

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

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

JANUARY

1	Happy New Year!!! HCFB office closed
11	Henry County Beef Association Meeting HCFB boardroom, 7pm
16	HCFB Board of Directors Meeting HCFB Boardroom, 7:30pm
19-24	American Farm Bureau. Federation Annual Convention Salt Lake City, UT
22	Reservations due for FB Women's Mental Health program
25	Women's Mental Health Program (reservations required) HCFB boardroom, 6pm

FEBRUARY

2-3	Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Conference Springfield
5	HC Pork Producers meeting HCFB boardroom, 7pm
8	SILO Film Showing Geneseo High School Performing Arts Center (reservations preferred but not required), 6:30pm
20	Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference Sprinafield





Delegates Represent Henry County at Annual Meeting Serving as Voting Delegates for Henry County Farm Bureau at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held in Chicago in December are (l to r) Jan Weber, Tim Yager, Kate Huffman, Steve Nightingale, and Brian Corkill.



HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS:

I am glad to report that Henry County's delegates helped make much needed change to the CO2 pipeline policy. Prior to the Annual Meeting, I reached out to all of the Presidents of the other counties who had a proposed pipeline going through them. Connections were made and contact was kept during the resolutions process. We tried to come together as one unified voice with our positions on the use of eminent domain, safety, and a moratorium on this policy.

Policy surrounding CO2 pipelines was changed as follows:

Policy 12. Utilities and Pipelines:

We support:

39. A temporary moratorium on the approval of the construction and operation of any carbon dioxide pipeline until the PHMSA promulgates its revised federal safety standards for transportation of carbon dioxide.

40. CO2 pipelines should add a distinctive odor to the CO2 to alert people to its presence, utilize enhanced leak detection with automatic shutoffs, automatic notification of emergency services in an area where a leak has been detected, and provide training and equipment donations to first responders in the pipeline area.

41. Legislation that prohibits the use of eminent domain for CO2 pipelines.

42. Developers of carbon dioxide pipelines and storage projects demonstrating progress at securing willing agreements for pipeline easements and willing agreements for storage rights prior to approval of the project by the ICC.

Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting was held in Chicago from December 2-4, 2023. Henry County took an active approach during the delegate session by making an amendment and speaking in strong opposition on the use of eminent domain during the debate. We emphasized that one of Farm Bureau's core principles has always been property rights. We stressed that having a seat at the table with industry stakeholders and lobbyists is not worth compromising our core values and principles. To make sure our legislators clearly understand our position, we needed to take a stand on this issue in order to help them make changes to law.

Our delegates also emphasized support of the ethanol industry, delicately balancing the property rights debate with our current and future ethanol demand. We pushed to edit the policy with important changes, not eliminate the whole CO2 pipeline policy. If the policy was eliminated, then the Illinois Farm Bureau would be 'neutral" or have 'no opinion" on the CO2 pipeline. These new changes may not be perfect, but substantial progress was made.

County Activities of Excellence Award Received

Steve Nightingale, President of the Henry County Farm Bureau accepts the County Activities of Excellence Award from newlyelected, Illinois Farm Bureau President, Brian Duncan. Policy is debated every year at the Annual Meeting. If you feel more changes are needed to this policy (or a different Farm Bureau policy), please reach out for Resolution consideration prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Nightingale, President Henry County Farm Bureau®

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HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AT-LARGE

STAFF:

Jim DeCrane, Justin Frank, Kate Huffman, Steve Krause

Gary Asay, Sadie Asher, Hilary Boelens, Scott Jordan, Jim

Manager: Katie Laleman, FBCM

Administrative Assistant:

Chelsea Vyncke

Larson, Pat Martens, Jan Weber, Bill Wyffels

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

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Jon Chamberlain, Bridgett Wildermuth, Emily Baum, Dan Wolf

DISTRICT 2

Greg Decker, Tim Yager, Brian Daniels, Brandan Weber

DISTRICT 3

Lisa VanWatermeulen, Evan Youngren, David Schmedt, Thad Curry

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

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - 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 extracurricular 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.



DIRECTORS RECOGNIZED AT COUNTY **ANNUAL MEETING**

Completing his eight-year term on the Henry County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is Brian Boelens, who has represented District 4 on the HCFB Board. Steve Nightingale, President, is shown presenting an award of appreciation to Boelens. Not pictured, but also leaving the board is Brian DeBrock, also representing District 4 and completing four years.



STAHLER NAMED TOP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER

Cassie Stahler, COUNTRY Financial Representative in Geneseo, was recognized as the Top Membership Recruiter in Henry County at the Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting. Steve Nightingale, HCFB President, made the announcement at the 106th Annual Meeting held in November.

'THAT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME': IFB HOSTS FARM **EMERGENCY PLANNING SEMINARS**

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and COUNTRY Financial are partnering to host four "Emergency Planning on Your Farm" seminars in February 2024 to help farm families and businesses prepare for crisis situations and farm emergencies.

Join IFB, COUNTRY Financial and guest host Mike Pearson, long-time farm broadcaster and host of RFD-TV's "This Week in Agribusiness" to hear best practices to navigate crises.

"Every year, farms across the U.S. encounter disasters, including severe weather, lifethreatening farm accidents and even social media challenges threatening businesses' reputations," said Kim Knapp, IFB membership operations manager. "While such crises are heartbreaking, they don't spell the end of an operation. "These seminars are intended to prepare farm families and

businesses for potential crisis situations through hearing about real-life situations and learning common best practices to bring back to their operation.

Each seminar will last approximately 2.5 hours with doors opening 30 minutes before the event. Meetings are planned at the following locations and times:

- Thursday, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m. in Rock Island
- Friday, Feb. 9 at 11 a.m. in Edwardsville
- Monday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. in Bloomington
- Monday Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. in Effingham

Each seminar will provide attendees with information and questions that are essential to being prepared if a farm emergency occurs. Peason will also share lessons learned from farm operations that had emergency situations and best practices for farm families and

businesses to implement. An IFB leader will also provide information on crisis situations. Lindsey Rinkenberger, COUNTRY director of commercial agribusiness underwriting operations, will also 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. A meal is provided during each seminar, so those interested

in attending are encouraged to save-the-date at https:// on.ilfb.org/farmplan21. Those saving the date will receive a notification once registration opens on Dec. 1.

For more information, contact Henr County Farm Bureau or Kim Knapp at 309-557-2601, or by email at kknapp@ilfb.org.



JAN 17-19, 2024 SPRINGFIELD, IL **BIT.LY/EVERYTHINGLOCAL_24**

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU HONORED DURING ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Illinois Farm Bureau. At its annual meeting, IFB recognizes outstanding achievement by individual members and county Farm Bureaus (CFBs). Counties county groups: Group I — counties with 1,330 and fewer members to 1,899 members to 2,799 members



Coordinator, Paula Janson.



YOUNG LEADERS RECEIVE TOP AWARDS

During the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held in December, Henry County Young Leaders were recognized for their success and achievements in 2023. Picture are (I to r) Megan Dwyer, Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Excellence in Agriculture Award Winner; Sadie Asher, 2023 State Young Leader Committee Chair; Kate Huffman, Past Young Leader Chair accepted the 3rd Overall, Harvest for All Award for Henry County; and Logan Van Rheenen, current HCFB Young Leader Chair accepted the "Friend of Young Leaders" Award on behalf of Russell Marshall of Ed Morse Ford. Congratulations to our outstanding Henry County Young Leaders!

Henry County Farm Bureau was recently recognized for its outstanding programing during the 109th Annual Meeting of the

compete for awards with other counties of similar membership size. Awards are given for five

Group II — counties with 1,331 Group III — counties with 1,900

Group IV — counties with 2,800 to 5,800 members

Group V — counties with 5.801 or more members

Awards were evaluated under the County Activities of Excellence (CAE) program. The CAE program recognizes CFBs for program excellence, encourages and assists CFBs in setting goals and priorities, inspires and promotes innovative programming to meet member needs, promotes programming in key areas and provides a resource to counties for the purpose of developing new programs. CAE recognized programs carried out between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31,

2023.

The Excellence Award is given to the county with the most outstanding project for each program area. Excellence Awards encompassed eight program areas: Ag Literacy. Farm Income and Development, Health and Safety, Advocacy, Local Affairs, Engagement and Outreach, Membership Value and Foundations and Fundraising.

Henry County Farm Bureau was recently awarded the following: Membership Value: Farm Bureau Women; CFB Foundation & Fundraising: Trade and Technical Program Scholarship.

Students Learn about Christmas Trees

Third grade students at St. Malachy School in Geneseo, learned about Christmas tree farms and made edible trees. The Agriculture in the Classroom program was presented by Ag Literacy





This film is inspired by real events, telling the story of an 18 year-old boy who gets stuck in a grain silo. Grain entrapment is a very real problem that can cost you your life.

> FREE SCREENING February 8th | 6:30pm

Geneseo High School Performing Arts Center

RSVP: (309) 937-2411 or email membership@henrycofarmbureau.org



pursue a career in agriculture. If you have a studer ho may be interested, please contact Tom Dale

ENTRY DEADLINE: ANUARY 13, 2024

CONTACT: TOM DALE nenrycountypork@gmail Call or Text: 563-357-009

Farm Bureau Salutes the COUNTRY Financial Membership **Recruiter** of the Month



Cassie Stahler, Geneseo

Henry County Farm Bureau

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU® MEMBERS ADOPT NEW POLICY, CELEBRATE YEAR'S SUCCESSES DURING ANNUAL MEETING

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Farm Bureau's traditional grassroots process was on full display during the organization's 2023 annual meeting as 329 voting delegates considered a variety of policy resolutions, including topics such as energy, utilities and pipelines and farmland ownership.

Members gathered at the Palmer House in Chicago Dec. 2-4 to conduct annual business, introduce new policy, and celebrate the year's successes. In total, voting delegates adopted new policies, including support for a temporary moratorium on construction and operation of carbon dioxide (CO2) pipelines until the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) new federal safety standards are complete.

"The grassroots policy development process is fundamental to IFB," said IFB President Brian Duncan. "This unique process allows members to discuss and debate issues, then vote on what policy they feel is best for the organization. The actions taken show that our organization's process continues to work and reflects the opinions of a majority of IFB members." Policy highlights include:

- A new policy to support the use of Argonne National Laboratory's Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Technologies (GREET) model for carbon intensity scoring for agricultural biofuel feed stocks.
- Delegates supported policy that safety regulations include adding a distinctive

Local Service Delivery Specialty

odor to carbon dioxide, utilize enhanced leak detection and automatic shutoffs, provide notification of emergency services if leaks are detected, and training and equipment donations for first responders in pipeline areas. • IFB delegates also expressed their concern regarding eminent domain and decided to support legislation that

would prohibit its use for

carbon dioxide pipelines. · Delegates also adopted a new policy on food waste and resource recovery, focusing on composting, compost facilities and food scraps. The policy supports tax deductions or credits for food donors to offset the costs associated with food donation, incentives for farmers to donate surplus crops, clarification from Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on food safety donation regulations for pre-cooked and pre-packaged food items, updating U.S. Department of Agriculture's definition of composting to entice more purchasers of compost, streamlining the permitting process for compost facilities, and support for minimizing regulatory constraints for on-farm composted materials, urban food scrap collections, and processing facilities.

The language of these approved policies will be forwarded to American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) for consideration during its upcoming annual meeting. The meeting kicked off with former IFB President Richard Guebert Jr.'s farewell address after serving 10 at the helm of the organization. He also

served as IFB vice president 2003-2013. On Dec. 3, Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello presented a proclamation from Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton congratulating Guebert on his retirement dedication to Illinois agriculture and IFB.

Approximately 1,679 IFB members and staff registered to attend the annual meeting. Several annual awards and honors were also announced. In addition to considering new policy, delegates elected Duncan, a grain and livestock farmer from Polo, Ogle County, as the organization's 16th president, and Evan Hultine, a grain farmer from Princeton, Bureau County, as vice president. They will each serve a two-year term at the helm of the organization.

Four new members were also elected to serve two-year terms on the IFB Board of Directors:

- LuAnn Matejcak of Will County will represent District 5, which includes Cook, DuPage, Will, Kendall, and Grundy counties.
- Rick Edwards III of Adams County will represent District 9, which includes Hancock, McDonough Adams, Schuyler, and Brown counties.
- Paul Beisiegel of St. Clair County will represent District 16, which includes Clinton, Monroe, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair, and Clinton counties.
- John Howard of Jefferson County will represent District 17, which includes Edwards, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Wabash, Wayne, and White counties



ASHER: IN THE WORLD OF AG, BE A WHEEL

By Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek, Dec 3, 2023

Sadie Asher's father would often tell his daughter, "If you're gonna be a wheel, you gotta roll."

It was his response whenever Asher complained, felt exhausted or just doubted herself.

Asher: In the world of ag, be a wheel

And for a while, she didn't quite grasp the advice.

"But I think I finally got it," the retiring Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader chair told the crowd during the Young Leader Awards Program at IFB's Annual Meeting in Chicago. "Wheels are made for rolling ... they're not built for standing still.

"My dad (Jake Geiger) was telling me to keep going regardless of whatever lies ahead.

It's important advice for anyone working in ag, she said. From market volatility to input prices to labor challenges, the road is often bumpy, but the crops still need to be planted, the cows milked, and for Asher, the Christmas trees she grows still need to be watered

The Henry County member reflected on her time with the state Young Leader Committee, and looked ahead to Farm Bureau's future during her retirement speech.

The trail farmers must travel can have less than favorable conditions, but IFB is a fantastic shotgun rider, she said. "Pointing out the potholes, clearing the brush, assisting in navigation, which is very helpful," she said.

And even in the roughest of terrain, there are glimpses of how far you've come, as well as blessings along the journey.

"No one knows exactly what the road ahead looks like. So we must be adaptable to new conditions," she said. "Consumer demands, grower demographics and available technology can trigger a change for the industry. Plus, there's always weather to contend with

While the road of farm life might not be paved, the route tends to be beautiful, and leads to less traveled places.

And back to her father's advice, you've got to know how to roll. "Mom and Dad, thank you for the invaluable lessons learned on the family farm," she said. "Determination, tenacity and how to negotiate with my sisters to get out of cleaning the hog floors and into driving the combine.

"Now, as an adult, I'm grateful for your advice."

Asher previously told FarmWeek her father and grandfather were both involved in Farm Bureau, and she wanted to continue that legacy, as well as give back to the organization that supported her with scholarships throughout her schooling.

Looking at the state Young Leader Committee, Asher said Farm Bureau "has a bright future ahead."



Bloomington, Ill. – After process, 20 farmers were identified as the second class of Illinois 20 Under 40 award winners.

The 2023 winners showcased an impressive array of diversity, ranging from a corn and soybean farmer in Maroa to a cattle farmer in Flat Rock. The range of expertise and agricultural pursuits among the awardees was truly remarkable. These of agriculture, demonstrating exemplary citizenship within as inspirations for their generation and the ones to come. They not only honor new paths while extending a The winners are as follows:

- Monmouth, IL
- IL • Cody White, Clinton, IL
- Daniel Elmer Grebner, Metamora, IL
- Erick Kane, Ottawa, IL
- Jake Perino, Deer Grove, IL
- Nik Jakobs, Sterling, IL

- Rosalie Trump, Clare, IL
- Thomas Titus, Elkhart, IL
- Bill McDonnell, Ottawa, IL



YOR

starktiler@gmail.com



ASSOCIATION

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ISA ANNOUNCES ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE'S 20 UNDER 40 AWARD WINNERS

undergoing a rigorous judging

individuals are at the forefront their communities and serving family traditions but also forge helping hand to their neighbors. • Adam Holste, Altamont, IL • Austin O'Neall, Le Roy, IL Cassandra Schleich.

Chase Brown, Warrensburg,

• Ellen Rahn, Mount Carroll, IL Jeffery Landers, Mendota, IL Jarod Stock, Beardstown, IL Justin Rahn, Mount Carroll, IL • Kate Huffman, Galva, IL • Kayla Gallagher, Mansfield, IL • Seth Lambert, Maroa, IL • Thomas Weger, Flat Rock, IL The future of agriculture lies in the hands of young farmers, and when it comes to Illinois, their prospects shine brightest. Within the state, there is an

abundance of exceptional farmers specializing in various fields, each operating in a league that sets them apart from the rest.

After the nomination window earlier this spring, a panel of judges meticulously reviewed over 70 applications from aspiring young farmers across the state. These individuals were nominated for their outstanding contributions and initiatives aimed at improving both their farming operations and the well-being of their communities.

Steve Pitstick, Chairman of the Illinois Soybean Association, emphasizes the significance of acknowledging the emerging leaders in agriculture and credits this program for empowering young farmers. "Enabling these future leaders to take charge and forge their own paths ensures a promising future," said Pitstick who reminisces about his own experience as a young individual admiring others in the field, and today has the opportunity to occupy a similar position of influence. The Illinois Soybean Association checkoff program received valuable support from esteemed partner organizations including the Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn, Illinois Farm Bureau, **Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical** Association, Illinois Grain & Feed Association, and Illinois Pork Producers Association. Asgrow and John Deere also played significant roles as corporate sponsors of the program.

To learn more about the accomplishments of the 2023 Illinois 20 Under 40 award winners and learn more about the program, please visit il20under40.com.

DR. ANNIE KINWA-MUZINGA TO HEADLINE WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

The Women in Agriculture Conference committee is excited for the 2024, Women in Agriculture Conference. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga will headline for the annual Women in Agriculture Conference in Rock Island on Friday, March 22, 2024. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga is a Professor of Agribusiness in the Regina Roth Applied Agricultural and Food Studies Department at Morningside University since August 2018. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga's research on Gender Assessment of the Agricultural Sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2012 helped her understand that the fight against hunger and malnutrition of one widow and her children.

Leader Tony McCombie will be the featured mid-day speaker. In January 2023 Leader McCombie began her fourth term of office as State

Representative and first term as Leader of the House. She is also the first woman to serve as House Republican Leader in Illinois. Please join Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton and House Leader Tony McCombie for a listening session.

Closing out the conference is Annaliese Wegner. Also known as Modern-day Farm Chick, is a dairy farmer, mother, wife and AGvocate. Through social media, speaking, workshops, retreats and events, Annaliese helps others in agriculture effectively share their farm story in an effort to bridge the gap from farm to table. The conference will host a variety of breakout sessions with topics including aquaponics, landowner rights, tax law and planning, local food markets, and mental health on the farm just to name a few. Included in the day is an exhibit area, with many businesses

and organizations offering materials, promotional items. and give-away drawings, a breakfast and luncheon buffet and mid-day snack break. Conference cost prior to February 29 is \$70. March 1 through March 15 the cost is \$90. Registrations taken March 16 through the day of the conference will cost \$100. If paying by check registration and payment must be received by February 29, 2024. Registration the day of the conference begins at 8am. To pre-register, contact any sponsoring Illinois County Farm Bureaus or register online at womeninagricultureconference com

Pre-registration for the event begins on January 8, 2024. More details can be found at womeninagricultureconference.com. This Conference is sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference Committee.



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for a nominal fee.

The Health Department and

First Choice Healthcare Clinics

remind area residents that we

have grant funds, services, and

programs to help you keep your

2024 New Year's Resolutions.

The New Year can be a great

opportunity to start fresh.

And New Year's resolutions

can be a powerful tool to give

your health a big boost - and

improve your whole life. Far

too often, though, resolutions

March. Instead of motivating

are often unrealistic - and can

help you meet your goals and

resolutions for the upcoming

For more information call the

First Choice Healthcare Clinics

in Kewanee at (309) 852-5272

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us on Facebook, or Follow Us

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Departments. And, have a

Happy and Healthy New Year!

Henry and Stark County Health

make you feel like you've failed.

you for success, resolutions

Let the Health Department

& First Choice Healthcare

vear.

don't last past February or







pesticides.



• Depression • ADHD Issues

FARMS PREP FOR NEXT BUSY SEASON

We hadn't started changing oil in the tractors, backhoe nor skid steer yet, and our 15-vear-old expressed concern. I explained that his favorite, after-school activity in the farm shop was on hold until after the two weekends of extended-family Christmas parties that cleared the space and prompted a deep clean for a holiday potluck, gift opening and gymnasium-style fun on the farm.

Soon enough, maintenance work will dirty the shop floor and oil absorbency granules will be our son's best friend. Most of our farm's equipment will rotate through the shop this winter for oil changes, inspections and replacement of high-wear parts. Planters will unfold for row-by-row examination, part replacements and technology upgrades. The hay baler, mowers and even the small things like Mom's garden tiller make their shop presence

before field work resumes in April. The goal: everything works at go time.

Our farm team appreciates the pattern of normal, eight-hour workdays with a designated lunch break between harvesting and planting crops. We take this time to regroup, recharge, market grain and move forward. In this winter season of self-evaluation, my parents, brother and I will meet to discuss farm improvements and transition plans. Bookkeeping, balance sheets, tax planning, land leases and employee meetings quickly fill the days between conferences and meetings about farm policy, grain marketing, agronomic research and other ways to better the farm. Dad tends to our small herd of beef cows, a daily chore most pleasant in mild winters. Otherwise, heavy snow and sub-zero winds add shoveling, scooping and thawing to the

routine. Our employees haul corn from our grain bins to facilities that produce biofuel and feed co-products. They deliver soybeans, depending on the type, to various places for export, seed or use in highprotein foods.

This year will bring a combination of sticking with what works and trying something new in search of the next tried-and-true. The knowledge passed down from previous generations tells us our farm was shaped on both failures and successes, but we're always aiming for the latter. Here's hoping for a safe and successful 2024 in farm country.

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!



Geuns

Annawan

(309)935-6697

Galva

(309)932-3272



Henderso

Geneseo

Geneseo

(309)944-4618







Orion (309)526-8024

Agency Manage

(815)221-3075





McKie

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Spivey Kewanee



COUNTRY

Woodhull (309)334-3430



HEALTH DEPARTMENT & FIRST CHOICE HEALTHCARE CLINICS OFFERS A HEALTHY RESOLUTION CHECKLIST

Are you planning your New Year's resolutions for 2024? The Henry and Stark County Health Department and our First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee and Colona offer the following Healthy **Resolutions Checklist for your** consideration:

- Get Your Annual Exam
- Seek Help for Behavioral and Mental Health Issues
- Keep Your Annual Pap Test • Make sure all in the family are up-to-date on needed
- immunizations · Eat Healthy
- Get Exercise
- Keep/Make Well Baby/Child Exams
- Get an Annual Fasting Blood Draw

 Protect Your Sexual Health If you are considering one of these resolutions, the First Choice Healthcare Clinics may be able to help you with clinic and lab services, mental health clinic services and therapies, PrEP HIV prevention medications & services, immunizations, women exams, and health education and counseling. These services are available at our clinic locations in Kewanee and Colona, many

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU TO HOST 'RULES FOR THE ROAD TRUCKING SEMINAR IN MILAN

Milan, Ill. — Illinois Farm Bureau will host a series of two-hour programs focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry. Farm Bureau will host one of the sessions on Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m. at the Camden Centre in Milan. The Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent changes, as well as some of the more established but still misunderstood rules. Topics may include the USDOT Number, UCR registration, Entry Level Driver Training, farm exemptions, and driver's license classifications to name a few. In addition, one of the events will also be broadcast virtually on March 5th at 10 am. "These presentations take a closer look at the rules and provide an opportunity for farmers to ask ag-related trucking guestions that they can't seem to find clear answers for," said Rodney Knittel, IFB Associate

Director of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Knittel specializes in farm transportation issues and will lead the seminar series and will be joined by Illinois enforcement agencies. Rules for the Road seminars are open to all Illinois Farm Bureau members. Attendance is free, courtesy of Illinois Farm Bureau, but advance registration is required. Coffee, water, and donuts will be

provided. Please call your local county farm bureau to reserve your place at the Rules for the Road Seminar by Friday, February 23rd. Registration opens February 1st. For more information, contact the Henry County Farm Bureau at 309-937-2411 or email manager@ henrycofarmbureau.org.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH Women COUNTY Women

Inaredients:

- 4 slices of bacon, chopped
- 2 (12-ounce) packages kielbasa sausage, cut into half-inch slices
- 1.5 pounds of 80/20 ground beef
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons allpurpose flour
- 1.5 teaspoons salt • 0.5 teaspoon black
- pepper
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

- 1 (14.5oz) can petite diced tomatoes-do not drain
- 2 (16oz) cans baked beans-do not drain
- 1 (7oz) can chopped green chilies-do not drain
- 1 (15oz) can sweet corn- do not drain
- 2 medium russet potatoes- peeled and cut into half-inch cubes
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons parsley-chopped

Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook time: 1 hour 30 minutes Total time: 1 hour 45 minutes Servings: Eight

Instructions:

- Cook bacon until brown and crispy in a large pot. Using a slotted spoon, transfer bacon to a plate lined with a paper towel to drain
- 2. Add the sausage to pot drippings and brown on both sides, adjusting heat as needed so fond (brown bits on the bottom of the pot) do not burn. Remove to the plate with bacon, set aside.
- 3. Add beef, onion, and garlic to the pot and brown until beef is no longer pink. Sprinkle flour, salt, pepper, and chili powder over beef. Stir and cook for one minute.
- 4. Add diced tomatoes, baked beans, green chilies, sweet corn, potatoes, bacon, sausage and water. Bring to a boil then immediately reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 1 hour, stirring occasionally.
- 5. Garnish with parsley.
- 6. Add additional water if stew is too thick

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION FOR FILTER STRIPS

The Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District wishes to remind landowners, who have filter strips on their land, that they may file for property tax reductions for these areas.

Legislation passed in 1996 allows for vegetative filter strips, seeded areas adjacent to creeks, streams, rivers, or other wetland areas, to be assessed at the reduced rate of one sixth the cropland rate. Qualifying vegetative filter strips must follow NRCS specifications for width (based on soil type, contain vegetation that has a dense top growth, forms a uniform ground cover, has a heavy fibrous root system, and tolerates field

Certification for land that meets vegetative filter strip requirements as of January 1, 2024, and must be completed by March 1, 2024 so assessments may be changed.

Landowners who have established filter strips on their land, as of January 1, 2024, may stop by the SWCD office for filter strip certification. Landowners should bring the property tax identification numbers for each filter strip area, and the SWCD will complete the necessary forms to certify the filter strip area. Landowners are to take the completed certification forms to the county assessor's office in Cambridge, Illinois

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"Serving the area since 1945"



MOCKTAILS AND MENTAL HEALTH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 • 6:30 P.M. HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU **128 N. PROSPECT ST. CAMBRIDGE. IL**

Join us for an evening of love and laughs as we find ways to seek joy, speak well, and stress better!

Adrienne will help you to discover a work/ life balance, manage stress, improve communication skills, and shift your perspective.

> **Adrienne DeSutter** Ag Mental Health Specialist

Founder of "Sow Hope Grow Hope"

Reservations required by January 22 RSVP to (309) 937-2411 or email membership@henrycofarmbureau.org

Sponsored by:



HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$45,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering up to six scholarships, at a minimum of \$1,500. In addition, Farm Bureau will be administering the following scholarships: Wilbert and Carol Keppy Foundation, three each in the amount of \$5,000; Kevin and Karen Urick Farm Bureau Legacy Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000; Glenn and Betty DeSmith Memorial Scholarship, three in the amount of \$5,000 each; Trade and Technical Program Scholarship, up to four in the amount of \$1,000 each; James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.

The Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation was formed in the Spring of 1984 to carry out charitable, scientific, literary, and educational work in the field of agriculture. The Foundation awards scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors and college students pursing degrees in Agriculture.



Wilbert and Carol Keppy farmed and raised hogs along the Osco slab for decades. The Keppy's were instrumental in starting the Henry County Pork Producers and were among a group of pork producers throughout the state that started the Illinois Pork Producers in the early 1960s. The Keppy Foundation annually provides scholarships for students in Henry County.





The Glenn and Betty DeSmith Memorial Scholarship honors the life of Glenn and Betty DeSmith of Geneseo. Glenn proudly served his country in the Army during the Korean War from January 1951 to January 1953. The DeSmith's farmed southwest of Annawan until their retirement in 1990. Glenn and Betty were very active in the community and their church. Glenn served on the Henry County Farm Bureau Board and the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District Board, receiving the Henry County Conservation award in 1975. The DeSmith Memorial Scholarship recognizes students who are involved in the livestock industry and their family farms.



This year we are announcing the **James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship**, honoring the life and service of Jim Ufkin. Jim was a life-long farmer, retiring to Geneseo after 46 years of farming corn, soybeans and raising hogs near Hooppole, IL. He served on the Board of Directors of the Henry County will be awarded, each in the amount of \$1,000, to individuals enrolled in a program and seeking skills benefiting agriculture in the area of study including, but not limited to, truck driving, welding, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, HVAC, etc.

Any student who qualifies under the guidelines may submit an application for either or all scholarships. Applications will be judged separately.

Applications must be received by or postmarked to the Henry County Farm Bureau® office, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, by March 8. 2024. The Foundation Board will make the final selections after the deadline.

Guidelines and applications may be obtained on the Henry County Farm Bureau website www.henrycofarmbureau. org or by emailing manager@ henrycofarmbureau.org.

If you have any questions concerning the scholarship application or the Farm Bureau Foundation, please contact the Henry County Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8[™]

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





GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

93. NUTRITION

We support:

- 1. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) efforts to expand the use of dietetically wholesome and nutritious foods in all school meals and other nutrition programs and shall not be limited to locally-grown or organic production.
- 2. Renaming high fructose corn syrup to corn sugar.
- 3. Greater flexibility with the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs to ensure local school districts are able to determine how to meet the nutritional needs of their students.
- 4. Equal access of pasteurized dairy products, including whole milk, by the USDA national school lunch program and by the armed forces.

We oppose financial penalties on local school districts for serving meals that do not meet current federal mandates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs.



The Kevin and Karen Urick Farm Bureau Legacy Scholarship honors a recipient from a farm family, that has been involved for multiple generations, in Henry County Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau has impacted the Urick family for multiple generations. This scholarship is designed to honor the organization that has served as an educational, social, and economic tool for its members, as the "Voice of Agriculture" in Henry County, since 1917.

Farm Bureau for 40 years, representing Yorktown and Geneseo townships and held the offices of Vice President and Secretary. During that time Jim also served on the Board of the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation. Mr. Ufkin was a dedicated leader in the agriculture community in Henry County and beyond.

This year the HCFB Foundation Board is proud to announce, for the second year, that they will award those pursuing a skill in a "Trade and Technical Program." Four scholarships