Farm Bureau Policy

The heartbeat of Illinois agriculture lies not only in its fertile fields but also in the meticulous crafting of policies that shape the industry. At the forefront of this endeavor stands the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB). With a membership spanning across rural communities and urban centers alike, the IFB serves as a dependable advocate for farmers.

A Grassroots Organization:

Central to the IFB's policy-making process is its grassroots structure. The organization's policies are not formulated within the confines of boardrooms but from the local farm bureaus. The County Farm Bureaus, spread throughout Illinois' 102 counties, serve as the bedrock of this grassroots approach. By adapting this approach, any farm bureau member can bring policy changes to their county farm bureau. This is performed through regular meetings, where members engage in discussions, identify issues, and propose resolutions that improve the well-being of the agricultural community.

Policy Development:

Once concerns are identified at the local level, they progress upwards within the IFB. County recommendations are considered by specific subcommittees formed by the State Resolutions Committee, where broader perspectives are considered. These committees group the many concerns into individualized policies, which are then presented to the IFB's State Resolutions Committee.

The State Resolutions Committee, comprising delegates from each district, conduct thorough deliberations to ensure that proposed policies align with the IFB's overarching goals. This committee sifts through resolutions, debates their merits, and crafts recommendations that reflect the collective voice of Illinois agriculture. These recommendations are presented for approval at the IFB Annual Meeting, where delegates vote to shape the organization's policy agenda for the upcoming year.

Influence and Advocacy:

Armed with a unified policy platform, the IFB uses its relationships built over time to influence in state and national policy-making arenas. Through lobbying efforts, the organization advocates for policies that promote the economic viability of Illinois agriculture, ensure the sustainability of natural resources, and safeguard the interests of farm families.

Moreover, the IFB fosters robust partnerships with policy-makers, stakeholders, and allied organizations to amplify its advocacy efforts. By engaging in constructive dialogue and forging alliances, the IFB endeavors to enact policies that address the evolving needs of the agricultural community while fostering collaboration across diverse sectors.

Adaptation and Innovation:

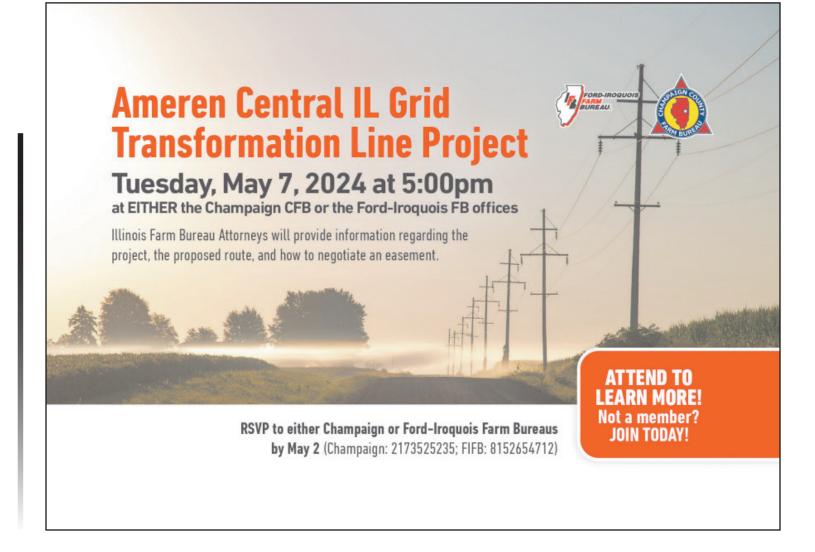
The landscape of agriculture

is constantly evolving, shaped by technological advancements, market dynamics, and regulatory changes. Recognizing this, the IFB remains agile and responsive, continually reassessing its policy priorities to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

The Illinois Farm Bureau champions the interests of farmers and rural communities through its rigorous policy-making process. Grounded in grassroots engagement, informed by collaboration, and driven by a commitment to innovation, the IFB continues to shape the trajectory of Illinois agriculture, steering it towards a future of sustainable growth and prosperity.

As a farm bureau member, we rely on you to direct our efforts in advocacy. Please contact Champaign County Farm Bureau to make your addition to farm bureau policy.





May Report



President, Doug Downs

May has arrived and spring is finally here for real. We will probably have some weather problems this month, but the real cold weather should be well behind us.

May is also the month for Mother's Day and graduations. I lost my mother in 2016. I miss her every day. I hope everyone does something special for your mom if you can. I wish I had the chance again to do so. Over the years, there had been many times we were in the thick of planting on Mother's Day and didn't spend the time with her that I should have.

We also have a high school senior in our house and there is a lot of excitement accompanying that event in just a few weeks. I can't believe this is happening. Seems like she was in diapers last week. I used to hear this and never understood when people said it, but now I do...where did the time go?

Make the most of your May everyone. Spend an extra hour with the special moms in your life and give the graduates you know some words of wisdom. Most of all, be careful.

> Doug Downs **CCFB** President

Women's Committee

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee is open to all women interested in agriculture.

Calendar of Events

May 13 - General Meeting - CCFB Auditorium – 9:30 a.m.

CCFB Calendar of Events **May 2024**

Some committees do not meet due to planting. Stay safe! May 7 Hybrid Meeting Ameren Power Lines 5 p.m. Impacted landowners will be contacted

Prime Timers May 9 10 a.m. May 13 Women's Committee 9:30 a.m.





Prime Timers Meeting May 9, 2024

Speaker

Colin Vaughn, District Conservation Officer Entertainment

Aubrey Powell

\$8 per person/Fried Chicken Buffet *No Walk-Ins* *Call to reserve your spot by May 6*

CCFB Office - 217-352-5235



Are YOU a current **VET STUDENT?**

Apply for Illinois Farm Bureau's IVET loan program today.

- · Loan for food animal vet students
- No interest on loan while you're in school
- Up to \$40,000 loan distributed over three years

STUDENT TIMELINE:

- Applications due May 15
- · Interviews are conducted in April
- · Loan proceeds are dispersed in August

www.ilfb.org/iVET

Apply online today.





2024 CCFB Trip Dates, Deadlines & Information

Questions? Call the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235.

Thursday, June 20, 2024 (Matinee)

Honky Tonk Angels

The Little Theatre On The

Square – Sullivan, IL

When three gutsy gals from different backgrounds take charge of their lives, the decide to follow their honky tonk dreams to the city of Nashville. Combining 30 classic country tunes



(including "Stand By Your Man," "9 to 5," "Harper Valley PTA" and more!) The Honky Tonk Angels is a hilarious, foot-stomping good time from the creator of Always....Patsy Cline.

Lunch will be at Yoder's and is NOT included in the price..

Price Per Person: \$95

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: May 17

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 (Matinee)

NOTE- Performance Change, Dates & Times remain the same.

The Bikinis - A New Musical Beach Party! CIRCA '21 Dinner Playhouse – Rock Island, IL

Everyone's favorite girl group from the sixties, THE BIKINIS – or "The Jersey Girls," as they're affectionately called – are back together after 20 years, bringing back the sun, fun and all the great songs they sang down on the boardwalk at the Jersey Shore. THE BIKINIS relive their heyday and beyond, beginning the summer of 1964, the night these four inseparable friends won the Belmar Beach Talent Contest. THE BIKINIS is a nonstop celebration of song filled with hits such as "It's In His Kiss," "Yellow Polka Dot Bikini," "Under The Boardwalk," "I Will Survive," "It's Raining Men," and many more!

Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: July 10

Thursday, September 26, 2024 (Matinee)

Million Dollar Quartet

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre – Indianapolis, IN

On December 4, 1956, an extraordinary twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Million Dollar Quartet bring that legendary December night to life featuring an incredible score performed live



onstage, including: "Blue Suede Shoes", "Fever", "Walk the Line", "Sixteen Tons", "Who Do You Love", "That's All Right", "Folsom Prison



Blues", "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On", "Hound Dog".....and more. *Price Per Person:* \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: August 23

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 (Matinee)

Miracle on 34th Street Harmony Theatre – Hillsboro, IN

A holiday classic from the writer of the musical theatre classic, *The Music Man!*, and based on the movie of the same name, *Miracle on 34th Street* features a book and score by none other than Meredith



Willson. Single mother, Doris Walker, doesn't want her six-year-old Susan's head filled with romantic notions. Their neighbor, Fred Gailey, tries to woo Doris by charming Susan and taking her to see Santa Claus at Macy's, where Doris works. Doris is not impressed, but when it turns out that Macy's Santa may, in fact, be the real Kris Kringle, a wave of love spreads across New York City that melts even the most cynical hearts. Filled with humor, spectacle and such beloved songs as "Pinecones and Hollyberries," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" and "My State, My Kansas," this joyous, heartwarming musical is pure family entertainment, wholesome without being cloying. *Miracle on 34th Street The Musical* is the perfect holiday treat for everyone.

Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: October 28













PROPRESE



Nathan Hubbard COUNTRY Financial



Dan Punkay 217-328-0023



Keith Garrett 217-485-3010



Austin Beaty 217-352-2652



Jordan McDaniel 217-352-9817



Barry Karuzis 217-352-4555



Tanna Suits 217-892-4479



Tony Wesselman 217-352-3466

COUNTRY



4 Ways to Prepare Your Farm for Severe Weather

Written by John Grant, Manager, Agribusiness Underwriting

Severe weather like tornadoes, flooding, droughts and wildfires can all take a toll on your farm equipment and property. So, before bad weather hits, make sure you take these steps to prepare.

1. Take inventory

- Take inventory of your farm equipment and property to keep a record of exactly what's on your farm, what the value is and where it's located. This will come in handy in the case of a farm insurance claim. Download our farm inventory document, fill it out and give it to your COUNTRY Financial Insurance Agent. Pro tip: Photos are a great way to inventory your tools and equipment in your sheds.
- Verify with your insurance agent that you have the proper insurance for livestock and equipment.

2. Prepare employees

- Review emergency escape routes for each building. Keep in mind your emergency plan might differ depending on the event (tornado, flood, fire, etc.). Check out our tips to help keep employees safe on the farm.
- Document procedures to account for all employees.
- Determine a safe place for all employees to meet.
- Create an emergency contact list for owners, employees, family members, and suppliers.
- Assign different roles and responsibilities to each employee, like who is responsible for taking care
 of livestock, moving equipment, or calling emergency contacts.

3. Inspect farm equipment

Keep generators in working order. Make sure you have an adequate supply of liquid propane in the event that power is out for multiple days. If portable generators are hooked up to tractors, make sure the tractor has adequate fuel supply.

4. Review farm insurance

- Meet with your COUNTRY Financial Insurance Agent annually to review your farm insurance coverages and share any changes you have made to equipment and property. These conversations can help to identify any gaps in coverage and provide opportunities to discuss adding optional farm insurage coverages that are not currently on your policy.
- Discuss the process for filing a farm insurance claim if disaster strikes.

You may not be able to stop bad weather from striking, but these steps can help you feel more prepared.



Scott Jackson 217-359-9335



Tim Bridges 217-586-6170



Dawn Babb 217-892-4479



Rhonda Wagner Administrative Assistant Champaign Agency



Bret Kroencke 217-359-9391



Kolby Jackson 217-586-5030



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Andrew Deedrich 217-359-3941



Tim Osterbur 217-469-2033

Mental Health Awareness Month

Helping Farmers Take the Initiative

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about mental health and promote resources and support. This is especially important for farmers, whose mental health is often overlooked and under-addressed.

In recent years, mental health has become a prevalent topic in our daily lives. The constant change and stress, compounded by the pandemic, have left many people feeling depressed or anxious, and farmers are no exception.

Fortunately, help is available through SIU Medicine's program designed to assist farmers and their families. The Farm Family Resource Initiative (FFRI) provides a network of support and resources, including a confidential 24/7 helpline (1-833-FARM-SOS) connecting you to health professionals who specialize in ag-related stress. These medical professionals live in Illinois and can relate to the local economy, weather, and other daily stressors specific to our region.

In addition to text, email, and website services, telehealth counseling sessions are available for those in need of additional support. Up to six individual, couple, or group sessions are available, all at no cost to the farmer or farm family member thanks to grant funding.

FFRI Ag Resource Specialist Karen Stallman understands the challenges that farm families may encounter, having lived on a farm in southern Illinois. "In farming, there tends to be a new challenge each day, and nothing seems easy," Stallman says.

FFRI also offers opportunities for healthcare professionals to learn more about farming-related issues and earn CME credits through its Rural Community Mental Health program. The virtual training illuminates how mental and physical health issues can impact those working in farming and agriculture. To learn more, visit siumed.edu/farm/events-and-webinars.

The AgriSafe Nurse Scholar Program is also available to rural nurses through on-demand webinars, increasing their knowledge in the prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. Find more details by visiting learning.agrisafe.org/nurse-scholar-program.

It is crucial to recognize that mental health care is not a luxury and that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. The Family Farm Resource Initiative is just one example of the resources available to those in agriculture who may be struggling with their mental health.

Please check on friends, family members, and neighbors regularly. Spread the word about the Farm Family Resource Initiative and encourage others to reach out and talk to someone. It may save the life of someone you know!

This Mental Health Awareness Month, let us continue to advocate for mental health care and support in the agricultural community and beyond. Let us work together to break down the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage those who may be struggling to reach out for help. Together, we can promote healing and well-being for all. Find more information about the FFRI at siumed.org/farm.





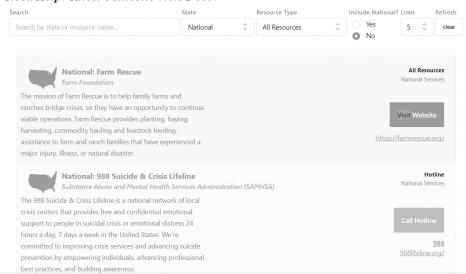
AFBF Introduces Togetherall

Togetherall is a free-of-charge, peer-to-peer mental health support community available online, 24/7, and is completely anonymous. Resources cover topics such as anxiety, sleep, depression and more. These resources are available for farmers and farm family members (16+) due to the support and collaboration of the Farm Family Wellness Alliance partners.

The American Farm Bureau Federation says its campaign is focused on building "awareness to reduce stigma and provide access to information and resources that promote farmer and rancher mental health." Staggering statistics support the need for resources designed to meet the needs of farmers and farm families. AFBF cites farming as a stressful occupation "associated with increased levels of anxiety and depression. Multiple studies show that farmer suicide rates are 2-5X higher than the national average...It is important to break the stigma around mental health challenges and encourage those struggling to reach out for help.

Farm State of Mind Resource Directory

Need Help? Know Someone Who Does?



More information can be found at www.fb.org including a nationwide directory of providers for farmers or ranchers seeking help.



Finding A Fit With Food, Fiber, Fuel

Match passions, interests with agriculture career

The agriculture industry employs more citizens than any other industry in the United States at 22 million people across more than 250 career areas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Commonly unrealized, greater than 90% of jobs in the agriculture and food sector are not farming. The industry employs engineers, plant breeders, foresters, veterinarians, agriscience teachers, food scientists, climate specialists and hundreds more professions. In fact, too many choices made our high school senior struggle to decide on a particular career field in agriculture. She enjoys almost every aspect of the industry, but finally leaned on her fascination with plants and her FFA experiences with soils to select a double-major in agronomy and horticulture.

Too often, agriculture is overlooked for satisfying and successful careers, and no farm background is required. I remember my conversation with a Chicago high school sophomore from the south side of the city, who hadn't considered agriculture as a career path until attending a conference for minorities in agriculture. He developed an interest in agricultural technology through MANRRS, or Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. Illinois Farm Bureau actively supports this traditionally collegiate organization, which has experienced a rebirth at the high school level. It brings exposure to agricultural careers for students as young as 7th grade largely in schools that lack an agricultural education department. Schools can develop local chapters, which deliver career awareness and opportunities for personal and leadership development through resume building, public speaking, agriscience research, essay contests and training in workplace skills.

Just last year, the Illinois Farm Bureau supported the launch of Agnitor, a digital platform designed to connect agriculture professionals to classrooms for virtual conversations about careers. The mechanically minded may like a profession as an agriculture engineer or diesel technician. Techy teens might take interest in high-tech livestock barns or agricultural application drones. Students who enjoy biochemistry should consider agronomy or biofuels. We need graphic designers for jobs in ag marketing, writers as ag journalists, and researchers to keep agriculture cutting edge.

The job demand in agriculture outpaces the available college graduates. More than 59,000 job openings will be available – per year – in agriculture, food, renewable natural resources and related industries through at least 2025, according to the 2020-



2025 Employment Opportunities Report by the USDA and Purdue University. Good news for college graduates: The nation's largest employer is looking for applicants.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in west-central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farm kids.

Truck drivers are critical to the success of Illinois farms. Without them, we wouldn't be able to transport commodities or food across the state. In 2024, the IAA Foundation, in partnership with the Illinois Farm Bureau, will offer five \$1,000 scholarships for the next quarter. The next application deadline is June 30th and is for applicants enrolling in driver training July 1 through September 30, 2024. See additional application details at iaafoundation.org.



Funds Available for Inventive Agricultural Ideas



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FARM CREDIT

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Hours: Monday – Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Manager – Bailey Edenburn
Assistant Manager – Lucas Stark
Communications Director – Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant – Debbie Styan
Membership & Outreach Coordinator – Emily Cler
Foundation Director – Kirk Builta
Ag in the Classroom Director – Sarah Kaper
Ag in the Classroom Educator – Julie Adcock

Contact us at (217) 352-5235 www.ccfarmbureau.com Farm Bureau members can take advantage of two programs providing funds for inventive, resourceful agricultural ideas. Application deadlines are approaching.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and Farm Credit have opened up the application process for the **Ag Innovation Challenge**. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Ag Innovation Challenge is a national business competition showcasing U.S. startups that are developing, "innovative solutions that address challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities."

The 11th year for this program will see the winner of the competition receive \$100,000 in startup funds; runner- up \$25,000; and two final four business owners will receive \$10,000.

Local members do have great ideas and can win! In 2010, CCFB member Paul Berbaum was the grand prize winner in the American Farm Bureau Federation's 'Farmer Idea Exchange' competition. Paul's **Auger Dolly** allowed a farmer to roll an auger from its storage building to a bin and installed in less than 10 minutes. The dolly could easily be transported.

Additional details can be found at <u>www.</u> <u>fb.org/initiative/ag-innovation-challenge</u>

Applications are also open for the Illinois

Innovation Voucher program brought to you by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition. This program provides funding to small and mid-size businesses to have innovation partnerships with Illinois higher education partners. Farmers or producers are eligible. An example of a project could include implementing new farming practices with a university of Extension partner. The funding is for up to 75% of the project costs and no more than \$75K in funding.

Additional details can be found at

https://ilinnovoucher.istcoalition.org/illinois-innovation-voucher-program



What do IIV funds cover?

Innovation vouchers cover up to 75% of the cost of the research engagement (not to exceed \$75,000). The following list is not exhaustive and includes:

- Sharing of technologies, knowledge, facilities, equipment;
- Access to research and scientific expertise;
- New product/process development;
- Commercialization of new or enhanced products
- · Prototyping, piloting, testing, and product validation
- New business model development;
- New service development
- · Innovation/technology audit
- Implementation of new technology
- Acquire metrology and standardization

Several Spring Meetings And Activities Keep Local CCFB Members Busy.



CCFB Women's Committee member, Ronda Scott, delivering the AFBF Book of the Year to the Rantoul Library. The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture presented its 17th "Book of the Year" award to author Roxanne Troup for "My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me."



CCFB's Marketing Meeting was held in the auditorium with a great turnout. Speakers included Greg Johnson from TGM and Randall Bolen from Illinois Commodities Corporation.

Members of the CCFB Women's Committee traveled to the Rural Rose in Fisher, IL, to participate in a flower arranging class.



Several members of the Young Ag Leaders committee joined together for some bowling and fellowship.

5) Learn to prepare and USE **Balance Sheet Income** Statement **Cash Flow Statement** 1) in real time 2) not just at year end 3) not just for borrowing purposes 4) not just for tax purposes

Several CCFB members participated in the Estate Planning Meeting.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Sandra Chestnut

Pudding Dessert Ingredients

1 Angel Food Cake

- 2 pkgs instant pudding (vanilla, chocolate, or lemon)
- 1 ½ cup milk
- 1 qt. softened vanilla ice cream
- 1 small Cool Whip
- 2 or 3 Heath bars, crushed

Preparation

Break up angel food cake in the bottom of a 9 X 13 pan. Combine the pudding, milk, and ice cream in large mixer bowl. Blend until smooth. Pour over cake. Chill until firm. Then spread Cool Whip over the top and keep cold until serving. Also add the Heath Bars on top, which have been crushed.