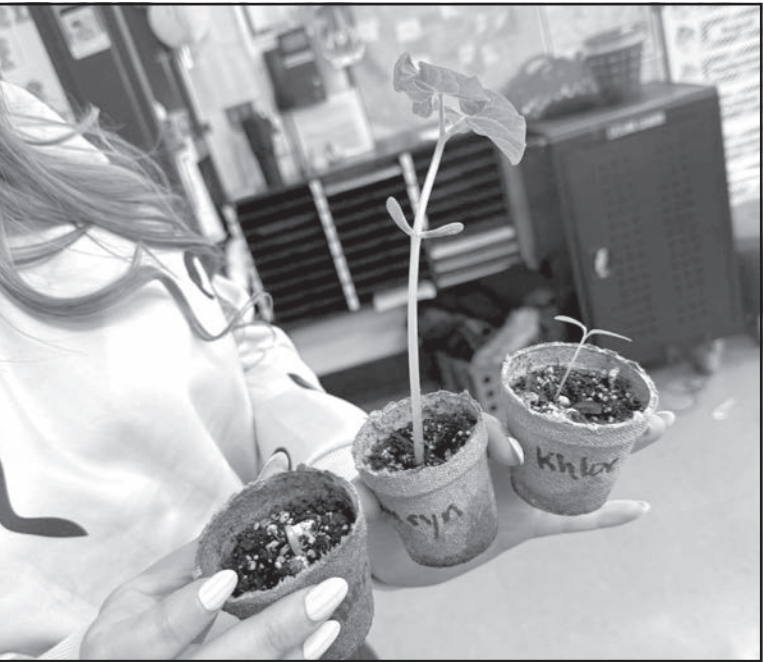
Rhiannon Storm
Herrin
(618) 988-8440



Dillon Street
Vienna
(618) 658-2881

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In March Franklin County students had the opportunity to plant their own vegetable seeds to take home, grow, and harvest from over the summer. Over 800 students planted seeds and enjoyed the opportunity to get their hands dirty. April is chick incubation month! This activity is looked forward to all year. We have 6 classrooms throughout the county incubating this year. We are excited to see the hatch we get!

Saline County FB Supports Stonefort Farmers Market

The Saline County Farm Bureau is proud to support the Stonefort Farmers Market through the donation of reusable farmers market bags.

These bags will be distributed by market vendors throughout the season while supplies last, helping provide a convenient and sustainable option for shoppers. This effort encourages community members to shop local, support area vendors, and promote the use of reusable materials.

Saline County Farm Bureau values opportunities to invest in local initiatives that strengthen connections between agriculture and the community. Supporting the Stonefort Farmers Market is one way the organization contin-



ues to promote local agriculture and small businesses.

The Saline County Farm Bureau appreciates the work being done in Stonefort and looks forward to seeing the positive impact this partnership will have throughout the market season.



Spring is in full swing, and Saline County Ag in the Classroom has been busy with “Growing Letters,” germinating soybeans, and awarding Plant Grants to 34 teachers. Grant recipients received a butterfly kit, a worm farm, or funding for flower planting supplies to use with their students. We would like to thank the Saline County Soil and Water Conservation District for helping to make these Plant Grants possible.



The Herrin high school Rotary club helped our Ag in the classroom program by making over 500 Soil Sammy heads to help second graders in Williamson County learn about the importance of Soil. Our program also distributed over 500 wildflower seeds and 150 redbud trees during earth week and incubated over 75 dozen eggs in April and May! We are trying to do our part for the Earth.

Franklin County Ag in the Classroom Summer Ag Institute

Join us to learn about Agriculture in your county while having fun and earning Professional Development credit.

- ✓ June 1, 2, 3
- ✓ Earn 22.5 PD Credit Hours
- ✓ Sign up closes May 15th

Contact Fallon 618-927-1325 franklinaic@gmail.com

Incorporate agriculture into the classroom with our fun & engaging professional development opportunity!

WILLIAMSON, SALINE & GALLATIN COUNTIES PRESENT

SPROUTING SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

SUMMER AG INSTITUTE

JUNE 8-10, 2026

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE

email: Saline: aitcsalco@gmail.com Gallatin: aitagco@gmail.com or Williamson: farriskanosa@aol.com

Saline-Gallatin

AGRICULTURE in the Classroom

Williamson County

AGRICULTURE in the Classroom

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: Sears Garden Tiller \$100. Wheelbarrow \$50. Sears Air compressor \$100. Please call 618 997-6733.

FOR SALE: New Bush Hog 2310 10 foot rotary cutter. Front and rear chains. 540 PTO. Laminated tires. Call 618-527-8289.

FOR SALE: Like new Jerry James flatbed gooseneck trailer. New price \$15,550. My price \$9,000. Trailer is in very good condition. Call 618-303-4414.

LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE: Rabbit cages and equipment in Mulkeytown. 618.318.2507.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: 12 acres of agriculture land for lease in Long Branch Township beginning in 2026. 314-265-4340.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Solid steel 40-gallon smoker on rollers, Killer

Instinct crossbow, Horton crossbow (case & hand-crank), Tusco scope red dot, Randall 200-watt bass amp head 4 channel, Freedom 3 electric wheelchair. (618)518-1246.

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.

GARAGE SALE: May 9th and 10th. 9AM to 4PM. Furniture, dishes, outdoor equipment, vendors welcome. 902 South Carbon St Marion.

Union Co. Students get visits from Adopt-a-Classroom sponsors



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.

Country Financial Agent Travis

Holtkamp visited students at Anna's Lincoln Elementary School. He read a book and helped teach the kids about water and it's cycles.

Two employees, Bobbi and Cheyanne, from Southern FS came down and also taught students in Anna District 37. They gave away

goodies, read a book and told many stories about agriculture and it's importance.

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



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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 #: _____

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



New Ag Literacy Coordinator for Pulaski-Alexander and Massac

On April 1st, Emilee Korte joined the Pulaski-Alexander and Massac County Farm Bureaus to serve as the new Ag in the Classroom coordinator. Emilee is from a small family farm in Metropolis, and is currently attending Shawnee Community College, where she will achieve her associates in Ag Business. She will graduate Spring 2027. Korte states “I am so excited to work with the youth in the counties, and to teach the importance of agriculture to the next generation.” We are so excited to have Emilee on our team!

Fair Season

JUNE

PERRY CO. FAIR

13-20

JULY

FRANKLIN CO. FAIR

9-17

MASSAC CO. YOUTH FAIR

10-19

SALINE CO. AG FAIR

19-25

PULASKI CO. FAIR

26-1

AUGUST

WILLIAMSON CO. FAIR

1-8

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

13-23

UNION CO. FAIR

21-29

DU QUOIN STATE FAIR

28-7

Need Help?

Farm Family Resource Initiative Hotline:
1-833-FARMSOS or 1-833-327-6767

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line: Text Talk to 741-741
Text with a trained counselor for free, 24/7

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Admin:
1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Farm Aid Farmer Hotline:
1-800-FARM-AID or 1-800-327-6243

Avera Farm & Rural Stress Hotline:
1-800-691-4336

Illinois Warm Line:
1-866-359-7953 (call) or 1-866-880-4459

The Warm Line is not a crisis hotline, but is a source of support as you recover or help a family member to recover.
Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Local FARMERS MARKETS

FRANKLIN COUNTY
Benton Market: Benton Comm. Park: May 7-October Thursdays, 3-6 pm

JACKSON COUNTY
Murphysboro Market: 217 N 17h St, April-August 26, Wednesdays, 3-6pm
Carbondale Market: 2001 W Main St, April-November, Saturdays, 8-Noon

JOHNSON COUNTY
City of Vienna: at the Vienna City Park Fridays & Saturdays, all day

MASSAC COUNTY
Metropolis Market: Dorothy Miller park, Metropolis, 8-Noon, Saturdays, May-October

PERRY COUNTY
DuQuoin Market: 127 N Division St, May-October, Saturdays, 7:30-11 am
Pinckneyville Market: 1031 S Main, May-October, 3-6pm

PULASKI COUNTY
Pulaski Co. Market: Ullin Park, May 9- September, Saturdays, 7-11am

SALINE COUNTY
Harrisburg Market: 1E Poplar St., Harrisburg, IL 8:00-Noon
2nd & 4th Saturdays, May-August
Eldorado Market: Corner of 4'h St & Locust St, 1st, 3'd & 5th Saturdays, 8 am-Noon, May-September

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

WILLIAMSON COUNTY
Johnston City Market: 116 W Broadway Blva, Fridays 7-11 am
Marion Market: 507 W Main St, Sat. 6-Noon, Wed. 7-11 am
Pittsburg Market: 302 W Avery St, Thursdays, 4-7 pm