

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Red-Dyed Diesel: Temporary Relief Comes with Important Requirements

Federal and state executive orders offer farmers flexibility, but different rules create additional considerations.

As harvest continues across Illinois, farmers are navigating a new set of rules surrounding the use of red-dyed diesel fuel in on-road vehicles. Recent executive orders from President Donald Trump and Governor JB Pritzker provide temporary relief from certain fuel-related penalties. While intended to ease financial pressures on farmers, the two actions come with different requirements that farmers should understand before filling their tanks.

Traditionally, red-dyed diesel is reserved for off-road uses, including tractors, combines, and other agricultural equipment. Because it is generally exempt from highway fuel taxes, using it in licensed vehicles traveling public roads can result in significant penalties.

In response to rising diesel prices, supply chain disruptions, and increased transportation costs, federal and Illinois officials have temporarily relaxed certain restrictions.

Two Orders, Different Requirements

At the federal level, President Trump's executive order provides relief through December 31, 2026. Guidance issued by the Internal Revenue Service on October 14 confirms that federal tax will not be imposed for dyed diesel used in highway vehicles nationwide from October 1 through December 31. The IRS also states that taxpayers are not required to maintain records to establish eligibility for federal penalty relief during this period.

However, (at the time of publication) the IRS has indicated that additional guidance concerning deferred federal fuel taxes is forthcoming. The temporary relief does not necessarily eliminate underlying tax obligations. While the federal tax is deferred, it has not been forgiven at this time.

Illinois' executive order, issued by Governor Pritzker, provides a narrower exemption. From October 6 through December 31, 2026, the Illinois Department of Revenue and Illinois State Police will suspend certain penalties for dyed diesel used in on-road vehicles for qualifying farming and agricultural purposes involving the transportation of agricultural goods. It's important to note that the state tax on dyed diesel has simply been deferred until 2027, and at this time is not forgiven. Farmers utilizing dyed diesel for road use should make plans to pay this tax at a later date.

Unlike the federal guidance, Illinois requires extensive documentation to qualify for penalty relief.

Documentation Is Critical

Farmers choosing to use dyed diesel in qualifying on-road vehicles must maintain records identifying the vehicle's license plate number, gallons used, fueling dates, and the last date dyed diesel was added. They must also retain documentation demonstrating agricultural use, such as grain tickets, delivery invoices, trip sheets, or bills of lading such as scale tickets, or other documentation.

These records must be retained for four years. Failure to produce the required documentation during an audit could result in penalties.

Another important consideration is what happens after December 31.

Even after switching back to clear diesel, traces of red dye can remain in a vehicle's fuel system for months. With normal Illinois enforcement scheduled to resume January 1, 2027, farmers should document their vehicle's odometer reading at the end of the relief period, retain subsequent fuel receipts, and preserve records supporting their qualifying agricultural use.

Additionally, Illinois' penalty relief does not extend beyond state lines. Farmers traveling into neighboring states should understand that different state requirements may apply.

Illinois Farm Bureau Urges Caution

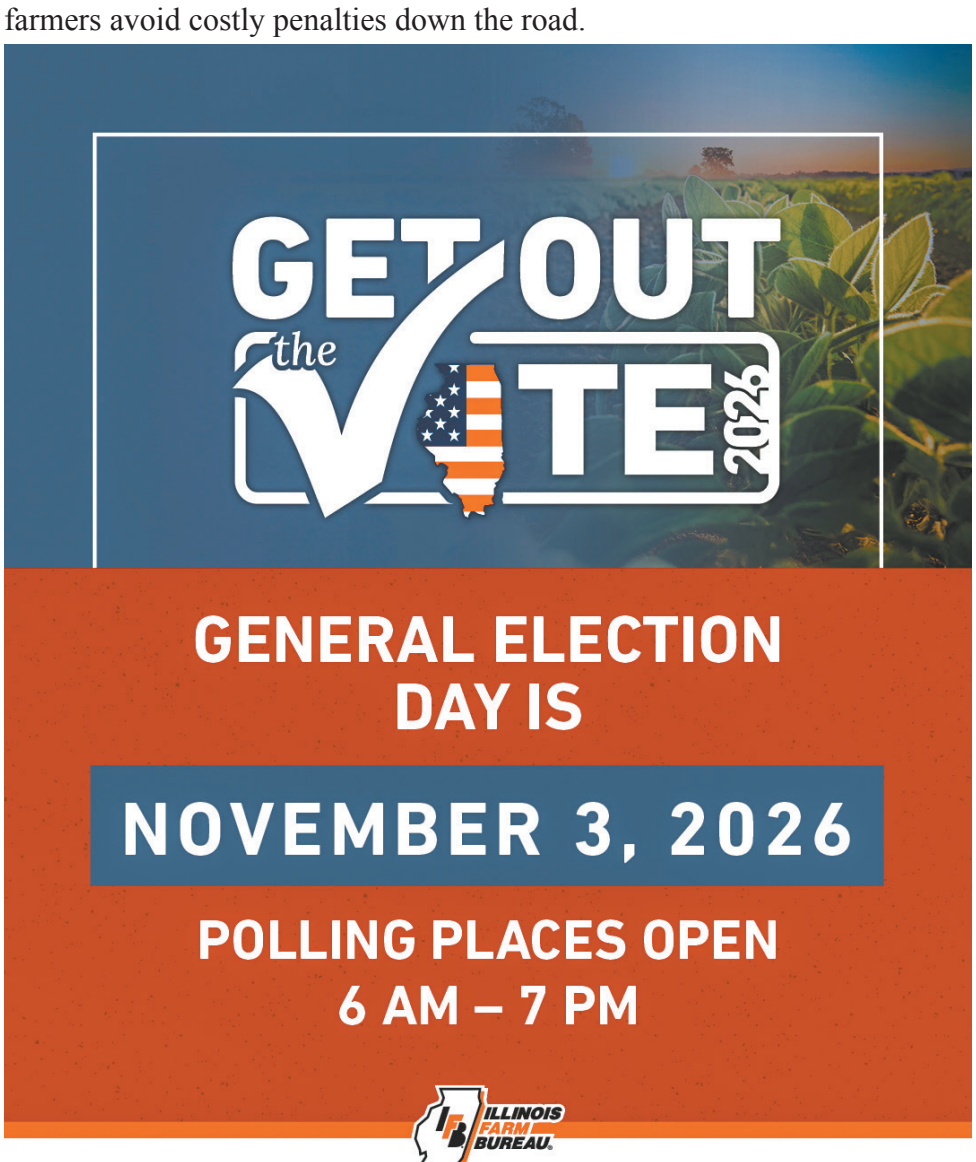
Illinois Farm Bureau and Champaign County Farm Bureau staff continue to monitor both federal and state developments and encourages members to carefully review the guidance before using dyed diesel in highway vehicles.

The Illinois Farm Bureau's recommendation is straightforward: "If you choose to use red dyed diesel in on-road trucks for farming and agricultural purposes, document everything and have a plan to transition back to clear diesel."

To assist farmers with recordkeeping, Illinois Farm Bureau has made a suggested dyed diesel documentation form available. Members may obtain a copy by contacting the Champaign County Farm Bureau office or emailing **ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com**.

The form is intended as a helpful recordkeeping tool, not a guarantee of compliance with state requirements. Farmers remain responsible for maintaining all documentation required by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Champaign County Farm Bureau will continue sharing updates on social media and through electronic communication as additional information becomes available. While the temporary measures are intended to provide relief during a challenging period, understanding the requirements today may help farmers avoid costly penalties down the road.



Send address changes to: CCFB News, 801 N Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL 61821

November Report

President, Doug Downs



Doug Downs, CCFB President

Who can believe that the holidays have come around already? Many in my neighborhood that I have spoken with are stinging from disappointing corn yields but satisfactory soybean yields. Hopefully, other neighborhoods in the area were better than mine. We simply had too much rain. Harvest is not far from being complete and barren fields are once again covering the countryside. This year, leads to elections season and I bet everyone is ready for that to be over.

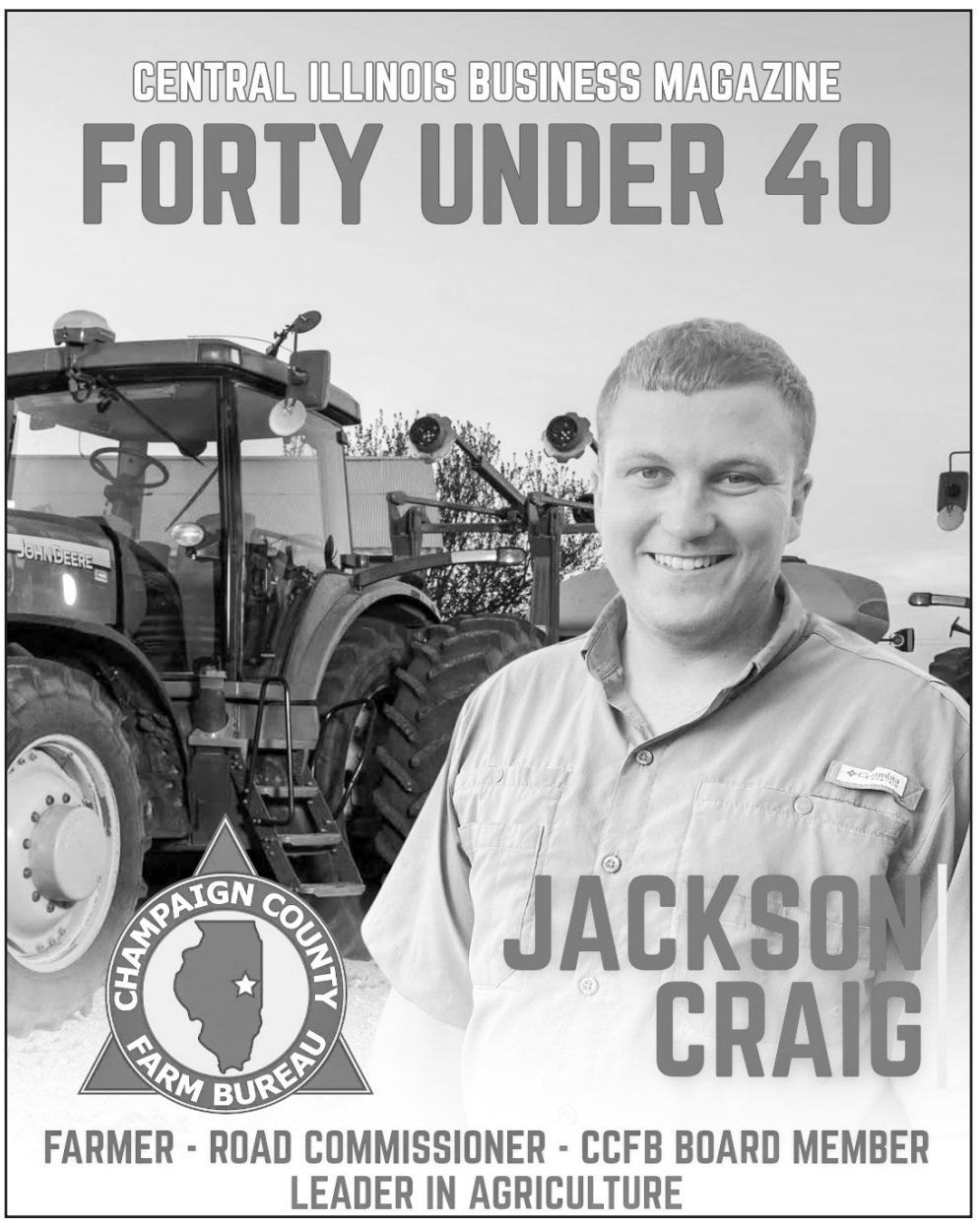
I've had multiple outings with some of our legislative team members this past summer and witnessed how our team members get in the room on behalf of our members. They have made relationships on both sides of the aisle in hopes to get rural Americas voice in front of those who will eventually determine what becomes law. It's pretty impressive what this organization has accomplished. I witnessed it firsthand in Washington DC a few weeks ago. Time and again from just about everyone we met the resounding theme was that Farm Bureau is a respected and powerful voice.

Think about this: In the last election, two-thirds of votes cast in Illinois were from eight of our 102 counties. To elaborate further, there are three times as many voters in thirteen counties than the other 89 combined. Combine all that with some very creatively drawn congressional and state representative maps and there is a pretty strong home field advantage to being associated with a particular party in Illinois.

Although the statistics may seem overwhelming, the only real way to ensure your voice is ultimately heard is to make sure you vote. There is no reason to miss Election Day. We have turned election day into election month, it seems, so please vote early if you can..

Doug Downs
CCFB President





Prime Timers Meeting

November 12, 2026 • 10 am

CCFB Auditorium

Featured Guests: *Sheri Shannon – U of I Credit Union*

Topic: *Fraud and Scams that Senior Citizens Should Avoid*

Entertainment – Rod Milsap

Please RSVP by November 9

Fried Chicken Buffet Lunch – Cost $8 per person

****No Walk-Ins****

CCFB Office - 217-352-5235



CCFB Women's Committee hosted speaker Renee Fehr for their October meeting. Renee spent 27 years helping her family obtain justice for her sister, Sheryl. Sheryl did not survive domestic violence.

Women's Committee

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

Calendar of Events

Meeting: November 9 @ 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: Amber Oberheim, Nurse Practitioner

Topic: Women's Health

CCFB Calendar of Events

November 2026

November 4	*Freezer Chef Meal Pickup*	
November 5	*Young Leaders Food Repack*	
November 9	*Women's Committee*	*9:30 am*
November 10	*CCFB Foundation*	
	Grounded in Ag Breakfast	
November 12	*Prime Timers*	*10 am*
November 19	*Full Board*	*6:30 pm*
November 24	*Governmental Affairs*	*7:30 a.m.*

Announcing Champaign County Farm Bureau's Trips and Tours
Mark Your Calendars • 2026 Trips

November 20, 2026 – Holiday Cruise – Celebration Belle – Moline, IL

Enjoy a tradition holiday meal and listen to your favorite holiday tunes! Get ready for some holiday cheer with a Christmas Show presented by Aaron & Jade from Bloom. Join them for this fabulous combination of Christmas Spirit, music, and dance!.

Price Per Person: $150.00 *Deadline to Register or Cancel: October 30, 2026*

9 to 5 – Wednesday, February 24, 2027 – Drury Lane Theatre

Based on the hit 1980 movie, this hysterical and empowering musical is the story of three unlikely friends who concoct a plan to get even with their sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot of a boss. With music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, 9 to 5 is a nostalgic joyride that proves there's nothing women can't do.

Price Per Person: $150.00 *Deadline to Register or Cancel: February 5, 2027*

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CCFBFOUNDATION.COM | CCFBFOUNDATION | CCFB_FOUNDATION

Champaign County AG IN THE CLASSROOM CCFB FOUNDATION

AG IN THE CLASSROOM

"Providing hands-on learning opportunities that represent our industry in a truthful and modern way."

WHEAT THROUGH TIME

We are wrapping up our lesson on Wheat Through Time having been in front of **3,225 students** to date. These pictures sum it up better than words. They show **ENGAGEMENT with agriculture!** Students are listening, questioning, connecting, and doing. Teachers are listening, facilitating, observing, and interacting with their students.



In the Office

Ever wonder what we do and how we do it? It takes a team! Monday mornings are for planning and preparing. Olivia packs supplies for nearly 1,000 students each week! By Monday afternoon, Julie and Sarah are off to schools for the rest of the week, with occasional stops to "refuel" supplies. Dane joins Sarah Tuesday through Thursday to team-teach in classrooms.





CAN'T FORGET ABOUT OUR PUMPKINS

Julie visited St. Joseph Pre-K to explore the pumpkin life cycle, get hands-on with pumpkin guts, and enjoy a roasted pumpkin seed tasting!





Ag in the Orchard

110+ children and their families attend on September 26!

Women's Committee and Sigma Alpha volunteers helped run six Ag-tivity stations. Students who completed all six stations earned a voucher for the Yellow Brick Road activity area, which includes mazes, play areas, animal rides, and more. Each voucher has a $16 value, generously donated by Curtis Orchard.

Ag-tivities Included:

1. Apple Tasting
2. Pumpkin Life Cycle
3. Pollinating Bees
4. Pigs ROCK!
5. Thank A Farmer
6. Corn to Cereal Trail





www.ccfbfoundation.com/aitc

LONGVIEW BANK
An Ag in the Classroom Community Partner

Champaign County Ag in the Classroom

sarah@ccfarmbureau.com
julie@ccfarmbureau.com

You're Invited to the

GROUNDED IN Ag BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 10th

7:30am-9:00am
CCFB Auditorium

Join us for breakfast in support of Ag in the Classroom! Come hear first-hand how this incredible program is impacting 3,000+ students per month with lessons about where their food, fiber and fuels come from.

Open House Style Breakfast
Short Program at 8:15am

PLEASE RSVP
217-352-5235



Bring your donation for Ag in the Classroom to the breakfast or donate online at ccfbfoundation.com/grounded

or Mail
CCFB Foundation
801 N. Country Fair Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821



FOUNDATION *Farmers*

A support network within the CCFB Foundation that is comprised **solely of farmers**. These farmers are united by their desire to educate others about agriculture and understand that investing in the future workforce of agriculture is crucial for the success of their own farm operations. They contribute to Foundation missions both financially and through advocacy, leveraging their grassroots voice within the local agriculture industry.



WHY JOIN?

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GROGRAM GROWTH
By becoming a member, you can actively contribute to shaping the growth and development of Foundation programs.

LEND YOUR FARMER VOICE
You have the opportunity to lend your unique farmer voice to initatives such as Ag in the Classroom, supporting local students pursuing higher education, and investing in hands-on careers that directly impact your farming operation.

ENJOY CAMARADERIE WITH TOP PRODUCERS
Joining foundation farmers allows you to connect with and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow top producers in Champaign County. Together, you can make a collective impact on the future of the local agriculture industry.



HOW DO I JOIN?

It's easy! Return the enclosed form by mail or email, or sign up online using the link or QR code below.

www.ccfbfoundation.com/foundationfarmers

FOUNDATION FARMER BENEFITS

1 Year COMMITMENT

ONE YEAR COMMITMENT OF *ONE OR MORE ACRES*

- Foundation Farmer hat and truck decal
- Foundation Farmer field sign
- Invitation for two to the Foundation Farmer harvest celebration in mid-late November
- Recognition on social media and the Foundation Farmer standing banner at all events

3 Year COMMITMENT

THREE YEAR COMMITMENT OF *ONE OR MORE ACRES*

- Foundation Farmer logo embroidered Carhart Men's Jacket or Ladies Vest with your name or farm
- Foundation Farmer hat and truck decal
- Foundation Farmer field sign
- Invitation for four to the Foundation Farmer harvest celebration in mid-late November
- Recognition on social media and the Foundation Farmer standing banner at all events
- Photo recognition (individual/family farm photo that you provice or farm logo) on social media and the Foundation Farmer standing banner at all events



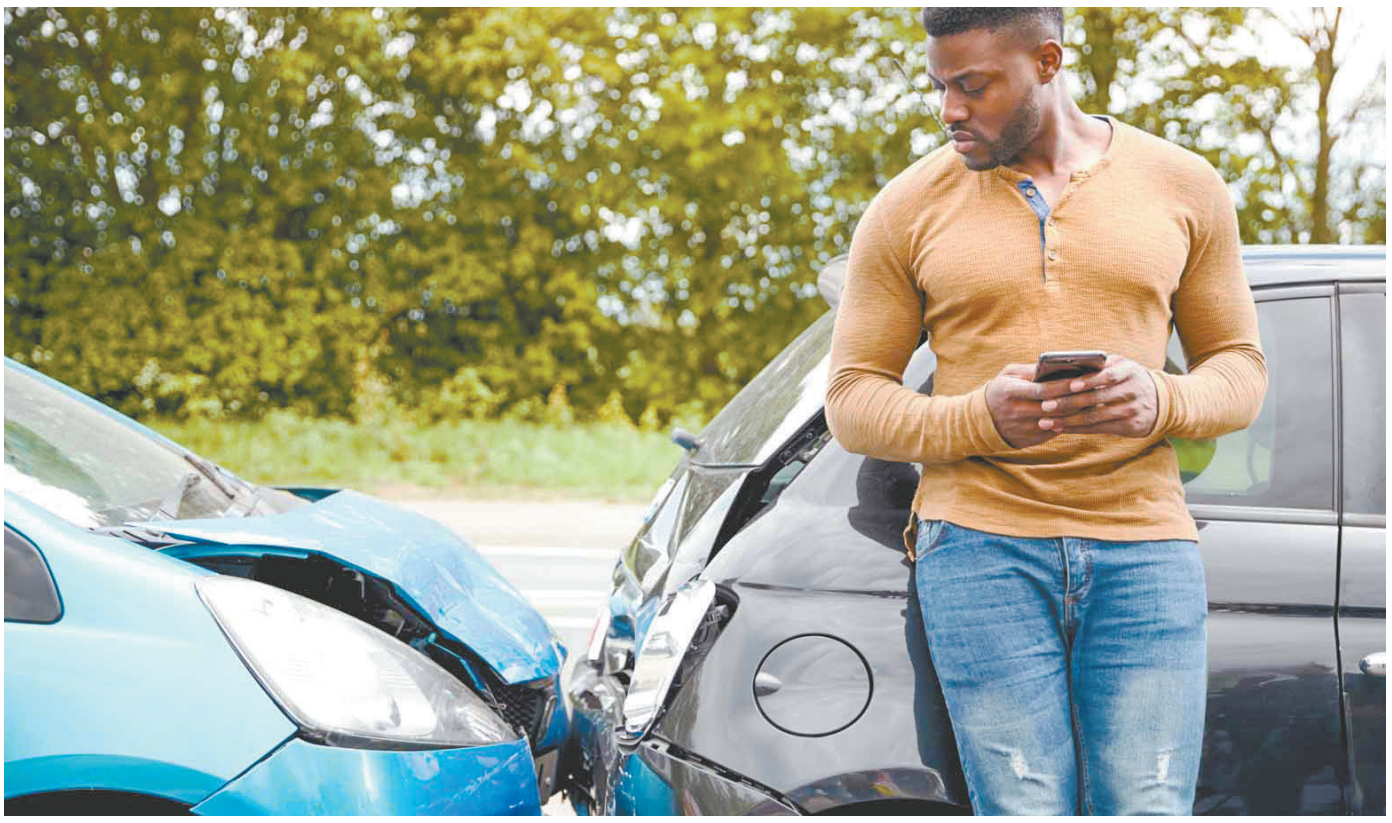


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What Is Medical Payments Coverage?

by COUNTRY Financial



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Medical Payments Coverage, sometimes called MedPay or Medical Expense Coverage, is a type of auto coverage that is designed to help reimburse the cost of medical bills resulting from injury in a car accident. It's a form of no-fault coverage, meaning it's designed to help cover medical bills regardless of whether you or another driver caused the accident.

Medical Payments Coverage can be added to auto insurance. It's optional in most places, but it may be worth considering if your finances can't support sudden medical costs, or you frequently drive with passengers.

MedPay protects you as a driver, of course, but its coverage can also extend to your passengers and your family members.

- Medical expenses: This includes hospital bills, surgery costs, doctor visits and medical treatments. It can even cover emergency dental care.
- Ambulance fees: Getting a ride to the hospital can be expensive, and MedPay can help.
- Injuries as a pedestrian or cyclist: This is one that surprises people; Medical Payments Coverage can cover your injuries if a car hits you while you're on foot or on a bicycle. This can also extend to your family members.
- Passengers' medical expenses: MedPay's coverage can extend to passengers in your car at the time of an accident, be they family or otherwise.

Medical Payments Coverage is designed to help protect you, your covered family and other passengers. If you want to extend coverage even further, **Bodily Injury Liability** is another option. It's designed to help cover the medical expenses of the other party in an accident you caused, which may also help shield you and your family from costly legal fees.

Medical Payments Coverage vs. Personal Injury Protection (MedPay vs. PIP)

Both Medical Payments Coverage and Personal Injury Protection (PIP) are designed to help reimburse medical bills if you, your covered family or passengers require medical treatment after a car accident, regardless of who caused the accident. In that respect, they're similar.

But they do have distinct differences. According to Insurance.com[1]:

- Both PIP and MedPay are no-fault coverages that help pay medical bills, and some other costs, after an accident.
- PIP and MedPay coverage are optional in most states, but a few require one or both.
- MedPay typically provides a smaller amount of coverage for injuries to you, your passengers and covered household members, while PIP coverage limits are usually higher and can extend to things like funeral costs.

How much Medical Payments Coverage do I need?

As with any insurance coverage, there are a few things worth considering when determining how much MedPay coverage might fit your situation.

Financial situation is often a starting point. Budget can help shape how much coverage might make sense, and it's worth comparing the coverage limits available for Medical Payments Coverage:

- Per-person coverage limits: The maximum amount a policy may pay for each covered person involved in the accident.
- Per-accident coverage limits: The maximum amount a policy may pay for all medical expenses resulting from a single accident.

It's also worth knowing whether you live in a fault or no-fault state:

- At-fault state: The driver responsible for the accident is generally responsible for covering the resulting damages.
- No-fault state: After an accident, each driver's own insurance company typically pays for damages, regardless of fault.

If you live in a no-fault state, your policy will typically include Personal Injury Protection instead of Medical Payments Coverage, since the two aren't available together on the same policy, and PIP tends to offer more comprehensive coverage than MedPay. In an at-fault state, Medical Payments Coverage may be worth considering to help address a similar gap.

If you're considering adding Medical Payments Coverage to your auto insurance, connecting with your insurance agent can help clarify your options and answer any questions.



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GENERAL MANAGER

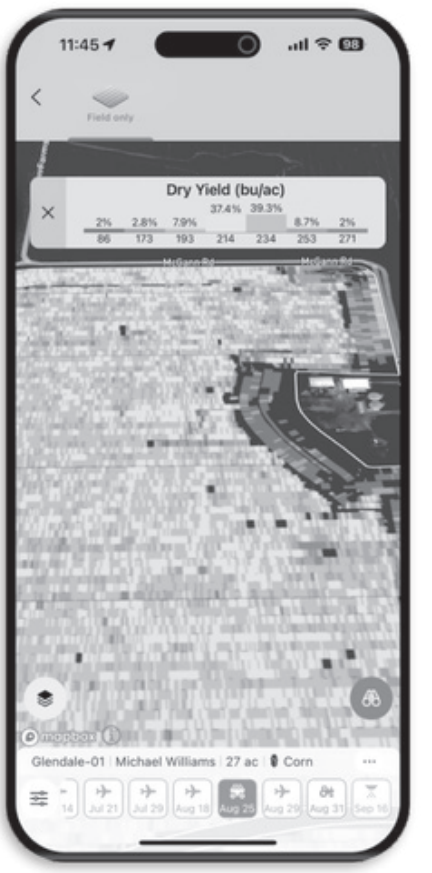


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Here at Sunrise FS we believe that high-yield crop production begins with a well-developed management plan that focuses on maximizing plant performance from planting through harvest. Every decision made throughout the growing season can impact yield potential, making it important to use field data, scouting observations, and agronomic expertise to guide management practices. Successful high-yield management starts with selecting the right seed genetics and trait packages for each field, while also considering factors such as soil type, fertility levels, drainage, and field history.

Strong plant performance depends on establishing a healthy stand early in the season. Proper planting depth, seed-to-soil contact, population selection, and favorable soil conditions all contribute to uniform emergence and vigorous crop development. As the season progresses, continued monitoring for nutrient deficiencies, weed pressure, insect activity, and disease development helps growers protect yield potential and respond quickly to developing issues.



At Sunrise FS, we combine agronomic knowledge with technology-driven solutions to help growers make informed decisions. Through myFS Agronomy, growers can access field records, planting data, application history, machine data, scouting notes, imagery, and trial results all in one easy-to-use platform. This centralized approach allows growers and crop specialists to evaluate crop performance throughout the season and make data-backed management decisions.

myFS Agronomy also helps identify yield-limiting factors before they become significant problems. Scouting observations, drone imagery, and field maps can be used to monitor crop health, locate areas of stress, and prioritize management actions. By tracking information over multiple seasons, growers can better understand long-term trends and evaluate which practices are delivering the greatest return on investment.

High-yield management is more than simply increasing inputs. It involves making timely, informed decisions that support plant health and maximize productivity. By combining Sunrise FS agronomic expertise with the powerful tools available through myFS Agronomy, growers can better manage risk, improve efficiency, and position their operation for consistent, profitable yields year after year.

Contact Your Local Crop Specialist Today!

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Our Grassroots Process Starts with Resolutions

By: Philip Nelson, President of the Illinois Farm Bureau
Originally published on FarmWeekNow.com



Illinois Farm Bureau's grassroots resolutions process, in action at the 2025 IFB Annual Meeting, is the foundation of the organization. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)

If you want to change something, you must be willing to be part of the process.

That is something I learned early in my involvement with Illinois Farm Bureau, and it remains just as true today. Our grassroots resolutions process is more than an annual exercise. It is the foundation of who we are as an organization and how Illinois farmers make their voices heard.

Our policy starts with members at the local level. An idea or concern raised at a county Farm Bureau can become state policy and help shape policy at the national level. There are not many organizations that give members a direct role in determining which issues we advocate for in Springfield and Washington.

I first got involved in the resolutions process through what was then called the Young Farmer Committee. Over the years, I had the opportunity to experience the process from several perspectives, first as a county Farm Bureau leader, later a member of the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors and eventually as a resolutions committee chair.

What I learned is that good policy benefits from hearing different perspectives.

An issue affecting a farmer in southern Illinois may look very different from the same issue in northern Illinois. A livestock producer may bring a different perspective than a grain farmer. Sometimes members agree. Sometimes we have spirited debates. But bringing those experiences together helps us develop policy that represents Illinois agriculture as a whole.

The issues may change over time. When I first got involved with Illinois Farm Bureau, we were working on issues surrounding gasohol (ethanol), livestock markets and livestock facility siting, which are just as relevant today. Newer issues we've seen in the last decade include pipelines, carbon sequestration, regenerative agriculture, property taxes and many other challenges facing their farms and communities.

Some issues, however, remain familiar.

Illinois Farm Bureau members have debated farm policy and the agricultural safety net for decades. We have long worked on estate tax reform, farmland assessment and agriculture concentration. In other cases, grassroots policy helped guide efforts involving the sales tax on farm machinery.

Those examples are reminders that resolutions aren't simply words printed in a policy book. They become our marching orders.

They tell our staff and leaders what members believe and give us a clear direction when we walk into the Illinois Capitol or meet with members of Congress. That credibility comes from being able to say our position didn't originate in an office in Bloomington. It started with farmers and Farm Bureau members back home.

That is our edge in the policy process, and we cannot take it for granted.

For young farmers and others who haven't participated before, my advice is simple: Start with your county Farm Bureau. Get to know your county leaders and manager. Ask questions. Bring forward the issues affecting your farm and community. Listen to the experiences of members from other parts of the state.

The process can sometimes be laborious. But you can never get involved too early, and some of the best ideas in our organization come from members who bring a new perspective to the table.

Illinois Farm Bureau has been a grassroots organization from the beginning. Local members provide the ideas and direction. Those ideas move to the state level and, when appropriate, to the national level.

That process only works when members participate.

If we want Illinois Farm Bureau to continue being the voice of Illinois agriculture, that voice must start with you.



Champaign County Farm Bureau's Delegates to the 2025 IFB Annual Meeting discuss policy impacting members

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CCFB Member attends National Ag Marketing Summit



Tanna Suits farms in Champaign County alongside her husband, Greg, right, and twin sons, Logan and Connor, left. She is one of four Illinois Farm Bureau members who attended Agricultural Marketing Summit in North Carolina.

Farm Bureau Signs



If you live in a rural setting and don't have a clearly legible address sign, stop by the CCFB and purchase a rural road sign. For $35, make sure that friends, the mail deliverer, and first responders can find your home!

FARM WATCH
REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR VEHICLES TO
(217) 333-8911

Stop by the CCFB office and pick up a Farm Watch sign. This FREE sign, has the Champaign County Sheriff's non-emergency number on it.



DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT TO MEET YOUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS?

on.ilfb.org/rdgrants5

Illinois Farm Bureau's Rural Development Grant Program invests in rural development projects that positively impact Farm Bureau members and rural Illinoisans. This program provides resources and tools to help rural communities and counties successfully implement projects that strengthen economic opportunity, improve quality of life and/or address critical needs.

Examples include projects that focus on attracting businesses, improving infrastructure, increasing access to fresh food and healthcare, enhancing emergency services, and more.

Rural development requires a team effort. The grants will be awarded in conjunction with county Farm Bureaus and their local partners.

For more information about the program, please contact your local county Farm Bureau.

Thank you to COUNTRY® Financial for the $20k investment in the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Development Grant Program.

A Little Appreciation in the Fields







Harvest is one of the busiest times of year for our farmers, and we wanted to find a way to show a little appreciation for all they do.

Throughout October, Kirk and Emily made their way around Champaign County, stopping in fields to deliver Harvest Bags and catch up with members during the busy season. These bags were a community effort from the start. The ladies of Women Rooted in Ag helped assemble them, local students at PVO colored stickers, and our Ag in the Orchard kids added their own touch by coloring "Thank a Farmer" cards.

In mid-October, Emily was joined by Champaign County Fair Queen Katelynn Graham for a day of deliveries in the southern part of the county. Along the way, Katelynn got to experience her first combine ride, thanks to Rice Farms!

The best part was getting out to see our farmers where the work is happening. We know harvest takes long hours and plenty of hard work, and we hope these bags brought a little encouragement and reminded our farmers that their community is always thinking of them.







WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Paulette Brock

Basic Oven Steamed Rice

This is the easiest way to make nice fluffy rice, and especially handy when using the oven anyway!

Ingredients:

- 1.5 cups regular white rice
- 1 tsp. salt
- Dash of pepper
- 2 T. butter
- 3.5 cups boiling water

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 1.5-quart casserole with a lid, combine rice, salt, pepper and butter. Pour boiling water over rice and stir until butter is melted. Cover; bake 40-45 minutes (do not peek or stir.) To serve, fluff up lightly with fork. Makes 6-8 servings.