

## Adams County Farm Bureau

# Agri Newsletter

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

### FFA Acquaintance Day Promotes Leadership, Community, and Growth in Adams County



On October 14, all five FFA chapters in Adams County came together for FFA Acquaintance Day, an event dedicated to fostering leadership, community connections, and growth among future agricultural leaders. This year's event was hosted at Titan International in Quincy, Illinois, where 60 students had the opportunity to explore one of the area's leading manufacturers and learn how local agriculture connects to global industry.

FFA Acquaintance Day programs are designed to ensure a stronger tomorrow for Illinois agriculture by building relationships between local FFA chapters and County Farm Bureaus. These events often include an introduction to the Illinois Farm Bureau Family of Companies, an overview of Illinois

Farm Bureau operations, and an explanation of how FFA members can stay involved in agriculture and leadership opportunities after high school.

Through cooperative efforts with County Farm Bureaus, local FFA chapters can apply for an Acquaintance Day Grant, which helps subsidize registration fees for the Illinois FFA BUILD Conference which is a leadership experience sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Education in Agriculture Committee. County Farm Bureaus play an important role in sharing details about this grant opportunity with local FFA chapters.

During the tour of Titan International, students were able to see firsthand how agricultural and industrial production intersect. "It's amazing that Titan is such a large

and well-known company around the world, yet they're right here in our community," shared one Mendon-Unity FFA student. Many students expressed awe at the size and scale of Titan's operations and the teamwork required to keep everything running efficiently.

Following the tour, students had the opportunity to engage with Titan employees and hear from Annabelle Schaffnit, Adams County Farm Bureau Manager, who spoke about the Farm Bureau's work at both the state and local levels. She also emphasized the purpose of Acquaintance Day, helping students connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities, while inspiring leadership and community engagement in agriculture.

Events like FFA Acquaintance Day highlight the importance of investing in the next generation of agricultural leaders. By connecting students with industry professionals and local organizations, these programs cultivate curiosity, strengthen community ties, and encourage continued growth in Illinois agriculture.

### Adams County 4-H New Member Pizza Party

We're so excited to welcome all our new 4-H members this year! We hope you and your family can join us and discover what to expect in your 4-H journey, hear stories from current members and leaders, and connect with other new families (and enjoy some pizza!)

Join us on Friday, December 5th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Adams County Extension Office.

We'd love to see at least five new families join us for this special evening – the more, the merrier! It's a great chance to get connected and start your 4-H experience on the right foot.

Register here: [go.illinois.edu/NewMemberPizzaParty](http://go.illinois.edu/NewMemberPizzaParty)

### Adams County Farm Bureau Awards Scholarship to JWCC Student



The Adams County Farm Bureau has once again continued its tradition of supporting local students pursuing agricultural careers by awarding a \$500 scholarship to a John Wood Community College (JWCC) student. This year's recipient is Marissa Bauer, a dedicated student whose passion for animal care and agriculture is helping shape her future.

Marissa is currently pursuing an associate degree in animal science at JWCC, along with earning certificates in Cattle Artificial Insemination (AI) and Beef Management. After completing her studies, she plans to work for a farm or company specializing in cattle AI and livestock care. In the future, she hopes to own her own farm focused on rehabilitating animals and helping other farms in need.

Originally from Quincy, Marissa is a graduate of Quincy High School and currently works as a waitress at Thyme Square Café. When she's not studying or working, she enjoys caring for her many animals: three cats, a dog, three chickens, and a leopard gecko.

Marissa's ultimate goal is to contribute to a healthier planet where both people and animals can thrive. "I want to be part of creating a better environment for everyone: humans and animals alike," she said.

The Adams County Farm Bureau is proud to support students like Marissa who are committed to the future of agriculture and animal welfare.

### Federal R&D Tax Credits Allow Farmers to Review Current & Past Three Tax Years

As the 2025 harvest season begins, farmers may have more than crops to bring in. A recent update to the Federal Research & Development (R&D) Tax Credit—first established in 1981—now allows businesses to review the current tax year plus the *three prior years* for potential savings.

That means eligible farmers, ranchers, wineries, and breweries may qualify for credits on improvements they've already made. These credits can lower taxes owed dollar-for-dollar and, in many cases, generate refunds worth *thousands of dollars* from past tax years.

#### Everyday Farm Practices May Qualify

Many farmers are surprised to learn that common activities meet the definition of R&D, such as: Rotating crops or testing new seed varieties; Adjusting livestock feed or care routines; Installing irrigation systems or drain tile; Refining fertilizer or insecticide use. These aren't unusual projects—they're part of everyday farming. The IRS recognizes them as innovation, and now they can return real money to the farm.

#### Long-Term Benefits

Credits not used immediately can be carried forward for up to 20 years, making them useful for both immediate tax relief and future planning. The review process is simple, and if no credits are found, there is no cost.

#### Complimentary Business Analysis

To find out how much your farm may qualify for, you can book a *Complimentary Business Analysis* with an R&D tax credit specialist.

This no-cost review outlines your potential credits. If savings are identified, you and your tax advisor decide next steps; if not, there's nothing owed.

Farmers and business owners can learn more by contacting R&D advisor Mike Troup at [matroup@adams.net](mailto:matroup@adams.net) or 217-242-7162.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

*Office Closed for  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
November 27th & 28th*



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

By  
**RYAN MEYER**

Right now, a big deal for the economy is the government shutdown. I got this information from Illinois Farm Bureau.

As of Wednesday, October 1, many federal government operations have been suspended after Congress failed to reach an agreement on an appropriations bill before the end of the fiscal year on September 30. A continuing resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives to fund the government through November failed once again in the Senate, causing funding for nearly every federal agency and department to lapse.

Essential employees and those supported by alternative funding sources will remain on the job, while hundreds of thousands of additional federal workers have been furloughed. Most federal employees will not receive pay until Congress passes a funding bill, though they are expected to receive back pay once the shutdown ends.

Republicans, who hold the majority in both the U.S. House and Senate, have insisted on a "clean funding" bill. Meanwhile, Democrats have sought to tie support for a temporary funding measure to the extension of Affordable Care Act premium subsidies set to expire at the end of 2025.

Because of the shutdown,

many U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) service centers are either closed or operating with minimal staff, impacting farmers' access to vital services and programs.

IFB President Brian Duncan is saying "Illinois Farm Bureau urges congressional leadership to come together and find swift resolution to avoid further disruption."

"Many across the country are impacted by shutdowns, including the agriculture industry. Challenges farmers face are further compounded—low crop prices, rising costs, and uncertainty around trade, labor, a new farm bill, and renewable fuels. Payments will be delayed, critical services disrupted, and additional strain placed on already stressed rural communities."

The Illinois Farm Bureau does not endorse any specific legislation but strongly supports efforts to move beyond the current political impasse.

Farmers and rural communities rely heavily on federal programs, and as the shutdown continues, the effects are expected to become increasingly evident. The shutdown also diverts congressional and administrative focus away from key issues affecting agriculture, including trade agreements, renewable fuel policies, and the

next farm bill.

Farmers are unable to apply for new loans through their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, and numerous other USDA programs are on hold. In addition, the shutdown has halted the release of agricultural and commodity data from USDA, leaving farmers without the timely and unbiased market information they depend on for price discovery and risk management.

As the government shutdown continues, uncertainty grows for farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities already facing significant economic challenges.

I hope this ends soon. Also, I hope everyone has a safe end to the harvest season and a happy Thanksgiving.

## Applications Now Available for 2026 Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow

The Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) provides participants with the tools they need to reach their full potential and emerge as leaders in agriculture.

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 7 weekly sessions held across Central Illinois, Springfield, and Bloomington, IL. The 7-week program includes 4 overnight sessions, 2 single-day sessions, and 1 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.ifb.org/alot> and are due by Nov. 14th. For more information about the program visit <https://explore.ifb.org/alot> or contact Adams County Farm Bureau at 217-222-7305 or the IFB Training and Development Department at 309-557-2038.

## 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](mailto: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.



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By **BEN HUGENBERG**,  
PRESIDENT

With all the change that has taken place within Illinois Farm Bureau and our county organization over the past year, I think it's a good time to step back and remind ourselves what this organization is truly about and why it remains so valuable to our members and community.

So, how is Farm Bureau structured? At its core, Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization meaning it is controlled by its members. Every policy, program, and priority begins with the membership.

Members are encouraged to bring their concerns to any director on the county board. From there, it's the responsibility of those directors to raise those issues during county board meetings. If an issue is urgent or time-sensitive, the county president carries it forward to the district director, who in turn brings it to the state board. This process continues all the way to the national level, ensuring that member voices are heard at every step.

Once a year, each county sends delegates to the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting to present resolutions and shape statewide policy. Simply put, the power and control of Farm Bureau rest in its membership. The higher you go within the organization, the more members you represent and the more voices you answer to.

So, what does this structure provide and why does it matter? Its value lies in credibility and influence. When our county leaders, state officers, or national lobbyists speak on behalf of Farm Bureau, those on the other side of the table, often government officials or legislators, know that the issues being discussed come directly from farmers and rural communities.

That authenticity is powerful. It means Farm Bureau's priorities truly reflect the needs and values of its members. Maintaining that grassroots foundation is what keeps our organization strong, respected, and effective.

It's also important to understand the different classes of Farm Bureau membership.

MM Members (Farmer Members): These are individuals who receive farm income and have full rights within the organization, including voting and holding office.

PM Members (Professional Members): These members work in professions directly related to agriculture. They share most membership rights but cannot hold certain elected positions.

A Members (Associate Members): These are non-farming members who voluntarily join to support agriculture and enjoy Farm Bureau benefits. While they do not have voting rights or hold office, their support strengthens the organization and helps amplify the voice of farmers.

You may wonder why we include members who don't have voting rights in a member-controlled organization. The answer is simple and it's in our name. We are the Farm Bureau. Our organization is led and directed by farmers, just as it was designed to be.

At the end of the day, our grassroots foundation is what gives Farm Bureau its strength. It's what allows farmers, the people who live and work in agriculture every day, to have a direct voice in shaping policies that affect their livelihoods.

Our organization exists to serve its members, and because it is member-controlled, it continues to be one of the most effective and respected voices for agriculture at every level—from the county to the national stage.

## COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES Agent of the Month



**CRYSTAL PEAVLER**

## 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 E Hannibal	401	388		1016	990		482	482
CGB Louisiana	418	398		1013	996			
Bunge-SCF GV	413	398						
Maschhoffs	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"

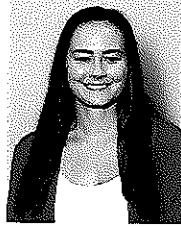


## ADAMS COUNTY COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

### STAFF & OFFICE LOCATIONS

<b>ADAMS COUNTY AGENCY</b> 217-640-5430		331 S. 36th, Suite 4B 217-222-5841	
Jesse Palmer ..... District Leader		Jack Bastert ..... Agent	
330 S. 36th St. 217-222-7304		Lisha Leasman ..... Agent Assistant	
Erica Stephanson ..... Agent		Doug Greenwell ..... Agent	
405 Hampshire St. 217-223-9900		Mary Cannell ..... Agent Assistant	
Crystal Peavler ..... Agent		<b>LIBERTY OFFICE</b>	
405 Hampshire St. 217-936-2120		501 S. Main St. • 217-645-3042	
Casey Casey ..... Agent		Jeff Kroenke ..... Agent	
Kalynn Olson ..... Agent Assistant		<b>CAMP POINT OFFICE</b>	
1932 State Street 217-222-7300		126 E. State St. 217-640-5994	
Erie Ervin ..... Agent		Drew Miller ..... Agent	
		Khaliah Hughes ..... Agent Assistant	

## Notes From The NEW Manager



**Annabelle  
Schaffnit**

This month has absolutely flown by but that's what happens when you're having fun! Over the past few weeks, I've been participating in a four-week nonprofit board development training. We covered everything from bylaws and mission statements to budgets, procedures, and strategic planning. While it might not sound exciting to everyone, I actually enjoyed it. I learned a lot of valuable information including several things no one had ever mentioned to me before!

Right now, I'm preparing for the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago, which takes place each December. For the past three years, I've attended as part of the Collegiate Farm Bureau, but this year will be extra special as it's my first time attending as County Manager. I'm discovering there are quite a few responsibilities that come with that role: coordinating hotel reservations, handling conference registrations, and compiling

delegate information, just to name a few.

Each year, Adams County Farm Bureau sends five delegates to participate in the policy development process. These delegates represent all of our members as they help set the policies that guide how the Farm Bureau interacts with elected officials on legislative and regulatory issues. It's a vital process that ensures the voice of local agriculture is heard.

One of my favorite parts about the Annual Meeting is being in Chicago at the start of December. The city is completely transformed with Christmas lights, decorated trees, and festive window displays everywhere you look. Before you know it, it's Christmas morning and then we're ringing in a brand new year!

Speaking of the new year, we now have 2026 calendars available at the Farm Bureau office! You can choose between editions featuring antique tractors or rustic barns. Feel free to stop by and pick one up. Even though I rely heavily on my Google Calendar, there's still something satisfying about physically crossing off tasks or flipping to a new month. Plus, you'll get to enjoy some great photos!

My own 2026 calendar is already filling up fast with professional development opportunities through Illinois Farm Bureau and local events right here in Adams County.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always happy to help and love being part of this incredible community.



**YOUNG  
FARMERS  
BY  
TREVOR MAIERS  
CHAIRMAN**

It finally decided to cool off this fall, and not a second too soon. I was starting to wonder if we had really left the summer behind! But cooler temps and hopefully harvest winding down, are the true signs that we are moving more towards every cattleman's favorite time of the year: winter. In 6 weeks, I'd be happy with 80-degree weather.

I do not have much this past month to report on Young Farmers, with everyone exceptionally busy in the month of October. We hope to have some events planned for this winter, and report back here on what we plan to do. As always, reach out to Annabelle or I if you are interested in joining Young Farmers or simply want to know more about it. In the meantime, stay warm!

## Archery Club is Coming to Adams County!

Ready... aim... join the fun! The Adams County 4-H Archery Club is forming soon - and we're looking for youth who want to learn the art and discipline of archery.

Under the guidance of certified 4-H instructors, members will learn:

- Safe and responsible bow handling
- Proper shooting form and technique
- Focus, patience, and sportsmanship

Whether you're brand-new or already have experience, there's a place for you! Archery is open to 4-H members ages 8-18.

To get involved or learn more, contact the Adams County Extension Office and ask about joining the 4-H Archery Project.

Come take your best shot - and hit the bull's-eye with 4-H!

Interested? Contact Siera Dueterhaus at 217-223-8380 or email: [snthomps@illinois.edu](mailto:snthomps@illinois.edu) for more info.

Adams County

## Suicide Prevention Coalition

**Barb Baker Chapin**

As the fields quiet down and the days grow shorter, November invites us to reflect—not just on the harvest from our land, but on the harvest within our hearts. Gratitude, especially during this season, is more than a polite gesture or a holiday tradition. It's a powerful tool for mental and emotional well-being.

### The Mental Health Benefits of Gratitude

Scientific studies have shown that practicing gratitude regularly can:

- Reduce stress and anxiety** - Gratitude helps shift our focus away from worries and toward the good in our lives.

- Improve sleep quality** - People who focus on those things for which they are grateful often sleep better.

- Strengthen relationships** - Expressing appreciation builds trust and connection.

- Boost resilience** - Gratitude helps us bounce back from adversity by reminding us of all that we have and what truly matters.

- Enhance overall mood** - A grateful mindset is linked to increased happiness and lower rates of depression.

Farm life is full of unpredictability—weather, markets, and equipment breakdowns. Yet it's also rich with moments worth cherishing - a sunrise over frosted fields, a neighbor lending a hand, the laughter of children in the barn. These small, everyday blessings are the seeds of gratitude. Taking time to notice and appreciate them can be grounding and healing.

Gratitude doesn't erase hardship, but it helps us carry it with more grace. During November may we all find moments to pause, reflect, and give thanks—for the land, the people, and the quiet joys that sustain us.

*Warm Thanksgiving wishes to you and yours*

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



## ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER

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Annabelle Schaffnit - Manager  
Lisa Parker - Bookkeeper/Secretary

President - Ben Hugenberg - Vice President - Ryan Moyer  
Young Farmer's Committee - Trevor Maiers

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**Aladdin  
CLEANING SYSTEMS**



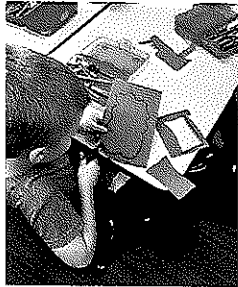
## ADAMS COUNTY'S AG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Kinsey Tiemann, Ag Awareness  
Program Coordinator

### October Ag in the Classroom Lesson Highlights

Throughout late September and October, lessons were delivered to students at Unity, Iles, Lincoln-Douglas, Payson, Blessed Sacrament, St. Francis, Liberty, and Denman schools.

#### Kindergarten



Lincoln-Douglas  
kindergartener

Classrooms that received their first Ag in the Classroom lesson during this time frame learned about apple tree growth. Students identified tree growth in the spring and fall season. This was accomplished through student creating their own apple tree craft showing apple blossoms on one side of the tree during the spring and apple on the other side for fall.

Denman kindergarten students learned about dairy cows during their lesson on October 23rd. Through this lesson, students learned about cow care and how several dairy products made. Students also made their own butter by shaking heavy whipping cream in a small container. Afterwards, students enjoyed their hard work with crackers.

#### 1st grade



Liberty first graders



Denman first grader

All first-grade classrooms learned about pumpkin production this past month. Through these lessons students created their own life cycle chain as they learned about pumpkin growth. Afterwards students decorated a paper plate with the craft to be a jack-o-lantern. Several classrooms in October received an additional surprise as Ben Hugenberg donated mini pumpkins to classrooms learning about pumpkins.

#### 2nd grade

Many second grade classrooms also learned about pumpkins and created pumpkin pie in a bag. Students enjoyed making this snack to connect to the lesson. This was made by mixing vanilla instant pudding mix, milk, pumpkin, cinnamon, and ginger. Plus students loved adding a dollop of whipped cream.

Blessed Sacrament and Denman second grade students learned about dairy production and cow care. Through this lesson, they also explored the three states of matter by making butter. With the

heavy whipping cream starting as a liquid, student shook the container full until they got a solid piece of butter and liquid buttermilk.

Payson second graders kicked off the first Ag in the Classroom lesson by learning about water and the water cycle. After completing a reading, students diagrammed a copy of the water cycle on a plastic bag. Later they added rocks and water to showcase the water cycle within the bag. After taping the bag to the classroom window, students watched the water cycle process start.

#### 3rd grade



Lincoln-Douglas  
third graders



St. Francis  
third graders

Many of the lessons were related to apple production. Students learned how apple trees grow while sharpening their math skills. This was accomplished by students collecting different colored tokens off the floor of the classroom. These colors represented healthy

components of tree growth and unhealthy factors that could hurt the tree. Each color was multiplied to determine the total impact of each environmental factor.

Unity and Denman third grade students learned about pumpkin production in Illinois. Several students did not realize that Illinois grows more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world. As students read through the pumpkin ag mag, students highlighted key facts from the reading to write on orange strips. These were later folded together to make a 3-D pumpkin.

#### 4th and 5th grade



Unity fourth grader

Denman 4th grade students expanded their understanding of Illinois agriculture, famous people, and facts. This was accomplished through team work to quickly read prompts and draw connections to prompts. Unity fourth grade students learned about cotton production through a reading and video of a modern cotton gin. In addition, students received their own cotton boll to dissect by picking out the cottonseed from the cotton lint.

Fifth grade students at Denman completed a pollination activity by dissecting flowers. To begin, students read about the parts of the flower then diagrammed the parts on paper. Afterwards, each student broke apart the parts of an actual flower to deepen their understanding of how flowers are pollinated.

The remaining fourth and fifth grade classrooms completed a science experiment related to corn production. Students first completed a brief reading of corn processing then completed an experiment to showcase how popcorn kernels dance when mixed with water, baking soda, and vinegar. Afterwards, students reported the chemical reaction they witnessed.

### Fall Brings a Season of Change and Reflection

I have always appreciated the fall season as an opportunity to slow down and reflect. This October marked the completion of our first Ag in the Classroom lesson of the school year, and the launch of the second round of lessons across Adams County.

As the fall season continues, new ideas for agriculture education are taking shape. Plans are underway for teacher professional development workshops and adult ag education tours. In the coming months, be on the lookout for announcements about new learning opportunities and events!



### Agricultural Leaders



Application Deadline: November 14, 2025

#### WHY ALOT?

ALOT was started in 1979 as an extensive leadership development program. It has offered more than 1200 participants an opportunity to learn a broad range of process and content skills to enrich their leadership abilities and enhance agriculture's voice in Illinois.



#### 2026 PROGRAM DATES

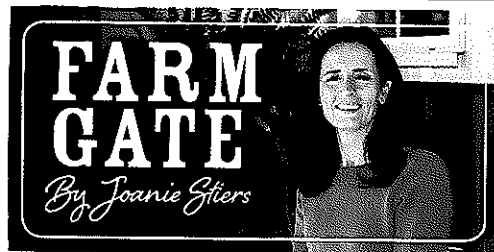
February 3-4 | Effingham, IL  
February 10 | Decatur, IL  
February 17-18 | Springfield, IL  
February 24 | Hillsboro, IL  
March 3-4 | Edwardsville, IL  
March 10 | Zoom  
March 18-19 | Bloomington, IL  
Interview: December 2, 2025 (Zoom)



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## Popcorn Powerhouse IL Top Producer of the State Snack

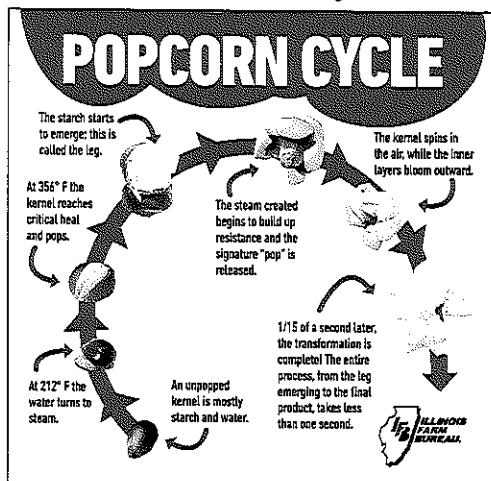
I've never told the giver of the stovetop popcorn popper at our wedding how much use and abuse the whirligig has seen over the past 24 years. We never registered for the gadget, but what an unexpected delight for making kettle corn and movie-theater-caliber popcorn. We loved it so much, I have replaced it twice.

Popcorn turns everyday moments into memories – passing a bucket in the theater, grabbing a bag at a ball game or gathering around a fresh bowl for Fourth of July fireworks. More than 300 Illinois farms keep those memories popping and make Illinois a popcorn power. Our state ranks No. 3 in the production of popcorn, one of three primary types of corn grown in the United States along with sweet corn and field corn, the latter for which Illinois ranks No. 2.

More than 20 years ago, Joliet second and third graders successfully lobbied to make popcorn Illinois' official state snack, a fitting choice. I often grab a bag of popcorn at gas stations during road trips, where the airy crunch helps me stay alert on long drives on the road or in the tractor while planting soybeans. At home, the whole grain is my go-to for curbing nightly cravings: light on calories if you skip the butter and caramel, yet versatile in its forms. Our snack cabinet holds oversized pre-popped bags from the wholesale club, a stash of microwave packets, raw kernels from a local farm and pre-measured pouches for the Whirley Pop.

My mom, the lead curator of memories in our family, intentionally crafts moments that stick in memory banks. In that spirit, she bought a legit popcorn machine you find in concession stands. The popper lives most of the time in our farm's scalehouse at our grain storage facility, where it serves the harvest crew. Truck drivers haul in field corn and scale out with popcorn for themselves and for transport to cart drivers and combine operators.

Occasionally, we transport the popcorn machine to the farm office, where we make popcorn for events. Twice a year, it travels to my house for the overnight parties following prom and homecoming for our kids and their friends. They enjoy fresh-popped corn with a glass-bottled soda that I hope pop up moments worth remembering.



### POPCORN SEASONING

#### Directions

**Step 1**  
In a small bowl, combine the spices for one batch of popcorn.

**Step 2**  
Pop 2-3 cups of popcorn using any method. Unseasoned kernels or lightly buttered microwave popcorn work best.

**Step 3**  
Coat the popped popcorn lightly with melted butter or cooking oil (coconut or avocado), then add the seasonings and shake. A medium sized bowl with a lid is perfect for coating the popcorn in the seasoning.

Leftover popcorn can be stored in an airtight container for up to 10 days.

- Sweet & Savory**  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
1/2 tsp. Buttered Yeast  
1/2 tsp. Granulated Sugar
- Cinnamon-Sugar**  
1/2 tsp. Cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. Brown Sugar
- Savory Blend**  
1/2 tsp. Nutritional Yeast  
1/2 tsp. Onion Powder  
1/2 tsp. Old Salt
- Spicy**  
1/2 tsp. Paprika  
1/2 tsp. Onion  
1/2 tsp. Red Pepper Flakes
- Cheesy**  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
1/2 tsp. Cheese Powder or Nutritional Yeast
- Herb Blend**  
1/2 tsp. Dried Basil  
1/2 tsp. Dried Oregano  
1/2 tsp. Dried Parsley  
1/2 tsp. Dried Thyme

## Youth Leadership Academy Launches with Energy, Excitement, and a Vision for Growth

The 2025-2026 Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is officially underway—and what a start it's been! Thirty-six high school juniors from Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties gathered at John Wood Community College for the first of five monthly sessions designed to help them grow as leaders, collaborators, and changemakers in their communities.

The kickoff session focused on team-building and self-discovery through the Real Colors personality assessment. Students explored their unique strengths and gained insight into how others think, communicate, and lead. The day wrapped up with high-energy community-building activities led by Mindy Pfeiffer from Western Illinois University, leaving students energized and eager for what's next. As one participant put it, "We all had so much fun and can't wait for the next event!"

YLA is more than a leadership program—it's a launchpad for personal growth and future success. Over the next few months, participants will dive into a variety of experiences designed to build confidence, expand career awareness, and foster civic engagement. November's session will feature professional headshots, career exploration, and a conversation with Chris Duer of Muddy River Sports, who will share insights on passion, navigating life's transitions, and the power of networking.

In December, students will take the Strengths Finder assessment and meet with local and state legislators to better understand how their strengths can be used to influence change. January's session will focus on community involvement and service, while February will bring the program to a close with a tour of Dot Foods, a career panel, and a graduation celebration.

Thanks to the generous support of the Tracy Family Foundation through their Youth Leadership Grant, YLA continues to be a meaningful and accessible opportunity for young leaders across our region. Participants often highlight the program on college applications, scholarship



**Laughter and teamwork filled the air as YLA participants took part in outdoor community-building activities designed to spark connection and build trust - setting the tone for a dynamic five-month leadership journey.**

essays, and resumes—and more importantly, they leave with a deeper understanding of themselves and their potential.

If you're a high school sophomore—or know one—who's curious about leadership, passionate about making a difference, or simply looking to grow, keep an

eye out for next year's enrollment Applications for the 2026-2027 YLA cohort will open in late summer 2026.

We're just getting started, and we can't wait to see what this incredible group of students accomplishes.

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New BULLDOG!



## ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### September Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was called to order by President Ben Hugenberg at 7:30 p.m. on September 10, 2025.

Annabelle Schaffnit led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Attendance was taken by Secretary Brad Duncan.

**GUESTS:** IFB District 9 Director Rick Edwards

**Nominating Committee Chairwoman** Danelle Donley

**ELECTIONS WERE HELD FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Ben Hugenberg was elected

for Adams County Farm Bureau President.

Ryan Meyer was elected for Adams County Farm Bureau Vice-President.

Brad Duncan was elected for Adams County Farm Bureau Secretary.

Nathan Parker was elected for Adams County Farm Bureau Treasurer.

Tim Ellerbrock was elected for 5th member of the Adams County Farm Bureau Executive Committee.

**Concerns from members:** Board of Directors

A member said the new deer nuisance law has been hard to deal with. Manager Annabelle Schaffnit is getting some answers for concerned member.

The R & D Tax Credit for Small Businesses can be used by farmers.

Members want us to bring in a guest speaker to speak about the legal side of transitioning the farm down to the next generation.

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 - no report

**Foundation Grant:** Chairman, Ryan Meyer

A motion was made and seconded to approve four 4-H grant projects for \$200 each. The motion carried.

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 Secretary Brad Duncan.

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

The **Membership Report** given by Ben Hugenberg.

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

**FARM BUREAU COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Legislative Committee:** Chairman, Ryan Meyer

There is a class action lawsuit against Cargill, JBS, Tyson and National Beef.

**Marketing Committee:** Chairman, Brad Duncan

We paid 50% of processing for five hogs.

**Young Farmers Committee:** Chairman, Trevor Maiers

Annabelle and Trevor at-

tended a collegiate farm bureau meeting at WLU on September 9.

A Saint Louis Cardinal game was proposed for June 2026 to help gain new members.

**Local Affair Committee:** Chairman, Nathan Parker

Road construction in Quincy could make getting around for harvest tough.

**Building Committee:** Chairman, Bobby Baker

We have not had a response from Ameren Illinois about getting new light fixtures through the Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program.

Discussed the rates quoted from banks for financing the new roof. A motion was made to get a seven-year \$70,000 loan at United Community Bank. The motion failed.

The motion was amended to a five-year \$45,000 loan at United Community Bank with collateral being funds invested at Edward Jones. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended motion. The motion carried. Ryan Meyer voted nay and Grant Huber did not cast a vote.

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.

AITC Coordinator Kinsey Tiemann will visit all classrooms by October 16 and see 1,651 students.

**Public Relations Committee:** Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report

**Executive Committee:** Chairman, Ben Hugenberg

Met on September 3 to set the agenda for the September board meeting.

**Fair Committee:** Chairman, Alan Ippensen - no report

**Annual Meeting/Appreciation Picnic:** Grant Huber

We received and paid the invoice from the Adams County Cattle Association for cooking pork at the picnic.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

The FYE 063025 audit report was reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the audit report. The motion carried.

Goals were presented to the Board. A motion was made and seconded to approve the goals. The motion carried.

IWCC will host a career fair on October 23.

Representative Kyle Moore's Golf Experience will be held on October 2 at the Knights of Columbus.

Annabelle and Ben were in Liberty's homecoming parade on September 6. Their truck/float won 3rd place. We will plan to participate in other parades held in Adams County.

"Slow Down for Farm Equipment" signs were put up around Adams County.

IWCC will have a Board Member Training course beginning September 30.

The Board approved the Adams County Farm Bureau website.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

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

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

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

Received a thank you from the Neighborhood Federation for the meat donation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The NASCAR Cup Race was on held September 7 in Madison, IL.

Reviewed the District 9 meeting which was held on August 25 at the Lake Hill Winery in Carthage.

The Adams County Bicentennial event was held September 6 at the Adams County fairgrounds. Approximately 7,000 people attended the event.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Delegates for the 2025 IAA annual meeting were elected: Ben Hugenberg, Brad Duncan, Dustin Speckhart, Eli Gronewold and Grant Huber. Alternates are Tim Ellerbrock and Nathan Parker.

There are new candidates for IFB president and vice-president.

The next board meeting will be held on October 8, 2025 in the Farm Bureau boardroom starting at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Brad Duncan, Secretary

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Adams County

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You will find helpful information regarding what to do if you or a loved one is struggling with depression and/or suicidal thoughts, as well as helping resources in the area

## Rural Road Safety

during harvest season

1. Remain Alert
2. Watch for Slow-Moving Vehicles
3. Be Patient
4. Slow Down
5. Maintain a Safe Following Distance
6. Pass With Caution
7. Share the Road Safely



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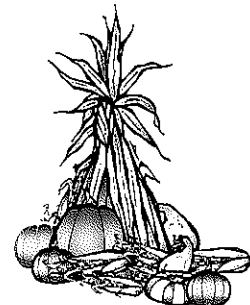
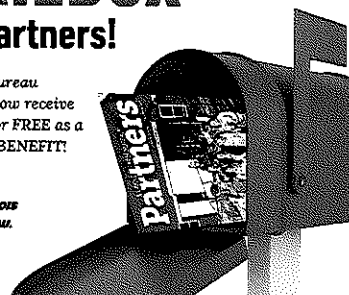
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## JWCC Agriculture Department Update

By Jody Heavner, Director



Students checking hoop nets



Students touring WIU facilities

At JWCC, we pride ourselves on offering valuable educational activities to our students. This month I would like to highlight the classroom opportunities that are integrated into our curriculum. Hands-on learn-

ing is preparing our students for the work force and the next step in their educational journey. Our faculty continue to offer valuable and unique opportunities for our students. These opportunities

wouldn't be possible without our industry and educational partners. Students in the Natural Resource and Conservation Management program recently had the opportunity to travel to Havana, IL to the IL Natural History Survey's Illinois River Biological Station. The visit allowed students to experience the activities completed by those who work as an aquatics and fisheries technician. Students were exposed to different fish sampling methods, checked hoop nets and observed electrofishing as well as learning about a variety of fish and turtle species collected. The students also visited the nation's largest wetland restoration projects while visiting The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve.

Students in the Swine Skills class recently traveled to Western Illinois University in Macomb for a tour of their facilities and training. JWCC students had the opportunity to work with WIU staff to gain experience performing artificial insemination in swine. This opportunity was designed for our Animal Science and Swine Science Certificate students to gain practical, hands-on knowledge needed in the industry.

Our Soil Science class was able to tour Timewell Drainage Products and gain insight into a part of the industry that provides valuable service to those in production agriculture. It was a tremendous opportunity for students

## We Want To Hear From Our Readers

If you have letters to the editor, which you would like to appear in this paper concerning agricultural related topics, we be interested in hearing from you. Please limit your letters to 300 words and a name and address must accompany each letter to be published. All letters are subject to editing.

The Adams County Farm Bureau reserves the right to reject any letter. No political endorsements will be published. A daytime phone number is required for verification; however, the number will not be published. You may email your letters or comments to [acfb@adams.net](mailto:acfb@adams.net) or send them to Adams County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305.



Students touring Timewell Drainage Products

to learn how drainage systems are designed and constructed as well as the impact of technology and engineering on soil and water management as well as productivity.

Students in the Vet Technology class have been learning about livestock diseases and the importance of biosecurity. The time has also come for them to Job Shadow a veterinarian to gain a greater understanding of the day-to-day operations of their operations.

Our students continue to travel and compete representing the JWCC Ag Program. The Livestock Evaluation Team has found great success this fall and continues to take advantage of opportunities that expose them to a variety of agriculture production settings. As always, we welcome visitors and would be happy to answer any questions. Feel free to reach out to us at 276-41-4236 or [ag@jwcc.edu](mailto:ag@jwcc.edu).



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## ... FREE CLASSIFIED ADS ...

- 1) Members may run non-commercial classified ads free of charge.
- 2) Advertisements will be accepted on a first-come first serve basis.
- 3) Ads must be in the Farm Bureau office by the 15th of each month to appear in the next month's issue.
- 4) We reserve the right to refuse any or all ads.

## FOR SALE

Killbros 385 gravity wagon, 14-ton running gear, 10.00+20 truck tires. Call 217-779-1475.

Farm to lease 50/50, 15 tillable acres in Richfield Township located on the county line. Call 217-257-3183.

2 well-made dog houses, one small for dog or cat, \$75, one for larger Labrador size dog, \$200. Call 217-440-1446.

1997 Ford Taurus, good condition, clean. Call 217-222-6688.

Pittsburgh 1-ton shop crane (cherry picker) from Harbor Freight (barely used), \$269.99 new - \$125. Call 217-645-3321.

Iris bulbs for sale. Call 217-224-6296.

Free farm cats. Call 217-696-2423.

This section is for members to advertise an item that they have for sale and is intended to be for a specific item. This is not for a service or ongoing business venture, but a one-time selling opportunity. This space is not to advertise community events or fundraisers either.

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