

Adams County Farm Bureau

Agri Newsletter

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

Adams County Farm Bureau Welcomes COUNTRY Financial Agents at Board Meeting



At the most recent Adams County Farm Bureau board meeting, the evening looked a little different than usual. Instead of hosting a traditional guest speaker, the board welcomed local agents from COUNTRY Financial to spend time introducing themselves and visiting with board Directors.

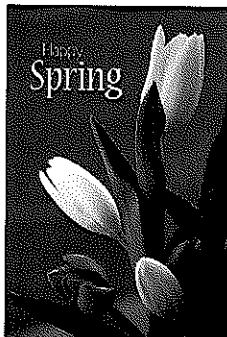
Agents from across Adams County had the opportunity to connect with the board, share updates, and discuss topics important to both organizations.

Conversations covered a variety of subjects including insurance premiums, the importance of Farm Bureau memberships, and several upcoming events planned for the summer months.

The meeting provided a great opportunity for open dialogue and relationship building. The partnership between Adams County Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial continues to be an important one, as both organizations share a long-standing commitment to supporting

farmers, rural communities, and local families. By working together and maintaining strong communication, both groups are able to better serve the agricultural community and the members they represent.

The evening was a reminder of the value of collaboration and the strong partnership that helps keep agriculture and rural communities in Adams County thriving.



Legislative Viewpoint Breakfast Held February 23rd

More than 60 people attended the Adams County Farm Bureau's annual Viewpoint Breakfast, giving members the opportunity to hear directly from their elected officials and discuss issues impacting agriculture and rural communities.

Mary Miller was in attendance and provided an update on current happenings in Washington, D.C. As a member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, Miller spoke about several key topics affecting farmers, including trade, commodity prices, the upcoming Farm Bill, and year-round E15. She also took questions from attendees, creating an engaging discussion with those in the room.

State-level updates were provided by Senator Jill Tracy, Representative Kyle Moore, and Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer. They shared their perspectives on current issues being discussed in Springfield before opening the floor to questions from the audience. The discussion allowed members to engage directly with legislators and voice their concerns on important issues.

Neil Anderson and Norine Hammond, who both represent townships along the northern edge of Adams County, were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Following the legislative updates, Viewpoint Chairman Tim Ellerbrock led a discussion on Farm Bureau policy. Each attendee received a copy of the Illinois Farm Bureau policy manual to take home and review. The manual serves as a valuable resource outlining Farm Bureau's stance on a wide range of issues related to its mission: "To improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life."

Tim Ellerbrock also encouraged members to share ideas and discuss topics the Adams County Farm Bureau should focus on during the upcoming program year.

Members interested in attending next year's Viewpoint Breakfast should watch this newspaper for the announcement and reservation details. Attendance is open to Adams County Farm Bureau members in good standing.

'Meating the Need' Central Adams Firecrackers 4-H Club Community Service

The Central Adams Firecrackers 4-H Club is preparing for a milestone year in one of its most meaningful traditions. In May, the club will host the 20th annual "Meating" the Need community service project. This is a Memorial Day effort that combines service, fellowship, and a commitment to helping local families in need.

Each year, following the Memorial Day Service at the Paloma

Shelter House at 11:30 a.m., club members serve a grilled hamburger and hot dog lunch. The cookout is made possible through generous donations from local businesses, grant funding, and community support. Proceeds from the lunch, along with additional donated funds, are used to purchase ground beef that is then distributed to families through the Community for Christ Assistance Center in Camp Point.

What began as a small service project has grown into a powerful tradition of giving back. Over the past 19 years, the Central Adams Firecrackers have donated an incredible 15,312 pounds of ground beef to local families. In a typical year, the club is able to contribute around 1,000 pounds.

This year, in celebration of the project's 20th anniversary, the club has set an ambitious goal: to donate 2,000 pounds of ground beef. With current prices averaging approximately \$6.00 per pound, reaching this goal will require nearly \$12,000 in funding.

Community support plays a vital role in making this project possible. Donations of any size help the club move closer to its goal and make a meaningful difference for families in need throughout the area.

Those interested in contributing to the "Meating" the Need project or learning more are encouraged to contact Brenda Williams at 217-430-2070 or Taylor Kill at 217-242-3245.

Adams County Farm Bureau to Host Flower Bouquet Workshop

The Adams County Farm Bureau will host a hands-on flower bouquet workshop on April 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the basement of the Farm Bureau building. The workshop will give participants the opportunity to learn floral arranging while also learning about the connection between flowers and agriculture.

The workshop will be led by Sadie Shoemaker, owner of Flora Lane Flowers. Sadie started her business this year as part of the Adams County CEO Class, where students create and operate their own businesses while gaining real-world entrepreneurial experience. During the workshop, Sadie will guide participants through the process of arranging their own flower bouquet. Each participant will create a bouquet to take home, and all supplies will be provided.

In addition to the floral demonstration, Kinsey Tiemann, the Adams County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, will give a short presentation highlighting how flowers are connected to agriculture and the role floriculture plays within the industry.

The workshop is free for Farm Bureau members and \$20 for non-members. Organizers hope the event will provide a fun and creative way for community members to learn something new while also connecting with agriculture. This event is also the first in a series of workshops the Adams County Farm Bureau plans to host in the future.

To register, contact Annabelle Schaffnit by emailing acfbmanager@adams.net or calling 217-222-7305.

PROMOTING Farm Safety

ADAMS COUNTY
FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, June 26th
ARROWHEAD HEIGHTS
GOLF COURSE

Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.

Team Entry - \$400
Includes: 4 person 18 holes/cart,
gift bag, lunch, 3 drink tickets per golfer

Contact the Farm Bureau
for more information 217-222-7305



LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

BY
RYAN MEYER

I was pleased with the turnout by all the legislators we had at the viewpoint breakfast on February 23rd. We are fortunate to have so many Illinois State House Reps and Senators to represent the members in Adams County. For years the district lines were aligned with the county lines, and we had 1 Senator and one House member, however after the 2020 census and redistricting lines were adjusted based off the new population numbers. Adams County has 2 Senators and 3 Reps. While a bit confusing for Adams County members to know whose district they live in, from a Farm Bureau's perspective we have more voices on issues than ever before.

As many of you have probably heard, the House Agriculture Committee has released a proposal for a new Farm Bill, and the legislation is currently being discussed in Congress. We are still operating under the 2018 Farm Bill, and a lot has changed since then. Rising input costs, inflation, and declining crop prices have created new challenges for farmers across the country. Passing an updated Farm Bill would provide much-needed support and stability for producers navigating today's economic conditions. Our Congresswoman, Mary Miller, serves on the House Agriculture Committee and has been listening to the concerns of farmers in our region as discussions move forward.

On another note, I want to remind everyone how important it is to vote. As members of the agricultural community, our voices matter. It is important to support candidates who understand agriculture and are willing to listen to the needs of rural communities. I am not here to tell anyone who to vote for, but I do encourage you to take part in the process. Voting is one of the most important ways we can advocate for the future of agriculture and ensure a strong legacy for the next generation.

In closing, I wish everyone a safe and timely planting season. Stay safe in the field, and here's hoping for good weather and a successful crop year ahead.



YOUNG FARMERS BY TREVOR MAIERS CHAIRMAN

Spring is already here, and it seemed to pop out of nowhere. It has been quite the ride figuring out next steps with the outside world seemingly collapsing all around us. Energy shocks, fertilizer shocks, and price shocks have all happened in rapid succession, and what a time to be a young producer. But we do hope to provide a little relief this summer.

We are planning on having a Young Leader trip this summer to a Cardinal baseball game. The last week of June, we will be heading to St. Louis. As of now, we are trying to pin down the exact date, so be watching Facebook for more details to come. Look forward to seeing you all then!



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS BY BEN HUGENBERG, PRESIDENT

Spring is officially here! Yes, we are in the midwest. We've seen single digit temperatures and five days later the mid 90's. We are seeing some wild swings in the weather. Since the Iran conflict has begun, some wild swings in energy prices. Currently, we have two completely different versions of the same story coming from the Iran Conflict. President Trump claims that we are in peace talks with the Iranian leadership on how to end the war. On the other hand, the Iranians are saying that no such talk exists and that there is no reason for talks to occur.

Whose version of the story is closer to the truth? I'm not sure, but I will pose a personal thought. The conflict will not end as quickly as we all hope, and energy prices at the retail locations we purchase them from, will not fall as quickly as they have risen. We all know, we may not like the midwestern weather, but wild swings are somewhat normal. In addition, we are all aware that we cannot control the weather. This is not unlike the Iran conflict and energy prices. Both are simply out of our control. So, we must do what we always do. We must weather the storm. We work with the information we have and put faith in a higher power that things will normalize.

Putting faith in a higher power is what we all do all the time but especially in the spring. We do the best we can with the conditions that we have. We place a small seed in the ground and hope it grows. We want it to flourish. A simple seed from something dormant, nearly dead awaiting life. Close similarities to Easter; from death to life. A new beginning, hope, placed in all of us that faith will grow, and that in the end, our faith will be rewarded. As we plant these seeds a bit more hope and faith help us to endure the storms knowing what we will reap will be worth all the struggles.

I wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter and a Happy and Joyful Spring.

Stay safe and enjoy the weather!

CELEBRATE Spring

**ADAMS COUNTY
OLDE TYME ASSOCIATION
FLEA MARKET
& CRAFTS**
May 16 & 17, 2026
ADAMS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Located on Interstate 336 between Quincy & Mendon

ANTIQUES • OLD TOOLS • COLLECTIBLES • NEW TOOLS
CRAFTS • GAS ENGINES • TRACTORS • NEW & USED TOYS

No Alcohol, Vendors of Animals, Firearms or Food Concessions
Club will provide food stand
Featuring Muegge Kettle Corn
Free Camping, Parking and Admission
Fees: Electricity for Campers - \$5.00 per day
Approximate Size: 10'x12' inside space - \$20 for weekend
20'x40' outside space - \$20 for weekend
8'x16' outside under cover - \$20 for weekend

Grounds open to public Sat. 7:30-5 & Sun. 8-3
For Reservations or Information, call or write:
Paul Woodworth, Box 4, Ursa, IL 62376
217-219-0272 or Jason 217-430-4434

Welcome New Members

Charles and Molly Frese
Rodney and Sharon Gooding
Chad and Stacy Hoffman
Power Services Company, LLC



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.

Adams County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Barb Baker Chapin

Spring reminds us that after the hardest winters—literal or emotional—new growth always follows. As you prepare your fields for the months ahead, take a moment to prepare yourself as well. Your mental health is one of the most valuable resources on your farm.

As the fields begin to thaw, spring brings a sense of hope and possibility to the farm. It's a season of preparation, planning, and—soon enough—planting. This time of year can be energizing, but it can also bring stress, long workdays, and pressure to get everything just right.

Here are a few gentle reminders and practical tips as you head into the busy season:

1. Pace Yourself

Spring often feels like a race against the clock. Remember that your wellbeing impacts the quality of your work, your safety, and the people around you. Build in small moments to stretch, hydrate, and rest.

2. Stay Connected

During planting season, it's easy to slip into long days of working alone. Make it a point to check in with a friend, family member, or neighbor. A quick phone call or shared cup of coffee can help reduce stress and remind you that you're part of a strong, supportive community.

3. Watch for Signs of Stress – In Yourself and Others

Farming carries unique pressures—market uncertainty, weather concerns, equipment issues, and financial demands. Pay attention to:

- Trouble sleeping
- Feeling overwhelmed or irritable
- Withdrawing from others
- Persistent worry

These signs signal that your mind and body need care, just like any part of your operation.

5. Remember: Asking for Help Is a Strength

It's okay to reach out for support when stress becomes too heavy to carry alone. Talking to a counselor, physician, faith leader, or trusted friend can make a meaningful difference.

*Wishing you a safe, productive,
and hopeful start to the season!*

ADAMS COUNTY COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

STAFF & OFFICE LOCATIONS

ADAMS COUNTY AGENCY
217-640-5430

331 S. 36th, Suite 4B
217-222-5841

Jesse Palmer District Leader
330 S. 36th St. • 217-222-7304
Erica Stephenson Agent
217-223-9900

Jack Bastert Agent
Lisha Leasman Agent Assistant
Doug Greenwall Agent
Mary Camell Agent Assistant

Jacob Hanson Agent
1932 State Street • 217-222-7300
Eric Ervin Agent
405 Hampshire St. • 217-936-2120
Casey Casey Agent
Kalyne Olson Agent Assistant

LIBERTY OFFICE
501 S. Main St. • 217-645-3042
Jeff Kroencke Agent

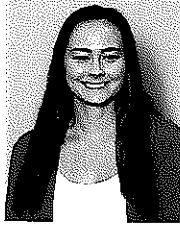
CAMP POINT OFFICE
126 E. State St. • 217-640-5994
Noah Strohkirch Agent

FARM BUREAU DAILY GRAIN BIDS

	CORN			SOYBEANS			WHEAT	
7/18/25	CSH	JUN	OCT	CSH	JUN	OCT	CSH	NEW
ELEVATOR	409	428	445	1028	1036	1053	546	546
CBOT FUTURES								
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		

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

Notes From The Manager



Annabelle Schaffnit

Hello everyone! I am so glad spring is finally here. This past month has been a little slower than others, but it has still been filled with some great opportunities to connect with our community.

I had the chance to share all things Farm Bureau with the University of Illinois Extension Annie's Project class, as well as a politics class at John Wood Community College. I wouldn't necessarily call myself a public speaker, but I do truly enjoy talking with others about my passion for agriculture and the work Farm Bureau does for farmers and rural communities.

I was also selected to serve on the Illinois Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee this year. Through this role, I will learn more in-depth about the resolution process and what happens before delegates vote on policy at the Illinois Agricultural Association Annual Meeting in December. I am looking forward to gaining a deeper understanding of how our grassroots policy process works.

One of my Rotary meetings this month included a tour of the YMCA. It had been years since I had last been in the building, probably since middle school, and I was very impressed with the improvements that have been made. It is clear they are working hard to create a welcoming place for people of all

ages in our community.

I also want to share a fun opportunity from Illinois Farm Bureau. Two members will have the chance to throw out a ceremonial first pitch at the St. Louis Cardinals vs. Chicago Cubs game on July 30 at 1:15 p.m. Each winner will receive the honor of throwing out the first pitch and five all-inclusive box tickets to the game.

How to Enter:

- Share why being an Illinois Farm Bureau member is valuable to you on Facebook or Instagram by May 10.
- Tag Illinois Farm Bureau's account.
- Make sure your post is set to public.

That's it, you're entered! A committee of Illinois Farm Bureau board members will select two winners based on the most compelling testimonials. Winners will be announced May 28 on Illinois Farm Bureau's social media accounts.

Because I am an Illinois Farm Bureau employee, I am not eligible to enter. However, if you need help entering or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. This is such a cool, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I will do everything I can to help get someone from Adams County on that pitching mound!

As always, Adams County Farm Bureau is here to support our members and help connect you with opportunities like this one. Whether it is sharing the story of agriculture, learning more about the policy process, or simply getting involved in community events, our members are the reason Farm Bureau continues to be such a strong voice for agriculture in Adams County.



ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER

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

Annabelle Schaffnit- Manager

Lisa Parker- Bookkeeper/Secretary

President - Ben Hugenberg - Vice President - Ryan Meyer

Young Farmer's Committee - Trevor Maiers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tim Ellerbrock
Nathan Parker
Matt Duesterhaus
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Eli Gronewold
Brandon Niekamp
Jon Myers

Enrollment Period for Farmer Bridge Payments USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has opened the enrollment period for the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program, providing \$11 billion in one-time bridge payments to row crop producers in response to temporary trade market disruptions and increased production costs. The FBA enrollment period opened Feb. 23 and closes April 17, 2026.

These bridge payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Bridge payments are intended in part to aid farmers until historic investments from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA), including reference prices which are set to increase between 10-21% for major covered commodities and will reach eligible farmers after Oct. 1, 2026.

How to Apply: Pre-filled applications will be available online to producers with a Login.gov account who timely filed their 2025 crop acreage report for eligible commodities. Producers who have a Login.gov account can access and submit their pre-filled application from fsa.usda.gov/fba. Additionally, producers can also request their pre-filled FBA application from their FSA county office.

April 17, 2026, is the deadline to submit completed FBA applications. Producers can complete FBA applications online or submit to their FSA county office.

Login.gov: Login.gov is the public's one account for government. Producers can use one account and password for secure, private access to participating government agencies, including FSA.

To apply for FBA online, producers can start by visiting fsa.usda.gov/fba to create their Login.gov account. Producers who have an existing Login.gov account, can work with FSA using their existing account.

With a secure Login.gov account, producers can be amongst the first to apply for FBA allowing them to view, certify, and submit their application as well as track their application and payment status. For assistance creating a Login.gov account, visit <https://login.gov/help/>.

Eligibility: The following commodities are eligible for FBA: Barley, Chickpeas, Corn, Cotton, Lentils, Oats, Peanuts, Peas, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat, Canola, Crambe, Flax, Mustard, Rapeseed, Safflower, Sesame, and Sunflower.

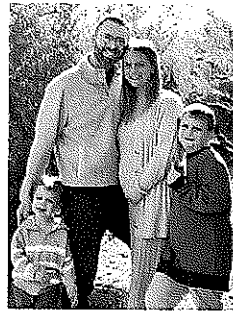
All intended uses for FBA eligible commodities are eligible excluding grazing, experimental, green manure, left standing, or cover crops. Initial acres, double crop acres, and subsequently planted acres, are eligible. Prevent plant acres are not eligible.

Crop insurance linkage is not required; however, USDA strongly urges producers to take advantage of the new risk management tools provided for in OBBA to best protect against future price risk and volatility.

Payment Calculation: In December, USDA released the payment rates by commodity. FBA payment rates are based on 2025 planted acres, Economic Research Service cost of production, and the World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimate Report.

More information on FBA is available online at fsa.usda.gov/fba. Producers can also contact their local FSA county office.

New COUNTRY Financial Agents



Jacob Heneisen

Started February 1, 2026

Office address:

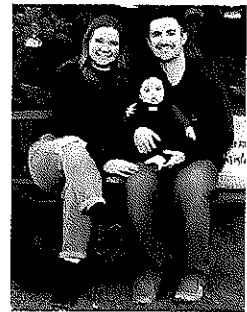
330 S 26th St, Quincy, IL

I grew up in a small town in Illinois and went on to play football at Lindenwood University, graduating in 2015. After college, I married my high school sweetheart Chloe and we moved to the Kansas City area, where I began my career with Federated Insurance. Those five years taught me that insurance is really about protecting people, their businesses, and their futures.

We later moved back to the Quincy area to raise our kids near family. I continued in insurance with Charles L. Crane Agency before spending the last two and a half years at Lamar Advertising, working closely with local businesses and community leaders across the Tri-State area. While I enjoyed that experience, I felt called back to the insurance world and the meaningful work it allows us to do. I'm excited to be part of this team and to learn and grow alongside all of you.

Outside of work, you'll usually find me cheering on my son at his games, volunteering at The Crossing on 48th Street, or fishing whenever I get the chance.

Looking forward to working together!



Noah Strohkirch

Started March 1, 2026

Office address:

126 E State St, Camp Point, IL

My name is Noah Strohkirch, and I'm from Camp Point, Illinois. My wife, Madison, and I became proud parents to our daughter, Ivy, in April 2025. As a family, we love taking walks around town and trying new restaurants whenever we can.

Madison works at Camp Point Central Elementary, where she recently transitioned from teaching 3rd grade to a part-time paraprofessional role so she can spend more time with Ivy.

In my free time, I enjoy anything outdoors - conservation work for deer, turkey, and waterfowl, as well as running, hiking, and golfing with friends.

Before joining COUNTRY Financial, I served six years in the Illinois Army National Guard, including two and a half years on active duty, and later worked as a Correctional Officer at the Adams County Sheriff's Office. These roles strengthened my commitment to service, discipline, and supporting my community. I take great pride in my work and look forward to providing exceptional service to my clients.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

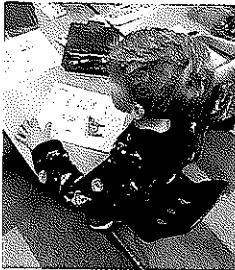
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	E	C	O	E	A	E	A	F	A	P	A	U
	P	T	V	C	N	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G
District I												
Brad Duncan	X		X	X	X	X						
Luke Muegge	X	B	X	X	X	X						
Tim Ellerbrock	X	O		X	X	X						
Matthew Duesterhaus			A			X	X					
Nathan Parker	X	R	X		X	X						
Brent Clair	X	D	X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



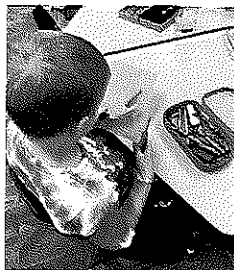
ADAMS COUNTY'S AG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Kinsey Tiemann, Ag Awareness
Program Coordinator

Kindergarten



Denman Kindergartener



Rooney Kindergartener

Most of the kindergarten lessons in March introduced Earth Day and resources we have on Earth. In this lesson, students create a bracelet with different color beads to represent resources on Earth. In addition to the bracelet, students listened to the story "Michael Recycle" which shared several good habits to start to keep the Earth healthy. Then to round out the lesson, students traced their hand onto construction paper and made a pledge to do their part to keep the Earth healthy.

Kindergarten students at Denman Elementary learned about farm animals and create a farm animal craft. This lesson taught students the proper names for male, female, and baby farm animals. These animals included chickens, pigs, cows, sheep, and horses. Likewise, students also discussed realistic colors the farm animals could be colored.

First Grade

All the first-grade lessons in March focused on plant growth and soybeans. After reading a Cat in the Hat story, students colored a crayon coloring sheet to correspond with the soybeans. Students learned about the uses for soybean crops and planted their own "Beanie Babies" by planting soybean seeds into a bag that they tied into a necklace. Students were responsible for keeping it warm for the seeds to start to grow!

March Ag in the Classroom Updates

Warmer weather days sparks a frenzy among teachers and students alike! With the recent spring like temperatures, I have been eager to take Ag in the Classroom lessons outdoors to soak up some sunshine. Spring season tends to be a favorite of mine. When temperatures start to inch upwards, Ag in the Classroom lessons transition to more plant-based topics to embrace this season of growth. Starting in March, classrooms have begun to receive their final Ag in the Classroom lesson of the school year. It warms my heart to have the end of the school year hugs and see the lives touched through Ag in the Classroom lessons. I look forward to the remaining Ag in the Classroom lessons to come and the upcoming field trip season!

Ag in the Classroom lessons in March were delivered to Denman, Rooney, St. Dominic, Unity, Central, St. Francis, and Baldwin Elementary schools.



St. Francis Third Graders

Second Grade



Baldwin Second Graders

Several second-grade lessons were offered throughout March. Students at Rooney, St. Dominic, Unity, Central, and St. Francis learned about soil and how much of our soil we have to grow food on. This lesson included a short reading related to soil then a fraction activity to determine how much of our Earth we can grow food on. This fraction was solved by cutting an apple into quarters. Three of those quarters represented water while the last piece was land. Yet not all land is used for agriculture, so we brainstormed how some land has been used for buildings and cities and other land doesn't have the proper climate for agriculture.

Denman second grade students learned about the water cycle in our time together. This included a reading related to water access and the steps in the water cycle. After this reading students diagrammed the water cycle onto a plastic bag, added water, and taped to the classroom window. Over time this showed the water cycle for students to watch. Baldwin second graders learned about dairy cows and milk products we enjoy. Afterwards, students shook heavy whipping cream to make butter.



Unity Second Graders

Third Grade

All third-grade students read about the importance of pollinators to grow food and strategies to keep pollinators healthy. After reading, students create a throw and grow seed ball to take home. This included mixing clay, potting soil, and wildflower seeds. When students went home, they were able to throw (or plant) their seed ball to sprout flowers for pollinators to visit.

Fourth and Fifth Grade

Fourth and fifth grade lessons introduced more Illinois plant knowledge to the classroom. This new lesson began with a reading on Illinois specialty crops. Students learned that Illinois is historically known for the number of pumpkins and horseradish grown in the state. In addition to reading about these specialty crops, students then complete a worksheet with a partner to determine which part of plants we eat. After going over the answers to this worksheet, partners then completed a logic puzzle. Fifth grade students at St. Dominic and Baldwin along with fourth graders at Rooney, St. Dominic, and Central completed this plant lesson.

Some fourth graders put their math skills to the test just in time for state testing. Denman and Baldwin fourth grade students worked on solving a lawn's area to apply fertilizer. In this problem students were tasked with measuring length and width of a map to determine area with their ruler. Unity's fourth grade students learned about corn production and completed a science experiment using popcorn, vinegar, and baking soda. This experiment caused the popcorn kernels to dance within the mixture and led to a discussion on acids and bases.

Fifth grade students at Denman and Rooney complete a horse measurement activity to round out the school year. This lesson showed the historical use of horses in agriculture. Afterwards, students convert horse "hand" measurements into feet and inches. This was another great math exercise before the upcoming state testing season.



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FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers



Soybean: Small Bean with a Big Resume

If I were a crop, I might be a soybean. I'm short, low drama and work best behind the scenes. My mood can shift from tolerant and forgiving (planting season) to an annoying attention to detail (harvest). But chocolate holds it all together. (Soy is the key; I'll explain).

All of that is really by comparison to corn, the primary crop alternative in Illinois. We live in the Corn Belt. Corn gains name fame for its visual dominance in acres. We find fascination in corn mazes, and the most common consumer-facing farm policy conversations - like ethanol - involve corn.

Unbeknownst to most citizens, Illinois grows more than 20 million tons of soybeans annually and claims the reigning title of No. 1 soybean state in the nation. The achievement reached the heart of Springfield, where legislators voted the soybean as the Illinois state bean in 2025.

Soybeans make a great team with corn as a rotational crop companion and literally bring the muscle with their protein punch. Our FFA chapter packed 4,000 non-perishable meals for local food pantries using soy protein, a budget-friendly, high-protein staple. Soy protein is a common ingredient in meat, both plant-based alternatives and the real thing. Soybean meal, the byproduct after removing the seed's oil, is the nation's top high-protein feed that brings chicken, pork, eggs and dairy to the table.

The average American consumes nearly half a cup of soybeans in some form every day, which could include cooking oil, margarine, soy milk and protein shakes. Soy lecithin keeps chocolate and cocoa butter from separating. Hooray for soy holding together my bite-sized sweet fix after lunch, which likely was a salad that wouldn't exist without dressing, a soy-dominant lifeline for the fresh greens.

Our farm fuels its tractors and trucks with soy-based biodiesel. Soy oil is a named ingredient in plastics for John Deere and the foam in the seats of Ford vehicles. This month, I will see the bean more than my family as I plant some 300 million of those pea-sized seeds across our farm.

Thankfully, soybeans tolerate a wider range of "good-enough" conditions during planting season. Corn prefers perfection. The tides turn come harvest, when the bean gets moody: moisture content rapidly shifts from too wet to too dry, and the mature, standing crop's harvestability is notoriously sensitive to weather.

Beyond that, soybeans check the boxes for Illinois: rotational cropping systems, soil types, climate and access to exports in a state literally shaped by rivers. As the top U.S. agricultural export crop, soybeans bring billions of dollars to America's economy.

Those are some cool beans.

Celebrate Spring

Adams County is Going to Busch Stadium

The Adams County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee is excited to invite members to join them for a fun summer evening at the ballpark. The group is planning a trip to Busch Stadium to watch the St. Louis Cardinals play on June 24th.

Participants will travel together by charter bus from Quincy to St. Louis. The bus will depart Quincy at 3:00 p.m. for the 6:45 p.m. game. Attendees will watch the game from one of Channel Seed's suites, where food and drinks will be provided throughout the evening.

Tickets for the event are \$40 per person. The cost includes transportation to and from the game, suite access, all you can eat food and drinks, and a great view of the Cardinals game.

To participate, individuals must be Adams County Farm Bureau members in good standing and be MM members, which has annual dues of \$80. Participants must also be between the ages of 21 and 35 by June 1.

The game will be on Wednesday, June 24th. Members are encouraged to watch the Adams County Farm Bureau Facebook page for updates.

Only 43 seats are available, and tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment can be made by cash or check payable to Adams County Farm Bureau. Payments can be dropped off at the office at 330 S. 36th Street in Quincy or mailed to P.O. Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305. Your seat will not be reserved until we have your payment.

If you have any questions, please contact the Adams County Farm Bureau office at 217-222-7305 or email acfbmanager@adams.net. Members may also reach out to Trevor Malers, Young Farmer Chairman, for additional information.

The Young Farmers Committee hopes members will take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy a Cardinals game, connect with fellow young farmers, and spend a summer evening together.

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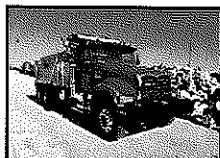
FEBRUARY 2026



- 1 Illinois Farm Bureau's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference brought together nearly 450 members for grassroots conversations about IFB's legislative and regulatory priorities. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. House Ag Committee Chair GT Thompson, U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood and Mary Miller, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch, plus over 100 General Assembly legislators were in attendance and interacted with the Farm Bureau members at GALT.
- 2 More than 450 IFB members attended the Young Leader Conference in East Peoria. The next generation of ag leaders gained valuable networking opportunities and meaningful personal and professional development.
- 3 IFB and COUNTRY Financial hosted seven ag summits throughout the state, providing essential economic and financial information for farmers to ensure the long-term health of their businesses.
- 4 IFB conducted training for 14 newer county Farm Bureau presidents from across the state, supplying them with information to enhance their success as a county leader.



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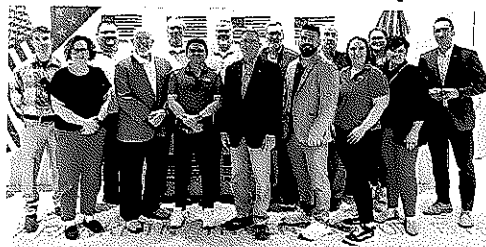


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USMCA Guides Market Study Tour



Thirteen Illinois Farm Bureau members and staff, pictured with Sean Cox of the USDA, right, and Carlos Cruz with Illinois Department of Agriculture, front, third from left, were one of the first groups from the U.S. to tour the new U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. (Photo courtesy of USDA-FAS)

Ahead of talks on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), 13 Illinois Farm Bureau members and staff traveled to Mexico, visiting food markets and sitting down with agencies and industry professionals to see firsthand how deeply U.S. agriculture is woven into Mexico's food system.

Efforts are ramping up to assess the trade agreement ahead of its first six-year review July 1, which made the USMCA a key topic of discussion on the IFB Market Study Tour to Mexico City March 9-13. While Estefania Perez, deputy director for the U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council (USGBC), told FarmWeek agriculture was not expected to be discussed when the first round of USMCA talks began March 16, she said the industry remains a major component of the negotiations.

U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico have risen by \$20 billion since USMCA took effect July 1, 2020, reaching \$60 billion in 2024, as reported by the *Agricultural Coalition for the USMCA*, which is made up of 40 farm and agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation. Mexico and Canada account for roughly one-third of U.S. total agricultural exports, and Illinois farmers across commodity sectors rely on this North American trade to support prices and demand.

Mexico alone accounts for over 17% of U.S. agricultural exports. The country relies heavily on imported grains and pork to meet domestic demand, with U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico valued at \$30.6 billion. At the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Director of the USDA Agricultural Trade Office and Foreign Agricultural Service in Mexico Sean Cox told IFB members Mexico ranked among the top destinations for U.S. corn, soybeans and meat exports in 2025. Corn and soybean exports totaled more than \$8 billion in value, while meat exports, including pork, beef and poultry, reached nearly \$6 billion.

One area with potential to expand trade between the two countries is ethanol.

Vladimir Saldana, communications consultant for Mexico City, who has been advising the USGBC, told IFB members on day one of the Market Study Tour Mexico is exploring ethanol to diversify fuel supplies and improve air quality. He said ethanol could also create new markets for U.S. agricultural products, as Mexico's domestic supply of feedstocks such as sorghum and sugarcane would not be sufficient to meet increased demand.

While ethanol represents a potential area for future growth, IFB members were reminded by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) meat trade remains one of the most immediate and sensitive components of the U.S.-Mexico agricultural relationship.

Because Mexico depends heavily on U.S. pork and beef to meet domestic demand, even minor trade disruptions could quickly affect food prices and availability. Gerardo Rodriguez Sanchez, regional director for USMEF in Mexico, said Mexico would struggle to replace U.S. supply in the short term, while U.S. producers would lose a high-volume, reliable market.

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU February Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was called to order by Vice-President Ryan Meyer at 7:30 p.m. on February 11, 2026.

Ryan Meyer offered the invocation and Annabelle Schaffnit led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Attendance was taken by Acting Secretary Tim Ellerbrock.

GUESTS: Quincy Mayor Dr. Linda Moore

Sherry Sparks and Michelle Kasparie with the Quincy Senior Center new elevator project

Jesse Palmer and Jacob Henisen with COUNTRY Financial Illinois Farm Bureau District 9 Director Rick Edwards

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 are available until March 31.

Raffle prizes need finalized so raffle tickets can be printed.

The internship budget was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to lower internship hours to 200 and pay \$3,000. A motion was made to amend that motion to leave internship hours at 300 and pay \$3,000. The amended motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve two \$500 JWCC Ag scholarships. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to pay \$470 to support an AITC program that Kinsey Tiemann had requested. The motion carried. **Foundation Grant:** Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report

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

FARM BUREAU SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORTS:

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

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

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

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

The Membership Report given by Matthew Duesterhaus.

An Associate member had indicated he owned farmland on the back of his membership renewal payment stub. After review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reclassify the membership to an MM membership. The motion carried.

A list of delinquent MM members was reviewed by the Board.

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

FARM BUREAU COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

Governmental Affairs Conference will be held on February 17 in Springfield. Annabelle Schaffnit, Brent Clair, and Dustin Speckhart plan to attend the conference.

Marketing Committee: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

A beef was donated to a food pantry.

Nine hogs were donated for food pantries.

Young Farmers Committee: Chairman, Trevor Maier

A recap was given on the statewide Young Leaders Conference which was held February 6-7 in East Peoria.

Local Affairs Committee: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit - no report

Building Committee: Chairman,

Bobby Baker

The new roof was installed this month.

New locks will be installed at back entrance and Country Financial office.

Viewpoint Committee: Chairman, Tim Ellerbrock

The Viewpoint breakfast will be held on February 23 at the Holiday Inn starting at 8:00 a.m. Congresswoman Mary Miller, State Senator Jill Tracy, State Representatives Kyle Moore, Norine Hammond and C. D. Davidmeyer will be our guest speakers.

Ag in the Classroom Committee: Chairwoman, Danelle Donley

A report was provided of AITC Coordinator Kinsey Tiemann's updated classroom and student impression status.

Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report

Executive Committee: Vice-President Ryan Meyer

Met on February 2 to set the agenda for the February board meeting.

Fair Committee: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit - no report

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

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

Flora Lane Flowers workshop

Meating the need

Leaders to Washington trip

A Rules of the Road seminar will be held at the Pike-Scott Farm Bureau on March 11 starting at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a Quincy Farmers Markets sponsorship. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit - no report

OLD BUSINESS:

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

The Chamber of Commerce Ag banquet will be held on March 10.

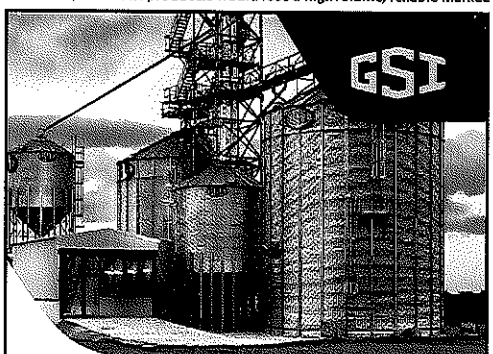
NEW BUSINESS:

Illinois Farm Bureau District 9 Director Rick Edwards gave an update on the Country Financial Board of Directors.

The next board meeting will be held on March 11, 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 9:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Tim Ellerbrock,
Acting-Secretary



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Adams County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

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The ACFB Foundation is holding our 8th annual golf tournament on Friday June 26th at Arrowhead Heights Golf Course in Camp Point, IL. The event will be an 18-hole scramble format, with Shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. OR 12:30 p.m. with a pork loin lunch serving from 11:30 - 1:30. For more info call 217-222-7305 or email acfbmanager@adams.net

Our FOUNDATION was established to achieve many goals: scholarships, internships, food security, and Ag in the Classroom program.

Meal Sponsor: \$1,000 Exclusive Signage in Dining Area, Team Entry, Banner & Program Recognition, 4x8 Ad in FB Paper (Only 1 Company)

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A
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JWCC Agriculture Program Updates

By Jody Heavner, Director



Spring is a time of transitions and new beginnings. A heartfelt thank you to Justin Lewis who will be leaving our program to return to his family's operation in Eastern Illi-

nois. We can't thank Justin enough for his hard work and dedication over his years at JWCC. His contributions to the JWCC have been instrumental in the success and

growth of the program. He will be greatly missed in the classroom and on the road with our students. We wish him nothing but the best! We are very fortunate to have Jordan Rauch joining us. Jordan's extensive experience in livestock production and the livestock feed industry as well as a collegiate instructor and coach, will make him tremendous asset to our students and program. Jordan will be taking over instruction of the Animal Science coursework as well as responsibilities as the Livestock Evaluation Coach. If you see Jordan in the community, make sure to let him know we are happy to have him on board.

Our students continue to excel and impress, this time at the national level. The crew traveled to Branson, MO to compete at the National Professional Agriculture Students organization conference.

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.

What a week they had! Our Beef Management Team of Jacob Davis, Wyatt McClintock and Garrett Morris brought home a National Championship with Wyatt being named the individual National Winner. Our Conservation and Natural Resource team of Austin Kindhart, Danny Miller and Emma Moss also came home as National Champions with Danny Miller and Emma Moss placing in the top 3 nationwide. In addition, Wyatt McClintock earned National Champion honors in the area of Vet Science and Animal Health while Garrett Morris returned as a National Champion in Extemporaneous Public Speaking. It was a tremendous week, and we couldn't be more proud of our students and their accomplishments.

Class work continues as we wrap up the semester. Students are in the field banding ducks with the DNR, getting certified in beef arti-

ficial insemination, gaining tractor safety skills, learning about drone operation with our new spray drone, practicing vet assistant skills and preparing to enter internships and the workforce.

A big THANK YOU to all the donors who contributed items to our online sale and the buyers who were lucky enough to take home some great items. Your support is vital to our ability to offer these opportunities to our students.

We had a tremendous crowd for our JWCC Explore Ag Pathway Day. If you know of someone who may be interested in our program, have them contact us to set up a visit. As always, if you have questions feel free to reach out to ag@jwcc.edu and follow us on Facebook at JWCC Agricultural Education Center for all the latest information and to see all that our students are doing.

Welcome Spring

... 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.

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16' hay elevator with electric motor. \$250. Call 217-779-2813.

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5'x6' net wrapped grass hay, stored inside. Call or text 217-257-9508.

Help Wanted: Cemetery superintendent in Quincy. Call 217-222-0582.

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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