

Adams County Farm Bureau

Agri Newsletter

News, Views, Information and Programs for Today's Farm Bureau Member

Twin Mill Farm Hosts Field Day on Soil Health and Cover Crops



Attendees listening to David Dedert speak in cover crop field.

On September 6, 2025, more than 50 farmers and community members gathered at Twin Mill Farm for a field day sponsored by Practical Farmers of Iowa. There was 5 states represented in the group: Kentucky, Massachusetts, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The event, hosted on land owned by Aleen Mittelberg and operated by David and Dean Dedert along with farm manager Mike Rice, showcased innovative cover cropping practices and regenerative farming strategies.

Twin Mill Farm carries a deep family legacy, dating back to the 1800s. While the operation once centered around cattle and later hogs, with hog production expanding in 1965, the barns were torn down in 2017, leaving the family to focus on row crop farming. Today, that same focus has shifted toward advancing soil health and sustainability.

Attendees began the day by viewing a diverse cover crop mix interseeded between 60-inch rows of corn. The discussion quickly moved into the principles of soil health, led by guest speaker Lucas Jones of Understanding Ag. Jones emphasized the importance of regenerative practices, noting how farmers can increase microbial activity, improve water retention, and build resilience in their soils.

The crowd then climbed aboard hayracks for a tour around the farm. Stops included wheat stubble fields seeded with a seven way cover crop mix by drone earlier in the summer before the wheat was harvested, and soybean fields planted directly into cereal rye. The rye was drilled into corn stalks from the previous year. Each site sparked conversation about management strategies and the practical challenges and rewards of implementing these systems.

Central to the day's theme was the use of the Haney soil test, which goes beyond traditional testing methods that focus only on nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Instead, it evaluates biological activity and nutrient availability, giving farmers a clearer picture of overall soil health. Both Dedert and Rice highlighted the value of these insights as they continue working toward long-term improvement of their soils.

They also looked at a green lightning nitrogen machine and Rice talked about it. Green lightning is a mechanism to replicate a naturally occurring process that leads to nitrogen. During a lightning storm, static electricity rearranges the nitrogen molecule in the air, and this modified molecule is contained within the rain wetting the soil. Talk with Mike Rice or David Dedert or Google it because it is very interesting.

"Every year we're learning something new," said Rice. "The Haney test helps us see how our practices are impacting the soil, not just in the short term but for the next generation."

With strong community turnout and lively discussion, the Twin Mill Farm field day reinforced the role of innovation, experimentation, and soil health in the future of farming.

Welcome
FALL

Two Local Leaders Join Farm Bureau Board



Jered Peter



Jonathan Willer

The Adams County Farm Bureau is welcoming two new members to its board of directors: Jered Peter and Jonathan Willer, both bringing strong backgrounds in agriculture and agribusiness.

Jered Peter is the owner of Precision Pumping Inc., a manure management company specializing in the land application of hog, dairy, and municipal sludge as fertilizer. He also owns PPI Equipment in Quincy, where his team manufactures manure equipment and hydraulic systems. In addition, he is co-owner of Peter Family Farmers, which operates in both Adams and Brown counties.

When asked about joining the board, Peter shared, "I hope to learn about up-and-coming things in agriculture and use the knowledge I've gained through my years in agribusiness to help with future decisions at the Farm Bureau." He explained that he wanted to serve because he believes it's important for leaders with agribusiness experience to be involved in shaping the organization's future. Peter is confident his business background will provide a fresh perspective to the board.

Jonathan Willer also brings valuable experience to the table. Willer farms corn, soybeans, and wheat with his family in Adams

County, while also raising a small number of hogs. A few years ago, he became part-owner of McCleary Brothers Seed Sales.

Willer said he is most excited about "helping local farmers move toward the future of agriculture." His decision to join the board

was driven by a desire to represent area farmers both locally and at the state level.

The Farm Bureau expressed enthusiasm for the addition of Peter and Willer, noting the range of expertise and commitment both men bring to the organization.

Adams County Farm Bureau Holds 111th Annual Meeting

The 111th Annual Meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adams County Farm Bureau board room located at 330 S. 36th St., Quincy, Illinois.

Acting Chairman Rick Edwards conducted the election of Directors, and Young Farmers Representative for 2025 - 2026.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Doug Duncan, Danelle Donley, and Larry Ippensen, nominated the following Directors to serve a two-year term.

DISTRICT I

Brad Duncan
Luke Muegge
Tim Ellerbrock

DISTRICT III

Ryan Meyer
Justin Oberling
Rob Hyer
Jonathan Willer (one year term)

DISTRICT II

Bobby Baker
Jered Peter
Dustin Speckhart

DISTRICT IV

Elfi Gronewold
Jacob Schmidt

The Nominating Committee nominated Trevor Majers to serve a one-year term as Young Farmers Representative.

President Ben Hugenberg then recognized retiring board members Shane Miller, who served 12 years on the Board, and Danelle Donley, who served 5 years on the Board.

Bicentennial Finale Celebrates Adams County History



After a lot of hard work and planning, the long-awaited Adams County Bicentennial Finale was held on Saturday, September 6th, at the Adams County Fairgrounds. And there truly was something for everyone! In spite of the last-minute change of musical talent due to the Beach Boys cancellation, the Finale Celebration went off as planned with two great performers replacing the Beach Boys- Gretchen Wilson and Montgomery Gentry.

The event began at 11 a.m. with an amazing car show, children's activities, Hall of Villages, Hall of Industry and Innovations a vendor's market, machinery timeline, and Olde Tyme Association displays, including the Lewis Round Barn, one room schoolhouse and the print shop. Entrance to the fairgrounds was free and musical entertainment was available throughout the day.

Special performances were also given by the U.S. 144th Army Band and the U.S. Air Force "Roots in Blue". A Veterans Hall was open at noon, and from 2 to 5 p.m. a Veterans Hall reception was held with a complimentary meal for veterans, sponsored by Kohl Wholesale. Reserved

(Continued on Page 2)



LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

By
RYAN MEYER

It's hard to believe I've been writing this article for a full year now. I'm just as excited to serve as Legislative Chairman today as I was when I first started.

A few days ago, I came across an article in *Farm Journal* that caught my attention. It outlined what farmers need to know about the soybean market, and the news isn't all that encouraging.

Recently, President Donald Trump and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent met with Argentina's President Javier Milei, who had just announced major changes to his country's farm policy. One of the biggest moves: cutting Argentina's export tax on soybeans.

This decision makes Argentine soybeans cheaper on the world market and the timing couldn't be worse for American farmers. U.S. soybean exports are already down 5 million tons from last year. Brazil has been dominating the global market, especially with China, and now Argentina is stepping in to compete more aggressively.

Soy prices in Argentina are now roughly equal to U.S. prices and more than 10% below Brazilian prices. As soon as the announcement was made, U.S. soybean prices fell to their lowest point in over a month. China, which imports more than 100 million tons of soybeans annually, may now rely more heavily on Brazil and Argentina. That leaves fewer opportunities for U.S. farmers to move their crop. To make matters worse, Argentina's tax cut is set to last through October 2025, right through our harvest season, when strong markets are most critical.

I may just be a farmer from Liberty, Illinois, but I know enough to see that this isn't good news for us. And while I could go on about corn, I'll save that for another day.

On a brighter note, though, this is also the time of year when we see all our hard work over the past year pay off. Harvest is underway, and while markets may not always be in our favor, the hard work and dedication of farm families never goes unnoticed. Let's hope for safe, smooth days in the field and a harvest season that reminds us why we do what we do.



COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES Agent of the Month



DREW MILLER



YOUNG FARMERS By TREVOR MAIERS CHAIRMAN

Hello all, hope to find you during a bountiful harvest. It has been a busy fall season with the dry weather, but it is nice to complete tasks in chunks. Cattle prices have remained elevated throughout this fall, and what a ride it has been. I am looking forward to a breather in this market, and a nice calm 2026!

We've been looking for opportunities in the Young Leader space, and Annabelle and I attended the WIU Collegiate Farm Bureau event in Macomb, talking about what our county YL program does, and how we would be a great fit for any alumni that moved to, or worked in Adams County. Getting in touch with collegiate members about to graduate is a great way to get our brand out into the collegiate ranks, and we look forward to working with our local collegiate ag departments going forward.

Also, be on the lookout for an event to possibly replace our Quincy Baseball Team get together in the summer. We are working on something to get us out of the Tri-State area, as well as bring in some people who might not be part of the Farm Bureau crowd. Mixing and socializing with others would be a great way to build up our numbers in the future. Until next time!



Grain Bids Available Via E-mail

If you would like to receive this page on e-mail at 4:30 p.m. each day, then please e-mail the Adams County Farm Bureau at acfb@adams.net. Send the e-mail with subject line Grain Bids and type your name, e-mail address and phone number in the body of the e-mail.

FARM BUREAU DAILY GRAIN BIDS

	CORN			SOYBEANS			WHEAT	
7/18/25	CSH	JUN	OCT	CSH	JUN	OCT	CSH	NEW
ELEVATOR	409	428	445	1028	1036	1053	546	546
CBOT FUTURES	417	428	435	1033	1001	1053		
CARG Florence	417	428	435	1033	1001	1053		
CARG Beardstown	427	397		1040	1001	1044	487	487
CGB Naples	401	388		1016	990		482	482
CGB Hannibal	401	388		1016	990		482	482
CGB Louisiana	418	398		1013	996			
Bunge-SCF GV	413	398						
Maschoffs	428	403	435					
Bartlett	411	398	430	1031	1001		492	492
Jersey Grain	396	403	425	1010	962			
Roquette	401	397		1022	990		481	481
Ursa Farmers	398	384	413	1026	986	1028	481	481
Dearwester	400	379	404	1045	995	1042		
ADM-Quincy								

NOW AVAILABLE TO YOU ON E-MAIL-CONTACT YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Bicentennial Finale Celebrates Adams County History

(Continued from Front Page)



parking was available for all veterans and the military bands performed at 7 p.m. in the arena/grandstand.

The Hall of Villages had some wonderful displays from almost every village and the City of Quincy. So many of the booths had memorabilia, photos and information concerning the histories of their communities. It was all very interesting. The Hall of Industry and Innovation also had a lot of historical information about many of the industries in Adams County - Knapheide, Prairie Farms, J.M. Huber, Titan, Farm and Home, Ursa Farmers Coop, Blessing Hospital and others. Some of the companies had vehicles that were used and maybe still are in their industry.

At 2 p.m., the Heritage Farms Pavilion Dedication was held, followed by a reception at 3 p.m. At 5 p.m., representatives of each Farm Family were recognized on stage in the arena/grandstand, where they received a commemorative sign and certificate.

A beer garden was open throughout most of the day.

Prior to the Gretchen Wilson and Montgomery Gentry concerts, a wonderful performance of a drumline consisting of high school students from Camp Point Central, Payson Seymour High School and Quincy Notre Dame was enjoyed. This was the first time these students had performed together and it was truly fantastic.

An impressive hot air balloon glow was held during the evening, along with fireworks following the concert. There were many other things happening during the course of the day. This event was truly a celebration of not only the very rich heritage of Adams County over the past 200 years, but also giving us a look at the foundation we have to build on for the next 200 years.



Welcome New Members

Grant and Ana Cole

Cynthia O'Haver



ADAMS COUNTY COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

STAFF & OFFICE LOCATIONS

ADAMS COUNTY AGENCY		331 S. 36th, Suite 4B	
217-640-5430		217-222-5841	
Jesse Palmer	 District Leader	Jack Baskett	 Agent
		Lisha Leasman	 Agent Assistant
330 S. 36th St.		Doug Greenwell	 Agent
217-222-7304		Mary Cancell	 Agent Assistant
Erica Stephenson	 Agent		
405 Hampshire St.		1932 State Street	
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Crystal Peavler	 Agent	Eric Ervin	 Agent
405 Hampshire St.		LIBERTY OFFICE	
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Cassey Cassey	 Agent	Jeff Kroencke	
Kalynne Olson	 Agent Assistant	CAMP POINT OFFICE	
655 Clinic Rd, Ste. 2A - Hannibal, MO		126 E. State St. • 217-640-5994	
217-245-4107		Drew Miller	
Shelby Job	 Agent	Khaliah Hughes	
		 Agent Assistant	

Notes From The NEW Manager



Annabelle Schaffnit

I hope everyone's harvest season is off to a great start! When I first interviewed for this position, the board shared their desire for us to be more visible and active across the county. From the very beginning, I knew I wanted to find ways to connect more with the people we serve.

After seeing my sister crowned Adams County Fair Queen and hearing about all the parades she would be in, I thought: why not us too? What better way to show our support than to join our communities in their celebrations? So far, we've had the joy of participating in both the Liberty and Golden Fall Festival parades. It's been so rewarding to wave at familiar faces, celebrate alongside our neighbors, and catch up with members I haven't seen in a while. Moments like those remind me why community matters so much.

Another priority for me has been strengthening our communication. I've been posting regularly on the Adams County Farm Bureau Facebook page, sharing updates from Illinois Farm Bureau, Ag in the Classroom, and highlights of what

our board is doing locally. We're also close to launching a brand-new website. Once it's ready, I'll be posting the link on Facebook, so if you're not already following us, now is a great time to start!

I've also enjoyed meeting with community groups. A couple weeks ago, I was invited to speak with the Optimist Club of Quincy. They asked great questions, and I learned about events I didn't even know were happening, like the equipment day at St. Dominic School where students get to see and climb into machinery. I think Farm Bureau could play a wonderful role in supporting programs like that and helping kids learn more about agriculture. (The board does not know this is on my agenda yet though.)

Another big focus is reviving our Young Farmers group. Trevor, our Young Farmers Chairman, and I have lots of ideas, but we need more people to join us in making them happen. If you or someone you know is between 18 and 35 and has a passion for agriculture, I'd love to talk with you. You don't have to be a farmer to be involved, just someone who cares about the ag industry.

As always, I'm here to help. If you know of a community event where Farm Bureau could get involved, or if there's a concern you think I can help with, please don't hesitate to reach out.

To our farmers: please have a safe harvest. To our community members: be cautious on the roads. You'll see more equipment out there, moving slowly, as farmers do their job, just like you do yours.

I'm grateful to be part of such a strong, caring community, and I look forward to continuing to grow together.

Applications Now Available For 2026 Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow

Are you, or someone you know, ready to take the next step in their leadership development? The Illinois Farm Bureau has a program to help with that. The Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) provides participants with the tools they need to reach their full potential and emerge as leaders in agriculture. Whether you serve on your county Farm Bureau board, county Farm Bureau committee, or are a leader in agribusiness or your local community, you'll benefit from ALOT just as the over 1,200 previous graduates have.

Classroom studies cover leadership, communication & professional skills, political process, agricultural economics, and global issues, and are taught by experts in a variety of fields. Classes will be conducted over a seven-week period in a different region of the state each year, so there's sure to be one near you.

In 2026, there will be seven weekly sessions held across Central Illinois, Springfield, and Bloomington, Illinois. The seven-week program includes four overnight sessions, two single-day sessions, and one virtual session.

The ALOT program is limited to 25 participants, who are chosen following interviews conducted on December 2nd via Zoom by the ALOT advisory committee. There is an \$800 tuition fee, which includes meals, lodging, and instructional materials.

Applications are available online at <https://explore.ilfb.org/alot> and are due by November 14th. For more information about the program visit <https://explore.ilfb.org/alot> or contact Adams County Farm Bureau at 217-222-7305 or the IFB Training and Development Department at 309-557-2038.



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

BY BEN HUGENBERG, PRESIDENT

Harvest is in full swing, and the seasons are beginning to change. What will this harvest bring us? Soon, we'll find out not only what our crops will yield but also what value they will bring. Will it be enough to turn a profit, or will we face a loss?

If things don't go as we had hoped, what do we do? As with anything, we reflect on what happened and consider what changes we can make moving forward. This simple strategy applies not only to our farms but also to our lives, our organizations, and even our government.

If something can be improved to bring about a better outcome, we must be willing to change it. On our farms, we strive to make adjustments that help us align with our goals, whatever they may be. The same holds true for organizations and governments. Elections exist so that changes can be made when needed.

Harvest also brings long hours, large equipment, and added stress. We must remember that this is also a dangerous time. Please be cautious and stay as safe as possible.

I wish everyone a safe and bountiful harvest.



GROWING TODAY & TOMORROW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026		S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
		E	C	O	E	A	E	A	P	A	U	U	U
		P	T	V	C	N	B	R	R	R	Y	N	L
District I													
Brad Duncan		X											
Luke Muegge		X											
Tim Ellerbrock		X											
Matthew Duesterhaus													
Nathan Parker		X											
Brent Clair		X											
District II													
Jered Peter		X											
Bobby Baker		X											
Scott Venvertloh		X											
Kent Deege		X											
Alan Ippensen		X											
Dustin Speckhart		X											
District III													
Rob Hyer		X											
Justin Oberling		X											
Jonathan Willer		X											
Grant Huber		X											
District IV													
Jacob Schmidt		X											
Madelyn Thompson													
Eli Gronewold		X											
Jon Myers													
Brandon Nickamp													
Officers													
Pres. Ben Hugenberg		X											
V. Pres. Ryan Meyer		X											
Y.F. Rep. Trevor Maiera		X											

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies
Office Hours: Mon. through Fri. - 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Ph. 222-7305
330 S. 36th, P.O. Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305
Periodicals Postage Paid at Quincy, IL

Postmaster: Send address changes to the ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305.

Yearly membership dues to the Adams County Farm Bureau includes 50 cents per year as subscription to the ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER, and privilege of inserting not to exceed 30 words per year advertising in the Exchange List for only Farm Bureau Members, excluding commercial ads. We reserve the right to reject any or all news material or advertisements offered to this paper.

Annabelle Schaffnit- Manager

Lisa Parker- Bookkeeper/Secretary

President - Ben Hugenberg - Vice President - Ryan Meyer
Young Farmer's Committee - Trevor Maiera

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Brent Clair

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ADAMS COUNTY'S AG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Kinsey Tiemann, Ag Awareness
Program Coordinator

Ripple Effects: Mississippi River Curriculum Piloted at Lincoln-Douglas Elementary



University of Illinois Extension staff and Master Naturalist volunteers recently piloted a newly developed natural resources curriculum, "Ripple Effects," with third-grade students at Lincoln-Douglas Elementary School. The weeklong program was designed in partnership with Ag in the Classroom and Project WILD, with content aligned to third-grade science standards on survival, inherited traits, and adaptations.

On the first day, Lincoln-Douglas third-grade teachers led lessons that included mapping the Mississippi River region and playing "Food Chain Checkers" to explore species interactions. Day two featured outdoor demonstrations and games highlighting how traits are passed from parents to offspring, using mussels as a key example.

Day three allowed students to get creative by designing their own river species with randomly assigned adaptations. Students also began researching native animals, learning how traits and



behaviors support survival in the local ecosystem. Day four, led again by classroom teachers, included environmental simulations to reinforce how traits and adaptations influence survival.

The final day brought additional partners, including the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology in Champaign, which provided a mobile science lab for students to study water samples under microscopes. Outdoor stations included entomology activities, a stream table demonstration, and a migration relay race.

The pilot curriculum successfully combined classroom learning with hands-on, place-based activities. Plans are underway to refine the program and expand it into more Adams County classrooms.

Sow The Seeds Of Safety

Back-to-School Lessons Launch Across Classrooms



Baldwin 2nd graders play OINKO Bingo



Baldwin 3rd graders participate in a math-based activity

Ag in the Classroom kicked off the new school year with hands-on lessons tailored to each grade level:

Kindergarten: Students learned about apple trees and made a two-sided craft showing seasonal changes—spring blossoms with bees on one side and fall apples on the other.

1st Grade: Most classes explored pumpkins by creating jack-o-lantern crafts with pumpkin life cycle chains inside. Denman Elementary first graders also learned about horses, making horse puppets and a "trail mix" representing a horse's diet.

2nd Grade: Baldwin Elementary students studied pigs through "OINKO Bingo," while St. Dominic students explored dairy by making butter from heavy cream. Other

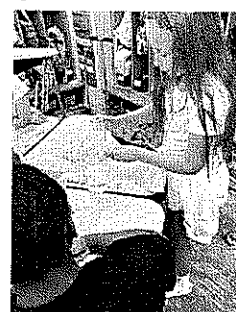


Central 1st graders create jack-o-lantern crafts

second-grade classes learned about pumpkins and made a fall treat—pumpkin pie in a bag.

3rd Grade: All third-grade classes studied apple trees. After a short reading, students participated in a math-based activity simulating how positive and negative factors affect tree health, sparking discussion about how farmers manage orchards.

4th & 5th Grade: St. Dominic fourth graders focused on cotton and its many uses, while



Rooney 5th graders doing a science experiment

other fourth and fifth grade classes investigated corn through a science experiment that made popcorn "dance" in liquids such as water, baking soda, and vinegar.

These early lessons set the stage for a year of engaging, hands-on agricultural learning across Adams County classrooms. Schools that received their first lesson in September are: Baldwin, Central, Denman, Rooney, St. Dominic, and St. Peter.

Illinois Ag in the Classroom Coordinators Meet in Bloomington

On September 23, Illinois Ag in the Classroom (AIRC) Coordinators gathered in Bloomington to review statewide accomplishments and plan for the year ahead. Out of Illinois' 102 counties, 80 have active AIRC coalitions. During the 2024-2025 school year, coordinators delivered 31,233 individual lessons to 643,958 students and 36,335 classroom teachers. In addition, AIRC reached 93,496 community members through events across the state.

The meeting also included the announcement of county coalition grant awards. This year, the IAA Foundation awarded a total of \$647,000 to support county AIRC programs. Locally, Adams County received over \$9,000 in funding.

Teachers are also encouraged to apply for Ag in the Classroom book and project grants, which provide classroom resources to connect agriculture with core curriculum. Applications are due October 17 and can be found at: www.agintheclassroom.org/programs-events/teacher-grants.

**Let's Make
Safety
Our Top Crop**

2025 Agricultural Marketing Summit

Illinois Farm Bureau is looking for members to attend the 2025 Agricultural Marketing Summit Nov. 12-14 in Indianapolis, IN. The summit, which IFB is a sponsor and partner, offers opportunities for networking and learning about new business strategies that can improve the performance of farms and businesses. Participants will find resources for direct marketing for farmers and food businesses, agribusinesses with value-added products and technical assistance providers.

Farm Bureau members interested in attending this year should apply online before Oct. 14. All applications will be reviewed and chosen participants will be contacted. IFB will pay for in-person conference registration, lodging and travel.

For more information, please reach out to Jolene Neuhauser at 309.557.3286 or jneuhauser@ifb.org.



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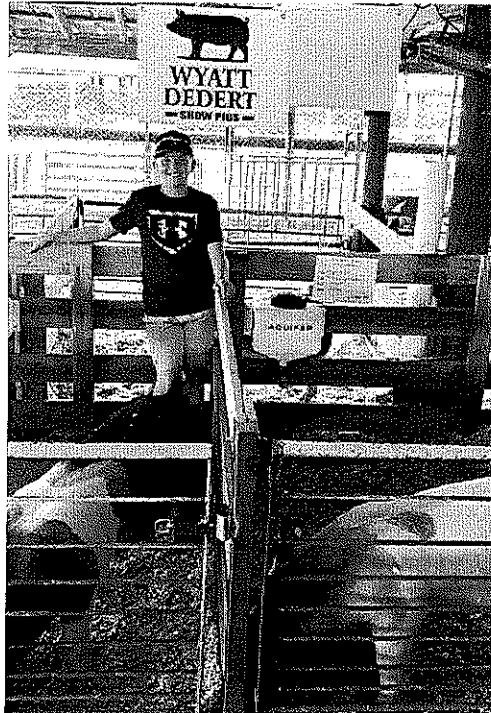
4-H Grants Help Local Youth Grow Skills And Passions



Cole and Jacob Liesen



Zoey Kasparie



Wyatt Dedert

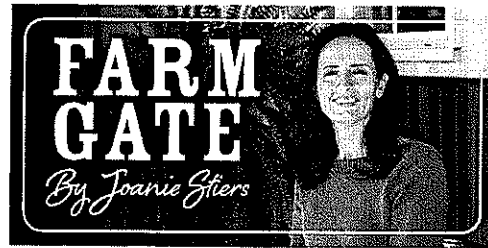
Adams County 4-H members are putting their creativity, responsibility, and hard work into action thanks to support from our local 4-H grant program.

First up is **Zoey Kasparie**, a member of the Burton Flyers 4-H Club, who used her grant to purchase photography equipment. With the right tools in hand, Zoey is sharpening her skills, experimenting with different styles, and capturing unique images. Her early photographs already showcase her talent and passion for detail, and she looks forward to continuing her journey behind the lens.

Brothers **Cole and Jacob Liesen** of the Adams County Beefers are also making the most of their grant opportunities. Cole invested in a 24-inch cattle fan to keep his livestock comfortable and looking their best, while Jacob purchased cattle clippers to improve his show cattle's hair. Both boys are dedicated to learning more about caring for their animals, whether at home on the farm or in the show ring.

Finally, **Wyatt Dedert** of the Ursa Willing Workers 4-H Club used his grant to prepare for his first year showing swine. He purchased hanging feeders and aquifer waterers to ensure proper care for his animals. Wyatt hopes this experience will help him take responsibility and build valuable skills as he begins his livestock journey.

The 4-H grant program is designed to give local youth the resources to explore their interests, develop new skills, and invest in their futures. These young members' projects are shining examples of how 4-H helps shape the next generation of leaders.



Volunteers Keep Villages Vibrant

In a display of small-town spirit difficult to match, about 150 volunteers from our community annually collaborate to deliver a service event that uses homemade, wholesome fun to celebrate agriculture. Children eagerly anticipate the arrival of the Ag Day Festival like Christmas morning, while generations of families gather to enjoy an event that radiates small-town charm and the spirit of service. Admission and ride tickets do not exist. All the activities are free, provided by FFA and 4-H families and supporting groups and donors - from the bale climb and beloved farm chore course to the corn maze, apple peeling and barnyard animal tent. Breakfast is complimentary, slices of homemade pie are offered for donation, and lunch sales help offset festival costs.

The vitality of a rural village is found in its people, and volunteerism gives our town its heartbeat. Unlike cities with quick access to resources and paid staff, our community relies on volunteers as firefighters and first responders. The church pianist, youth sports coaches, and the committee that dresses up downtown for the holidays all serve without pay. Lacking a taxpayer-funded park district, volunteers largely manage our three parks. Volunteers plan community events. And it was skilled volunteers who donated their time and equipment to build the only two playgrounds in town: the school and the park.

In fact, a sign at the entrance to town recognized the latter, a two-story barn playground that in recent years won the Governor's Cup, the state's top honor for volunteerism. That sign epitomizes our belief in instilling an ethic of service in the next generation and teaching them self-sufficiency, a quality often romanticized in media yet lived out daily in our rural life.

Volunteers lead the local 4-H club and Girl Scout troop, the FFA Alumni, parent-teacher group and economic development interests. Our community's Christians volunteer to serve 500 turkey dinners every fall to raise funds for the church's mission projects. Philanthropists revived downtown buildings, bringing a food pantry and restaurant to town. And local leaders founded a community fund designed to build endowed wealth to provide ongoing financial support for area projects.

Many of us hold side gigs as part-time volunteers because we desire to make a difference. But, mentoring youth, reviving storefronts, planning community celebrations, fighting fires and filling the sanctuary with hymns on Sunday ensures that small towns can thrive.



Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase. You should also report any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC or other legal entity.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their Farm Operating Plan on form CCC-902.

To update your records, contact your Adams County USDA Service Center at 217-224-9307.



FALL FOR FARMING!

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1. Publication Title: Adams County Farm Bureau Agri-Newsletter

2. Issue Frequency: monthly

3. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12

4. Issue Date: 10-1-25

5. Annual Subscription Price: \$50

6. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4®): Adams County Farm Bureau, 330 S. 36th, PO Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305-3037

7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not for Mailing): Adams County Farm Bureau, 330 S. 36th, PO Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305-3037

8. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: Annabelle Schaffnit, Adams County Farm Bureau, 330 S. 36th, PO Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305-3037; Editor: Annabelle Schaffnit, Adams County Farm Bureau, 330 S. 36th, PO Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305-3037; Managing Editor: Annabelle Schaffnit, Adams County Farm Bureau, 330 S. 36th, PO Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305-3037

9. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of the Publisher: Adams County Farm Bureau, 330 S. 36th, PO Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305-3037

10. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of the Publisher: Adams County Farm Bureau, 330 S. 36th, PO Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305-3037

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owring or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: ☒ None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates): The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: ☒ Not for profit

13. Publication Title: Adams County Farm Bureau Agri-Newsletter

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2025

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	2,650	2,650
b. Paid Circulation (City, State, and ZIP+4®)	286	286
c. Paid Distribution Outside City, State, and ZIP+4®	2,294	2,294
d. Paid Distribution Outside City, State, and ZIP+4® (Include all paid distribution outside City, State, and ZIP+4®)	0	0
e. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
f. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of b, c, d, and e)	2,580	2,580
g. Free or Nominal Rate Outside City, State, and ZIP+4® (Include all free or nominal rate outside City, State, and ZIP+4®)	0	0
h. Free or Nominal Rate Inside City, State, and ZIP+4® (Include all free or nominal rate inside City, State, and ZIP+4®)	0	0
i. Free or Nominal Rate Outside City, State, and ZIP+4® (Include all free or nominal rate outside City, State, and ZIP+4®)	0	0
j. Free or Nominal Rate Inside City, State, and ZIP+4® (Include all free or nominal rate inside City, State, and ZIP+4®)	0	0
k. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of g, h, i, and j)	0	0
l. Total Distribution (Sum of f and k)	2,580	2,580
m. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers at page 8 of the Instructions to Publishers)	70	70
n. Total (Sum of l and m)	2,650	2,650
o. Paid (Sum of f and k)	100%	100%
p. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
q. Total Paid Free Copies (Sum of f and k)	0	0
r. Total Free Copies (Sum of g, h, i, and j)	0	0
s. Total Free Copies (Sum of g, h, i, and j)	0	0

16. I certify that 95% of all my classified copies (advertisements and proofs are paid above a national price).

17. Publication of Statement of Circulation: ☒ Publication is required; publication of this statement is required. ☐ Publication not required.

18. On October 2025, the result of this publication: ☒ Publication is required; publication of this statement is required. ☐ Publication not required.

19. Signature and Title of Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: /s/ Annabelle Schaffnit

Date: 10-1-25

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

August Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was called to order by President Ben Hugenberg at 7:05 p.m. on August 13, 2025.

Annabelle Schaffnit led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance was taken by Acting Secretary Tim Ellerbrock.

GUESTS: IFB District 9 Director Rick Edwards

Nominating Committee: Danelle Donley

Assistant States Attorney Tim Bass

State Attorney Todd Eyer

Bicentennial Committee Representative Mark Peter

Concerns from members: Board of Directors - no report

The Adams County Farm Bureau Board Directors adjourned the regular Farm Bureau board meeting and convened as the Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation Board.

Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation: Chairman, Tim Ellerbrock

The raffle sales totaled \$7,540.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a referendum declaring Annabelle Schaffnit as Adams County Farm Bureau Manager. The motion carried.

Foundation Grant: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

Commended Annabelle's 4-H project grant highlights on social media.

The Adams County Farm Bureau reconvened the regular Farm Bureau Board Meeting.

FARM BUREAU SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORTS:

The **Secretary's Report** was given by Acting Secretary Tim Ellerbrock.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Secretary's Report for the month of July. The motion carried.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Nathan Parker.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of July. The motion carried.

The **Membership Report** was given by Matthew Duesterhaus.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new members and Membership Report for the month of July. The motion carried.

FARM BUREAU COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

Illinois insurance rate update: the Board and Rick Edwards discussed the rate increases in the Illinois Insurance Industries.

Marketing Committee: Annabelle Schaffnit

Discussed using IFB matching funds to increase the number of radio ads.

Young Farmers Committee: Annabelle Schaffnit

The pedal tractor pulls at the fair and appreciation picnic were a success.

Local Affair Committee: Chairman, Nathan Parker

Mark Peter is searching for help and volunteers for the Bicentennial celebration on September 6 at the Adams County fairgrounds.

Building Committee: Chairman, Bobby Baker

Discussed the rates quoted from banks for financing a new roof.

The new roof is still on schedule for installation sometime this fall.

Viewpoint Committee: Chairman, Tim Ellerbrock - no report

Ag in the Classroom Committee: Chairwoman, Danelle Donley

The AITC tent was a success at the Adams County Fair.

We made \$50 donations to the Quincy Jr. High FFA, Unity FFA, Central FFA and Liberty FFA for helping out the AITC tent.

Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report

Executive Committee: Chairman, Ben Hugenberg

Met on August 6 to set the agenda for the August board meeting.

Fair Committee: Chairman, Alan Ippensen

The booth at the Adams County Fair was well attended. Thanks to everyone who helped at the booth and sold raffle tickets.

Annual Meeting/Appreciation Picnic: Annabelle Schaffnit

We met at Pizza Hut for lunch on August 7 prior to setting up the picnic at Upper Moorman Park.

The picnic was well attended.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

Illinois Soybean Association will hold a meeting at the JWCC Orr Center on August 18 starting at 7:30 a.m.

The Farm Progress Show will be held August 26-28 in Decatur. The Farm Bureau office will have tickets available to purchase.

The Adams County Bicentennial Finale will be held on September 6 at the Adams County Fair Grounds starting at 2 p.m.

JWCC will host a career fair on October 23.

The IAA annual meeting will be at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago on December 6-9. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Brought up the idea of being in homecoming parades.

We need to put up "Slow Down for Farm Equipment" signs around Adams County.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

Received a thank you from the Ladies of Charity for the meat donation.

Received a thank you from Quanada for the meat donation.

Received a thank you from the St. Francis Food Pantry for the meat donation.

Received a thank you from the Barry Food Pantry for the meat donation.

Received a thank you for the Brown County Food Basket for the meat donation.

Received two thank you notes from the Luther Memorial Food Pantry for the meat donation.

Received a thank you from the Salvation Army Food Pantry for the meat donation.

Received a thank you from Mitchell Wilcox for the vocational scholarship.

Received a thank you from Callie Longlett for the 4-H project grant.

OLD BUSINESS:

The NASCAR Cup Race will be held September 7 in Madison, IL. Tickets are available and the cost is \$200 per ticket.

Ben Hugenberg gave a recap on attending the presidents conference.

Discussed purchasing new polo shirts for the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee reported that there were two Directors retiring from the Board. Shane Miller is retiring after 12 years of service and Danelle Donley is retiring after 5 years of service. They each received a gift card for their years of service.

NEW BUSINESS:

The District 9 meeting will be held on August 25 at the Lake Hill Winery in Carthage. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

The next board meeting will be held on September 10, 2025 in the Farm Bureau boardroom starting at 7:15 p.m. The annual meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Ellerbrock,

Acting Secretary

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4-H Winners from the Adams County Fair

GENERAL PROJECTS WINNERS

Livestock Winners

Dogs

Grand Champion Obedience - Grady Norsworthy
Senior Showmanship - Grady Norsworthy
Champion Short Haired Dog - Grady Norsworthy

Beef

Market Classes

Supreme Market Animal - McKenna Davis
Reserve Supreme Market Animal - Jacob Davis

Market Heifers

Grand Champion Market Heifer - Jacob Davis
Reserve Grand Champion Market Heifer - Jenna Starnan
Champion British Market Heifer - Jenna Starnan

Reserve Champion British Market Heifer - Bryce Mixer
Champion Continental Market Heifer - Willow Shaffer

Reserve Champion Continental Market Heifer - Lance Venverthof
Champion Crossbred Market Heifer - Jacob Davis

Reserve Champion Crossbred Market Heifer - Addiley Schmidt
Market Steers

Grand Champion Steer - McKenna Davis
Reserve Grand Champion Steer - Callie Longlett
Champion British Steer - Jacob Liesen

Reserve Champion British Steer - Troy Miller
Champion Continental Steer - Callie Longlett

Reserve Champion Continental Steer - Jacob Davis
Champion Crossbred Steer - McKenna Davis

Reserve Champion Crossbred Steer - Lily Baker
Best 3 Head Market Animals - Adams County Beefers

Second - Adams County Beefers
Third - Burton Flyers
Fourth - Central Adams Firecrackers

Fifth - Payson Progressors
Top 5 Market Heifers

1. Jacob Davis
2. Jenna Starnan
3. Addiley Schmidt
4. Willow Shaffer
5. Lance Venverthof

Top 5 Steers
1. McKenna Davis
2. Callie Longlett
3. Jacob Davis
4. Lily Baker
5. Jacob Liesen

Angus
Champion Angus Female - Lance Venverthof
Reserve Champion Angus Female - Elijah Perry

Best of Class Junior Bull Calf - Brecklyn Barry
Best of Class Fall Heifer Calf - Elijah Perry

Best of Class Late Summer Yearling Heifer - Brody Klauser
Best of Class Early Summer Yearling Heifer - Raeleigh Wolf

Best of Class Early Junior Yearling Heifer - Lance Venverthof
Best of Class Senior Yearling Heifer - Elijah Perry

Best of Class Pair of Heifers - Elijah Perry
Shorthorn

Champion Shorthorn Female - Jenna Starnan
Reserve Champion Shorthorn Female - Jalen Starnan

Best of Class Junior Bull Calf - Parker Schaffnit
Best of Class Junior Heifer Calf -

Raeleigh Wolf

Best of Class Late Summer Yearling Heifer - Parker Schaffnit
Best of Class Early Junior Yearling Heifer - Jenna Starnan

Best of Class Cow/Calf - Parker Schaffnit
All Other Breeds

Champion AOB Female - Ryne Allen
Reserve Champion AOB Female - Elijah Perry

Best of Class Junior Bull Calf - Brecklyn Barry
Best of Class Junior Heifer Calf - Elijah Perry

Best of Class Fall Heifer Calf - Corbin Knox
Best of Class Early Summer Yearling Heifer - Kinsey Baker

Best of Class Early Junior Yearling Heifer - Ryne Allen
Best of Class Senior Yearling Heifer - Raeleigh Wolf

Best of Class Pair of Heifers - Raeleigh Wolf
Best of Class Junior Pair of Calves - Brecklyn Barry

Best of Class Cow/Calf - Elijah Perry
Crossbred

Champion Crossbred Female - McKenna Davis
Reserve Champion Crossbred Female - Danika Shaffer

Best of Class Junior Bull Calf - Wyatt Kill
Best of Class Junior Heifer Calf - Danika Shaffer

Best of Class Spring Yearling Heifer - Raeleigh Wolf
Best of Class Pair of Heifers - Grady Shaffer

Best of Class Cow/Calf Pair - Willow Shaffer
Hereford and Polled Hereford

Champion Hereford Female - Ryne Allen
Reserve Champion Hereford Female - Paige McCaskill

Best of Class Junior Bull Calf - Hadlei Burnett
Best of Class Junior Heifer Calf - Wyatt Kill

Best of Class Early Junior Yearling Heifer - Ryne Allen
Best of Class Senior Yearling Heifer - Montana Kenady

Best of Class Pair of Heifers - Wyatt Kill
Simmental

Champion Simmental Female - Danika Shaffer
Reserve Champion Simmental Female - Cole Liesen

Best of Class Junior Bull Calf - Sawyer Goodwin
Best of Class Junior Heifer Calf - Jacob Davis

Best of Class Late Summer Yearling Heifer - Cole Liesen
Best of Class Early Summer Yearling Heifer - Danika Shaffer

Best of Class Junior Pair of Calves - Jacob Davis
Breeding Beef

Grand Champion Junior Bull Calf - Sawyer Goodwin
Reserve Grand Champion Junior Bull Calf - Jacob Davis

Grand Champion Female Overall - Ryne Allen
Reserve Grand Champion Female Overall - Ryne Allen

Grand Champion Cow/Calf - Elijah Perry
Reserve Grand Champion Cow/Calf - Landon Mowen

Best 6 Head of Breeding Stock
First - Adams County Beefers
Second - Burton Flyers

Third - Payson Progressors
Junior Showmanship - Addiley Schmidt

Reserve Junior Showmanship - Landon Mowen
Intermediate Showmanship - Callie Longlett

Reserve Intermediate Showmanship - Brecklyn Barry
Senior Showmanship - Ryne Allen

Reserve Senior Showmanship - McKenna Davis
Dairy

Ayrshire
Best of Class Fall Yearling Heifer - Bradley Weiman

Best of Class 4 Year Cow - Elaina Weiman
Champion Ayrshire - Elaina Weiman

Holstein
Best of Class Winter Heifer Calf - Nathan Weiman

Jersey
Best of Class Winter Heifer Calf - Olivia Whitlock

Best of Class Senior Heifer Calf - Brandon Whitlock
Best of Class Summer Yearling Heifer - Oliva Whitlock

Best of Class 5 Year Old Cow and Older - Brandon Whitlock
Brown Swiss

Best of Class Winter Heifer Calf - Olivia Whitlock
Best of Class 5 Year Old Cow and Older - Olivia Whitlock

Champion Brown Swiss - Olivia Whitlock
Shorthorn

Best of Class Senior Heifer Calf - Bella Hummel
Best of Class Spring Yearling Heifer - Bryer Hummel

Champion Shorthorn - Bella Hummel
Overall Jr. Champion - Bella Hummel

Overall Sr. Champion - Elaina Weiman
Grand Champion Female Overall - Bella Hummel

Reserve Grand Champion Female - Elaina Weiman
Jr. Showmanship - Nathan Weiman

Sr. Showmanship - Elaina Weiman
Swine

Commercial Breeding Gilt
Champion Lightweight - Justin Cramm

Reserve Champion Lightweight - Evelyn Frazier
Champion Mediumweight - Nolan Corzatt

Reserve Champion Mediumweight - Lynley Corzatt
Champion Heavyweight - Brooklyn Degee

Reserve Champion Heavyweight - Mason Degee
Grand Champion Breeding Gilt - Justin Cramm

Reserve Grand Champion Breeding Gilt - Nolan Corzatt
Market Gilt

Champion Lightweight - Justin Cramm
Reserve Champion Lightweight - Nolan Corzatt

Champion Mediumweight - Braylee Brackensick
Reserve Champion Mediumweight - Cora Frazier

Champion Heavyweight - Justin Cramm
Reserve Champion Heavyweight - Meredith Shaffer

Grand Champion Market Gilt - Justin Cramm
Reserve Grand Champion Market Gilt - Braylee Brackensick

Market Barrow
Champion Lightweight - Justin Cramm
Reserve Champion Lightweight - Meredith Shaffer

Champion Mediumweight - Ryne

Allen
Reserve Champion Mediumweight - Jillian Shaffer
Champion Heavyweight - Evelyn Frazier
Reserve Champion Heavyweight - Dexter Shupe

Grand Champion Market Barrow - Evelyn Frazier
Reserve Grand Champion Market Barrow - Justin Cramm
Junior Showmanship - Nolan Corzatt
Senior Showmanship - Dexter Shupe

Adams County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Barb Baker Chapin

As the combines roll and the days stretch long, harvest season brings both rewards and relentless pressure. For many farmers and farm families, this time of year is a test of endurance - physically, emotionally, and mentally.

While during harvest season the focus is on getting the crop in, it's just as important to check in on your own well-being. Stress, exhaustion, and isolation can pile up like grain in the bin, and if left unchecked, they can take a serious toll.

Here are a few reminders to help you and your loved ones stay grounded during the harvest:

Take short breaks: Even 10 minutes to stretch, breathe, or grab a snack can help one to relax and reset.

Stay connected: A quick call or text to a friend or neighbor can remind you that you are not alone - and that neighbor who is also harvesting, may need to hear that too.

Watch for warning signs: If you or someone you care about is feeling hopeless, overwhelmed, or having thoughts of self-harm, it's time to reach out. There is help available.

Know where to turn: Keep crisis numbers handy. The **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** is available 24/7 - just dial or text 9-8-8 to talk with someone who cares.

Just like your fields need care to yield a good harvest, your mental health needs attention too. This harvest season make space for both productivity and self-care. You matter - your well-being is worth protecting.



Keeping Small Towns Alive

Local businesses are the Heart of Small Towns

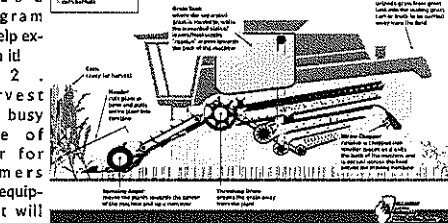
Supporting local businesses is one of the most powerful ways to keep small towns alive and thriving. These businesses are often the heart of the community, offering personalized service, unique products, and a sense of familiarity that big-box stores and online retailers cannot replicate. When residents choose to shop locally, they keep money circulating within the town, which supports jobs, funds public services through taxes, and encourages further investment in the area.

Beyond economics, local businesses contribute to the town's identity and culture. A family-owned restaurant, a handmade goods shop, or a local bookstore often becomes a gathering place and a source of pride for residents. These businesses also tend to give back to the community by sponsoring youth sports teams and youth organizations like 4-H and FFA, participating in town events, and supporting local causes. By choosing to support them, residents are not just making purchases but investing in the future of their town.

Social Media:

1. With harvest season quickly approaching, have you ever wondered how a combine works?

Here's a diagram to help explain it!



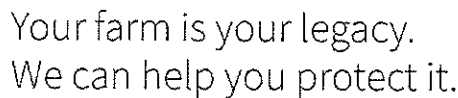
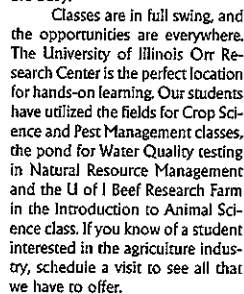
2. Harvest is a busy time of year for farmers and equipment will be moving around more than usual. Be sure to stay alert, go slow, and share the road safely this fall.

3. October is National Pork Month! It takes a lot of moving pieces and people working together to get pork from the farm to your freezer. Check out this snapshot of what that process looks like!

4. Purchasing pork from a local farmer is a great way to shop local and keep your freezer stocked all year long. Here's an idea of how much freezer space you will need to free up before the pick-up date!



By Jody Heavner, Director



Quincy, Illinois 62305 or Call 217-222-7305