

Adams County Farm Bureau

Agri Newsletter

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

Delegates Debate Policy at IAA Annual Meeting



Right to Left: Adams County Delegates Ben Hugenberg, Grant Huber, Dustin Speckhart, Brent Clair, and Eli Gronewold

Illinois Farm Bureau's traditional grassroots process was on full display during the organization's 2025 Annual Meeting as 324 voting members considered and adopted new policy on topics such as land use and farmland preservation, development of new uses and new markets, labor and more.

Members gathered at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago Dec. 6-8 to celebrate the year's successes and introduce new policies that will guide the organization over the next year. In total, voting members debated and approved 36 policy submittals.

Policy highlights include:

New policy language calling for opposition to the development of data centers, cryptocurrency mining operations, and similar facilities if they decrease the reliability of the electric grid, increase the cost of electricity to the rural community, or have the potential to deplete aquifers that communities depend on.

Support for expanding consumer and wholesale market

opportunities for Illinois poultry producers to process on the farm at USDA/FSIS limits. Support for retailers to increase the availability of Illinois-grown products and IDOA advertising directly to consumers to purchase Illinois-grown products.

A new subheading on 'Specialty Crops' calling for expanding the size and scope of specialty crop insurance tools, a permanent structure to deliver emergency economic assistance, expanding and permanent various direct purchase and procurement programs, support for industry research and grant programs that promote new agronomy practices and technologies, partnerships among industry participants, infrastructure development, and the adoption of on-farm value-added activities.

New policy language supporting H-2A Work Program Administration calling for clarity in H-2A regulations and administration, streamlining the application process to support electronic application filing, employers filing a single application for labor needs, even if needs are staggered throughout the year.

\$1,500 Scholarship Available for Vocational/Technical Program

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to announce the 2nd year for the Vocational/Technical scholarship. It is designed for those students entering a vo-tech program where they will concentrate on a skill set suitable for the workforce. Typically, these are certificate programs with a shorter duration than a typical associate or bachelor's degree.

This will allow a student to become skilled and be part of the local community workforce. Agriculture is dependent on skilled labor in a variety of fields in order to help out community.

Applications will be available January 5th from the Adams County Farm Bureau office and/or their website (adamscountfarmbureau.org), email acfbmanager@adams.net, High School Academic Counselors, and FFA advisors. They will be due to the Adams County Farm Bureau office by 4:00 p.m. March 31st and scholarship winners will be announced April 17th.

Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is Offering \$1,500 Scholarships

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation has been blessed with generous donations from our membership. The Foundation Board of Directors has agreed to offer 4 - \$1,500 scholarships. It is the board's intention based on qualified applicants to award (2) scholarships to graduating seniors and (2) scholarships to graduates already pursuing a degree.

These scholarships are awarded on the bases of exceptional scholastic ability and/or financial need. Applications must be an Adams County Farm Bureau member, spouse of a member, or child of a member (minimum of 1 year). More detailed qualifications and criteria are on application.

Applications will be available January 5th from the Adams County Farm Bureau Office or on their website (adamscountfarmbureau.org), email acfbmanager@adams.net, High School Academic Counselors, or FFA advisors. They will be due to the Adams County Farm Bureau office at 4:00pm March 31st and scholarship winners will be announced April 17th.

Summer Intern Applications Now Open

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is excited to offer a Summer Internship Program once again for 2026! This opportunity is open to students who have completed at least one year of college and are current Adams County Farm Bureau members or dependents of members.

The internship is expected to run from mid-May through August 1, totaling approximately 300 hours. While most work will take place in the office at 330 S. 36th St., Quincy during regular business hours, some evening and weekend availability will be required especially during the Adams County Fair and the Locally Grown Farmers Market season.

About 75% of the internship will support our Ag Literacy program, with the remaining 25% devoted to Farm Bureau initiatives, projects, and assisting with 4-H programming. This hands-on experience provides valuable exposure to agricultural education, community outreach, and organizational leadership.

Applications open December 1 and are due by February 1, 2026. An interview process will follow to select the candidate best suited for the position.

To apply, email acfbmanager@adams.net with "Internship Application" in the subject line, and we will send you the application form. You can also download it directly from our website at adamscountfarmbureau.org under the Foundation tab.

Happy
New Year



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

BY BEN HUGENBERG,
PRESIDENT

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. With a new year, we bring renewal, a reset. It allows us a point to start over and say, 2025 is in the past and 2026 is the future.

We can look at this from our farm operations. If 2025 was not a great financial year, we have hope that 2026 will be better. We make changes and learn from the prior years to give us the best chance at doing so. We have hope.

If the year prior has been plagued with difficult personal issues, from health to relationship breakdowns, or even at its worst the death of a friend or family member, the new year brings us the hope of better times. A point where we can prioritize our health and make changes for the better, rebuild those old relationships on new foundations or simply build new relationships all together. It also allows us a point to come to terms with things that we cannot change. In the situation of the passing of someone we care about, we can pray and hope that now they are and forever will be at peace and free of all burdens this world has.

We also must reflect on the good things that have occurred in prior years. Possibly a new relationship took root, a friendship that will last for years to come. A new business has started, although it may have been a difficult year maybe it was a fulfilling one. Maybe you got a new pet, a new puppy who will be your best friend for the years to come or maybe, you are now part of a brand new individual, there was a birth. Children change the lives of all they touch with happiness.

The new year is a reset, a fresh start. It is a time for reflection and a time for assessment. A time to set goals and develop a plan to be able to achieve them. It is a reminder that we have completed one more trip around the sun and a simple reminder that those trips are not infinite.

As well as ourselves, we can reflect on the businesses and organizations we are in and apply the same logic, reflect and plan to make better. In the Illinois Farm Bureau we have seen several leadership changes, from different individuals on the board all the way to the President. The membership has made a change and now we must hope, strive, and work for betterment.

Merry Christmas and I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

IAA Foundation Offers Scholarships To Support Agriculture

More than \$340,000 in scholarships are available for agriculture students through the IAA Foundation.

"Offering scholarships that encourage students to explore degrees in agriculture related fields is a privilege," said Jennifer Smith, IAA Foundation development manager. "It is imperative that future agriculture leaders receive financial support so they can focus on their education and begin to build their career in agriculture."

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members, spouses and dependents are eligible to apply for college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm.

Applications are now open for a variety of financial awards including the newly created Gene A. Daiber Scholarship, J. Lloyd and Elizabeth Broadbush Jones Scholarship, Joe and Sue Summerville Scholarship, Kenneth and Kay Engle Agriculture Scholarship, Pat Oaks Memorial Scholarship, and Paul Meints Scholarship. Additionally, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of Prairie Farms Dairy, Illinois Pork Producers Association and several family scholarships established to honor legacies and loved ones.

Scholarships are awarded based on involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, academic performance, leadership experiences and an essay. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the individual scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available at www.iaafoundation.org. Applications must be completed online by February 15. For more information, contact Adams County Farm Bureau by emailing acfbmanger@adams.net, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or email Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ilfb.org.



WATCH YOUR MAILBOX for Partners!

All Farm Bureau members now receive Partners for FREE as a MEMBER BENEFIT!



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

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

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

By
RYAN MEYER

2025 in the books: A drier than normal spring, feeder calves hit a new high, great wheat yields, followed by a wet July, record high live cattle, high expectations for corn and soybean yields, falling grain prices, then dry August, combine start rolling, dry September, grain prices fall even lower, warm October, dry conditions, harvest starting to wrap up, fall fertilizer and tillage hit full on mode, Thanksgiving, snow and cold for 20+ days, IAA annual meeting, heat wave, Christmas, 2025 gone in a flash.

Yes, a lot has happened in 2025. Looking back just a few weeks ago at the IAA annual meeting delegate session in Chicago, policies and bylaws were vigorously debated as they should be (sculpting new policies and finetuning old to fit the path and beliefs of Illinois Farm Bureau members). Differing opinions were evident on the floor as some policies made the normal 'Yes' or 'No' vote too close to call requiring a standing vote. Then, with an amendment to the agenda, voting was underway for President and the Vice President. Philip Nelson came away with the victory for President while Evan Hultien held on to Vice President. According to Philip Nelson's campaign speech, he would like to take the Illinois Farm Bureau organization on a different path moving forward. It will be interesting to see how he incorporates his ideas into the current agricultural landscape, as he has been a past Illinois Farm Bureau President.

If 2026 follows suit, it will also pass in a flash. I hope everyone took time to reflect on all the blessings God has given us in 2025. 2026 will have highs and lows just like every other year, but as an eternal optimist, I think it will be the best year ever for agriculture.

Quincy Area Chamber Now Accepting Nominations for 2026 Ag Awards

The Quincy Area Chamber is excited to announce that nominations are now open for the 2026 Agribusiness of the Year Award and the Larry Fischer Ag Educator of the Year Award. The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026, and winners will be honored at the annual *Quincy Area Chamber Ag Banquet presented by Compeer Financial*, scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

These prestigious awards recognize excellence in the agricultural industry and education while building awareness of agriculture's vital role in the Quincy area.

Bruce Guthrie, President/CEO of the Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce, shared: "As a Chamber, we are honored to recognize excellence in agriculture. By opening nominations, we're asking the community to help us identify the outstanding businesses and educators shaping the future of ag in our region."

Agribusiness of the Year Award

This award is open to businesses of any size within a 50-mile radius of Quincy that demonstrates:

- Strong ties to the agricultural community.
- A record of community involvement.
- Excellent customer service.
- Use of modern business practices.

Membership in the Chamber is not required to be eligible.

Larry Fischer Ag Educator of the Year Award

This award recognizes an outstanding educator within a 50-mile radius of Quincy who has:

- Strong connections to the agricultural community.
- Made a significant impact in the classroom and beyond.
- Inspired students through innovative teaching and outreach efforts.

Eligible nominees include current or past high school and college teachers, ag literacy educators, and professionals who work directly with producers. Nominations should highlight the educator's work and its effect on students and the community.

How to Submit Nominations

Nomination forms and additional details can be found at: <https://www.quincychamber.org/agriculture/>

The mission of the Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce is to *Connect Members, Advocate for Business, and Promote the Community.*

ADAMS COUNTY COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

STAFF & OFFICE LOCATIONS

ADAMS COUNTY AGENCY	331 S. 36th, Suite 4B
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217-222-7304	Doug Greenwell Agent
Erica Stephenson Agent	Mary Cannell Agent Assistant
405 Hampshire St.	LIBERTY OFFICE
217-936-2120	501 S. Main St. • 217-645-3042
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1932 State Street	126 E. State St.
217-222-7300	217-640-5994
Eric Ervin Agent	Drew Miller Agent
	Khalesh Hughes Agent Assistant

Notes From The Manager



Annabelle Schaffnit

Merry Christmas! I have officially completed my first Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA) Annual Meeting as manager, and what an experience it was.

In the weeks leading up to the meeting, preparation was in full swing. Making sure all the paperwork was in order, conference registrations were correct, and hotel reservations were booked for the right nights was, to put it lightly, stressful. I may have panic-called Shawn about four times. Over the past six months, I've learned that Shawn and I approach things very differently. He's very much a "go with the flow" kind of guy, while I like to have everything planned out and be prepared for every possible scenario. So, when I called him two days before heading to Chicago and he said, "Well, if you forget something, just buy it up there," that was definitely not the reassurance I was looking for!

Thankfully, once we arrived in Chicago, everything went smoothly. The meeting itself was a breeze, and I'm happy to report that I didn't have to run to the store for a single forgotten item.

While in Chicago, Shawn was officially recognized as a retiree. He walked across the stage as Illinois Farm Bureau shared a wonderful video highlighting his career, complete with mentioning his love for golf and baseball. After the session,

the Adams County group and our elected officials gathered at Harry Caray's to celebrate Shawn's retirement one last time. Joining us were State Representative Kyle Moore, State Representative C.D. Davidmeyer, State Representative Nonie Hammond, and State Senator Jill Tracy. I am truly grateful for the strong relationships we have with these leaders and for their genuine concern for the challenges our local farmers face.

This year was also my first time experiencing delegate session. Delegate session is when representatives from all counties come together to debate and discuss policy changes and resolutions proposed throughout the year. One discussion, focused on agricultural education at the college level, lasted nearly two hours. I'm not exaggerating! I had no idea just how passionate farmers are about these issues, and it was inspiring to witness their commitment to shaping the future of agriculture.

As we wrapped up annual meeting, it hit me that I've already been in this position for six months. I've often heard the saying that the days are long, but the years fly by, and now I truly understand it. I'm still learning something new every day, and that's one of the things I love most about this job. No two days are the same. I never know what question will be on the other end of the phone or who might walk through the door with a story about knowing one of my grandpas from years ago. In those moments, I usually respond with, "Yep, I'd believe it," or "Oh my gosh, Grandpa," followed by an eye roll.

As we head into a new year, I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve Adams County Farm Bureau, for the support and mentorship I'm receiving, and for the people who make this organization so special. I'm excited to continue learning, growing, and working on behalf of our members in the months ahead. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER

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Annabelle Schaffnit - Manager
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Young Farmer's Committee - Trevor Maiers

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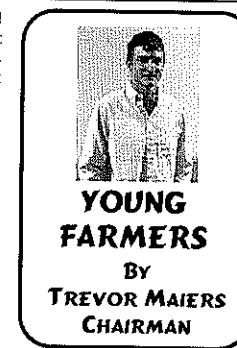
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YOUNG FARMERS
BY
TREVOR MAIERS
CHAIRMAN

Happy New Year Farm Bureau! I hope you find 2026 in good health and spirits, and you have updated your New Years Resolutions from last year. God only knows what 2026 will have in store for anyone involved in American agriculture, but, onward we go. Challenges will be plenty, but the opportunities can be few and far between. So, my New Years Resolution is to keep everything in perspective, control the controllables, and have a well-prepared steak occasionally. Is that going to stop our President from trying to kill the price of live cattle? No, but it's out of our hands now. Let us all hope for President Trump's resolutions, he resolves to never tweet about American agriculture in an attacking fashion.

On our Young Farmer agenda, we do have the Young Leaders Conference in East Peoria on February 6th-7th. Reach out to Annabelle or I for more information, and we can register you and your family to attend. Registration deadline for this conference is Jan 2nd. More information and the agenda is on Adams County Farm Bureau Facebook page. We had a great crowd last year from Adams County, and we are looking forward to having a fun, engaging group again this year. Look for more information coming on activities for this summer!



Barb Baker Chapin

The New Year doesn't arrive on the farm with fireworks and confetti. It comes quietly—often in the cold, in the dark, and with chores that don't stop just because the calendar turns. The New Year, however, offers something valuable - a chance to pause, reflect, and begin again. During this time of reflection, many of us resolve to make changes in our lives - some resolve to lose weight, some resolve to quit smoking or to eat healthier.

A resolution isn't about dramatic change or perfection. It's simply a decision to move forward with intention. Research shows that people who set goals are more likely to make positive changes than those who don't. Writing down a resolution increases the likelihood of following through, because it gives the brain a clear direction and a sense of purpose. Even modest goals - such as improving sleep, scheduling regular family meals, or setting aside time each week for planning - can reduce stress and improve overall well-being.

For farm families, resolutions can offer something especially important - control in an unpredictable profession. Weather, markets, and livestock health are often beyond one's influence. But choosing one or two realistic goals - personal, family, or farm-related - can restore a sense of control and momentum.

Studies suggest that people who regularly reflect on their goals experience greater motivation and resilience, both of which are essential in agriculture. The key to success in creating resolutions is to keep them practical and kind. Big, sweeping promises tend to fade quickly. Smaller goals that fit into daily routines are far more likely to stick. Progress, not perfection, is what builds lasting change.

New beginnings don't have to be loud to be powerful. Sometimes, they begin quietly—with a decision, a hope, and a fresh page on the calendar.

Happy New Year!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
2025-2026	E	C	O	E	A	E	A	P	A	U	U	U
District I	P	T	V	C	N	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G
Brad Duncan	X		XX									
Luke Muegge	X	B	XX									
Tim Ellerbrock	X	O	X									
Matthew Duesterhaus		A										
Nathan Parker	X	R	X									
Brent Clair	X	D	XX									
District II			M									
Jered Peter	X	E	X									
Bobby Baker	X	E	X									
Scott Venvertloh	X	T	X									
Kent Dooge	X	I	X									
Alan Ippensen	X	N	XX									
Dustin Speckhart	X	G	X									
District III			C									
Rob Hyer	X	A	XX									
Justin Oberling	X	N	XX									
Jonathan Willer	X	C	X									
Grant Huber	X	E	X									
District IV			L									
Jacob Schmidt	X	D	XX									
Madelyn Thompson												
Eli Gronewold	X		XX									
Jon Myers			X									
Brandon Niekamp			XX									
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ADAMS COUNTY'S AG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Kinsey Tiemann, Ag Awareness Program Coordinator

Adams County Ag in the Classroom Wraps Up Classroom Visits for 2025

This past year has brought continued growth for Ag in the Classroom and students served. Through continuously building relationships in the Adams County schools, more teachers/classrooms have been engaged in lessons. Several new classrooms have signed up for agriculture lessons in the 2025-2026 school year. From the first semester, 398 lessons have been delivered to 3,971 youth in Adams County.

Last November and December lessons included classrooms at Unity, St. Francis, Blessed Sacrament, Iles, Liberty, and Lincoln-Douglas Elementary Schools.

3rd Grade



Lincoln-Douglas third graders

A majority of the third-grade students learned about pizza ingredients and where they came from in agriculture. This built a conversation around supply chain and processing. Afterwards, students made mini pizzas using a hamburger bun, pizza sauce, pepperoni, and cheese.

Unity third grade students' lesson was developed around apple production and multiplication practice. This lesson provided a quick reading about the nutritious value of apples partnered with an activity to understand beneficial vs. harmful factors for tree growth. Both good and bad factors were represented by colored tokens. Without moving their feet, students were tasked with picking up these tokens and calculating the overall health of their tree by multiplying the quantity students gathered.

5th Grade - Iles & Lincoln-Douglas

The fifth-grade students at Iles and Lincoln-Douglas deepened their understanding of how Illinois was formed by glaciers. This lesson provided a brief reading for students along with a discussion of topography and glacier maps. Afterwards, students diagrammed the state using clay and label parts of the map and its relation to agriculture.

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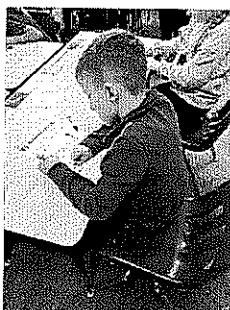
Kindergarten



Unity Kindergarten



Blessed Sacrament Kindergarten



Iles Fourth Grade

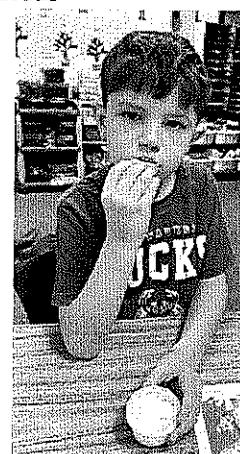


Unity Fourth Grade

2nd Grade

Blessed Sacrament second grade students celebrate Illinois pumpkin production during their December lesson. Students first read about Illinois pumpkin production in a junior agriculture magazine. While students completed a pumpkin coloring page, ingredients were mixed to make pumpkin pie in a bag. This yummy snack was a pleasant treat for students to enjoy with a dollop of whipped cream.

The rest of the second-grade classroom during December learned about dairy cattle and milk production. In the first part of the lesson, student completed a reading related to dairy cattle care. Afterwards students watched a quick video of a dairy farm and their milking machine to understand the technology used on dairy farms. Simultaneously, students shook a container of heavy whipping cream to make butter as a snack with crackers.



Liberty Second Grade

Several fourth-grade classrooms learned about Illinois soils. This lesson provided a deeper understanding of soil layers and how different soil depths impact how it's used in agriculture. For example, Illinois soils have a deeper profile that is better suited for crops while the western United States has better soil for livestock.

Unity fourth grade students completed a reading about specialty crops grown in Illinois throughout the year. Afterwards, there was a classroom discussion around what parts of the plant we eat for vegetables grown in Illinois. To tie the lesson together, students finished the activity with a logic puzzle.

Blessed Sacrament fourth grade students learned about cotton production. This lesson included a reading, video of the modern cotton gin, and lastly a dissection of a cotton boll. Students enjoyed separating the seeds within cotton lint.

1st Grade



All first-grade classrooms in December learned about horses through a Cat in the Hat book. This book taught students about different breeds of horses and the tack used for horses. For the second half of the lesson, students decorated a horse cut out and made it into a puppet. While this craft was being made, students also made a snack trail mix to represent foods horses need in their diet.



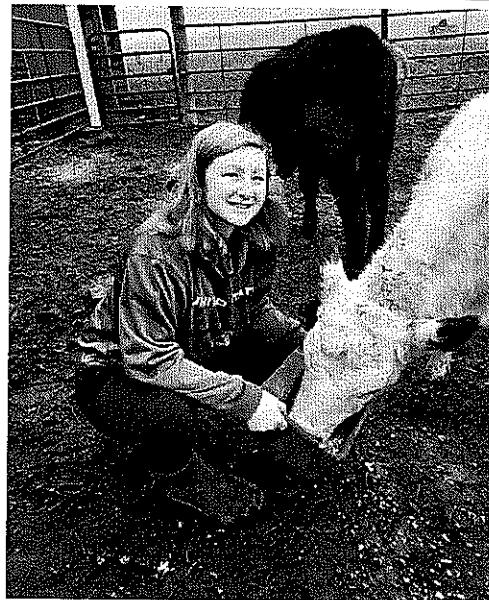
Celebrating 4-H Grant Recipients: Building Skills, Confidence, and a Strong Future in Agriculture



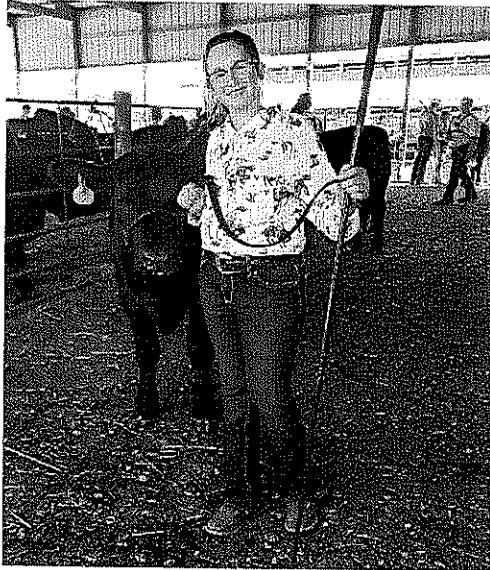
Harley Shaffer



Jillian Shaffer



Jailyn Akers



Mylan Shaffer

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation recently awarded four 4-H grants to support youth development and hands-on learning. This month's recipients are Mylan Shaffer, Jailyn Akers, Harley Shaffer, and Jillian Shaffer. All of these young ladies used their funding to take meaningful steps forward in their 4-H projects. Their drive to learn and grow reflects the true spirit of 4-H and the bright future of agriculture.

With Mylan's 4-H grant, she purchased a Load-Up Show Box Kit, a valuable tool that keeps

her grooming and care supplies organized and ready for show day. The show box helps her transport equipment easily and ensures she always has what she needs at livestock shows.

Although Mylan has been showing cattle for only one year, she has already gained tremendous knowledge. She has built strong bonds with her animals and is eager to keep expanding her understanding of nutrition, breeding, and daily cattle care. Her project has strengthened her work ethic and sense of responsibility, skills she plans to

grow even more in the year ahead. Last summer marked Jailyn's first year in the show ring. Using her grant funding, she purchased a 24-inch turbo livestock fan, an essential piece of equipment that keeps her animals cool in the summer heat and provides better fly control in the barn.

Jailyn is excited to continue showing cattle as she deepens her knowledge of animal nutrition and the process of raising high-quality beef. She aims to feed her animals efficiently and responsibly, promoting both healthy livestock and consumer trust. Her curiosity and dedication shine through in everything she does.

Another first-year exhibitor, Harley used her 4-H grant to purchase her own set of clippers, an important step toward mastering grooming techniques and taking greater responsibility for her animals' care.

Harley's interest in the beef industry is growing rapidly. She enjoys learning about different cattle breeds, building practical skills, and preparing for her first chance to show at the Adams County Fair. Her long-term goal is to understand all aspects of beef cattle farming, from daily care routines to balanced nutrition.

Jillian, an eight-year member of the Ursula Willing Workers 4-H Club, is taking on a brand-new challenge this year in the Creative & Cultural Arts - Video Project category. She is using her 4-H grant to purchase a vlogging camera,

inspired by her summer experience as an Honor Flight intern.

While working with the Honor Flight program, Jillian had the opportunity to use their camera to "capture the day" for veterans, a meaningful experience that sparked her passion for storytelling. Now, she plans to use her own camera to create videos featuring the Ursula Willing Workers 4-H Club, the Youth Leadership Academy through the Extension, and the community service projects she participates in.

Jillian hopes to learn how to capture meaningful moments in her community and at her high

school. Her long-term goal is to build strong video editing skills as she prepares for a future career in marketing.

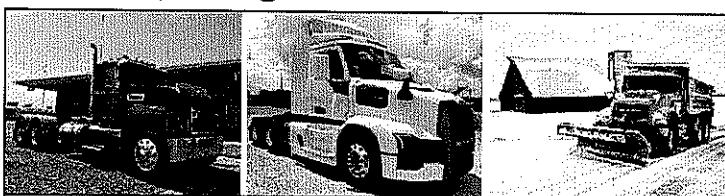
The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud of Mylan, Jailyn, Harley, and Jillian for their dedication, curiosity, and hard work. Their projects highlight the value of 4-H programs and the impact grant support can have in helping young people take meaningful steps toward their goals.

These young leaders are not just raising cattle or creating videos, they're building skills, confidence, and a strong foundation for the future of agriculture.

Welcome New Members

Kallin Crile
Douglas and Diana Schmidt

Kevin Walker
Cole Wellman



*There is Help..... There is Hope
Suicide is Never the Solution*

Adams County
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ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

November Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was called to order by President Ben Hugenberg at 6:40 p.m. on November 12, 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 gave an update on Country Financial.

Concerns from members: Board of Directors

A letter is being sent to the Herald Whig about importing beef from Argentina.

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: Annabelle Schaffnit

A motion was made and seconded to send \$500 to the Illinois Foundation FFA for \$100 donations to each FFA Chapter in Adams County. The motion carried.

Foundation Grant: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

A motion was made and seconded to approve three 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 September. The motion carried.

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

Reviewed the 990 tax forms for FYE 063025.

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

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

Five associate members had

indicated being a landowner with acreage on the back of the dues renewal stub. After review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reclassify the five associate members to voting members. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new members and Membership Report for the months of September and October. The motion carried.

FARM BUREAU

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

Action request was sent out.

A motion was made and seconded to give \$50 to St. Jude Hospital in memory of Ryan Whiteside. The motion carried. Ryan Whiteside was the Director of National Legislation at IFB.

Marketing Committee: Chairman, Brad Duncan

It was brought up from a member of the community about ACFB paying for deer processing. A motion was made and seconded to not approve the processing of deer. The motion carried.

Young Farmers Committee: Chairman, Trevor Maiers

The statewide Young Leaders Conference will be held February 6-7 in East Peoria.

Are working on getting dates and information on putting together a young farmer trip.

Local Affairs Committee: Chairman, Nathan Parker

Rural Development Grants are available from IAA.

Ameren Illinois will have a meeting about the Central IL Grid Transformation Program on November 19 at Tiramisu starting at 12:00 p.m. There are four spots available.

Building Committee: Chairman, Bobby Baker

The new roof is still on schedule for installation.

Viewpoint Committee: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit - no report

Ag in the Classroom Committee: Chairwoman, Danielle Donley

AITC for adults is starting in the spring.

We received a \$9,251 grant from IAITC.

Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report

Executive Committee: Chairman, Ben Hugenberg

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

Fair Committee: Chairman, Alan Ippensen - no report

Annual Meeting/Accreditation Picnic: Grant Huber - no report

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

Looking into increasing the ad prices in our monthly newspaper.

A motion was made and seconded to participate in the Cost Advantage Program with Pike-Scott and Calhoun Farm Bureaus. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to give \$50 to four MM members who plan to take the Annie's Project class hosted by the University of Illinois. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to pay the cost of a collegiate farm bureau member to attend the IAA annual meeting in Chicago. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The IAA annual meeting will be held December 5-9 in Chicago. There will be a Brushville concert on December 6.

Delegates for the 2025 IAA annual meeting are Ben Hugenberg, Brent Clair, Dustin Speckhart, Eli Gronewold and Grant Huber. Alternates are Bobby Baker, Tim Ellerbeck, Brad Duncan, Nathan Parker, Ryan Meyer, and Justin Oberling.

Delegates attending the IAA annual meeting were encouraged to purchase train tickets.

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be a meet and greet with Philip Nelson and Mark Lietkin on November 17 in the ACFB basement starting at 6:30 p.m.

The three main Committees will meet prior to the December board meeting.

A Resolutions zoom meeting will be held on December 1 in the ACFB basement starting at 6:00 p.m.

The AFB annual meeting will be held January 9-13 in Anaheim, CA.

The Board social outing is scheduled for March 7 at the Tower of Pizza.

The next board meeting will be held on December 10, 2025 in the Farm Bureau boardroom starting with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and board meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Duncan, Secretary



Kitchen Legacies

Homemade Dishes Outlive Generations

Field meals deliver their own form of heroism, and Mom saves the day. She dishes out the seasonal suppers spring and fall with guidance from her sidekicks - women past and present who submitted their kitchen's best recipes to a church cookbook. Leah's fiesta bake, Marie's orange salad, Debra's pizza casserole and Ann's marble squares have fueled our field crew for years.

Out here in farm country, the names of past landowners often carry forward, becoming part of the land's identity long after ownership has changed. For instance, the "Lievens Back Bottom," which my parents have owned half my life, was previously tended by the late Mr. and Mrs. Lievens. I'll spare you 50 more examples. My point: the same goes for good, home-cooked food.

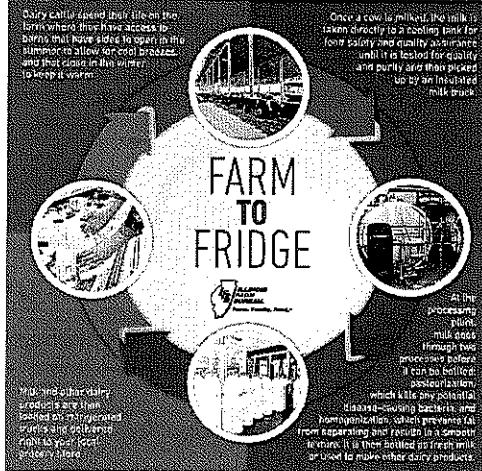
Thanks to small-town recipe books, home cooks earned their own version of legacy status without needing acreage on a balance sheet. Instead, they claimed a kitchen, embraced a passion and created recipes or refined family ones in 9x13 batches that fed and delighted the local masses.

Long before Google became a verb, churches published cookbooks filled with personal recipe submissions, each tied to a name. No digital versions exist of these limited-edition paper relics. There are no pictures. No reviews. Each recipe stands solely on the credibility of the cook who submitted it as a time-tested family favorite - and that alone serves as a built-in 5-star rating.

I have proof with Lorraine's broccoli soup, Pam's pizza crust, Lou's cool cucumber pasta and Mary's Thanksgiving dressing. Mom and I made 12 batches of Kathy's hash brown au gratin for a farm wedding. I adore Susan's corn casserole and chuck wagon baked beans. And Grandma's published recipe for frosted banana bars is better than bread. It freezes well, too.

The book entries tell stories. Ingredients like strawberries, zucchini, rhubarb and blackberries signal home gardeners and wild blackberry pickers who love to cook. The salad section proves that Jell-O and Cool Whip absolutely qualify as salads by Midwestern standards.

I own hundreds of pages of local recipes in five cookbooks. Mom has a dozen. Grandma's stash fills a cabinet, and my aunt collects them. The recipes are worth repeating, the novelty worth preserving and the pages a testament to the women who - in their quiet heroism - fed a community. And still do.



Getting to Know Farm Bureau Policy

104. Illinois Banking Structure

We support:

- An adequate supply of competitively priced credit for all credit worthy farmers
- Competent staff in local banks who understands agriculture and the unique risks with which farmers must deal
- Fair competition for banks of all sizes and in all locales
- Farm competition with other types of lenders
- Economic decision making that is not concentrated in the hands of a few large financial institutions
- Constant or a net inflow of capital into the area in which financial institutions are being acquired, merged, or consolidated
- Greater scrutiny of an investigation into anti-trust ramifications and violations in relation to mergers and other acquisitions

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Adams County 4-H Celebrates 88th Annual Achievement Day



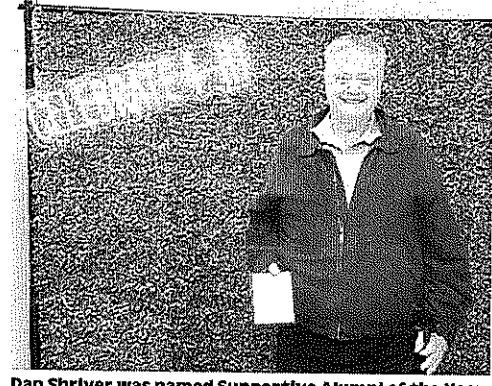
Hackamack Family was named 4-H Family of the Year.



Lance Woolam was named Outstanding 4-H Member of the Year.



Lori Walbring was named Dale Donley Leader of the Year.



Dan Shriver was named Supportive Alumni of the Year.

Adams County 4-H members and volunteers were recognized for their yearlong project achievements at the 88th Annual Achievement Day. For 4-H members, this event marks the culmination of a full year of work in project areas. Records completed in the fall allow youth to reflect on their experiences, celebrate successes, and set goals for the upcoming year.

The program, led by Adams County 4-H Federation members, began with recognition of Cloverbud members, ages 5-7, who participate in exploratory activities that promote positive youth development. Those recognized were Rhett Bockhold, Agnes Boessen, Mabel Cramsey, Ayda Duesterhaus, Scarlett Duesterhaus, Rosie Ervin, Brylee Evans, Brynlee Griffith, Aubrey Gunther, Newt Hesse, Wesson

Kill, Walter Mathews, Danika Mock, Karlene Obert, Jaxon Powell, Remington Prenger, Verity Price, and Harley Shaffer.

Leader Service Awards honored volunteers for their dedication. One-year leaders included Shawna Kenady and Angela Lummer. Five-year leaders were Clare Smith, Adam Weiman, and Kelly Weiman. Ten-year leaders were Heather Lair and Gena Minde, and Jeanne Drebes was recognized for 20 years of service.

Senior 4-H members completing their final year included Lane Barker, Olivia Barry, Caitlin Burwinkle, Sophia Genenbacher, Corbin Knox, Carter Knuffman, Simon Mixer, Claire Taute, Lance Venzel, and Ashley Walbring. First-year members were also celebrated for beginning their 4-H

Individual project award recipients demonstrated excellence across diverse categories. In Animal Science, Gabriella Fischer was recognized; Sawyer Goodwin, Ryleigh Powell, and Grady Shaffer for Beef; Bradley King for Cats; Madilyn King for Dogs; Gabriella Chatten for Horse; Blake Hackamack for Poultry; Courtney Huber for Rabbits; Brinley Hackamack for Sheep; Courtney Huber for Small Pets; and August Hesse for Swine. In Career and Leadership Development, Hayley Lair was recognized for College and Career Readiness, Meredith Shaffer for Leadership, Zoey Kasparie for Ready4Life, and Dax Klusmeyer for Service Learning. Civic Engagement awards went to Marissa Minde for Civic Engagement, Callie Longlett for Family Heritage, and Isaiah Brass for Intercultural. Creative and Cultural Arts winners included Gabriella Fischer for Clothing and Textiles; Andi Kirlin for Interior Design; Paisli Dierterle for Photography; and Paige Colamatteo, Andi Kirlin, Dax Klusmeyer, Mariah Minde, Kolby Shaffer, and Lance Woolam for Visual Arts. Environmental Sciences awards went to Mariah Minde for Natural Resources and Kaden Knight for Shooting Sports. In Gardening, Agriculture, and Food Access, Logan Ippensen was recognized for Crops; Emmaline Garman and Juliette Garman for Horticulture; and Helen Mathews for Floriculture. Healthy Living and Nutrition awards went to Lance Woolam for Health and Kodi Duke, Jillian Shaffer, and Hayley Lair for Food and Nutrition. STEM awards included Bradley King for Aerospace, Simeon Mathews for Drones, Kooper Powell for Electric-

Illinois Extension and Adams County Farm Bureau Launch New Illinois Watershed Stewards Course

University of Illinois Extension, in partnership with the Adams County Farm Bureau, launches a new Illinois Watershed Stewards course in Spring 2026. This marks the first time the Watershed Stewards program has been offered to residents of west central Illinois counties—all counties that border either the Mississippi River or the Illinois River, making watershed education especially relevant to the region.

The Illinois Watershed Stewards program engages community members as informed stewards of their local watersheds. Through science-based education led by a diverse team of experts—including soil scientists, hydrologists, aquatic ecologists, forestry and stormwater professionals, emergency management staff, river-focused leaders, and watershed project practitioners—participants will explore how water moves across the landscape and how local land-use decisions affect water quality far beyond their own communities.

With the Mississippi and Illinois rivers serving as vital resources for drinking water, agriculture, recreation, wildlife habitat, and transportation, understanding watershed systems is critical for the long-term health of these waterways and the communities that depend on them.

The program consists of eight weekly evening classes, held Mondays from 5:30-8:00 p.m., beginning February 23 and concluding April 13, 2026. Sessions will be held at the Adams County Extension Office/Farm Bureau, lower level, located at 330 S. 36th Street, Quincy, Illinois.

The program fee is \$84, which includes session materials, dinner each evening, and soil test vouchers. This course is supported by the Illinois Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship Grant program.

This program provides a unique opportunity for residents to better understand how local actions connect to the Mississippi and Illinois rivers," said Amy Lefringhouse, Natural Resources Educator with University of Illinois Extension. "We're excited to offer this new learning opportunity in a region where water plays such an important role in our economy, environment, and daily lives."

To register, visit go.illinois.edu/watershedsteward. For questions about the program or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Amy Lefringhouse at hebeif@illinois.edu or call the Adams County Extension Office at 217-223-8380.

ity, Xander Garman for Robotics, Asher Brokaw for Small Engines, Grady Shaffer for Welding, and Everett Hodgson for Woodworking.

The My Experience Awards recognized members for participation and leadership throughout the year. Bronze recipients included Asher Brokaw, Wyatt Brokaw, Kodi Duke, Maddie East, Owen East, Sawyer Goodwin, August Hesse, Grady Norsworthy, and Willow Shaffer. Silver recipients included Blake Hackamack, Andi Kirlin, Callie Longlett, Mariah Minde, Claire Norsworthy, and Dexter Shupe. Gold recipients included Braylee Brackensick, Juliette Garman, Xander Garman, Emmaline Garman, Brinley Hackamack, Brooklynn Hackamack, Bradley King, Madilyn King, Dax Klusmeyer, and Hayley Lair. Diamond recognition was awarded to Kolby Shaffer for Community Service, and Emerald recognition was awarded to Grady Shaffer for Leadership and Lance Woolam for Community Service.

Several clubs earned Illinois 4-H Club Awards. Burton Flyers were recognized for Community Service, Ellington Hilltoppers for Community Service, Leadership, and Project Learning, and Ursula Willing Workers for Leadership.

Special honors included the Electricity Award presented to Kooper Powell of Burton Flyers. The 4-H Club Secretary Award was given to Ryleigh Powell of Burton Flyers, the 4-H Club Treasurer Award to Allie Carolan of Ursula Willing Workers, and the 4-H Club Scrapbook Award to Central Adams Firecrackers. Juliette Garman of Ursula Willing Workers was named Growing 1st Year Member of the Year, Jillian Shaffer of Ursula Willing Workers was named Growing 4-H Member of the Year, and Grady Shaffer of Central Adams Firecrackers was named Growing Federation Member of the Year. The Hackamack Family received 4-H Family of the Year. Supportive Alumni of the Year was awarded to Dan Shriver, and Lori Walbring was honored as Dale Donley Leader of the Year.

Foundation Awards recognized top experience levels: Bronze - Kodi Duke of Ursula Willing Workers, Silver - Blake Hackamack of Burton Flyers, and Gold - Brinley Hackamack of Burton Flyers. The I Dare You Award was presented to Ashley Walbring of Ellington Hilltoppers, Allie Carolan of Ursula Willing Workers, and Elijah Perry of Central Adams Firecrackers. Gabby Fischer received the Betty Venzel Memorial Award. The John Alison Memorial recognized Jaxon Trautvetter of County Liners 4-H Club for Sheep and Elaina Weiman of Holy Heroes for Dairy. The Debbie Reed Leadership Award was presented to Dax Klusmeyer of Ursula Willing Workers. Ashley Walbring of Ellington Hilltoppers received the Glen Tenhouse Leadership Memorial, and Lance Woolam of Central Adams Firecrackers was named Outstanding 4-H Member of the Year.

The Adams County 4-H Achievement Program signifies completion of the 2024-25 4-H year. The new program year is underway, and members are encouraged to contact club leaders for meeting schedules. For more information, call 217-223-8380 or email snthomps@illinois.edu.





JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Where has 2025 gone? Time is flying by. The Fall was busy with classes, contests, events and hands-on learning. We have had countless opportunities to introduce our students to new experiences and adventures within the agriculture industry. We truly appreciate our industry partners who step up to host our judging team and class field trips and join us in the classroom as guest speakers. It is your expertise and connections that helps to open doors for our students.

January will find our livestock evaluation students on the road to the Cattlemen's Classic in Oklahoma City and National Western Stock Show. This trip allows multiple opportunities to compete but more importantly, many chances to see the agriculture industry across many states and many miles.

The JWCC Ag Program is looking forward to hosting several Section and District FFA events. Our students will assist with Veterinary Technology, Ag Mechanics and Parliamentary Procedure competitions this spring. The Career Development Events allow our students to give back to the organization that has given so much to them. We are always excited to have our area high school students visit our facility and look forward to a busy spring supporting them!

February 3rd will find us hosting the Annual JWCC Ag Program Banquet. The event will kick off at 6pm in the Ag Center Arena. This will be a night to recognize our stu-

dents as well as those who make all that we do possible. Each year, we are inducting a new class in the JWCC Agriculture Hall of Fame. Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond in their professional achievements or contributions to the JWCC Ag Program? In 2024 and 2025, we proudly inducted Larry Fischer, Donna Jansen, Don Peter, Bob Rhea, Mike Vose, Andy Baster, Fred and Carole Bradshaw, and Matt Bradshaw to the Hall of Fame. Help us honor someone who has been an important part of building the program and creating opportunities for our

students. Please reach out if you know of a deserving individual.

The Spring will be busy with many events, and we welcome our community to join us for a Livestock Showmanship Clinic with 4-H on February 14th and our Ag Pathway Day for prospective students on March 20th.

As always feel free to contact us at jheavner@jwcc.edu or call 217-641-4236 if you would like to come for a visit or learn more about the program. Follow us on Facebook at *JWCC Agricultural Education Center* for the latest updates.

Annie's Project Returns to Empower Women in Agriculture and Small Business

Across rural Illinois and beyond, women are increasingly stepping into leadership roles in agriculture—whether managing farms, launching ag-based small businesses, or supporting family operations. Yet despite their growing presence, many women still face barriers to accessing the financial, legal, and marketing knowledge needed to confidently make decisions and grow their enterprises.

Annie's Project is a six-week course designed to equip women in agriculture and ag-related small businesses with the skills, confidence, and connections they need to thrive. Through expert-led sessions in production, financial management, human resources, marketing, and legal topics, participants gain practical knowledge in a welcoming, discussion-based environment. The program fosters community, encourages questions, and celebrates the diverse paths women take in agriculture. Whether you're new to the field or have years of experience, Annie's Project offers a space to learn, grow, and connect.

This year's Annie's Project course will be held on Wednesdays from January 21 through March 4, 2026, with March 10 reserved in case of inclement weather. Each evening begins with a light dinner at 5:00 p.m., followed by the session from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The program will take place in the basement of the Adams County Farm Bureau. The cost is \$150, which includes meals and all supplies.

Whether you're managing a farm, launching an ag-based business,

JWCC Agriculture Program Updates

By Jody Heavner, Director

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 or send them to Adams County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305.

or simply looking to grow your knowledge, Annie's Project is for you. Join us for six evenings of learning, connection, and empowerment. Space is limited, so register by January 14 at go.illinois.edu/Annie's Project.

For more information, contact Dawn Weinberg, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, at 217-357-2150 or dweinber@illinois.edu. Information about the national Annie's Project initiative can be found at www.anniesproject.org.

Adams County Farm Bureau is going to pay \$50 of the registration to the first four women who are Adams County Farm Bureau MM members (farmer member) or the spouse of an MM member who talk with Annabelle at the Farm Bureau office. You must talk with Annabelle before registering.



... 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

1992 GMC Sierra pick-up truck, set-up for goose neck trailer, no rust, kept in shed, 94,738 miles. Call 217-656-3082.

Seasoned firewood. Call 217-224-6296.

1966 Farmall 806 Tractor, \$10,500; 1996 Dodge pickup with snow blade, \$3,500; Hyster fork lift, \$6,500; Miller welder/generator with trailer, \$2,500. Call 217-257-6666.

FREE (you dig): Purple irises, red rose bush, mock orange bush, rural Liberty. Call 217-645-3700 or text 217-779-8258 for pictures.

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.

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS For Farm Bureau Members

Farm Bureau members may run classified ads free in the Adams County Farm Bureau News.

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AD: _____

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