

Adams County Farm Bureau

Agri Newsletter

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

Generous Adams County Farm Bureau Family Donates Beef To Support Local Food Pantry



Sherri Young and Annabelle Schaffnit, Farm Bureau Manager, unloading the donated meat.

A generous member of the Adams County Farm Bureau recently donated a whole beef to the Community for Christ Assistance Center in Camp Point, helping provide nutritious, locally raised protein to families in need.

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation covered the processing costs, while Dawning Day Butcher Shop completed the processing. The donation yielded more than 800 pounds of beef, which will be distributed to households served by the pantry. The Community for Christ Assistance Center feeds approximately 200 people each month.

Each year, the Adams County Farm Bureau sets aside funds to pay processing fees for meat donated by its members. Donors may select the food pantry that receives the meat and choose a butcher within a 50-mile radius, ensuring the donation benefits local families while supporting area businesses.

This program reflects the Farm Bureau Foundation's ongoing commitment to strengthening the local food system and helping neighbors in need. If you are interested in participating in the meat donation program, contact **Annabelle Schaffnit**, Manager, at 217-222-7305 or acfbmanager@adams.net for more information.

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

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.

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

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

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

Applications will be available January 5th from the Adams County Farm Bureau office and/or their website (adamsilfarmbureau.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.

Community Leaders Share Updates At February Board Meeting



Mayor Linda Moore

The Adams County Farm Bureau Board of Directors welcomed several community leaders to its February meeting for an informative discussion on local progress, new opportunities, and community needs.

Linda Moore, Mayor of Quincy, shared updates on the future vision for the city and ongoing development efforts. She highlighted projects aimed at strengthening infrastructure, supporting economic growth, and enhancing quality of life for residents. Moore emphasized the importance of collaboration between local government, businesses, and community organizations to ensure Quincy continues to thrive.

Representing COUNTRY Financial, Region Manager Jesse Palmer introduced Jacob Henison as a new COUNTRY Financial agent serving the Quincy area. Henison's addition brings expanded insurance and financial service resources to the community, strengthening support for local families, farms, and businesses.

Community advocates Sherry Sparks and Michelle Kasparie spoke about an important need at the Senior Citizens Center. They



Speakers Jessie Palmer and Jacob Henison



Speakers Sherry Sparks and Michelle Kasparie

shared that the facility's elevator requires major repairs to continue providing safe and accessible services for seniors. Therefore, it is in the works to build a second elevator for the center. The center is actively seeking donations to help fund the elevator project and ensure older adults can continue accessing programs and essential services. They are needing 1.6 mil-

lion dollars.

The Adams County Farm Bureau appreciates these guest speakers for providing valuable updates and highlighting opportunities to strengthen the Quincy community. Their presentations underscored the power of partnerships and community support in building a stronger future for residents of all ages.

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



LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

By
RYAN MEYER

In Adams County, we are fortunate to have political leads on the local, state, and federal levels willing to meet with us farmers. This face-to-face interaction allows us to bring forward new ideas for improvement on policies in place, old policies that are not relevant to be removed, and new policies that will help us as farmers. Recently, in our February monthly meeting, Quincy's mayor Dr. Linda Moore joined us and gave an update on what was happening in Quincy with current and upcoming projects. She also talked about how the city is working with the state to improve the roads that many of us travel on. Another vital program that Adams County Farm Bureau has is our viewpoint meeting. In this gathering, we hear updates from our state and federal representatives. This open communication allows them to explain some of the interworking of new bills being proposed. This gives us time to find out more if we may or may not want to support the new legislation.

On a positive note, Philip Nelson was elected president and 5 new directors were seated on the Country Financial board after the resignations of the past members that were not reelected to IFB. Hopefully, now business for both IFB and Country Financial can move forward and focus on what needs to be done.

Some other important topics to keep an eye on is the farm bill extension which has many levels that affect us producers. Also, the EPA's elimination of 2009 Greenhouse Gas endangerment finding and emission standards for all vehicles and engines year 2012 and on.

Farmers please be aware, involved, and engaged of the policies that direct how we farm. Many law makers that are forming these rules and regulations do not know the ag world. They could put into place laws and policies that could control how we operate, feed our families, make a living, conduct business and pass on our wonderful livelihoods.

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 acfbman-ager@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.

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.



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By **BEN HUGENBERG,
PRESIDENT**

Has the weather played a trick on us? We have seen a small streak of spring weather and then we returned to some bitter cold. What will the next few weeks hold for us? We hope for good planting conditions and do what we think will be the best.

We have seen on the State Farm Bureau level a full change of our board positions which will hopefully bring to an end some unprecedented power struggles within the organization. We can now work towards issues that are facing our industry and hopefully begin to heal issues within our organization.

We must work on prioritizes such as completing and passing a farm bill and not just a short-term extension to issues facing farm income. As many of us know, the economics of farming currently, can not stay the way they are, or many will not survive economically.

I wish everyone good health and good weather as we begin to see the start of spring.



YOUNG FARMERS

By
**TREVOR MAIERS
CHAIRMAN**

Hello Adams County, spring is almost here! We are working towards setting up a new event for this summer, and will have more information on our Facebook page, and in this publication as well. We are working out some details now but will have the event finalized in the middle of March. The Young Leader Conference was held in Peoria February 6th-7th. We had a great crowd from Adams County that attended. Learning about succession planning, marketing, and farm business management were a few of the sessions and topics covered. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to next year!

I would be remiss to not mention the passing of my great-uncle, Mr. Steve Kaiser, a long-time Adams County grain and hog farmer. As a past board member of PrairieLand FS and Adams County Farm Bureau, he was a pillar of the local ag community, and he will be missed by all those who were able to interact with him. Enjoy the shiny new red paint, flat and square fields, straight rows, and bottomless black coffee in paradise Steve!

BenefitHub: Illinois Farm Bureau's New Member Benefit Platform

Illinois Farm Bureau members now have a simpler, smarter way to access and maximize their member benefits. **BenefitHub** is the new, easy-to-use platform where you can explore all your favorite discounts—and discover new ones—across dozens of everyday categories including travel, tickets, auto, electronics, and more. Many of the top brands in the U.S. are featured, giving members meaningful savings on the things they buy most. Follow these four quick steps to get the best value and maximize savings:

1. Start in the BenefitHub portal to compare deals across retailers.
2. Buy a discounted gift card when one is available.
3. Complete your purchase through the merchant link in BenefitHub, using your gift card.
4. Enjoy both the retailer discount and cash back.

Getting Started:

If you previously had an Abenity account, you can sign in to BenefitHub using your existing email and password. New to the platform? Create an account and start saving today.

Visit: <https://ilfb.benefithub.com>

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farmers care

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& 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

FARM BUREAU DAILY GRAIN BIDS

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

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

ADAMS COUNTY COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

STAFF & OFFICE LOCATIONS

ADAMS COUNTY		331 S. 36th, Suite 4B	
AGENCY		217-222-5841	
Jesse Palmer	District Leader	Jack Bastert	Agent
		Lizhe Leasman	Agent Assistant
		Doug Greenwell	Agent
		Mary Cannell	Agent Assistant
330 S. 36th St.		LIBERTY OFFICE	
217-222-7304		501 S. Main St. • 217-645-3042	
Erica Stephenson	Agent	Jeff Kroenke	Agent
405 Hampshire St.		1932 State Street	
217-936-2120		217-222-7300	
Cassy Casey	Agent	Erie Ervin	Agent
Kalynne Olson	Agent Assistant		

Notes From The Manager



Annabelle Schaffnit

Over the past month, I've had the opportunity to represent agriculture, strengthen community connections, and continue developing leadership skills through a variety of events and initiatives that support both the farm community and the public we serve.

One of the highlights of the month was attending the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Conference in East Peoria. This conference brought together young agricultural leaders from across the state to sharpen communication skills, discuss current issues impacting agriculture, and build connections with peers who share a passion for the industry. The sessions emphasized leadership development, advocacy, and the importance of telling agriculture's story effectively.

Supporting our local community remained a priority this month. I coordinated the pickup and delivery of a generous beef donation from an Adams County Farm Bureau member to the Community for Christ Assistance Center in Camp Point. This donation will help provide nutritious meals to families in need throughout the area. Seeing local agriculture directly support neighbors in times of need is a powerful reminder of the compassion and generosity within our farm community.

I was honored to serve as the speaker for the Illinois Holstein Ban-

quet, where I shared insights about agriculture advocacy, leadership, and the importance of promoting a positive image of the dairy industry. Engaging with producers and industry supporters provided an opportunity to celebrate their dedication while reinforcing the importance of staying connected with consumers.

Advocacy efforts continued at the Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference in Springfield. This event focused on legislative priorities, grassroots engagement, and strengthening relationships with elected officials. Discussions emphasized the importance of ensuring that the voices of farmers and rural communities are heard at the state and national levels.

I also had the opportunity to work the IFB booth at the Illinois Beef Expo, where I connected with producers, youth exhibitors, and consumers. The event provided a platform to promote Illinois agriculture, answer questions about Farm Bureau programs, and celebrate the dedication of beef producers across the state.

Closer to home, the Adams County Farm Bureau hosted a Viewpoint Breakfast that ran smoothly and provided a valuable forum for dialogue between local leaders, elected officials, and members. Events like this foster productive conversations about issues affecting agriculture and rural communities while strengthening relationships with decision-makers.

Investing in the future of agriculture is always a priority, and this month I interviewed several impressive young women for the Adams County Farm Bureau Summer Internship. The candidates demonstrated strong organizational skills, enthusiasm for agricultural education, and the ability to work independently while collaborating with multiple supervisors. Selecting an intern who will help educate youth about agriculture is an important step toward cultivating the next generation of advocates.

To continue strengthening my own leadership abilities, I attended Denise Tallcott's leadership seminar. The training provided practical tools for communication, team engagement, and personal growth. Sessions emphasized adaptability, effective decision-making, and the importance of leading with confidence and clarity, skills that directly support my work serving members and the community.

Overall, the past month has been filled with meaningful opportunities to advocate for agriculture, support local families, develop leadership skills, and invest in the next generation. From statewide conferences and industry events to local outreach and community service, each experience reinforces the importance of building strong relationships and promoting the vital role agriculture plays in our everyday lives.

Getting to Know Farm Bureau Policy

105 Illinois Department of Agriculture

We support:

1. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) as a stand-alone agency.

2. Strengthening the IDOA including its role in regulatory concerns as they apply to agriculture.

3. Strengthening Illinois county fairs, the Illinois State Fair, and the DuQuoin State Fair as agricultural expositions.

4. The State of Illinois fully funding its portion premium dollars at Illinois county fairs.

5. The establishment of a charitable foundation to solicit donations and sponsorships to grow and improve the Illinois State Fair and the DuQuoin State Fair.

6. The IDOA and the State of Illinois putting a five-to-ten-year plan in place to move the Illinois State Fair up at least one week.

7. Sufficient meat inspectors on staff so as to be readily available and not hinder the ability of local meat lockers to harvest as needed.

Adams County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Barb Baker Chapin

Transitions of Western Illinois is offering Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to the Adams County area in 2026. MHFA teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health or substance use challenges, how to listen non-judgmentally, offer reassurance, and encourage professional help. Just like CPR for cardiac arrest, MHFA is valuable to anyone who would like to feel more comfortable talking to a person in a mental health crisis.

Thanks to a grant from the Tracy Family Foundation, Transitions is offering MHFA training during 2026. MHFA training is an 8-hour course and those completing the 8-hour course earn a certification in MHFA. Thanks to the Tracy Family Foundation, there will be no cost to attend a training.

A training for people who would like to feel more comfortable assisting a youth in crisis will be held on Friday, June 19th. Two trainings for people who would like to feel more comfortable assisting an adult in crisis will be held on Friday October 16th and on Friday, December 4th.

For more information about the trainings or to register for one of the three trainings, please e-mail Barbara Chapin at Transitions of Western IL (bchapin@twi.org).

"With Mental Health First Aid, anyone can become the steady hand someone else needs in their toughest moment."



ON THE FARM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026											
District I											
Brad Duncan	X		X	X	X						
Luke Muegge	X	B	X	X	X						
Tim Ellerbrock	X	O		X	X	X					
Matthew Duesterhaus		A			X						
Nathan Parker	X	R	X		X						
Brent Clair	X	D	X	X	X						
District II											
Jered Peter	X	E	X		X						
Bobby Baker	X	E	X	X	X						
Scott Venvertloh	X	T	X		X	X					
Kent Degee	X	I		X	X	X					
Alan Ippensen	X	N	X	X	X						
Dustin Speckhart	X	G	X		X	X					
District III											
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	X					
District IV											
Jacob Schmidt	X	D	X	X	X						
Madelyn Thompson											
Eli Gronewold	X		X	X	X	X					
Jon Myers				X	X	X					
Brandon Niekamp			X	X	X						
Officers											
Pres. Ben Hugenberg	X		X	X	X						
V. Pres. Ryan Meyer	X		X	X	X	X					
Y.F. Rep. Trevor Maters	X		X	X	X						

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER

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Annabelle Schaffnit - Manager
Lisa Parker - Bookkeeper/Secretary

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

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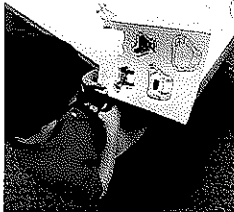
ADAMS COUNTY'S AG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Kinsey Tiemann, Ag Awareness
Program Coordinator

The Season of Busyness is in Full Swing

The spring semester tends to bring more classroom visits and programming in the Extension world. February has been full of Ag in the Classroom lessons. The calendar for March and April is filling up with more lessons, National Ag Day coloring contest, and teacher professional development workshops. Late April will bring two teacher professional development opportunities related to Ag in the Classroom lesson adaptations and outdoor education activities. The Illinois READ reading program announced their summer library program theme related to plants. This year's theme is "Plant a seed: Read." In the coming months, hopefully Ag in the Classroom can be plugged into community libraries to align with the summer reading theme.

February's Ag in the Classroom lessons were delivered to Iles, St. Francis, St. Peter, Liberty, Lincoln-Douglas, and Blessed Sacrament.



St. Peter Kindergartener

Kindergarten

Most of the kindergarten classes learned about animals on the farm. In this lesson, students recited the correct names of the baby, male, and female of common farm animals. These animals were sheep, pig, cow, horse, and chickens. After this portion of the lesson, students were tasked with coloring a bam and accurately coloring each of these farm animals.



Iles First Grader

First grade students learned about parts of plants we eat through the story "Tops and Bottoms." This was a fun story for students which also unintentionally taught integrity. After reading the book, students created a craft to mimic the garden the book's character made. Through our time together students got a better understanding of parts of plants that we eat.

The first graders at St. Peter School learned about horses through a Cat in the Hat story. Afterwards, the students decorated a horse puppet and created a trail mix bag. This trail mix bag represented food that horses eat in their diet.

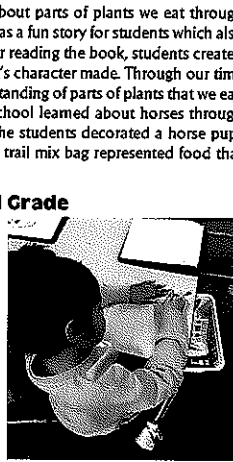
Second Grade

A majority of second grade students learned about evergreen trees. This included an experiment on pine tree adaptations. With the experiment, students learned how pinecones close when wet to help protect their seeds. Our conversation started discussing the importance of adaptations for plants and animals to survive. In addition, students completed a chart to diagram the differences between evergreen vs. deciduous trees.

Blessed Sacrament second grade students learned about the water cycle. Students began by reading about this cycle for foundational knowledge. Afterwards, they diagramed the water cycle onto a plastic baggie and added aquarium rocks and water. These bags were taped to the window of the classroom for the sun to heat up and model the water cycle within the bag.



St. Peter First Grader



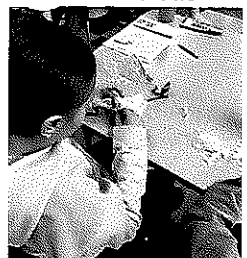
Lincoln Douglas
Second Grader



Lincoln Douglas Third Grader

All third grade students completed a lesson related to pork production. Students were surprised to learn that Illinois ranks fourth in national pork production and to hear about all the by-products we use pigs for. After reading in the pork Ag magazine, students completed a biosecurity activity that simulated the potential germ transfer that hog farmers are cautious of between barns. We translated this conversation to the recent cold and flu season with the spread of germs.

Fourth Grade



Liberty Fourth Grader

Most of the fourth grade classrooms visited in February learned about cotton production. This included a reading related to cotton history and steps in growing cotton. Afterwards, students watched a cotton gin in action that separated cottonseed from cotton lint. To complete the lesson, students were given their own cotton boll and tasked with separating these seeds like the cotton gin did. Many students found the activity relaxing, but appreciated the technology that does this task now!

Students at St. Peter and Blessed Sacrament completed a soil lesson. Reading and activities in the lesson introduced soil particles and soil layers. Through a play-doh activity, students learned that not all soils are the same. Our discussion highlighted that Illinois soils are nutrient rich which allow for crop production to excel while soil in western United States is better for livestock production.

Fifth Grade



Iles Fifth Grader

All fifth grade classrooms visited in February learned about pollinators and the parts of the flower. First, students completed a reading regarding types of pollinators and shocked students with the drastic connection between pollinators and food we eat. The reading related to the parts of flowers in which students created a paper diagram to model these pieces. To wrap up the lesson, students dissected flowers to see these parts in real life.

WE
THANK
AG FOR
THAT.

ILLINOIS HAS OVER
71,000 FARMS

ILLINOIS IS #2 IN
CORN PRODUCTION
IN THE U.S.

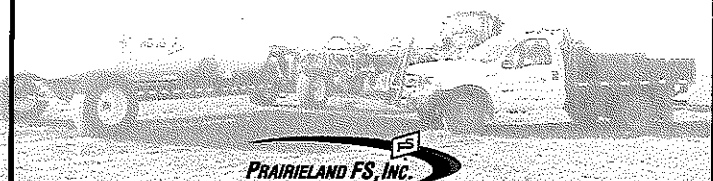
75% OF ILLINOIS
LAND IS FARMLAND

AG
IS
ILLINOIS'
#1
INDUSTRY

NATIONAL AG DAY
MARCH 24



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Suicide is Never the Solution*

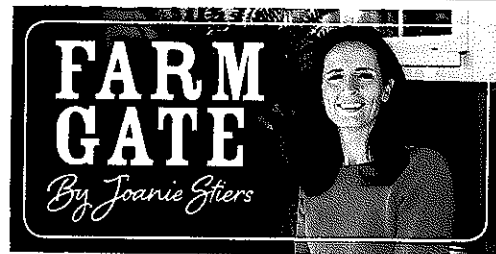
Adams County
**Suicide
Prevention**
Coalition

If you are struggling, call....

9 - 8 - 8

Visit accsuicideprevention.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



It's National Ag Month

Hats Off to the Many Roles of Family Farmers

Our son has 39 hats hanging in his bedroom – bill facing down and caps evenly spaced in a single row on hooks positioned within inches of the ceiling.

Wait. Make that 42. Dad just returned from two farm shows.

Farmers own and wear many hats, a culture traced back to at least his great-grandpa's era in farming. Farmers love to wear hats. Ag retailers love to give them away as walking advertisements. And nowadays, many schools allow hats during the academic day, making them both a style statement and a part of today's youth identity.

Metaphorically, farmers wear many hats throughout the day, a juggling act worth recognizing in this season that honors National Ag Day on March 24, 2026. Being a full-time farmer means embracing a wide range of part-time roles: grower, mechanic, heavy equipment operator, agronomist, meteorologist and veterinarian among them.

You could add scientist to the list: The liquid fertilizer jar tests in our shop fridge prove this one. Logistics manager is another: Necessary to direct trucks hauling grain 11 months of the year. Firefighter, too: This last dry and abnormally hot harvest required that. Add in accountant: We keep our own books. Then, our grain requires a marketer, our freezer beef a sales lead; our employees, a human resources manager; and the next generation, a mentor and teacher.

An impressive 96% of Illinois farms are owned by families, and on those farms family operators and their employees must assume many roles with enough skill to be mechanics at 8 a.m., marketers after the late-morning USDA report, agronomists before the kids get off the bus and accountants by dusk. We personally recognize the value of partnering with outside professionals who improve our performance in those fields as we conduct this orchestra of crops, people, tools and nature.

Our son owns trucker-style farm hats for nice events, school and playing golf. He reserves a grungy one for farm work and another for outdoor FFA events. He also displays one that belonged to his great-grandpa, a nod to Gramps and his former hat collection. I still can picture those farm caps, more than 100 that fully covered Gramps' farmhouse office walls to the point Granny didn't realize termites had destroyed the studs behind them.

Outside of termite exterminator, farmers wear many hats in every sense of the phrase.



Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders "Harvesting Success" at 2026 Conference



Adams County had 9 attendees go to the Young Leaders Conference.

Illinois Farm Bureau young leaders from across the state gathered Feb. 6-7 in East Peoria for the 2026 Young Leader Conference, themed "Harvesting Success." The annual event brought together agricultural professionals, Farm Bureau members ages 18-35, and Collegiate Farm Bureau students for two days of leadership development, networking and education.

More than 444 attendees, including a record-setting 135 Collegiate Farm Bureau members, participated in the conference, which featured 20 breakout sessions across five tracks: On the Farm, Agribusiness Management, Young Professionals, Education & Engagement and On the Horizon. Sessions were designed to give young leaders practical tools they can apply in their operations, careers and communities.

The conference kicked off with keynote speaker Lance Weaver, a former agricultural banker turned business coach. Weaver focused on succession planning

and helping producers organize their operations and position their businesses for long-term success, sharing practical strategies attendees could take home and implement immediately.

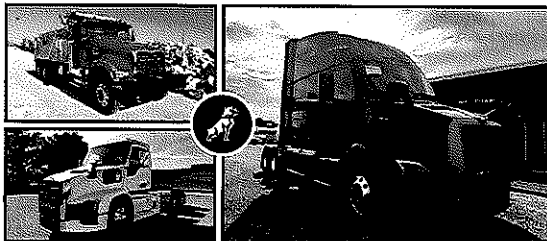
In addition to educational programming, the conference emphasized networking and community impact. Attendees connected with peers from across Illinois during multiple social events throughout the weekend, including the Harvest for All Fun Night on Friday evening.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the Glow in the Dark Trivia Night, which raised \$9,698 to support Harvest for All,

Illinois Farm Bureau's hunger-relief initiative. Proceeds from the event will help provide meals for Illinois families facing food insecurity.

The Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference continues to serve as a key development opportunity for the next generation of agricultural leaders, equipping them with knowledge, connections, and confidence to strengthen their operations and advocate for agriculture.

For more information about Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader programs, contact Adams County Farm Bureau office by calling 217-617-3132 or emailing acfbmanager@adams.net



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HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN JANUARY

- 1 The Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors approved the organization's state and federal legislative priorities, including estate tax reform, protecting private property rights, expanding biofuel use, a full multi-year farm bill and more.
- 2 Four IFB policy submittals were adopted by American Farm Bureau Federation during the AFBF Convention, including language addressing ag labor, drones and science-backed conservation evaluation tools.
- 3 IFB partnered with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association and Illinois Farmers Market Association to host the Everything Local Conference, where hundreds of specialty growers come together for personal and business development and networking.
- 4 The IAA Foundation, charitable arm of Illinois Farm Bureau, opened applications targeting to award more than \$340,000 in college scholarships, helping students pursue degrees in agriculture-related fields and invest in their careers.

WELCOME TO THE... FROM FOOD TO FLOWERS EVERYTHING LOCAL!

THE ILLINOIS FOOD, FARMERS MARKET

Adams County Farm Bureau Works to Advance Legislative Priorities at GALT



Left to Right: District 9 Director Rick Edwards, State Representative Kyle Moore, and Board Director Dustin Speckhart

Adams Farm Bureau members learned how to harness the power of grassroots advocacy during the organization's annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALT), held Feb. 17 in Springfield.

Centered on the theme "The Power of Grassroots," this year's conference highlighted the impact of member voices shaping policy at every level. Local, state political leaders and legislators met with Farm Bureau leaders from across the state, including 4 members of Adams County Farm Bureau, to discuss IFB's 2026 legislative priorities. The event culminated in a legislative reception for elected officials, who met with IFB members.

"The power of grassroots is in each and every one of you," IFB President Philip Nelson said during his opening remarks. "You are the people who develop the policies. You're the people that work with legislators to see those policies get implemented."

Attendees also heard from numerous lawmakers, including Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch and Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, as well as U.S. House Ag Committee Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson, outgoing Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood.

GALT is the annual central event around IFB's longstanding efforts to connect members and legislators. Other programs include IFB's Adopt-A-Legislator program, which fosters long-term personal relationships between urban legislators and farmers across the state. IFB's Leaders to Washington trips also connect farmers with national legislators through visits on Capitol Hill.

"The Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference is where grassroots power comes to life," said Kevin Semlow, IFB executive director of governmental affairs and commodities. "We're focused on equipping members to advocate for the policies they care about. It's an opportunity to learn, engage and connect, because when our members lead, agriculture's voice is heard."

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FEBRUARY

NCHENRY.....2/19 @ 10AM
STEPHENSON.....2/26 @ 8AM
UNION.....2/24 @ 6PM
MONROE.....2/24 @ 10AM
EDGAR.....2/25 @ 12PM
TAZEWELL.....2/24 @ 4PM

MARCH

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



ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU January Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was called to order by President Ben Hugenberg at 7:00 p.m. on January 14, 2026.

Ben Hugenberg offered the invocation and Annabelle Schaffnit led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance was taken by Secretary Brad Duncan.

GUESTS: Randy Raley, 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 are available until March 31.

Summer internship applications are available until February 1.

The Golf Committee will meet on January 22 to discuss plans for the golf tournament.

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 Secretary Brad Duncan.

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

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

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

The **Membership Report** given by Manager Annabelle Schaffnit.

A list of PM members was presented to the Board. After review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reclassify some of the PM members to MM members. The motion carried.

A couple of Associate members had indicated they own farmland on the back of their membership renewal payment stub. After review and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reclassify them to MM memberships. The motion carried.

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

FARM BUREAU COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

Governmental Affairs Conference will be held on February 17 in Springfield. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Marketing Committee: Chairman, Brad Duncan - no report

Young Farmers Committee: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

The statewide Young Leaders Conference will be held February 6-7 in East Peoria. We currently have nine members attending.

Local Affairs Committee: Tim Ellerbrock

Dr. Aron Potter is the new JWCC president.

Building Committee: Chairman, Bobby Baker

Hoping the new roof will be installed later this month.

Looking into a new Nest thermostat from Ameren.

Viewpoint Committee: Chairman, Tim Ellerbrock

We will have a Viewpoint breakfast on February 23.

Ag in the Classroom Committee: Chairwoman, Danelle Donley

So far this school year AITC Coordinator Kinsey Tiemann, has visited 4,000 students and has given 452 lessons. Total student interaction has been 8,786 students.

Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report

Executive Committee: Chairman, Ben Hugenberg

Did not meet in January to set the agenda for the January board meeting.

Fair Committee: Chairman, Alan

Ippensen - no report

Annual Meeting/Appreciation Picnic: Chairman, Grant Huber

We are moving the picnic to August 13 this year.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

Shawn Valters' retirement video from the IAA annual meeting was played for the Board.

A motion was made and seconded to pay for Annabelle Schaffnit to attend the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to pay for Andrea Schaffnit to attend the YL Conference. The motion carried.

We are needing a watershed steward speaker.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

Received a thank-you from the Illinois FFA Foundation for the \$100 donation to each FFA Chapter in Adams County.

Received a thank-you from Jill Tracy for attending the IAA annual meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Recapped the AFBF annual meeting held January 9-13 in Anaheim, CA.

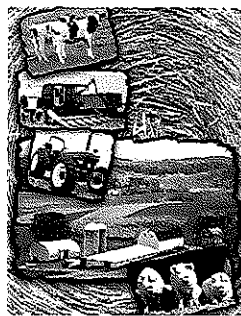
NEW BUSINESS:

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

The next board meeting will be held on February 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 8:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Brad Duncan, Secretary



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JWCC Agriculture Program Updates

By Jody Heavner, Director

Spring is in the air, and our students are on the move. On February 12th, JWCC students traveled to Heartland Community College in Bloomington to compete in the Spring State Professional Agriculture Students organization competition. Our students had an outstanding day competing against their fellow agriculture students from around the state. Our Conservation and Natural Resource team won their category with Daniel Miller being named high individual in the area and advanced to the National PAS competition in March. Emma Moss placed 4th and Austin Kindhart was 5th. Also advancing are the Beef Management Team of Jacob Davis, Wyatt McClintock and Garrett Morris, as well as our teams and individuals who qualified in the Fall. We are excited to see these students compete at the National level in March!

More than 60 area youth converged upon the JWCC Ag Center on February 14th for a U of I Extension and JWCC Daily Care and Livestock

Showmanship Clinic. The attendees learned the basics of daily care for cattle, sheep, swine and goats. Those in attendance were able to work with JWCC Ag students as they learned proper daily care, equipment needed, and showmanship basics. Those in attendance also completed a Skill-a-thon activity for their chosen species. Those 4-H members needing to complete their YQA training were able to do so that day as well. A Big thank you to our sponsors for the event: Adams County Cattle Association, Hancock County Beef Association, JWCC Ag Alumni and Farm and Home Supply. This event was a tremendous opportunity for both JWCC students and the community.

Our Beef Management class made their way to the Illinois Beef Expo in Springfield, IL where they assisted in processing bulls prior to the Illinois Performance Bull Test Sale. Not only is it a tremendous hands-on learning experience, especially for those with little or no livestock experi-

ence, it allows our students to have a much greater understanding of the industry standards regarding selection for our commercial beef herds.

The Natural Resources students have had the opportunity to tour the POET Bioprocessing plant to gain a greater understanding of the bioethanol industry. Students are also working with the Liberty school district administration to determine the feasibility of an outdoor classroom for the district. The students are taking the technical and employability skills they have gained to apply a real world experience that benefits the community.

March is a very busy month at the Ag Center. Field Trips, prospective student visits, school visits, Houston Livestock Judging Contest, National PAS Conference in Branson, Western Illinois Showpig Sale, hosting FFA contests, the Beef AI clinic, and final exams.

Our spring semester is quickly coming to a close. March 20th will be our JWCC Ag Center Pathway Day and Open House. If you know of a high school student who may be interested in joining us, feel free to reach out to gather more information. As always, be on the lookout for additional activities. Please follow us on Facebook at John Wood Community College Agriculture Education Center and reach us at jheavner@jwcc.edu or 217-641-4236.

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.

Food Price Forecast Up 3% in 2026

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) expects food prices to increase 3% this year, in line with the historical average rate from the past 20 years.

Food away from home prices are expected to increase by 4.6%, faster than the historical average rate of 3.5%. However, the price of food at home (groceries) is expected to increase 1.7%, slower than average (2.6%).

"It is becoming relatively cheaper to eat at home and relatively more expensive to eat out," Hayden Stewart, research ag economist with ERS, told attendees of the 2026 USDA Ag Outlook Forum.

"As far as at-home prices go, there may be a few categories where there is some price growth but remember, we buy a basket of foods, and we have to look in that basket and see how prices for everything we buy are changing. And when we do that, we come back to modest growth in food at home prices."

One of the more expensive items in the basket will be beef and veal with prices predicted to increase 9.4% due to continued strong demand amid historically tight supplies.

Prices for sugar and sweets are expected to rise 6.7% this year along with milder increases for nonalcoholic beverages (4.2%), fresh vegetables (2%), cereal and bakery items (1.1%), poultry (0.2%) and fresh fruits (0.2%).

Producers should enjoy a sharp decline in egg prices, which are predicted to decrease by 22.2% in 2026 as production continues to recover following outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza that began to taper in April 2025.

Dairy and pork prices are also expected to decrease slightly this year.



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- 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.

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

Free farm cuts. Call 217-696-2423.

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.

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For Farm Bureau Members

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