



**Henry
County**

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2023 NATIONAL AG DAY

Agriculture Council of America Announces 2023 National Ag Day Date & Theme

Leawood, KS – The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host National Agriculture Day on March 21, 2023. This will mark the 50th anniversary of National Ag Day which is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country. The theme for National Ag Day 2023 is “Growing a Climate for Tomorrow.”

On March 21, 2023, the ACA will host a virtual Ag Day event and events in Washington, DC. Additionally, the ACA will bring college students to Washington “virtually” to deliver the message of Ag Day to the Hill. A core leadership team of college students will attend events in DC. Other Ag Day events in DC will be announced

soon.

These events honor National Agriculture Day and mark a nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us. Many agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture are expected to participate.

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America. The ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

Understand how food and fiber products are produced

Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products

Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy

Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry

In addition to the events on March 21, the ACA will once again feature the Ag Day Essay Contest. The winning essay will be presented on National Ag Day.

Visit www.agday.org for more information on National Ag Day.

Foundation to hold Freezer Meal Fundraiser

The Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation will hold a Freezer Meal Fundraiser to raise funds for the educational programs conducted by the Foundation.

Those ordering will receive 10 delicious meals that have already been prepared and frozen for your convenience. All you need to do is cook them! Each meal you take home serves 3-5 people (depending on

eaters).

Cost for the set of ten meals is \$180.00, payable to the HCFB Foundation. Deadline to order and make payment is March 15. Meal pick-up will be Monday, April 10 at the Farm Bureau office at 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Meal sets include one of each of the following: Pulled Pork, BBQ Pulled Chicken, Hickory Smoked Pork Loin,

Teriyaki Chicken, Smoked Pork Chop Sandwiches, Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta, Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese, Cowboy Casserole, Chicken & Biscuits, and Lasagna.

Orders and payment must be received no later than March 15. For more information or to place an order contact the HCFB office at (309) 937-2411 or email membership@henrycofarmbureau.org.

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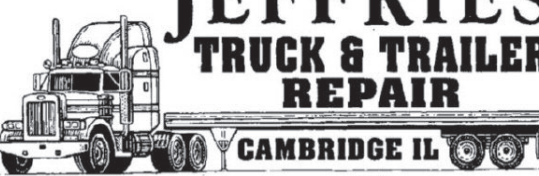
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**Members Meet with
Senator Stoller**



Senator Win Stoller met with Farm Bureau members attending the ILFB Legislative Reception held in Springfield. Pictured with Stoller and his wife Amy, are Brian Corkill, Jan Weber, and Dennis Verbeck.

**60th Annual
Henry County Beef Banquet**
 March 25th at Lavender Crest Winery
 5:00 p.m. Social Hour,
 Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
 Tickets must be reserved
 \$25/person
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 or Ron Lindbom 309-853-6570



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Health Department Notes National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 5-11, 2023

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments' Environmental Health Division announces that March 5-11, 2023 has been designated National Groundwater Awareness Week. This annual observance has been established to highlight the responsible development, management, and use of groundwater. Life, as we know it, would be impossible without groundwater. It is the world's most extracted natural resource. Don't take groundwater for granted. Therefore, this week is also a platform to encourage yearly water well testing and well maintenance.

National Groundwater Awareness Week was designed to urge each of us to consider various ways to protect our most valuable natural resource. So, remember things like not running water while you brush your teeth; getting that leaking faucet fixed; and the farmers that rely on groundwater to grow the food we eat. And remember to have your well inspected to protect your drinking water system.

The Health Department Environmental Health Services staff states, "Through National Groundwater Awareness Week, we would like to recommend to area residents that maybe it's time for your annual water well checkup!"

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

Why is it a good idea to have my water well checked annually? "The truth is an annual check-up is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water," say Department officials. "Also, preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance, like good car maintenance, can prolong the life of your well and related equipment. NGWA further recommends you test your water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced."

Schedule your annual water well checkup. Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order.

The Health Department also recommends that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertil-

izer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.

- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.

- Maintain your waste water systems.

- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.

- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

- Make sure abandoned well are sealed properly within 30 days of abandonment.

For more information on the Health Departments' Water Program, water testing and sealing abandoned wells, contact the Environmental Health Division at eh@henrystarkhealth.org or call (309) 852-0197 Extension 270. You can also visit our website at www.henrystarkhealth.com or find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments or Follow Us on Twitter and Instagram

Nursing Scholarship Application Available

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its thirty first year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree

to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus®

throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at dgallivan@ilfb.org.



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Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation to Award \$42,000 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; NEW this year, "Trade and Technical Program" Scholarship, up to two in the amount of \$1,000 each.

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 pursuing 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 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.

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 the HCFB Foundation Board is proud to announce a new scholarship that will award those pursuing a skill in a "Trade and Technical Program." Two scholarships 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 10, 2023. The Foundation Board will make the final selections after the deadline.

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.



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Young Leaders Attend Conference



Members of the Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders recently attend the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference held in East Peoria. Those representing Henry County and attending were (front l to r) Sadie Asher, Kate Huffman, Justine Johnson, (back l to r) Jeff Knobloch, Shane Asher, Logan Van Rheenen, Brett Johnson. Also attending were Trent Fransene and Katie Spivey.

Market Outlook featuring Dr. Trent Ford, State Climatologist

Dr. Trent Ford, Illinois State Climatologist, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, March 9 at 6:15 p.m. at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Dinner will be served followed by the local grain market update from Tom Parchert of Big River Resources. Reservations are required and must be made by March 2 to guarantee your attendance.

Dr. Trent Ford has been the Illinois State Climatologist since 2019. He and his team provide information online, through traditional and social media, and by speaking to folks across the state. In addition to his role in climate education and outreach, Ford also conducts research on the climate and extreme climate events, like drought and heat waves; monitors current conditions; and studies climate change. A native of Roanoke, Illinois, Ford earned a bachelors in geography from Illinois State University before completing his masters and PhD at Texas

A&M University

Additional dates and speakers remaining for the 2022-2023 series include: July 6, Clayton Pope, Clayton Pope Commodities.

Cost for the series is \$85.00 and a single session is \$30.00 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$35.00). To make reservations, please call the Henry County Farm Bureau (309) 937-2411, Rock Island County Farm Bureau (309) 736-7432 or Mercer County Farm Bureau (309) 582-5116.

The Market Outlook Seminar Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees in conjunction with: Gold Star FS; COUNTRY Financial- Brent Bigham, Chad Nelson, John Waugh; Compeer Financial; River Valley Cooperative; Wyffels Hybrids; Big River Resources; BankORION; Blackhawk Bank & Trust; Central Bank.

Getting to know your Farm Bureau policy

81. FARM BUREAU RELATIONSHIP WITH AFFILIATED COMPANIES

We believe that Farm Bureau members are the foundation upon which all affiliated companies were built.

We support:

1. County Farm Bureaus maintaining and improving working relationships with affiliated company boards of directors and management through interlocking board members and other means.

2. Holding periodic affiliated company and Farm Bureau joint board meetings on both the state and county level and to hold regular county Farm Bureau and affiliated company joint staff meetings.

3. Affiliated companies to consult with the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA) and county Farm Bureaus before initiating major changes in products, services, policies, an operating procedures that impact the Farm Bureau organizations or Farm Bureau members.

Henry County Farm Bureau

Welcomes New Members

Brett & Holly Barnhart
Tom & RoseAnn Weber
Terry Anderson
Julie Clark
Lisa Conrad-Holcomb
Rachel Croegaert
Dalton Edmund
Tonya & Roger Fay

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Ryan Roberts
Craig & Heather Bruckman
Kyle & Kayla McKee
Warren & Suzanne Schulz
Jared Sturtewagen

HENRY COUNTY DATEBOOK

MARCH

- 1 Rules for the Road – Virtual Meeting, RSVP Required
 - 6 HC Pork Producers – 7pm, HCFB Boardroom
 - 8 HCFB Manager Katie Laleman on WKEI @ 8:25am
 - 9 Market Outlook Seminar – 6:15pm, Lavender Crest, RSVP Required
 - 10 HCFB Foundation Scholarship Applications Due
 - 10 Country Financial Crop Insurance Meeting – 8am, RSVP to HCFB
 - 12 Daylight Savings Time begins – Jump ahead an hour!
 - 15 HCFB Foundation Freezer Meal Fundraiser Deadline
 - 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
 - 17 HCFB Young Leaders T-shirt Contest Entry Deadline!
 - 21 National Agriculture Day
 - 21 HCFB Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00pm
 - HCFB Board of Directors Meeting – 7:30pm, HCFB Boardroom
 - 24 Women in Agriculture Conference – Bally's QC
 - 28 HCFB Young Leaders Meeting – 6:30pm, HCFB Boardroom
 - 30 HCFB Women's Special Program, "Women's Health" with Dr. Valerie Bonnett - 6:00pm, HCFB Boardroom
- ## APRIL
- 7 Good Friday – HCFB Office Closed
 - 9 Happy Easter!
 - 10 Freezer Meal Pick-Up – 2:30-5p

Illinois Farm Bureau To Host 'Rules For The Road' Trucking Seminars

Illinois Farm Bureau will host a series of two-hour programs focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry.

The Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent changes, as well as some of the more established but still misunderstood rules. Topics will include the USDOT Number, UCR registration, Entry Level Driver Training, and driver's license classifications, to name a few. In addition, one of the events will also be broadcast virtually on March 1st at 6 pm. "These presentations take a closer look at the rules and provide an opportunity for farmers to ask ag-related trucking questions that they can't seem to find clear answers for," said Rodney Knittel, IFB Assistant Director of Transportation and Infrastructure.

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 County Farm Bureaus and Illinois Farm Bureau, but advance registration is required. Please call Henry County Farm Bureau to reserve your place at one of the upcoming Rules for the Road Seminars:

March:

1st at 6pm, Macon CFB *Virtual Option Available*

7th at 6pm, Woodford CFB

9th at 6pm, Lasalle CFB

15th at 10am, Jo Daviess CFB

15th at 6pm, Knox CFB

For more information or to register, contact Henry County Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411.

Farm Bureau Leaders Attend Conference



Members of the Henry County Farm Bureau attended the Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference held in Springfield. The Legislative Reception held during the conference gave Farm Bureau members the opportunity to meet with legislators from throughout the state. Pictured are (l to r) Dennis Verbeck, Representative Ryan Spain, Brian Corkill, Jan Weber, and Steve Weber.



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HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$42,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP PERIOD NOW OPEN

- Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation Agriculture Scholarship
- Wilbert & Carol Keppy Foundation Scholarship
- Kevin & Karen Urick Farm Bureau Legacy Scholarship
- Glenn & Betty DeSmith Memorial Scholarship
- Trade & Technical Program Scholarship - **NEW THIS YEAR!!**

Applications are available at www.henrycofarmbureau.org select Foundation

Deadline to apply: March 10, 2023

"COUNTRY Financial" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois.



Soil and Water Stewardship Week 2023

National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) Stewardship Week is one of the largest national programs to promote natural resource conservation. Celebrated annually since 1955 between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May, NACD Stewardship Week reminds us of our individual responsibilities to care for natural resources.

The program relies on locally led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. Districts provide conservation and stewardship field days, programs, workshops and additional outreach efforts throughout their community to educate citizens about the need to care for our resources. Many district activities extend beyond the one-week observance to include an entire year of outreach.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility's, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

One definition of Stewardship is "the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others. "E. William Anderson suggests stewardship" is essentially a synonym for conservation."

Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. We have seen these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts and the results are spectacular!

NACD's 68th Stewardship Week will be held April 30- May 7, 2023, with the theme "One Water" celebrating our watersheds. This year's theme will focus on the importance of water to our daily lives. The Henry County SWCD will be using this theme for many of its educational programs throughout 2023.

RECIPE

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HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Veg-All Cheesy Chowder

From the Kitchen of Kathy Dobbels

¼ c. butter	¼ tsp hot pepper sauce
1 medium onion, chopped	¼ tsp pepper
1/3 c. flour	1 can (16 oz) Veg-All, drained
2 c. milk	2 Tbsp parsley
1 can (10 ¾ oz) chicken broth	8 oz. processed cheese

Melt butter in a large sauce pan. Add in the chopped onion, and cook until tender. Add in flour and whisk, cook 1 minute on low heat, stirring the entire time. Add in milk & broth, and cook over medium heat, stirring until thick. Add in cheese & seasonings. Stir until cheese melts. Add in Veg-All & parsley. Reduce heat & cook until heated through.

Questions about Farm Bureau or your membership?

Contact us at

Phone: (309) 937-2411

Website: www.henrycofarmbureau.org

Facebook: Henry County Farm Bureau

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FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers



Farming: A job with as many boots as hats

Before the first puddles of spring arrived, I would rummage through the supply of hand-me-down rubber boots, searching for the size that our young kids had grown into for the season. The appropriate footwear lined the back hall, ready for water to pond in the driveway.

Today, my teenagers splash less, but the boot dryer has a permanent space near an outlet and the family's boots now take up more space for

a household with adult-sized feet. Shoes and boots for "farm" and "good" fill cabinets and cubbies by the back door. Rubber boots – both insulated and not – line part of the garage wall. Shelves display the nicer western boots that our kids wear to school, FFA events and the 4-H fair for showing livestock. Boots for the chicken coop stay in the garage.

Farmers wear as many boots as hats on the farm, symbolic of

a wide range of skills worth recognizing in this season that honors National Ag Day on March 21, 2023. In Illinois, families (not corporations) own and operate an overwhelming 96% of farms. Those families pull on boots as agronomists, veterinarians, accountants and mechanics. They operate heavy machinery, manage employees, build fence and monitor weather to know what boots to wear.

In this job of many boots, we may scout bean fields on a dewy summer morning or clean a livestock stall for the next cow to give birth. Hard-soled boots climb from the tractor to check seed depth behind the planter. We attend farm conferences in our best boots or spend a winter afternoon with the family in snow boots, sledding the slope southeast of the farmstead.

For some farms, plastic boot covers protect

animals from devastating diseases that could transmit from boot treads. That's not the case for us but boot covers would help at times. Someone occasionally leaves a trail of mud in the farm office, despite the boot scrapper outside the door.

Three boot dryers await their duties along the footwear wall where Dad and the guys store boots for every season and task, from chores to cheer – or sometimes, the un-

expected. I wore rubber boots to my aunt's funeral a few years ago to keep my heels out of the mud. It was my nod to the career farm woman, who would have done the same.

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 and backyard chickens.

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