

**Adams County
Farm Bureau**

Agri Newsletter

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

\$1,500 Scholarships Awarded from ACFB Foundation



Gavin Flesner

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to award \$1,500 in scholarships to area students for the 19th consecutive year. Scholarship applications were reviewed by agricultural professionals from outside of Adams County and evaluated based on academic achievement, interest in agriculture, financial need, and community involvement. While no applications were received for the vocational scholarship this year, five scholarships were awarded to outstanding high school and college students.



Abigail Hildebrand

Gavin Flesner, son of Kurtis and Shelley Flesner, will graduate from Quincy Notre Dame High School in May. He plans to attend John Wood Community College where he will major in Fire Science while also incorporating agriculture, truck driver training, and electrical courses into his studies. Gavin has been active in the QND football program, serving as team captain, and is involved with St. Anthony Church, the Adams County Fair, Horizons, and several other organizations. He enjoys spending time on his family's farm and helping his



Sophia Shaffer

younger cousin become involved with cattle.

Abigail Hildebrand, daughter of Jay Wellman and Karen Hildebrand, will graduate from Unity High School in May. She plans to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she will major in Agricultural Education with a minor in Agricultural Business. Abigail is highly involved in both 4-H and FFA. She currently serves as President of the Urban Farmers 4-H Club, President of the Unity-Mendon FFA Chapter, and President of Section XI FFA. She is also the Secretary of Student Council, Co-Vice President of Class Council, a member of Future Business Leaders of America, and active in St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Flower Flames Youth Group. In her free time, Abigail enjoys showing rabbits, competing in pageants, baling hay, and finding ways to give back to the agriculture industry.

Sophia Shaffer, daughter of Tom and Janel Shaffer, graduated from Unity High School and is currently attending Kansas State University where she is majoring in Agricultural Economics with a minor in Business. During high school, Sophia was active in the Ursa Willing Workers 4-H Club where she served as President, as well as in FFA, Honor Flight, and Wreaths Across America. At Kansas State, she is involved in the Ag Econ and Business Club where she serves as Treasurer and is an active member in the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA). Sophia enjoys traveling, staying active, and being involved with the Catholic Church on campus.

Kayla Walker, daughter of Chris Walker, graduated from Quincy Senior High School and plans to attend Western Illinois University this fall to pursue a Master's of Business Administration with an agribusiness course of



Kayla Walker

study. Kayla was active in Quincy FFA where she served as Secretary and was President of the Horse Crazy 4-H Club. During college, she has been involved with the OPSU Equestrian Team where she served as team captain, the OPSU Spirit Rider program, Quincy Saddle Club, and Quincy Rotary Club. In her free time, Kayla enjoys riding horses and cooking.

Cole Wray, son of Scott and Susie Wray, will graduate from Unity High School in May. He plans to attend John Wood Community College where he will major in Agricultural Business



Cole Wray

and earn a Crop Science Certificate. Cole has been active in FFA where he serves as Chapter Vice President, the Ursa Willing Workers 4-H Club, and the football team where he was a team captain. He is also involved with Ellington Presbyterian Church. In his free time, Cole enjoys hunting, fishing, riding four-wheelers, traveling to the Lake of the Ozarks, and spending time outdoors.

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to support these students as they continue their education and pursue careers connected to agriculture and their communities.



JOIN US FOR A

**Cardinals
Baseball
Game**



YOUNG FARMER MEMBERS
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
JUNE 24, 2026

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU
330 S 36TH ST, QUINCY, IL 62301
REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW
MUST PAY FOR YOUR SEAT TO
BE RESERVED

FOR MORE INFO
CALL US AT (217) 222-7305
EMAIL US AT ACFBMANAGER@ADAMS.NET

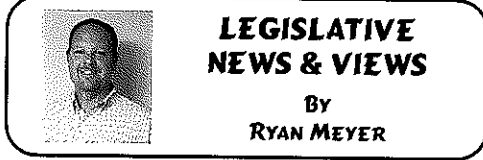
*Thanks
To Our Ag Industry*

Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation Summer Intern



Emma Snyder is the 2026 ACFB Foundation Summer Intern. Her parents are Quinton and Heather Snyder, and she has two younger siblings, Allana and Zach. She loves spending time outside in her garden, which she primarily uses for fresh vegetables and preserves. Emma was homeschooled all through elementary and high school. She will be graduating in December with her Associates of Agribusiness from John Wood Community College. Emma wanted this internship because she saw it as a great learning opportunity, and way to make valuable connections in the Ag industry. She is looking forward to gaining real world experience and working closely with Ag in the Classroom.

Emma will be starting May 4th working with Kinsey Tiemann finishing up lessons in the county schools. Then, they will teach at multiple daycares and teacher professional development days. To round out the summer, Emma will be in charge of the Ag in the Classroom tent at the Adams County Fair.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

By
RYAN MEYER

Hey Adams County! In mid-April, an FBACT action request was sent out by the Governmental Affairs division at Illinois Farm Bureau regarding proposed Illinois wetlands legislation. The request urged members to contact their legislators and ask them to oppose the bill. In short, the legislation would have broadly defined a "wetland" as any land area greater than 1/10th of an acre with moist soil capable of supporting vegetation. It also included strict limitations on moving dirt in these areas, along with significant penalties, and would have expanded regulations beyond previous federal WOTUS rules.

The good news: the bill did not advance to the House's third reading deadline on April 17. That's a positive outcome for agriculture and a great example of how engagement makes a difference.

If you're not familiar with FBACT, it's a simple and effective way to stay involved in legislative issues impacting agriculture. When action is needed, you'll receive a text or email with instructions to contact your Representative or Senator, either by email or phone. It only takes a few minutes, but it helps ensure agriculture has a strong voice. If you'd like to get signed up or learn more, call the office and talk with Annabelle.

Another topic on many farmers' minds right now is fertilizer prices. After looking into it, three major factors continue to drive costs:

- Global geopolitical tensions involving key fertilizer-producing regions

- Supply chain disruptions impacting availability and delivery
- Trade policy risks, including restricted global shipping routes

These challenges, combined with limited competition in the fertilizer industry, have allowed suppliers to maintain strong control over pricing, leaving farmers to absorb the impact while working to maximize yields.

If you want to talk more about fertilizer trends or get involved with FBACT, don't hesitate to reach out. Wishing you all a safe and successful planting season!



YOUNG FARMERS

By
TREVOR MAIERS
CHAIRMAN

Hey everyone! I hope you are staying dry because as I am writing this it is the end of April and we just got two inches of rain in 36 hours. I am ready for the sunny and 70 degrees again!

There are still tickets available for the Cardinals baseball game on June 24th. We are taking a charter bus to St. Louis which is leaving from the Farm Bureau office that afternoon. The tickets are \$60 which is all inclusive. With the ticket you get transportation to and from the game, all you can eat food and drinks, and get to watch the baseball game from Channel Seed's suite. You do have to be a Young Farmer which is between the ages of 21 and 35 and be an MM member (\$80 dues).

Annabelle and I would love to have you join us for a fun evening! Reach out to her or myself on any questions. Have a safe planting season.



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By **BEN HUGENBERG**,
PRESIDENT

Greetings Adams County! I have been busy this past month planting strawberries, starting corn and soybean planting, my meat chickens I got at the beginning of the month, and everything else on the side. I do not have much to report on. COUNTRY Financial had their Annual Meeting at the end of April. President Nelson is still the Chair of the COUNTRY Board. To get into the meeting, there was high security and about 150 people in attendance. I heard that was, if not close to, record breaking attendance for the meeting. There were COUNTRY agents, policy and stockholders, home office staff, etc. at the meeting and the majority of the people were not happy about what has been happening within the company. That's probably all I should say within a public newspaper. If you want to talk more about it, reach out. I am happy to.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful planting season.

Adams County
Suicide Prevention
Coalition

Barb Baker Chapin

Taking Care of the People Who Care for the Farm

Spring and early summer bring long days and important decisions for farmers and farm families. Along with the physical demands of the season, stress and mental fatigue can quietly build. Paying attention to mental health is just as important as watching the weather, markets, and equipment safety.

Common signs of stress include trouble sleeping, feeling irritable or overwhelmed, difficulty concentrating, or pulling away from family and friends. These are not signs of weakness - they are signals that support may be needed.

Remember to take short breaks when possible, stay hydrated, eat a healthy diet and get plenty of sleep, reach out to neighbors or trusted friends, and remind yourself of the things you can control and those that you can't.

Help Is Always Available ... if stress becomes overwhelming or turns into a mental health crisis, support is available 24/7:

- **National Crisis Hotline:** Call or text 988
- **Transitions of Western Illinois - Mobile Crisis Response:** 217-224-0422

Reaching out for help is not a sign of weakness ... it is a strong and responsible step!

Sow The Seeds of Safety

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 Muagge 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

Lucas Campbell
Will and Brooke Klusmeyer
Emma Snyder
Alex Williams



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.

Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2026 livestock losses, you must file a notice of loss, provide the following supporting documentation, and application for payment to your local FSA office by March 1, 2027.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower's contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- Livestock beginning inventory documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle = 5%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

For more information, contact the Adams County USDA Service Center at 217-224-9307 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

FARM BUREAU DAILY GRAIN BIDS

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

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

ADAMS COUNTY COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

STAFF & OFFICE LOCATIONS

ADAMS COUNTY AGENCY 331 S. 36th, Suite 4B
217-640-5430 217-222-5841

Jesse Palmer District Leader Jack Bastert Agent
330 S. 36th St. • 217-222-7304 Belinda Harper Agent Assistant
Erica Stephanson Agent Doug Greenwell Agent
217-223-9900 Mary Cannell Agent Assistant

Jacob Henseison Agent
1932 State Street • 217-222-7300
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405 Hampshire St. • 217-936-2120
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LIBERTY OFFICE
501 S. Main St. • 217-645-3042
Jeff Kroencke Agent

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

Notes From The Manager



Annabelle Schaffnit

Hey everyone! April was a busy and exciting month, and I'm grateful for all the opportunities to connect with our members and community.

I kicked off the month with an interview with *FarmWeek* highlighting the University of Illinois Extension's Watershed Stewards class. I had the chance to be part of the conversation because our Farm Bureau was selected to receive an Illinois Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship Grant. I worked alongside Amy Lefinghouse and Kinsey Tiemann to put those funds to good use, and I'm proud of the impact they're making. Be sure to check out the article in this month's paper.

Another highlight was hosting a Flower Bouquet Workshop with my Adams County CEO mentee, Sadie Shoemaker of Mendon. We had 30 ladies join us for a fun, hands-on evening, and everyone left with a beautiful arrangement. It was such

a success that I've already planned another workshop for September! This won't be a one-time event. My goal is to host two to three workshops each year, with even more to come if interest continues to grow. Thank you to everyone who has shared ideas so far, keep them coming! I love bringing new experiences to our members.

I also had the opportunity to tour Don McKinley's 1930s Ag Museum with the Ursa Willing Workers 4-H Club, as well as Gates Air with the Chamber Young Professionals group. Both tours were great experiences and sparked ideas for future member events. If you'd be interested in similar tours or have topics you'd like to learn more about, let me know! I'd be happy to coordinate speakers or events that match your interests.

At the end of the day, my goal is simple: to serve our members. I want to build a Farm Bureau that reflects what you want it to be, so your feedback is incredibly important. Please don't hesitate to reach out with ideas, suggestions, or your interests.

Looking ahead, I envision our Farm Bureau continuing to advocate for local agriculture while also growing into a strong, close-knit community. I want membership to mean more than paying dues. I want it to mean connection, education, and involvement through meaningful events and opportunities.

I'm excited for what's ahead, and I'm glad to be on this journey with all of you. Have a safe planting season!

Ag Innovation Challenge Opens: \$100K for Top Entrepreneur

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, is accepting online applications from entrepreneurs for the 2027 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge through June 5. Now in its 13th year, this national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies developing innovative solutions to challenges faced by America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

The overall winner of the competition will receive \$100,000 in startup funds, the runner-up will be awarded \$25,000 and two additional business owners who advance to the final four round will receive \$10,000.

"Encouraging innovation is essential to keeping American agriculture strong," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "If you're building a business that can help farmers and rural communities thrive, don't wait, apply today."

Farm Bureau is offering a total of \$145,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition. After the application period closes on June 5, 10 semi-finalist teams will be selected and announced on Sept. 2. Next, the 10 semi-finalist teams will pitch virtually to compete for a spot in the final four round of the contest.

The final four teams will be awarded \$10,000 each and participate in a live pitch competition in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives at the AFBF Convention in January 2027 in Charlotte, North Carolina, to win:

- Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Winner, \$90,000 (total of \$100,000)
- Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Runner-up, \$15,000 (total of \$25,000)

Farm Bureau is proud to recognize these innovative businesses, in partnership with sponsors Farm Credit, Bayer, John Deere, Farm Bureau Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services, ClearPath and T-Mobile.

Recent winners of the Ag Innovation Challenge include FarmMind (2026), a company that unifies farm workflows from GIS to compliance and agronomic insights, and Gripp (2025), a company that provides an operator-focused tool for asset tracking and team communication. Other examples of successful Ag Innovation Challenge participants, as well as detailed eligibility guidelines and the competition timeline, can be found at fb.org/challenge.

Entrepreneurs must be members of a county or parish Farm Bureau within their state of residence to qualify as top 10 semi-finalists. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit <https://www.fb.org/about/get-involved> to learn about becoming a member.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on June 5.



Women in Farming: New to the Narrative, Not the Work

Grandma never questioned butchering two chickens for lunch before church. She cleaned, cut, breaded and partially fried the ultra-fresh poultry, which finished baking in the oven while the family of six attended worship.

Holy chicken.

It's almost Mother's Day. I love Sunday dinner out. And the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the first time ever named 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer. In reality, female farmers aren't a new phenomenon. The industry is just finally talking about it out loud.

On both sides, my family tree is rooted in farming, and I'm blessed that both my grandmas - a fresh 88 and almost 89 - still can coherently share about their careers on the farm. Today, my mom farms, I farm, and more exciting yet, the fourth generation (the oldest now 20 studying agriculture in college) has grown to know two generations of grandmas and their quiet impact on agriculture as partners with the men in their family businesses.

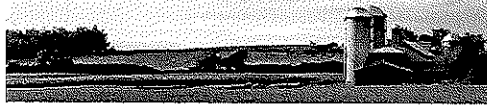
The narrative used to frame a women's farm labor as "just helping." Yet, their husbands will attest these ladies would disk fields, sort and load hogs, locate field tiles, unload racks of hay, fetch parts, market crops, manage the farm financials, sign into debt, pay the taxes and elevate ear corn into the wire crib. They managed massive gardens that fed the family on summer evenings and year-round through preservation.

Meanwhile, they raised farm kids inspired to enter the same business. With children in tow for farm duties, my mom and grandmas packed lunches for the entire family, feeding hearts and minds with life lessons as much as bellies with nutrition during a hard day's work.

I don't see us returning to the era of buying 100 straight-run chicks, butchering half for meat and raising half for selling eggs. But our farm's ownership by gender is a 50/50 split - Mom, Dad, my 40-something brother and I - all working full-time, pulling the occasional 90-hour weeks and collectively operating, managing, decision-making, succession planning, turning wrenches and respecting the talents each brings to the table, both in the conference room and at family dinners.

The team mindset and collaborative approach support farm continuity, community, harmony and the motive to live values, not just list them. Communally, we create a culture that has the next generation - both males and females - welcome and wanting to belong. That kind of narrative endures.

If you ate today, thank a farmer.



ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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

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Jon Myers								X	X	X	X		
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V. Pres. Ryan Meyer	X		X	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

End of the School Year

Ag in the Classroom Reflections

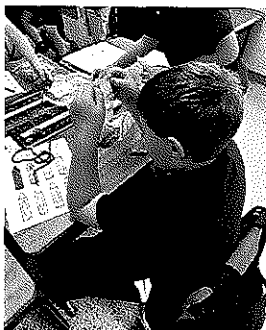
April showers bring May flowers. Or however that saying goes! Mother Nature has been wreaking havoc on farmers plans for planting this spring. Hopefully the coming weeks allow for windows to get into the field and get seed in the ground. April's rainy seasons have not stopped the final Ag in the Classroom lessons from being delivered.

In the past month, the remaining Ag in the Classroom visits were wrapped up. At the end of April, University of Illinois Extension staff and volunteers began delivering a self-produced curriculum program to third grade classrooms in Quincy Public Schools. This curriculum introduces plant and animal species found in the Mississippi River ecosystem. This content is directed towards the third-grade standards of heredity, traits, and survival that teachers are tasked with delivering. Lastly, ice cream in a bag parties were coordinated with winning classrooms from the National AG Week coloring contest.

The schools who received their fourth Ag in the Classroom lessons in April were: Blessed Sacrament, Payson, Liberty, Iles, Lincoln-Douglas, and St. Peter.

Kindergarten

All kindergarten classrooms visited learned about Earth Day and its value. Students deepened their understanding by creating a bracelet to represent resources found on Earth. This led to a discussion on how to protect these resources.



St. Peter First Graders

First Grade

First graders visited this spring expanded their plant knowledge. Students identified parts of plants through a children's book. In addition, students learned about soybean production and items made from soybeans grown. Lastly, students planted their own soybean seed into a necklace to wear.



Blessed Sacrament Second Graders



Lincoln Douglas Second Grader

Classrooms at Liberty, Lincoln-Douglas, and St. Peter learned about Illinois soil and how to protect soil in their community. In addition, students completed an introductory fraction lesson by creating a fractions for the amount of the Earth we have to grow food on.

The second grade classrooms at Iles learned about the water cycle through reading an Ag Mag. Afterwards, students traced the water cycle diagram onto a plastic baggie in which they added water and rock to. Lastly, students taped the bag to the window to model the water cycle process.

Payson second graders learned about dairy cattle production through reading and dairy farm virtual tour. To tie into the dairy lesson, students shook containers of heavy whipping cream to turn it into butter they ate with crackers. This lesson paired well with a discussion around the three states of matter.

In addition, the second grade students at Blessed Sacrament tied their Ag in the Classroom lesson into relevant topics covered in class related to animal adaptations. Our lesson primarily focused on birds and the different types of beaks birds have to eat various types of foods. Students mimicked the types of bird beaks by using household objects to mimic beaks such as clothes pins, tweezers, slotted spoons, and toothpicks.

Fourth Grade

Most of the fourth grade students deepened their understanding of common plants we eat as fruit and vegetables. This lesson highlighted several important specialty crops grown in Illinois including pumpkins and horseradish. After students read about these crops, they were paired with another student and tasked with labeling the parts of various plants



Liberty Four Grader

we eat. Once students finished, we went over the answers together then students finished with a logic puzzle.

Blessed Sacrament fourth graders tied their Ag in the Classroom lesson into recent content of renewable energy. This lesson focused on wind energy and pairs of students designed their own windmill. After designing they had to test how much energy it could handle when they blew on it.

Third Grade



Lincoln Douglas Third Graders

All third grade students learned about important pollinators and their role in pollinating crops we eat. After the initial reading of the lesson about various pollinators, students created a seed ball to sprout their own pollinator habitats at home. This was accomplished by mixing a little bit of clay with potting soil and wildflower seeds.

Fifth Grade



Payson Fifth Graders

The fifth grade students at Iles, Lincoln-Douglas, and St. Peter completed the same plant part lesson as fourth grade students. Payson's fifth grade students completed a lesson related to parts of a flower. After a quick reading, students created a paper diagram to identify the parts of a flower used in pollination. This diagram was reaffirmed by dissecting flowers to see the parts on live flowers.

THINK SAFETY FARM SAFELY.

PLANTING SEASON IS NOW.

A message from your county Farm Bureau

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Suicide is Never the Solution

Adams County
Suicide Prevention
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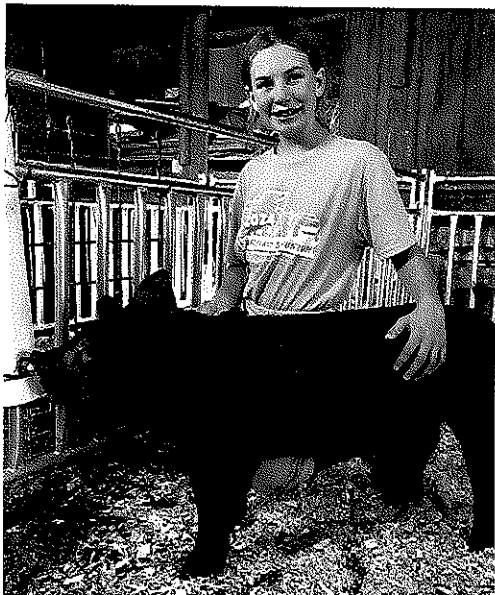
If you are struggling, call....
9 - 8 - 8

Visit acsuicideprevention.org

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



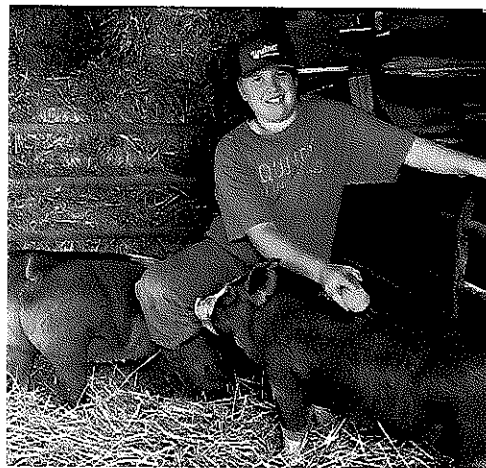
Adams County 4-H Members Receive Farm Bureau Foundation Grants



Brooklyn Deege



Georgia Zanger



Mason Deege

Three local 4-H members were recently awarded grants from the Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation to help grow their livestock projects and continue learning valuable life skills through 4-H. Siblings Mason and Brooklyn Deege, members of the Holy Heroes 4-H Club, decided to combine their grants to purchase a swine show box for their projects. The show box will help them stay organized by keeping their supplies and equipment all in one place during shows and while caring for their pigs. Brooklyn has been showing pigs for two years and enjoys the

experience of working with livestock. She hopes that through her project she will continue learning how to properly raise pigs and improve her skills in the show ring. Mason has been showing pigs for five years and values the responsibility that comes with raising livestock. Through his project, he hopes to continue learning about the care required to raise healthy animals and gain a better understanding of the quality of good pork. The new show box will help both Mason and Brooklyn stay prepared and organized as they continue participating in 4-H swine shows for years to come.

Another grant recipient, Georgia Zanger of the Urso Willing Workers 4-H Club, will use her funding to purchase two rabbit hutches for her project. Georgia has been showing rabbits for two years and enjoys caring for them. The new hutches will provide a safe and secure place for her rabbits while also allowing her to expand her project and show more rabbits this year. Through raising rabbits, Georgia hopes to continue learning responsibility and improve her ability to properly care for her animals. The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to support young members involved in 4-H and their efforts to grow through agriculture projects. Programs like these help youth develop responsibility, leadership, and a deeper understanding of agriculture while pursuing their interests.

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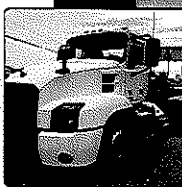
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Illinois Extension



- 1 Illinois Farm Bureau's Leaders to Washington trip connected national legislators with nine IFB members to discuss national agriculture priorities. Members met with U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, and U.S. Reps. Mike Bost, Darin LaHood, Jonathan Jackson, Mary Miller, Brad Schneider and Eric Sorensen.
- 2 Thirteen members engaged in meaningful development, graduating from IFB's Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) program. The program helps participants enrich their leadership abilities and enhance agriculture's voice in Illinois.
- 3 Thirteen IFB members and staff met with agencies and industry professionals in Mexico to explore market opportunities during IFB's Market Study Tour.
- 4 More than 60 IFB members, including 15 members of the Young Leader Committee, visited the state Capitol for the 58th annual Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day to meet with legislators and advocate for the Family Farm Preservation Act, private property rights and other priority issues.



'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.



Adams County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

330 South 38th Street - Quincy, Illinois 62301

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 217-222-7335 or email acfmanager@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)
___ Platinum Sponsor: \$750	Team Entry, Banner & Program Recognition, 4x6 Ad in FB Paper
___ Event Sponsor: \$500	Team Entry, Banner & Program Recognition
___ Hole Sponsor: \$100	Signage at Tee Box
___ Team Entry: \$400	Name: _____ 4 Person, 18 Holes/Cart, Gift Bag, Lunch, 3 Drink Tickets Per Golfer

Checks payable to: **Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation**

Names: _____ (Captain) Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Player 2 _____ Player 3 _____ Player 4 _____
(limited two times per time slot - register early for your choice)

Tee Time preference: _____

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ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU March Board Meeting Minutes

The regular board meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was called to order by Vice-President Ryan Meyer at 6:45 p.m. on March 11, 2026.

Ryan Meyer offered the invocation and Annabelle Schaffnit led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance was taken by Secretary Brad Duncan.

GUESTS: Jesse Palmer, Eric Ervin, Doug Greenwell, Jack Basteri, Jeff Kroeckle, and Erica Stephenson 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.

We are working on finalizing raffle prizes so raffle tickets can be printed.

Emma Snyder will be our summer AITC intern. She starts May 4.

Foundation Grant: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

A motion was made and seconded to approve two 4-H grant projects for a total of \$400. The motion carried.

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

FARM BUREAU SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORTS:

The Secretary's Report was given by Secretary Brad Duncan.

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

The Membership Report given by Matthew Duesterhaus.

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

motion carried.

FARM BUREAU COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer

Reviewed the Governmental Affairs Conference that was held on February 17 in Springfield. The conference had good attendance and great speakers.

Marketing Committee: Chairman, Brad Duncan - no report
Young Farmers Committee: Chairman, Trevor Maier

Discussed attending a Cardinal game for the YF outing on either June 22, 23, 24, or 25.

We would charter a bus for approximately 45 people and leave around 3 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to pay \$2,500 for the trip. The motion carried.

Local Affair Committee: Chairman, Nathan Parker

Dr. Aron Potter was sworn in as the new JWCC president.

Building Committee: Chairman, Bobby Baker

Snow rails have been ordered for the new roof.

The new roof has been paid for.

Viewpoint Committee: Chairman, Tim Ellerbrock

The Viewpoint breakfast was held on February 23 at the Holiday Inn. We had a great attendance. Congresswoman Mary Miller, State Senator Jill Tracy, State Representatives Kyle Moore, and C. D. Davidsmeyer were our guest speakers.

Ag in the Classroom Committee: Chairwoman, Danelle Donley

The AITC Teacher Professional Development Day is set for April 22.

Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Ryan Meyer - no report

Executive Committee: Vice-President Ryan Meyer

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

Fair Committee: Chairman, Alan Ippencott - no report

Annual Meeting/Appreciation Picnic: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit - no report

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

Flora Lane Flowers workshop will be held on April 7 in the Adams County Farm Bureau basement starting at 6 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Annabelle Schaffnit as registered agent on the Secretary of State Annual Report. The motion carried.

Changes will be made to the fair book ad.

CORRESPONDENCE: Manager, Annabelle Schaffnit

We received thank-you's from the Barry Food Pantry, Parkview Church, Balzer Fuel Station, Brown County Food Basket, LMC Food Pantry, Community for Christ, and WIU Food Pantry for meat donations.

We received a thank-you from Andrea Schaffnit for her attending the YL Conference.

We sent a thank-you to Rick Edwards for donating \$500 towards meat processing.

We sent thank-you's to Linda Duncan, Dale Donley, Loraine Funk and Marvin Hull for their donations in memory of Steven Kaiser.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board social outing was held on March 7 at the Tower of Pizza.

The Chamber of Commerce Ag banquet was held on March 10 at the Town and Country inn and Suites.

NEW BUSINESS:

Illinois Farm Bureau District 9 Director Rick Edwards gave an update on the Country Financial Board of Directors. The new IFB board is now in control.

Rental contracts for Country Reps Erica Stephenson and Jacob Heneisen were presented to the Board. Annabelle will take care of the contracts.

The next board meeting will be held on April 8, 2026 in the Farm Bureau boardroom starting at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Brad Duncan, Secretary



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Community Blooms at Adams County Farm Bureau Flower Workshop



On April 7 at 6:00 p.m., the Adams County Farm Bureau welcomed 30 ladies to a fun and creative flower bouquet workshop hosted by Flora Lane Flowers. The evening brought together community members for a night filled with learning, creativity, and beautiful blooms.

Farm Bureau Manager Annabelle Schaffnit kicked off the event by sharing a brief overview of the organization and highlighting the many ways Farm Bureau supports agriculture and serves the local community. Following

her introduction, Kinsey Tiemann, the Adams County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, spoke about the important role flowers play in producing pollen and discussed the growing demand for floriculture across the country.

The workshop was then led by Sadie Shoemaker, owner and founder of Flora Lane Flowers. Sadie demonstrated how to design a beautiful bouquet while explaining the artistry behind selecting complementary flowers and arranging them in a balanced, eye-catching display. After the demonstration,

participants were invited up one table at a time to choose their flowers before returning to their seats to create their own unique bouquets.

No two arrangements looked the same, but every single one was beautiful. The room was filled with

laughter, smiles, creativity, and plenty of gorgeous flowers as everyone put their personal touch on their bouquets.

Thank you to Flora Lane Flowers for partnering with Adams County Farm Bureau to host such a

wonderful workshop. If you missed the event, you can still order your own bouquet through the Flora Lane Flowers Facebook page. Be sure to stay tuned for future workshops! You won't want to miss the next opportunity!

Extension Program Trains Group of Watershed Stewards



in terms of watershed boundaries. "Both rivers are so important to our daily life over here."

Guest speakers at the sessions have included USDA, representatives from a local drainage district and a stormwater engineer, who addressed heavier precipitation events and aging stormwater systems. Other topics included the role of trees in water quality, Lefringhouse's discussion on aquatic invasive species and soil basics related to land use, presented by Kinsey Tiemann, Adams County Ag in the Classroom coordinator and natural resources program manager.

"It's important to understand at the state level there are multiple components that are impacting our water quality," Tiemann said of the diverse set of topics covered and the efforts everyone – from farmers to water treatment plants – has to take to protect watersheds.

The program is not unique to west-central Illinois, Lefringhouse added. The first course was offered further north, and the current western Illinois program is running at the same time as another in Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby counties.

Annabelle Schaffnit, Adams County Farm Bureau manager, brought the program to her area as a way to promote nutrient stewardship as a shared goal, not just a responsibility for farmers. She said Extension was already planning the program when she learned of the grant opportunity, making the Nutrient Stewardship Grant a natural fit to support the effort and connect people from different backgrounds and communities.

"I want my members to see people in urban areas are trying to preserve the land just like them," Schaffnit said of what she hopes attendees take away from their experience. "There is some common ground between them."

The final session in this series is set to be held April 13. For more information, visit bit.ly/watershed-stewards.

Getting to Know Farm Bureau Policy 40. Farmland Ownership

The type of domestic ownership of farmland, farm facilities, or farm commodities should not infringe on the economic opportunities of the individual farmer.

We support:

1. Insisting that all foreign investors be required to conform to all local, state, and federal tax laws.
2. Continuing to monitor the effect of foreign investment in agriculture, food distribution, banking, insurance and other businesses in the United States.
3. The continuation of programs to require the reporting of foreign ownership of farmland in the United States.
4. State and national programs and policies which encourage and facilitate the ownership of farmland by farmers and those directly involved with the practice of farming.
5. Continuing to monitor the effects of the entry of non-agricultural entities into farming or farm ownership.
6. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Government Accountability Office analyzing and reporting on foreign influence in the U.S. agricultural industry.
7. Allowing the leasing and renting rather than purchase of U.S. farm ground to foreign agriculture companies for purposes of research.
8. The domestic ownership of agricultural land, water, and mineral rights.

We oppose:

1. The preferential tax treatment of foreign investments in agricultural land under federal tax law or treaty provisions.
2. The purchase of American farmland by all foreign entities.

Throughout Illinois, watersheds channel precipitation and runoff from farms, towns and cities into shared streams and rivers downstream.

Because watersheds – defined as the land areas that drain into specific bodies of water – connect local decisions to broader water quality and flooding concerns, University of Illinois Extension is training a new class of watershed stewards in west-central Illinois to address those challenges at the local level and beyond.

Through an eight-week Illinois Watershed Steward program that began Feb. 23, Extension and local partners are helping 21 participants from Adams, Brown, Pike, Hancock and Schuyler counties better understand how rainfall, runoff and land-use decisions influence watershed health.

"We want to educate folks about the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) and just practices they can put into place to help," said Amy Lefringhouse, who serves the five participating counties as an Extension natural resources educator.

The course, made possible

with help from an Illinois Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship grant for Adams County and the Illinois Master Watershed Steward program, combines classroom instruction, guest speakers and hands-on demonstrations to equip participants with practical knowledge they can apply on their own land and in their communities.

Statewide, the Illinois State Water Survey has designated 33 major watershed basins including rivers and lakes. Lefringhouse told FarmWeek the Illinois River Watershed – one of the major tributaries of the Mississippi River – is the largest, covering 44% of the state with a drainage area of 28,906 square miles. Illinois is also a part of the Mississippi River Watershed, another priority watershed for the state's NLRS.

"We decided, because the five counties that we serve are sandwiched between the Illinois and the Mississippi River, that it would be pertinent to the residents in our area to just think about their watershed health," Lefringhouse said, noting the goal is for participants to look beyond county boundary lines and instead think



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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





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JWCC Agriculture Program Updates

By Jody Heavner, Director

Spring is officially here. Finally. This time of year, finds our students are on the move and beginning their internships. Our 10-week spring semester means added experiences for our students as they enter the workforce early in the spring. Summer will find Ag Center faculty completing on-site visits to evaluate the students and meet with employers. For our students who plan to enter the workforce upon graduation from JWCC, these experiences are invaluable as they seek full-time employment in the industry. For students transferring to a 4-year program, these internships help shape their future through experiences and allow them to expand their understanding of our industry as they select their own path. We

appreciate the many agricultural organizations who host our students as they gain valuable skills and make connections that will prepare them for the next chapter in their lives.

Students had the opportunity to compete in one last event this spring. NACTA was held at Illinois State University on April 22-25th. This is a national conference and competition covering a wide array of agricultural topics. Our students found success in a variety of areas. The Agriculture Computers team of Austin Kindhart, Danny Miller and Brenna Schantz earned first place, National bragging rights. The Livestock Management Team of Jacob Davis, Wyatt McClintock, Garrett Morris, Maxwell Perry brought home 2nd

place honors. It was another great opportunity for our students to represent JWCC well.

Mark your calendars for the JWCC Alumni Golf outing on July 10, 2026 at Arrowhead Heights Golf Course in Camp Point. We appreciate all that the Alumni do to offer our students opportunities throughout the year. Their support and that of the community make the opportunities I write about possible. We welcome area businesses and individuals to join us for a great day of golf and fellowship.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or join us for a visit. jheavner@jwcc.edu or follow us on Facebook at JWCC Agricultural Education Center for updates and events.

IAA Foundation Awards \$303,751 in Scholarships to Students Pursuing Agriculture Degrees

Students can count on support of scholarship for college tuition during the 2026-2027 school year, courtesy of the IAA Foundation. The charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation, is awarding \$303,751 to 127 students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields. Students are selected based on their activities and leadership, their community involvement, professional career goals and their overall commitment to success.

Caleb Seboldt of Fults is the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership Scholarship recipient and receives a \$7,500 scholarship for the honor. IAA Foundation Distinguished Scholars Alexis Nall of Kilbourne, Amanda Niemann of Litchfield, and Caleb Zwilling of Fisher, each will receive a \$5,000 award. A full listing of recipients can be found at www.iaafoundation.org. Annually, the Illinois Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus combine to award more than \$1,000,000 in scholarship support.

"The scholarship program acknowledges hard-working students and offers financial support so they can pursue their dreams and land careers in agriculture," said Smith. "Through generous farm gifts and contributions from individuals, farm families, Illinois Farm Bureau members, and others who support our industry, we continue to see diversification and growth in our program."

For more information on the IAA Foundation scholarship program, how to establish a scholarship, or to donate to a scholarship fund, visit the IAA Foundation's website at www.iaafoundation.org or call 309-557-2232.



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We Want To Hear From Our Readers

If you have letters to the editor, which you would like to appear in this paper concerning agricultural related topics, we 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.

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 \$60 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 Maiers, 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.



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

Steel fence posts, \$5 each obo. Call 217-696-2423.

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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.

Name: _____

AD: _____

USE THIS FORM - SEND IT TO:

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330 South 36th, P.O. Box 3037
Quincy, Illinois 62305 or Call 217-222-7305