

Adams County Farm Bureau

Agri Newsletter

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

Illinois Extension and Farm Bureau Launch Local Training to Improve Water Quality

University of Illinois Extension, in partnership with the Adams County Farm Bureau, will launch the Illinois Watershed Steward course in Spring 2026, marking the first time the program has been offered to residents in west central Illinois. The region's proximity to both the Mississippi and Illinois rivers—major sources of drinking water, recreation, transportation, agriculture, and wildlife habitat—makes locally focused water education especially timely and relevant.

The Illinois Watershed Stewards program prepares residents to protect the land and waterways that drain into their rivers and community water supplies. Participants will learn from a multidisciplinary team of experts, including soil scientists, hydrologists, aquatic ecologists, forestry and stormwater professionals, emergency managers, and watershed practitioners. The course emphasizes real-world connections, helping participants understand how water moves across the landscape and how

local land-use decisions influence water quality downstream.

Because rivers in west central Illinois support both rural and urban communities, improving water literacy at the local level strengthens long-term resilience for people, farms, fish, wildlife, and infrastructure. The program is designed for landowners, farmers, conservation-minded residents, and anyone interested in protecting local waterways.

The eight-week evening course will be held Mondays from 5:30-8:00 p.m., beginning February 23 and concluding April 13, 2026. Classes will take place at the Adams County Extension Office/Farm Bureau (lower level), 330 S. 36th Street, Quincy, Illinois.

The \$84 course fee includes program materials, dinner at each session, soil test vouchers, and soil test vouchers. The course is funded in part by the Illinois Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program.

"This course gives residents a meaningful opportunity to see how everyday decisions—on farms, in

towns, and across natural areas—shape the water systems we all rely on," said Amy Lefringhouse, Illinois Extension Natural Resources Educator. "We're proud to bring this training to a region where rivers are central to our heritage, economy, and quality of life."

Registration is open at go.illinois.edu/watershedsteward. For questions or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Amy Lefringhouse at heberlei@illinois.edu or call the Adams County Extension Office at 217-223-8380.

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 (adamsfarmbureau.org), email acfbmanager@adams.net, High School Academic Counselors, or FFA advisors. They will be due to the Adams County Farm Bureau office at 4:00 p.m. March 31st and scholarship winners will be announced April 17th.

\$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 our community.

Applications will be available January 5th from the Adams County Farm Bureau office and/or their website (adamsfarmbureau.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 p.m. March 31st and scholarship winners will be announced April 17th.

REGISTER TODAY!

LEARN MORE ABOUT SAFETY, CDL, & TRUCKING REGULATIONS

Contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.

FEBRUARY

- MCHENRY.....2/19 @ 10AM
- STEPHENSON.....2/20 @ 8AM
- UNION.....2/24 @ 6PM
- MONROE.....2/24 @ 10AM
- EDGAR.....2/25 @ 12PM
- TAZEWELL.....2/26 @ 6PM

MARCH

- FORD-IROQUOIS.....3/3 @ 6PM
- MERCER.....3/4 @ 10AM
- PIKE-SCOTT.....3/11 @ 10AM
- LAWRENCE.....3/12 @ 9AM

VIEWPOINT BREAKFAST

Monday, February 23, 2026

Breakfast - 8 a.m.

Congresswomen: Mary Miller
State Senator: Jill Tracy
State Representatives: Kyle Moore,
Norine Hammond, CD Davidsmeyer

Call 217-222-7305
for Reservation/Location





PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

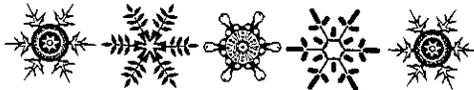
BY BEN HUGENBERG, PRESIDENT

Brrr it's cold outside! In this past month, we have seen the temperatures plunge and many of the grain markets as well. I have spent January trying to finish up my books and get them prepared to take to the tax man. In addition, I have had the privilege to go to two conferences put on by the Farm Bureau. The first was to Anaheim, California, for the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, I spent five days in sunny California. The temperature was awesome with highs in the 70's. In addition to the weather, I met with many other great leaders and members from across the country. Talks of the farm economy were on many people's minds. The conference was full of many great breakout sessions and young leader competitions and overall, an excellent meeting.

The second conference I attended was the Everything Local Conference. This conference is put on in conjunction with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association and the Illinois Farmers Markets Association. The conference allows for networking and idea sharing, a piece of Agriculture that many of us put on the back burner. This conference focuses on a style of agriculture that many of us would consider to be unconventional, but it is agriculture none the less. These two different ideas of farming sometimes challenge each other and sometimes can butt heads on competing ideas. The simple truth is that there is plenty of room for both forms of farming to occur, and we should support each other.

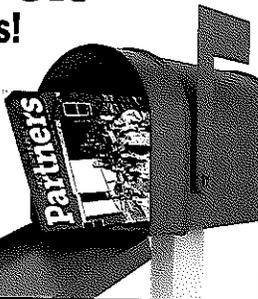
Finally, many of you may be aware of some issues occurring within the Illinois Farm Bureau State board of directors. The short answer is that individuals who were voted off at the December annual meeting are refusing to resign their seats on the COUNTRY board of directors. This is breaking a precedent which has held for nearly 100 years. Although we, as Farm Bureau members, cannot technically dictate to the COUNTRY board, these actions are of great concern to our organization and hopefully a quick resolve will come to them.

Stay safe, healthy, and warm!



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.

Quincy Area Chamber to Host 2026 Ag Banquet Presented by Compeer Financial

The Quincy Area Chamber will host its annual Ag Banquet on *Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the Town & Country Inn and Suites. Presented by Compeer Financial*, this signature event celebrates the vital role agriculture plays in the region and honors individuals and businesses who make a lasting impact on the agricultural community.

Each year, the QAC Ag Banquet brings together farmers, agribusiness leaders, educators, and community partners to recognize excellence and leadership within the industry. During the 2026 banquet, the Chamber will honor *Jody Heavner as the Larry Fischer Ag Educator of the Year and Heimer Hampshires as the Ag Business of the Year.*

Jody Heavner, director of the *John Wood Community College Agricultural Education Center*, will receive the *Larry Fischer Ag Educator of the Year Award*. With more than two decades of experience in agricultural education, Heavner has dedicated her career to developing students academically, professionally, and personally. Known for her hands-on approach, strong mentorship, and deep commitment to student success, she has impacted thousands of students through classroom instruction, experiential learning opportunities, and community involvement. Her leadership has helped prepare the next generation for careers across the agricultural industry while fostering a passion for lifelong learning and service.

The *Ag Business of the Year Award* will be presented to *Heimer Hampshires*, a family-owned agricultural operation based in Taylor, Missouri. Founded in 2006 by *Jesse and Amy Heimer*, Heimer Hampshires has earned national recognition for producing elite show pigs while remaining deeply rooted in youth development and agricultural advocacy. The operation combines innovative breeding practices with a strong focus on education, mentorship, and community engagement. Through their work with young exhibitors, families, and agricultural organizations, Heimer Hampshires exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit, integrity, and leadership that define a successful modern agribusiness.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

BY RYAN MEYER

Hello Adams County Farm Bureau Members! I'm writing this during the cold spell at the end of January, and I'm tired of breaking ice in the cattle tanks!

Lately, I've been reading up on the screwworm outbreak affecting cattle. For those who may not closely follow the cattle industry, the screwworm is a fly that infests cattle and other warm-blooded animals, causing severe tissue damage. As I am writing this, the flies have been contained in Mexico but are only about 70 miles from the U.S. border.

I came across an article from *FarmWeek* that discusses how the USDA is working to prevent this pest from entering the United States.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins recently announced the launch of the New World Screwworm (NWS) Grand Challenge, an initiative aimed at combating and preventing the pest from spreading farther north.

"This is a strategic investment in America's farmers and ranchers and an important action to ensure the safety and future success of our food supply, which is essential to our national security," Rollins said in a news release. "These innovations will help us stay ahead of this pest and protect our food supply and economy, safeguard the way of life of our ranchers, and support efforts to rebuild our cattle herd—helping lower consumer prices at the grocery store."

"We know we have tried-and-true tools and methods to defeat this pest, but we must continue to seek new and better approaches and innovate our way to success. Together, through science, innovation, and collaboration, we can ensure we are using the latest tools and technology to combat NWS in Mexico and Central America and keep it out of the United States."

The Grand Challenge is part of USDA's comprehensive five-pronged plan, announced in the summer of 2025, to strengthen U.S. readiness and response to NWS. The pest was eradicated from the United States in the 1960s; however, cases have gradually moved north through Mexico since November 2024, with the closest case now reported just 70 miles from the U.S. border.

Through the Grand Challenge, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will make up to \$100 million available to support innovative projects that enhance sterile NWS fly production, strengthen preparedness and response strategies, and safeguard U.S. agriculture, animal health, and trade.

This follows USDA investments made in the summer of 2025, including \$8.5 million for a sterile fly distribution facility and \$750 million to construct a sterile fly production facility at Moore Airfield Base in south Texas.

This situation could impact the U.S. beef market, as states such as Washington import a large portion of their feeder cattle from Mexico. If you would like to talk more about this topic, please let Annabelle or I know. We're happy to visit with you. Stay warm!

farmers care

Beginning Beekeeping Classes

The Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association will be holding a Beginning Beekeeping Class on Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is being held at the Adams County Farm Bureau, (lower level) at 330 South 26th St., Quincy. Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

The cost is \$40 per individual/household. Lunch will be provided for a donation, or there are local restaurants nearby. Advanced registration is preferred by February 14th. Mail check to: P.O. Box 223, Quincy, IL 62305. Registration at time of class will be \$50.

If you have any questions, please contact: Tom Stark at 573-248-7380, Gary Kaufman at 217-577-8445, Bruce Moechnig at 217-430-859S, or Bernie Andrew at 217-242-4975.

FARM BUREAU DAILY GRAIN BIDS

7/18/25	CORN			SOYBEANS			WHEAT	
	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						
Maschoffs	428	403	435					
Bardett	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								

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ADAMS COUNTY AGENCY 217-640-5430	331 S. 26th, Suite 4B 217-222-5841
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Erica Stephenson Agent	Jeff Kroenke Agent
405 Hampshire St. 217-936-2120	1932 State Street 217-222-7300
Cassey Casey Agent	Erie Ervin Agent
Kalyene Olson Agent Assistant	

Notes From The Manager



Annabelle Schaffnit

The past month has been full of firsts for me, some big, some small, but all memorable.

I attended my first American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Meeting, which was held in Anaheim, California. It was also my first time traveling to California, riding in a Tesla, visiting the Atlantic Ocean, and flying out of the Quincy Regional Airport. Along the way, I had the opportunity to meet Farm Bureau members from across the country and even meet AFBF President Zippy Duval.

My first AFBF Annual Meeting was an incredible experience, and I'm so grateful I was able to attend this year. Five of us represented Adams County: Board President Ben Hugenberg; Board Director Alan Ippensen and his wife, Britany; my boyfriend, Clayton Walsh; and myself. The general sessions were very informative, and I truly enjoyed connecting with members from other states. I came home with several ideas that I believe could be adapted and implemented right here in our community.

This theme of connection and involvement has also carried over into another organization I joined last summer, the Rotary Club of Quincy. To be honest, I initially joined simply because Shawn had been a member for years. However,

as I started attending weekly meetings and getting to know other members, I found myself genuinely enjoying being part of the club.

Around Christmas, I made a personal goal to become more involved. I met with the President, Tom Hendren, to talk about what I wanted out of the club and how I could contribute. A few weeks later, I was honored to be elected Membership Director for the Rotary Club of Quincy. I accepted this role because I want new members to feel welcomed and engaged, something I didn't fully feel when I first joined last summer.

I'm bringing that same mindset to the Adams County Farm Bureau. If there's a program or event you'd like to see Farm Bureau involved in, please don't hesitate to give me a call. If you're hesitant to join Young Farmers because you don't consider yourself a "traditional farmer," don't worry, that's not a requirement! At the state level, this group is actually called *Young Leaders*, and we would love to have you join us.

Many county Farm Bureaus host Consumer Engagement programs that aren't directly tied to traditional agriculture, such as planting crops or feeding livestock, but still tell ag's story in meaningful ways. Examples include sourdough bread workshops, taco bars, or flower bouquet-building events, each paired with a speaker who connects the activity back to agriculture.

I would love to bring something like this to Adams County. If you have ideas for topics or activities you'd be interested in, I'd love to hear them!

I'm excited about the direction we're heading and the opportunities ahead to connect, learn, and grow together. Farm Bureau is strongest when members are engaged, sharing ideas, and feeling welcome. I look forward to seeing how we can continue building that sense of community right here in Adams County.

IAA Foundation Scholarship Applications Due Feb. 15

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 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 Broadus 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 online at iaafoundation.org. Applications must be completed online by Feb. 15. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232 or email Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ilfb.org

Adams County
Suicide Prevention
Coalition

Barb Baker Chapin

Nurturing What Matters Most This February

February may be one of the quieter months on the farm, but it's an important one for agriculture in 2026. Many producers are entering the year with a mix of cautious optimism and real concern. Tight margins, continuing concerns over trade policies, and high costs continue to weigh heavily on farming families across the country.

Despite the concerns weighing on farming families, February offers us an opportunity to recognize the people in our lives who make the demanding life of agriculture not just possible, but meaningful. Whether it's a spouse helping manage the books, a family member pitching in during long days, or neighbors showing up when weather or markets turn against you, relationships remain one of the most essential forms of resilience in rural America. Farm families have always faced uncertainty together and moved forward with determination.

As you prepare for spring decisions, take time this month to appreciate the people who share the load, the love, and the labor. Markets will rise and fall, policies will shift, and forecasts will change – but the relationships you nurture today are the ones that will carry you through every season.

Relationships ... nurture them – they are essential to your resilience

Thanks To Our Ag Industry

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

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER

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President - Ben Hugenberg - Vice President - Ryan Meyer
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**ADAMS COUNTY'S
AG AWARENESS PROGRAM**

**Kinsey Tiemann, Ag Awareness
Program Coordinator**

**Snowy Day Reflections with
Ag in the Classroom**

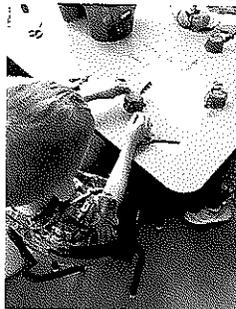
As I write February's news articles, I'm enjoying the warmth indoors that often accompanies a snow day. Just like students, educators can't help but appreciate an unexpected day away from school—especially in the middle of cold and flu season! While I'm grateful for a brief pause from my daily teaching responsibilities, my thoughts often turn to the livestock farmers who don't get that same break during winter weather.

Growing up as a farm kid, snow days meant bundling up to help feed cattle, bed down piglets and ewes, and tackle the tough chore of breaking ice in water tanks. But in between those responsibilities, I also remember the joy—sledding through the pasture and warming up afterward with a mug of hot chocolate.

My hope is that this snowy season offers you moments of rest amid the hard work, and opportunities to enjoy the simple, joyful moments winter can bring.

January's Ag in the Classroom lessons were hosted at Denman, St. Dominic, Rooney, Unity, Payson, and Baldwin.

Kindergarten



Most of the kindergarten lessons in January focused upon farm animals. This lesson taught students the proper names of the young, male, and female farm animals. After understanding these names, students colored five farm animals' realistic colors to pair with a barn craft. Denman Kindergarten students learned about sheep through a read aloud book. Afterwards, students cut out a sheep to create a sheep craft to pair with the lesson.

Unity Kindergarteners

Kindergarten students at Unity Elementary School learned about pigs through a factual pig's story book. After reading this story, the students were tasked with identifying the parts of a pig through pictures. After this activity, the students made their own pig craft by decorating a strawberry applesauce cup. Students added ears, eyes, a snout, and tail to the cup. This connected to the pig parts of the lesson, and we discussed how some pigs are different colors and have erect vs. drooping ears.



1st Grade



Mendon 1st Graders



Payson 1st Graders

First graders at Denman and Unity learned about pecan trees and tree growth. This lesson started out by reading the story "My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me" to highlight pecan tree growth through the years. Afterwards students decorated a placemat that showcased the life cycle of pecan trees with kid friendly activities. Lastly in this lesson, we discussed how tree rings can tell us the age of a tree and significant events in that tree's life (such as drought or healthy growth). Afterwards, students made their own tree rings to show important life moments in their life such as starting school, birth of younger siblings, or fun trips.

Other first grade students learned about the parts of plants we eat in vegetables. This activity related to the story "Tops & Bottoms." After reading this story, students created a garden craft to diagram the parts of vegetables they eat.

2nd Grade

All second-grade students in January learned about evergreen trees. This lesson included an introduction to deciduous vs. evergreen trees through an educational video. Afterwards, students diagrammed these differences through a T-chart and pictures. Throughout the entire lesson, students also discussed plant adaptations through a pinecone experiment. A pinecone was submerged into a jar of water and after 15 minutes was pulled out. This resulted in the pinecone closing to protect the seeds in the center to survive in wet environments.



Rooney 2nd Graders

3rd Grade

Many of the third-grade classrooms learned about pork production and biosecurity in confinement buildings. The lesson started by reading from the pig Ag Mag to learn about the barns of a pig life cycle and several by-products we use that are connected to pigs. After this background knowledge, students explored the meaning of biosecurity. Third graders then had an activity of touching corn and soybeans while brushing out a stuffed animal pig. This action showed students how germs could spread within a barn or even the classroom setting as they handled supplies. A glow powder was placed on the supplies students handled and then observed on their hands using a blue light that showed the spread of germs.

Unity third grade students learned about pizzas and where all the ingredients come from to make pizzas we get to enjoy. First students completed the reading from the Ag Mag which explained the source of food ingredients in pizza. Afterwards students had the chance to make their own personal pizzas using a hamburger bun, pizza sauce, cheese, and pepperoni.

4th Grade



St. Dominic 4th Graders

St. Dominic fourth grade students deepened their understanding on the types of corn farmers grow. The corn Ag Mag highlight types of corn grow along with the steps of corn growth from planting to processing. Connections were

drawn to several food products we consume and items we use everyday that are sourced from corn. To tie the reading together, students completed an experiment related to chemical properties of acids and bases. This showcased how popcorn kernels interacted with vinegar and baking soda to dance in the liquid.

The remaining fourth grade classrooms dug deeper into their knowledge on soil particles and layers/horizons. Fourth graders kicked off this lesson through an informational video related to sand, silt, and clay with a soil pit demonstration. Afterwards, students completed a quick reading that connected to their Play-Doh activity discussing soil layers. Layers of playdoh represented the different soils we have in the country with each sample having different amounts of each layer.

5th Grade



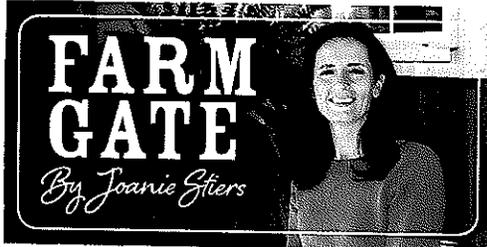
Denman 5th Graders

Students at Denman further read how the state of Illinois was formed by glacier movement. This resulted in a discussion around how some areas in our state are rockier and hillier compared to the central region which is primarily flat. Following this discussion, students mapped this layout using clay to diagram the state with colored beads representing glacier movements and areas with more crops or livestock.

Other fifth grade classes read a pollinator handout and completed a paper diagram of the parts of a flower. This diagram directly related to the student's hands-on activity of dissecting flowers. Students drew connections to types of flowers that are more attractive to different pollinators.

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Eggs Aren't Dairy and Other Farm Terms to Know

The veterinarian suggested her patient avoid dairy. The owners read through food and treat labels, making plans to eliminate eggs from their dog's diet.

Milk, cheese, butter ... eggs. The grocery store's layout had taught these consumers that cold case means dairy. Re-categorizing eggs as dairy wasn't a commonplace farm mix-up I had heard of or even considered before, but I personally have witnessed a dairy cow give milk and a hen lay an egg. The reality is fewer than 1% of us likely have according to the Census, so here's a quick guide to avoid the "not-from-around-here" vibe - something I need when visiting Chicago.

Hay and straw are not interchangeable. Animals eat one and sleep on the other. Hay is made from grasses or legumes that are cut, dried and stored to feed animals. Straw is the leftover stalk from grains like wheat or oats. It's great for bedding, insulation or fall décor, but if you offer it as dinner to our cows, they'll stare you down. Literally. Cows are honest like that.

Silo is the catchier term, but most cylindrical farm structures in Illinois are actually bins. A grain bin is round, wide and made of corrugated shiny steel. It stores dried grains like corn, soybeans and wheat. Silos are skinny, tall and narrow structures often made of brown-gray concrete or blue smooth steel. They hold moist animal feeds like silage. Both store farm products but avoid misspeaking in conversation with a farmer.

Not every piece of equipment with big tires is a tractor. Some are. Some are combines. Some are sprayers. Some pull things. Some do things. I get it. I still can't name all the tillage tools correctly. Likewise, not every cow is a cow unless you know it's a momma. But to avoid studying anatomy and adding bull, steer and heifer to the vocabulary, "cattle" safely sums up the herd in the plural.

Please know that not every egg can produce a chick. Field corn and sweet corn look similar until you eat them. Generally, barns hold animals and sheds store equipment and tools. The exception is barn/industrial, the new hybrid. And avoid saying dirt, especially in front of our FFA soils coach.

2025 Adams County Plat Books Available

Plat books are a great reference tool for landowners and business owners. They serve as essential guides for industries such as agriculture, land development, hunting, real estate, utilities, municipal government, and more. The latest edition, the 2025 Adams County Land Atlas and Plat Book, is still available, featuring the Adams County Bicentennial logo on the front cover to commemorate this historic milestone!

Published by Rockford Map Publishers, this edition can be purchased from the University of Illinois Extension at 330 S 36th St, Quincy, IL. For inquiries, call 217-223-8380.

The plat book features accurate displays of parcel boundaries, acreage data, roadways, waterways, railways, section lines, municipal boundaries, and recreational areas. It also includes an index of landowners. Each township parcel map is paired with a 3D aerial map, providing a quick visual reference for land use.

For additional products, visit RockfordMap.com to explore plat books, wall maps, and a variety of digital map products from counties across the country. For more information, call 815-708-6324.



Foundation Grants Available for 4-H or FFA Projects

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is committed to investing in the future by supporting young people who are interested in starting a new project through 4-H, FFA, or an entrepreneurial venture. Through its Youth Project and Entrepreneurship Grant Program, the Foundation provides financial assistance to help youth take the first steps toward developing skills, responsibility, and leadership.

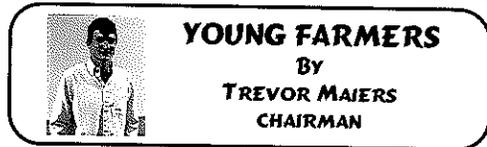
The program is designed to assist with new endeavors by helping fund supplies or materials needed to get started. Grant requests may range from \$25 to \$200, depending on the needs of the project. Applicants must be dependents of Adams County Farm Bureau members, and each applicant is eligible to apply once every 4-H year. Due to limited funding, not all applications will be awarded.

To encourage ownership and personal investment, youth are required to complete a handwritten application describing their project goals and outlining how the requested funds will be used. This process helps applicants think critically about planning, budgeting, and execution.

Recipients of the grant are asked to report back to the Foundation on the progress and outcome of their project or business venture. This follow-up allows the Foundation to see the impact of the program and celebrate the accomplishments of participating youth.

Applications are available by contacting the Adams County Farm Bureau office. For more information or to request an application, call 217-222-7305 or email acfbmanager@adams.net.

Through this program, the Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to encourage youth initiative, innovation, and hands-on learning while supporting the next generation of leaders in agriculture and business.



Greetings Adams County Farm Bureau! I hope everyone is staying warm this winter! I'm writing this during the nasty cold spell in January, and thankful at the time that we are no longer calving cows, but instead feeding them. Of course, the cattle market is telling us that now would be a great time to be calving cows instead of buying feeders, but I'm trying to stay positive!

The Young Leaders are having their conference to be held Super Bowl weekend in East Peoria, and we have a good-sized contingent going to represent Adams County. I am looking forward to the networking, the speakers, and representing our county at the state level. It's always been a fun event, and I've learned a lot over the past few conferences that I've attended. Succession planning is always a major topic at these events, and I do think there is a lot of value in what these conversations bring to the farm. They can feel repetitive after a few, but the message is clear: all generations must come together to find a common goal of keeping the farm going.

I hope all your waters stay unfrozen, and the calves are born in nonfreezing temps!



Welcome New Members

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thomas and Rose Campbell | Hunter and Samantha Thompson |
| Russell and Kim Corrigan | Kayla Walker |
| Angela and Pamela Duncan | Michael Wellman |
| Andrew and Shirley Thomeczek | |

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Adams County
Suicide Prevention
Coalition

If you are struggling, call....
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Visit acsuicideprevention.org

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

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.

HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN DECEMBER

- More than 2,000 members attended the IAA Annual Meeting, and Collegiate Farm Bureau attendance doubled year-over-year. Through Illinois Farm Bureau's grassroots policy process, delegates approved changes to five bylaws and 34 IFB policies, including sections focused on eminent domain, ag education, renewable fuels and more. Adopted resolutions were submitted by 23 county Farm Bureaus.
- Four IFB policies were advanced by the American Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Committee and will be voted on at the AFBF Convention in January. Illinois' policy proposals include changes to the H2A temporary visa program, supporting science-backed conservation evaluation tools and more.
- IAA Foundation raised \$75,000 at Annual Meeting to support Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom and the foundation's mission to prepare the next generation of agricultural leaders.



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ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU December Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was called to order by President Ben Hugenberg at 6:45 p.m. on December 10, 2025.

Annabelle Schaffnit led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance was taken by Secretary Brad Duncan.

GUESTS: Ryan Tebrudge, candidate for Illinois 15th Congressional District

Concerns from members: Board of Directors - no report

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

Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation: Fundraiser Chairman, Tim Ellerbrock

Scholarship applications will be available in January.

Summer internship applications are available now until February 1st.

Foundation Grant: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

A motion was made and seconded to approve a 4-H grant project for \$200. 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 November. The motion carried.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Annabelle Schaffnit.

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

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

A new member signed up as a PM member. After review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reclassify the new PM membership to a voting MM membership. The motion carried.

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

FARM BUREAU COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

Governmental Affairs Conference will be held on February 17.

We will extend an invitation to our Adopt-A-Legislator staff to attend the YL Conference.

Marketing Committee: Chairman, Brad Duncan

A motion was made and seconded to approve the processing of three hogs at the cost of \$360. The motion carried.

Local Affair Committee: Tim Ellerbrock

A committee recap was given. Ideas for dinner speakers were given.

Young Farmers Committee: Chairman, Trevor Maiers

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

Building Committee: Chairman, Bobby Baker

Hoping the new roof will be installed late December or January. Looking into a new Nest thermostat from Ameren.

Viewpoint Committee: Chairman, Tim Ellerbrock

Will look into having the Viewpoint Luncheon in February.

Ag in the Classroom Committee: Chairwoman, Danelle Donley

So far this school year AITC Coordinator, Kinsey Tiemann, has visited 3,750 first-time students and 6,500 repeat students.

The AITC meetings will be held twice a year instead of quarterly.

Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report
Executive Committee: Chairman, Ben Hugenberg

Met on December 1 to set the agenda for the December board meeting.

Fair Committee: Chairman, Alan Ippensen - no report

Annual Meeting/Appreciation Picnic: Chairman, Grant Huber - no report

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new ad rates for our monthly newsletter. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to reaffirm pledging \$50 a month to participate in the Cost Advantage Program with Pike-Scott and Calhoun Farm Bureaus. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

We received a thank you from Ladies of Charity for a meat donation.

Thank you from Jill Tracy

OLD BUSINESS:
Reviewed the IAA annual meeting which was held December 5-9 in Chicago.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

The AFBF annual meeting will be held January 9-13 in Anaheim, CA. Ben Hugenberg, Annabelle Schaffnit and Alan Ippensen plan to attend.

A motion was made and seconded to go in executive order. The motion carried.

The next board meeting will be held on January 14, 2026 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 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Duncan, Secretary

BAGI Scholarships Support Future Agriculture Leaders

Thanks to the generosity of Illinois' farming community—who allow hot air balloons to launch from and land on their property - the Balloon Association of Greater Illinois (BAGI) is proud to give back by supporting students pursuing careers in agriculture.

BAGI is offering \$500 non-renewable scholarships to students majoring in agriculture or agriculture-related programs. These scholarships recognize students who demonstrate strong academic performance, a commitment to agriculture, and/or financial need. The Vermilion County Farm Bureau will administer the scholarship program. The application can be found at: <https://bagiballoon.org/> on the right side under "Ag Scholarship Program" or click on the "Program" tab at the top.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be an Illinois Farm Bureau member, a dependent of a member (age 21 or younger), or the spouse of a member

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a high school graduate
- Be accepted by or currently enrolled in an accredited community college, college, or university
- Be enrolled in an agriculture, agribusiness, or agriculture-related field

- Demonstrate potential for successful completion of their course of study

- Reside in one of the following Illinois counties: Adams, Champagne, DeWitt, Douglas, Ford, Iroquois, Logan, Macon, Marion, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Moultrie, Peoria, Piatt, Sangamon, Tazewell, or Vermilion

In addition to eligibility requirements, scholarship recipients will be selected based on:

- Academic performance and honors
- Class rank
- Demonstrated interest in agriculture and agribusiness
- Financial need
- Evidence of self-help, including how the student contributes financially toward their education

Applications are due by March 15.

As part of the application, students must submit at least one character reference from a non-family member. The reference should briefly describe how the individual knows the applicant and what they have observed about the student's character. References must include the writer's name, address, and phone number and should be submitted as a PDF or Word document. Handwritten letters must be scanned prior to submission and uploaded with the online application.

Students experiencing difficulties uploading their reference or needing to submit it via email should contact Kerry Wienke at the Vermilion County Farm Bureau for assistance.

This scholarship program reflects BAGI's appreciation for the agricultural community and its commitment to investing in the next generation of agriculture professionals.



IFB Sets 2026 State Legislative Priorities

Following board approval of its 2026 state legislative priorities, Illinois Farm Bureau has outlined the legislative team's agenda for the year, which includes initiatives such as reforming the Illinois Estate Tax and opposing burdensome wetland legislation.

As the Illinois General Assembly returned to Springfield this month, passing the Family Farm Preservation Act (FFPA) remains a top goal for IFB. The measure would help the 96% of family-owned farms keep their operations intact through generational transitions without being forced to sell assets or land. The current estate tax threshold is \$4 million, but this is not an exemption, said Chris Davis, IFB's director of state legislation. It is an exclusion amount. When an estate exceeds \$4 million, the entire value is subject to taxation.

"Illinois Farm Bureau believes the state shares our commitment to preserving family farms," Davis told FarmWeek. "No family should be forced to sell the farm just to pay the estate tax."

Another priority for IFB is ensuring biofuels remain a central part of Illinois' energy future. Illinois ranks third nationally in ethanol and biodiesel production, and IFB says these renewable fuels offer an immediate, practical solution to reducing carbon emissions

while supporting the state's \$51 billion agricultural economy.

Significant federal and state resources have been dedicated to electrification, but IFB will advocate for policies that expand biofuel markets in support of agriculture, offering an immediate solution to decarbonizing the transportation sector.

Wetland regulations also remain a concern. Davis said IFB will work to prevent rules that create uncertainty for landowners and jeopardize farms. The organization supports policies that align with existing federal standards and provide clarity and consistency for members.

Along with concerns about wetlands, IFB is also focused on protecting personal property rights as interest grows in renewable energy projects, broadband expansion and carbon capture. These projects often require land use changes that can disrupt farm operations. IFB supports minimizing negative impacts from these projects and advocates for developers

to sign and comply with Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreements to protect the productive capability of farmland.

In addition to these top priorities, IFB will also focus on several other key issues this year, including:

Preserving farmers' ability to apply restricted-use pesticides while preventing additional burdensome legislation.

Maintaining a fair process for siting livestock farms under the Livestock Management Facilities Act that protects the environment and supports farmers' ability to raise livestock.

Securing adequate state funding for essential Illinois Department of Agriculture programs.

Continuing voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts through the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

To implement these priorities, the state legislative team will coordinate closely with county Farm Bureaus and IFB's Governmental Affairs and Commodities Division, Davis said.

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JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

JWCC Agriculture Program Updates

By Jody Heavner, Director



January's cold weather didn't slow the activities or coursework being completed by the students at the JWCC Ag Campus. Before classes even started, Justin Lewis and our Livestock Evaluation team were on the road. From Baylis to Oklahoma City to Denver and all points in between, they spent a week travelling more than 2500 miles, competing and seeing some of the best livestock in the country. We love to see our students succeed and this trip certainly didn't disappoint. Throughout the week, the JWCC Livestock Judging Team logged over 2,500 miles traveling to two national judging contests in Oklahoma City and Denver.



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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 are 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.

Congratulations to Wyatt McClintock on an outstanding week placing 4th in Cattle and 16th at the Cattlemen's Congress in OKC. Denver and the National Western Stock Show found him at 8th place in Feedlot Cattle.

For many students, this was their first time seeing the mountains—and for everyone, a first-time giving reasons on the side of a mountain. Experiences like these are what we do truly special. Opportunities like this would not be possible without the support of our ag community and family.

We often get the question, "how can we support the program?". This is the answer. John Wood Community College Agriculture will host its annual Online Sale Fundraiser on March 12, 2026, benefiting the JWCC Ag Club and Livestock Evaluation Team. The fundraiser will take place through a horse-race style online auction on SOnlineSales.com and will feature a wide variety of donated items, including agricultural products, tools and equipment, apparel, gift cards, services, and unique experiences. Proceeds from the sale go directly toward supporting students in the JWCC agriculture program by providing hands-on learning opportunities,

leadership development, and travel and competition experiences beyond the classroom.

Local businesses and industry partners play a vital role in the success of this fundraiser. Donations are tax-deductible at retail value and provide contributors with valuable exposure to a broad audience of agriculture supporters, educators, and community members. By supporting the online sale, donors are investing in the next generation of agricultural leaders while strengthening the connection between education and industry. Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 12th! For assistance, reach out to Bethany Beeler bbeeler@jwcc.edu or (309) 368-1789 or Justin Lewis jlewis@jwcc.edu or (217) 251-5020.

The Spring will be busy with many events, and we welcome our community to join us for a 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](https://www.facebook.com/JWCC_Agricultural_Education_Center) for the latest updates.



... 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

Big round bales of grass hay, net wrapped, edges covered. Call 217-242-5133.

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: _____

USE THIS FORM - SEND IT TO:

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Quincy, Illinois 62305 or Call 217-222-7305