

HENRY COUNTY FARMER



Official Publication Of The Henry County Farm Bureau, Cambridge, IL 61238

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

- DECEMBER**
- 12/2-12/5..... Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL
 - 12/4..... Pork Producers Meeting
HCFB boardroom, 7pm
 - 12/5..... IL Beef Association Cattleman Connect Education Serries
The Black Ridge, 4pm*
 - 12/5..... IL Beef Association BQA Meeting
The Black Ridge, 5-6pm*
 - 12/12..... HCFB Young Leaders meeting
HCFB Boardroom, 6:30pm
 - 12/13..... Katie Laleman, HCFB manager, live on WKEI 1450 AM
8:25am
 - 12/14..... Henry County Beef Association Meeting
HCFB boardroom, 7pm
 - 12/19..... HCFB Foundation Annual Meeting
HCFB office, 7pm
 - 12/19..... HCFB Board of Directors Meeting
HCFB Boardroom, 7:30pm
 - 12/20..... Winter Freezer Meal Pick-up
HCFB office, 3-5pm
 - 12/22-25..... Merry Christmas!
HCFB office closed

- JANUARY**
- 1/1..... Happy New Year!!!
HCFB office closed

REGISTER TODAY

JAN 17-19, 2024
SPRINGFIELD, IL
[BIT.LY/EVERYTHINGLOCAL_24](https://bit.ly/everythinglocal_24)

FROM FOOD TO FLOWERS: EVERYTHING LOCAL CONFERENCE

January 17-19, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

This combined Illinois Food, Farmers Market and Specialty Crop Conference is a collaboration among the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, and Illinois Farmers Market Association to bring together more people than ever from across Illinois' local food, specialty crop and farmers market supply chains. This unique gathering combines the best parts of the events previously known as the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference and the Live Local: Local Food and Farmers Market conference.

This one-of-a-kind event brings together farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state with other partners throughout the Illinois local food supply chain. By more efficiently connecting the supply chain, more income is generated; fewer businesses handle the

product in processing and transit; and the products are harvested and packaged at a fresher stage. These improvements benefit the local economies and food opportunities of communities across the state. You asked, and we listened. Producers want to know more about getting the most from their farms. Local food interests and farmers markets want to work with excellent producers to promote our state's local food systems. These efforts to build relationships don't stop at the fencerow or market gate. So, we've found a way to connect the right people to enhance the robust Illinois local and specialty agriculture system.

What You Can Expect at the Conference:

Aside from the networking opportunities to develop and share new ideas, attendees of the "From

Food to Flowers: Everything Local Hybrid Conference" will have the chance to:

- Hear perspectives from general session keynote speakers who understand and champion the specialty and local food markets.
- Engage in breakout tracks ranging from grower production practices and business development to farmers market management and community food systems.
- Attend workshops on GAP certification, farm-to-school training, social media management and more.
- Interact with vendors, associations, and non-profits at the conference's trade show.

For more information, go to:
bit.ly/everythinglocal_24

IAA FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE, ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU FAMILIES

More than \$177,000 in scholarships are available for agriculture students through the IAA Foundation.

"We are once again pleased to offer a scholarship program that encourages students to explore degrees in agriculture related fields," said Jennifer Smith, IAA Foundation development manager. "It is imperative that the next generation of agriculture leaders receives the financial support they need to stay immersed in their education and build their career in agriculture."

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members, spouses and children are eligible to apply for 95 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be

awarded in total of \$177,001 for the 2024-25 school year.

Applications are open for a variety of financial awards including the newly created Promoting Careers in Agriculture Scholarship and the Robert E. Koeller Scholarship. Additionally, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of Prairie Farms Dairy and several family scholarships established to honor loved ones. Fellowships are also available to support students pursuing advanced degrees in fields that directly relate to agriculture.

Scholarships are awarded based on involvement in extra-curricular activities, community service, academic performance, leadership experiences and an essay. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation

scholarship are eligible to apply again if the individual scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available at www.iaafoundation.org. Applications must be completed online by Feb. 15. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or email Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ilfb.org

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Steve Nightingale
Vice President: Heather Poppy
Vice President: Brian Corkill
Secretary: Kevin Schwartzkopf
Treasurer: David Westerland

DISTRICT 4

Jim DeCrane, Justin Frank, Kate Huffman, Steve Krause

AT-LARGE

Gary Asay, Sadie Asher, Hilary Boelens, Scott Jordan, Jim Larson, Pat Martens, Jan Weber, Bill Wyffels

DISTRICT 1

Jon Chamberlain, Bridgett Wildermuth, Emily Baum, Dan Wolf

DISTRICT 2

Greg Decker, Tim Yager, Brian Daniels, Brandon Weber

DISTRICT 3

Lisa VanWatermeulen, Evan Youngren, David Schmedt, Thad Curry

Henry County Farmer (USPS-240-260) published monthly, A nominal fee charged for subscription, by the Henry County Farm Bureau, Inc., 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238. Periodical postage paid at Cambridge, IL and/or additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Henry Co. Farm Bureau, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238



HENRY & STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS & FIRST CHOICE HEALTHCARE REMIND RESIDENTS THEY HAVE BOTH PFIZER & MODERNA UPDATED COVID-19 SHOTS FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN AVAILABLE IN KEWANEE & COLONA

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments and First Choice Healthcare remind residents we have both Pfizer & Moderna Updated Covid-19 Shots for All Adults & Children (6mos.+) at our clinics in Kewanee and Colona. Covid-19 shots are available by appointment at both locations, simply call the First Choice Healthcare location nearest you: Kewanee 309-852-5272 or Colona 309-792-4011.

Adults & Children with "Insurance Coverage" for the Covid-19 vaccination can obtain either the Pfizer or Moderna 2023-24 updated vaccine. Simply bring your insurance card with you to your appointment.

Adults & Children with "NO Insurance Coverage" for the Covid-19 vaccination may choose either the Pfizer or Moderna 2023-24 updated Covid-19 vaccine through the "Bridge Access Program" or

"VFC (Vaccines for Children) Program."

The Health Department notes that both the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and CDC recommend vaccination with the updated COVID-19 vaccine for all persons aged ≥6 months. Older adults and persons with weakened immune systems are at greatest risk for hospitalization and death. In addition, healthy children and adults can still experience severe disease.

To schedule your appointment or for more information, call the First Choice Healthcare locations in Kewanee (309) 852-5272 and Colona (309) 792-4011 Colona or visit our website at www.henrystarkhealth.com or find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments, or Follow Us on Twitter or Instagram.



TEACHER AWARDED AG IN THE CLASSROOM GRANT

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program and the IAA Foundation along with the Illinois Farm Bureau® have released the names of the 2023-2024 Teacher Grant Winners.

Staci Sipp, Middle School Science teacher at AlWood, has been awarded a grant. The title of the grant project is "Natural Hazards and Catastrophic Events" and the grant will be used for the purchase of the book "The Great American Dust Bowl" for the classroom.

The mission of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) program is to bring accurate and authentic agricultural information to students in grades PreK-12 across Illinois. "Each year our teacher grant program

is very competitive, and our judging panel is amazed at the unique programs teachers use to infuse agriculture into their curriculum. Our grant recipients are ready to jump into units of study highlighting agriculture. We see 2023-2024 as a prime opportunity for teachers to infuse their curriculum with agriculture" said Kevin Daugherty, Director, Illinois Center for Agricultural Engagement and IAITC. Susan Moore, Director of the IAA Foundation added, "We take pride in providing resources so teachers can continue to engage and inspire students. These grants are a meaningful way for the IAA Foundation to partner with likeminded organizations to fulfill our mission

to support the future of agriculture through education." Partner organizations of IAITC include Illinois Farm Bureau, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE), University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn Growers, Illinois Pork Producers, Illinois Soybean Association, Midwest Dairy Association, Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In addition, annual donors include agribusiness partners and event participants with an interest in supporting the future of agriculture. For information on how individuals can contribute, visit www.iaafoundation.org. For information on IAITC, visit www.agintheclassroom.org.

Farm Bureau Salutes the COUNTRY Financial Membership Recruiters of the Month



Eric Henderson,
Geneseo



Katie Spivey,
Galva

GIVING VALUE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

See below for a list of ways IFB has recently provided value to our members:

- The IAA Foundation awarded \$647,000 in grant funding to support local Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) efforts. That's an average of \$8,000 to each of 80 Ag Literacy Coalitions, which serve 89 total Illinois counties. IAITC also announced its Teacher of the Year recipient, a Bloomington teacher who teaches STEM to elementary school students.
- Illinois Farm Bureau filed comments with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, explaining concerns with the agency's draft herbicide strategy for endangered species.
- Through the Illinois Farm Families coalition, IFB partnered with other state farmer organizations and Casey's to celebrate farmers and promote the "We Are the 96" campaign. The effort aims to increase consumer trust in where their food comes from.
- IFB launched a new Rural Development Grant Program to provide financial support to projects that will benefit Farm Bureau members and other rural Illinois residents.

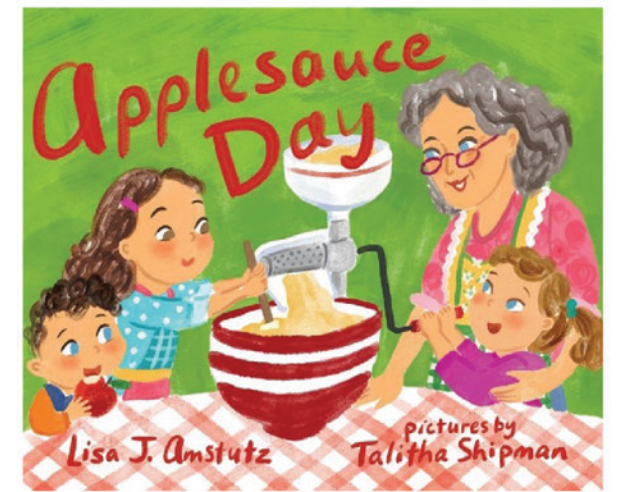
2024 HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Poster Contest

Food and Family Traditions – What do you do together with food?

Food connects us in so many ways! What traditions do you have with your family that involve food?

Applesauce Day is here! In this story, Maria and her family visit an apple orchard and pick apples. Then it is time to turn the apples into applesauce. Every year they use a special pot that has been in the family for generations. Follow along as everyone helps to make delicious applesauce. **Look for this book in your school or local library!**



***USE YOUR POSTER TO TELL US ABOUT THE FUN YOU HAVE AND THE FOOD YOU GROW, PREPARE OR EAT!**

RULES:

- Must be in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade in Henry County
- Entries must be submitted on regular 8 1/2" x 11" white paper
- May use crayon, marker, paint, pencil or ink
- No tracing, free-hand drawings only
- The poster will become property of the Farm Bureau and may be reprinted for publication

Back of Poster MUST have the following:

- Student's Name
- Teacher's Name
- Student's Address
- School Name
- Grade

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All posters are due by **February 15, 2024** to the Henry County Farm Bureau, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238

CONTEST AWARDS:

Each division will be awarded three prizes:
1st prize \$20.00 2nd prize \$15.00 3rd prize \$10.00

****Teacher of each first-place entry will receive a \$25.00 cash prize** (Teachers must submit a minimum of 10 entries from their class to be eligible for the cash prize.)**

Questions:

Contact the Farm Bureau office at (309) 937-2411 or manager@henrycofarmbureau.org.

Sponsored by:



2024 POND CLINIC

WHEN
 Saturday, January 27th, 2024
 8:00am - 1:00pm

WHERE
 Oxford Legion Hall Post 1197
 211 W A Street -Alpha, IL 61413

PLEASE RSVP
 By: January 19th to
 Henry County SWCD 309-937-3377x 3 OR
 Mercer County 309-582-5153 x 3

WORKSHOP TOPICS COVERED
 Pond Construction
 Fish Management
 Pond Vegetation
 Habitats
 Pond Issues

FEATURING
 David Wyffels,
 Fisheries Biologist
 Illinois Department of
 Natural Resources



FREE PUBLIC EVENT



SPONSORED BY
 Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District



AND
 Mercer County Soil & Water Conservation District

"BUSHELS FOR HUNGER" GRAIN DRIVE KICKS OFF 14TH YEAR

The Bushels for Hunger program is kicking off its 14th year of area farmers helping local families. Farmers can donate bushels of grain at participating elevators from October 1, 2023 until January 31, 2024. Proceeds from grain sales will benefit River Bend Food Bank and food pantries throughout the Quad City area. Since 2010, area farmers have donated over \$300,000 and provided over 1.6 million meals to those in need.

Mercer County farmer and Illinois Farm Bureau District 3 Director Jeff Kirwan is excited about the continued efforts of the campaign. "Fourteen years after its start, the Bushels for Hunger campaign is as strong as ever. Our local farmers continue to support the program and generously donate bushels of grain to help fight hunger in the Quad City communities," Kirwan says.

"We are extremely grateful for this partnership and all of the farmers who participate," said Nancy Renkes, President and CEO of River Bend Food Bank. "It is another great example of the tremendous community support that can ultimately end hunger in our area."

The Bushels for Hunger program is a joint program coordinated by the following three Illinois County Farm Bureaus: Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer in conjunction with the following area grain elevators and ethanol plants: Atkinson Grain, Big River Resources, Cargill, CHS, Gold Star FS, Hillsdale Elevator, River Valley Cooperative and Rumbold & Kuhn. For more information, contact your local County Farm Bureau.

FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation to be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. The Foundation meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Henry County Farm Bureau, Cambridge, Illinois.

MAKING SENSE OF EL NIÑO, RECENT TRENDS AND WINTER OUTLOOKS

(Originally published FarmWeekNow.com, Nov 11, 2023)

By Trent Ford

For the first time in five years, we are on the precipice of an El Nino winter. El Nino and its partner, La Niña, refer to two periods when sea-surface temperatures along the equator in the Pacific Ocean are either unusually cold (La Nina) or unusually warm (El Nino). The sea surface temperature patterns affect the atmosphere's movement, including the position and waviness of the dominant northern hemisphere jet streams. It's through this atmosphere that El Nino affects global weather patterns and seasonal climate. The impact of El Nino and La Niña on Illinois' climate is typically strongest in the winter, between December and February. El Nino winters tend to have drier and warmer than average conditions in Illinois. However, not all El Nino events are created equally, and some have larger sea surface temperature anomalies and/or stronger climate responses than others. Stronger El Nino events have historically elicited more consistent warm and dry winter conditions in the Midwest than weaker events. The current El Nino is moderate strength, and nearly all models predict the event

will be a moderate-to-strong El Nino at its peak winter intensity. Ten of the past fifteen moderate or strong El Nino events have brought above normal winter temperatures to Illinois, and nine of those 15 El Nino winters have been drier than normal. Winter snowfall is a bit trickier to link to El Nino than total precipitation because the former is much more variable year-to-year than the latter. However, most of the past 15 moderate-to-strong El Nino winters have brought below normal snowfall in Illinois. The most recent winter outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) lean into El Nino, showing highest chances of warmer than normal conditions statewide. Winter precipitation outlooks are more mixed, with equal chances of drier and wetter than normal conditions. It's important to note that the CPC outlooks do not contain any information on the potential likelihood or frequency of winter storms, heavy snowfall or extreme cold. That said, warmer winters tend to have fewer extreme cold events, and reduced risk of human health impacts, especially to those with housing insecurity. Fewer

extreme cold events also decrease the risk of cold injury in both perennial crops and natural ecosystems across the state. However, warmer winters can shorten the perennial dormancy season and potentially increase the risk of spring freeze injury if plants break dormancy much earlier than usual. A warmer winter does not necessarily reduce the chances of late and potentially damaging spring freeze events. There is no doubt El Nino significantly impacts our winter weather here in Illinois. However, the impact of El Nino on our winter weather is modulated by many other factors, including sea surface temperatures and pressure in the north Pacific Ocean and Atlantic Ocean and Arctic sea ice. Therefore, every El Nino winter is somewhat different than other years. Scientists use El Nino to give some useful indication of the potential for unusual winter weather, but seasonal climate prediction is still very challenging. Illinois winters have also experienced the largest change of any season over the past century. The statewide average winter temperature

has increased between 2 and 2.5 degrees since 1895. El Nino and La Niña are part of climate variability that operates on top of long-term, human-caused climate change, and interactions between El Nino and climate change are complex. But the strong warming trends in the Midwest over the past century have substantially increased the likelihood of winter season temperatures that are higher than those in previous decades. We are moving into climatological winter with a moderate-to-strong El Nino phase. Most past moderate to-strong El Nino events have resulted in warmer and drier than normal winter conditions across Illinois. There are many factors that influence our winter and how we perceive winter weather, and it is challenging to predict the frequency or intensity of severe winter weather like heavy snow and extreme cold. But given the El Nino conditions and historical winter trends, the best seasonal predictions show highest odds of a warmer and drier winter across the Prairie State. Trent Ford is the state climatologist with the Illinois State Water Survey.

Mike Pearson Presents: THAT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR YOUR FARM



DOES YOUR FARM HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN OF ACTION IN PLACE IF THE NEED SHOULD ARISE?

Every year, farms across the country encounter disaster in one form or another - severe weather destroying farm infrastructure, a social media blowup threatening reputation, or a farm accident tearing up a family with grief; These crises can be heartbreaking, but they don't have to be the end of an operation. In this program, Farm Broadcaster Mike Pearson shares the lessons he's learned from farm operations that have been through crisis situations, and he'll identify some common best practices for farm families or farm businesses to prepare. You'll leave with a rough plan to be able to use when you return home. Registration will be open December 1st through January 26th. For questions, please email kknapp@ilfb.org or call 309-557-2689.

Keynote Speaker: Mike Pearson
Mike Pearson was born and raised in South Central Iowa, where he grew to love agriculture on his family's hog and cattle farm. After graduating from Simpson College, Mike moved to Grinnell, Iowa where he had the chance to build his own cow herd in addition to working as an agricultural lender. Over the next 10 years, Mike left the world of finance and entered the world of media. He's previously hosted "Market to Market" on Public Television, the Ag News Daily podcast, and currently, viewers can find him behind the anchor desk on "This Week in Agribusiness" on RFD-TV and listeners can hear him every day as the host of Agriculture of America, a daily ag-focused radio show carried by affiliate stations across the country.

Closing Remarks: Lindsey Rinkenberger
Lindsey Rinkenberger serves as Director of Commercial Agribusiness Underwriting Operations for COUNTRY Financial. She joined COUNTRY Financial in 2001 and has served in several positions in Commercial Agribusiness Operations. She is a graduate of Illinois State University, with a degree in Mass Communications/Print Journalism. She currently serves as Vice Chair on the Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau's Board of Directors and is a graduate of COUNTRY's Leadership Development Program, Illinois Ag Leadership Program, Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau's Emerging Leader Program and Leadership Illinois. She serves on the McLean County Ag Education Committee, Illinois Farm Bureau Promotions and

Education Committee and the Illinois FFA Foundation Board. Lindsey and her husband, Reed, live on a farm in Eastern McLean County and have two daughters, Peyton and Kamryn. **Dates/Locations:**
Thursday, February 8th Evening - Bally's Quad Cities, Rock Island, IL
Doors Open 4:30 pm, Dinner at 5:00 pm, Program Begins at 6:00 pm
Friday, February 9th Lunch - Crystal Garden Event Center, Edwardsville, IL
Doors Open 11:00 am, Lunch at 11:30 am, Program Begins at 12:00 pm
Monday, February 12th Brunch - Epiphany Farms, Downs, IL (Hybrid Event Offered)
Doors Open 9:30 am, Brunch Served at 10:00 am, Program Begins at 11:00 am
Monday, February 12th Evening - Effingham Event Center, Effingham, IL

Doors Open 4:30 pm, Dinner at 5:00 pm, Program Begins at 6:00 pm
Agenda for each location:
• Dinner
• Opening remarks from Illinois Farm Bureau Leadership
• Key Note Speaker, Mike Pearson, "That Won't Happen to Me; Emergency Planning on Your Farm"
• Closing remarks from Lindsey Rinkenberger, Director Commercial Agribusiness Underwriting Operations at COUNTRY. She'll provide a brief overview of how COUNTRY farm-certified reps can help farmers protect their farm and crops with proper insurance coverages and plan for their farm's financial future.
• The program should last approximately 2 hours

Save the Date

2024

GOVERNMENTAL Affairs LEADERSHIP Conference

BUILDING

for Success

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.™

Join Illinois Farm Bureau at the 2024 Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference on February 20, 2024. The conference and legislative reception provide an opportunity for our members to interact with members of the General Assembly and fellow Farm Bureau members. Be on the lookout for more information from your County Farm Bureau.

Make the Most of Your Farmland Investment

- Farmland Sales and Acquisitions
- Farmland Auctions
- Certified Farmland Appraisals
- Professional Farm Management

Caring for You and Your Farm®

309.944.2184 www.Hertz.ag

309-944-6423

19746 E. 2050 Street
Atkinson, IL 61235-9726

www.holmstromrealestate.com

Tim Holmstrom
Managing Broker
Certified General Appraiser
309-944-6423
tim@holmstromrealestate.com

Sherry Holmstrom
Broker
309-944-6423
sherry@holmstromrealestate.com

UPI/Parks

Greg Ahlgren, Manager
(309) 637-3351

Buying Sows, Boars, Light Tops & BBQ

DeDecker's

Plumbing Heating Cooling

Geneseo 944 6700

Atkinson 936 7454

"Serving the area since 1945"

Sick Visit Appointments

Kewanee 309-852-5272

Colona 309-792-4011

CALL TODAY

HOLIDAY

Savings

CHOICE HOTELS™

ENJOY UP TO 20% OFF with Choice Hotels®

Advance reservations required
1-800-258-2847
IFB #00800614

DRURY HOTELS

SAVE 15% at Drury Hotels®

Advance reservations required
1-800-378-7946
Corporate ID #333189

WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS

SAVE UP TO 20% OFF "Best Available Rate" with Wyndham Hotel Group

Advance reservations required
1-877-670-7088
IFB #8000002027

Travel Discounts Powered By **Travel Sherlock®**

SAVE UP TO 30% OFF ON THOUSANDS OF HOTELS

ILFB.Travelsherlock.com
Corporate Code: Member

Use YOUR Membership for Holiday Savings

Download the app and start browsing at ilfb.abenity.com or scan the qr code to start saving on gifts, flowers, movie tickets, food and dining, attractions, tours, concerts and events.

Kindergarten students at Visitation School read about turkeys and made a turkey cookie.

Third grade students at Visitation School watched a video of a turkey farm and made turkeys using an apple.

First grade students at Visitation School learned about corn and made a craft of Indian corn.



CHRISTMAS CRAZED READY TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON ON THE FARM

"I'm sorry; I'm a little Christmas obsessed," I texted our farm's scale operator. My attempts to stream holiday tunes through the tractor radio failed. Rather, my smartphone connected over the internet to a speaker miles away in the scalehouse where an employee was weighing truckloads of corn. "Haha, yeah there's been some Christmas music here and there," she texted back ... on November 2. I was born to love this holiday. A Christmas Eve baby, my parents celebrated Christmas in the hospital. Mom brought me home in a stocking and thankfully before one of the worst blizzards on Illinois record – the type that prompted our farm and others to buy tractor-mounted snow blowers. Today, I have more Christmas

tunes than country songs in my playlist. I own a half dozen full-sized, decorated trees and an undisclosed number of evergreens shorter than two feet. Admittedly, I'm "one of those" who decorates before Thanksgiving. I leave our outdoor lights off until the turkey and pumpkin pie are served, but indoors, my mood and mental state have moved on to staircase garland and lights on timers. I figure that if I can decorate with pumpkins for six weeks or more, then greenery deserves as much time out of the tote. During a harvest rain-out in October, I bought cow-themed wrapping paper and balsam-scented air fresheners. I volunteered to help with

our church's Christmas Eve service. Mom and I worked on details for our farm's employee Christmas party, including gifts that bring conveniences to life and work. Likewise, new and improved tools always make it under the tree at family gatherings, two of which we will host in the farm shop. In preparation for these four-generation events, the guys pause machinery maintenance, remove the farm equipment and scrub the concrete floor. Delightfully, the kids make memories of gymnasium-style fun to a backdrop of tools, oil drums and welding materials. In the conference room and shop kitchen, we dine and snack on foods from some of the best cooks in farm country. When everyone departs, a

star shines atop the grain bin and a lighted tree illuminates the barn's loft window. Come Christmas morning, the same will glow while Dad feeds the calves at dawn, a daily routine that takes no holidays. At the scalehouse, a Christmas tree sits covered in a back corner waiting for its post-Thanksgiving appearance near the front windows for highway travelers. Even with my musical urging, our scale operator resisted any inclination to expose it early and rock around the Christmas tree during harvest.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.



From our family to yours,
happy holidays!



Michael Geuns Annawan (309)935-6697
Eric Henderson Geneseo (309)944-4618
Julie Hessler Orion (309)526-8024
Tom McKie Cambridge (309)937-3372
Jerry Samuelson Woodhull (309)334-3430
Erin Spivey Kewanee (309)852-2121



Katie Spivey Galva (309)932-3272
Cassie Stahler Geneseo (309)944-4618
Dan Kriss Agency Manager (815)221-3075



Farm Visit with Adopted Legislator
Farm Bureau Leaders welcomed "Adopted Legislator," Representative Nabeela Syed, to Henry County during fall harvest. Representative Syed toured CHS Annawan and learned a great deal about fall harvest with Farm Bureau President, Steve Nightingale. Pictured are (l to r) Lisa VanWatermeulen, Brian Corkill, Steve Nightingale, Rep. Syed, and Sadie Asher.



Farm Bureau Women Donate Books
Brittany Witt, representing the Farm Bureau Women, presented the book "Applesauce Day" to students at Wethersfield Elementary School. This is the 33rd year the committee has donated farm or agriculture-related books to the grade schools and public libraries in Henry County.



Young Leaders Hold Food Drive
The Farm Bureau Young Leaders held their annual "Cram the Cab" Food Drive on November 4 at Fareway in Geneseo. Special thanks to Fareway, Prairie State Tractor and Ed Morse Ford! Due to the generosity of many, the Young Leaders collected 880 pounds of food and \$650 in cash donations to assist our local food pantries. Pictured are the Young Leaders officers (l to r) Trent Fransene, Vice Chair; Logan Van Rheenen, Chair; and Shane Asher, Secretary.

GOLD STAR FS, INC.
BETTER COLD STARTS.
LESS CORROSION.
MORE POWER.
SURE-FLO™

JEFFRIES TRUCK & TRAILER REPAIR
CAMBRIDGE IL
309-937-2402
HYDRAULIC HOSE REPAIR

Streitmatter Land Improvement, Inc.
110 S. Main • Wyoming, IL 61491
Drainage & Excavating • GPS Equipped
Water Table Management
Office 309-695-2800 Cell 309-696-9861
• GPS Mapping & Design
• Farm Drainage
• Waterways
• Commercial Tile Plow
• General Hauling
• Dry Dams
• Terraces
• Basement & Ponds
• Stabilization Structures
starktiler@gmail.com

Miller Farm & Business, Inc.
Taxes • Accounting • Payroll
Individual • Farm • Corporate • Trust & Estate
1041 S Oakwood Ave • Geneseo, IL 61254
Ph. 309.944.3290 • Fax 309.857.0182 • Email: lmliller@millerfb.com
www.millerfb.com

IMEL PUMP SERVICE
Business 937-5332 • Cell Phone 945-6533
Water Well Contracting • Water Systems Installed
Red Jacket & Goulds Pumps
Submersible Pump & Jet Pump Repairs
Trenching/Backhoe Service
Iowa Hydrants & Water Conditioning
403 N. West St., Cambridge
Resiceros: 207 N. Pozar, Cambridge

Douglas W. Irwin & Co., Ltd.
Certified Public Accountants
Tax Preparation & Planning For Farmers,
Individuals, Partnerships and Corporations
Monthly & Quarterly Bookkeeping
10% Discount to Farm Bureau Members on tax preparation
We offer electronic tax filing
Make your appointment NOW!
222 N. Main Street Kewanee, IL 61443 309/852-5515
Farm Bureau Cambridge, IL 61238 309/937-2411

GALESBURG LUMBER & CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY, LLC
161 N Academy St Galesburg, IL 61401
Lumber • Ardex
•Milwaukee Tools • W.R. Meadows
Phone: 309-342-5185
Email: sales@galesburglumber.com
Local Service Delivery Specialty

We Carry Ice Melt
RIVER CITY TRUMP & JUNKMENTAL
GOLD STAR FS, INC.

Mike Pearson Presents:
THAT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME
EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR YOUR FARM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
Bally's Quad Cities | Rock Island, IL
Doors Open 4:30 | Dinner at 5:00
Program begins at 6:00pm

Does your farm have an emergency plan of action in place if the need should arise?
Every year, farms across the country encounter disaster in one form or another - severe weather destroying farm infrastructure, a social media blowup threatening reputations, or a farm accident tearing up a family with grief. These crises can be heartbreaking, but they don't have to be the end of an operation.
In this program, Farm Broadcaster Mike Pearson shares the lessons he's learned from farm operations that have been through crisis situations, and he'll identify some common best practices for farm families or farm businesses to prepare. You'll leave with a rough plan to use on your farm.

REGISTER HERE
Add your name to the list and we will notify you when registration is open.
on.ilfb.org/farmplan11
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU Farm. Family. Food.™
COUNTRY FINANCIAL

GINGERBREAD DIP



Ingredients:

- 1 (8oz) package cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup light brown sugar, packed
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons molasses*
- ⅛ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 ½ cup heavy whipped cream**

Instructions:

1. Prepare whipped cream (see notes)
2. Add cream cheese, light brown sugar, powdered sugar to a large mixing bowl. Mix with a mixer until combined and fluffy.
3. Add nutmeg, cinnamon, and ground cloves. Mix until combined.
4. Add the whipped cream and gently mix with a spatula.
5. Pour into your favorite bowl and place in the fridge for 15 minutes. Serve and enjoy!

Notes:

*Use light, unsulfured molasses

**to make homemade whipped cream, you will need 1 cup of heavy cream, 3 tablespoons powdered sugar and 1/8 teaspoon salt. In a large mixing bowl, whip the cream by itself until soft peaks form. Add sugar and salt. Mix again until stiff peaks form. Store in fridge until ready to use.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

91. FOOD SAFETY

We support:

1. Implementing a communications strategy on food safety issues to provide accurate information to the media, to educate the public, and to raise public awareness of the actions farmers are taking to produce a plentiful, high-quality supply of food at fair prices.
2. Measures to improve food inspection and safety through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Inspection Service to assure consumers of a safe food supply. These measures should reinforce consumer confidence while being cost effective.
3. Protection of our food supply by requiring that imported food products be subjected to the same high safety standards and testing as food produced in the United States.
4. Consumer education through labeling regarding safe cooking and storage procedures.
5. National uniformity in pesticide residue standards. Consideration should be given to the benefits of crop protection products.
6. The concept of negligible risk rather than zero tolerance.
7. Cooperative efforts with food processors, chemical companies, governmental agencies, scientists and others who are responsible for the food supply of our nation to provide factual information on the safety of our food supply.
8. Open communication, not confrontation, with responsible environmental groups.
9. The use of modern technology in the processing and handling of food to assure food safety and promote consumer confidence in the food supply.
10. USDA as the federal agency responsible for food inspection and safety.
11. National (USDA) and state food inspection programs that guarantee adequate inspectors and funding for businesses in both domestic and imported food products.
12. The establishment of a USDA-approval process for state-inspected slaughter and processing plants that allows them to ship interstate.
13. Immediate and longer-term actions by USDA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to raise the priority of, and resources devoted to, federal safety and inspection services, including: the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS).
14. The establishment of voluntary guidelines which minimize microbial food safety hazards for fresh fruits and vegetables. The guidelines should:
 - A. Be based on science.
 - B. Remain generic in nature, not commodity specific, to accommodate the diversity of the fresh fruit and vegetable industry.
 - C. Be implemented in a manner that does not impede our ability to export.



CHRISTMAS TREE FACTS

(Source: University of Illinois Extension)

Presidential Christmas trees have a long history.

- In 1856, Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States, was the first President to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
- President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923.
- Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.
- In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22, because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.
- Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President and first family for display in the Blue Room.
- In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lit except for the top ornament. This was done to honor the American hostages in Iran.
- In 1984, the National Christmas tree was lit on December 13 with temperatures in the 70's, making it one of the warmest tree lightings in history.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states.

- Nineteenth century Americans cut their trees in nearby forests. Today most real Christmas trees are grown on farms as sustainable crops like corn or pumpkins.
- 98% of all Christmas trees are grown on farms, while only 2% are cut from the wild.
- To ensure enough trees for harvest, growers plant one to three seedlings for every tree harvested.
- Nearly 350 million real Christmas trees are growing on nearly 15,000 tree farms in the U.S., according to the National Christmas Tree Association. There are about 350,000 acres in production for growing Christmas trees in the U.S.; much of it preserving green space.
- Christmas tree farms employ 100,000 people, both in full or part-time capacities.
- Almost all trees require shearing to attain the Christmas tree shape. At six to seven feet, trees are ready for harvest.
- It takes six to ten years of fighting heavy rain, wind, hail and drought to get a mature tree.
- Most Christmas trees are cut weeks before they get to a retail outlet. It is important to keep them watered thoroughly when they reach your home. In the first week, a Christmas tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.