

HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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



HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

SEPTEMBER

- 3** Henry County Pork Producers meeting
HCFB boardroom, 7:00pm
- 9** Farm Bureau Women's Business meeting
HCFB boardroom, 5:30pm
- 9** Fall Freezer Meal order deadline
offered by Pre-order **ONLY**
- 10** Market Outlook Seminar
Lavender Crest Winery, 6:15pm
- 12** Driver's Ed Program for Students
HCFB office closed
- 15-21** National Farm Safety and Health Week
- 17** Henry County Farm Bureau Executive Committee meeting,
HCFB office, 6:30pm
- Henry County Farm Bureau Board meeting,
HCFB Boardroom, 7pm

OCTOBER

- 7** Fall Freezer Meal pick up
HCFB office, Time TBD
pre-orders only, no extra meals available this day

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU, NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL SAFETY CELEBRATE NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK

The Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is once again collaborating with the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to promote farm safety and health during National Farm Safety and Health Week, which will take place from September 15-21, 2024. This year's theme, "Don't Learn Safety by Accident," is dedicated to raising awareness about the hazards of working in agriculture. It underscores the importance of prioritizing the health and safety of those who work tirelessly to provide our abundant supply of food, fiber, and fuel.

"We're excited to help promote and support NECAS's efforts in keeping farmers and farm families safe," said Katie Laleman, Manager, Henry County Farm Bureau. "Harvest season can be particularly dangerous for farmers with long hours and stress of weather delays, equipment breakdowns or high operating costs, and this year's activities will reinforce the importance of organizations like ours working together to ensure



farmers make it home safely to their families at night."

Each day of the week has a designated topic of focus to promote various aspects of farm safety:

- Monday, Sept. 16 – Equipment and Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday, Sept. 17 – Health and Wellness
- Wednesday, Sept. 18 – Generations of Farming
- Thursday, Sept. 19 – Confined Spaces
- Friday, Sept. 20 – Reporting Ag Injuries

The 2021 data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that the agricultural sector remains the most hazardous industry in America, with 453

fatalities, equating to 19.5 deaths per 100,000 workers. Fall harvest time is particularly busy and perilous for those in agriculture. Consequently, the third week of September has been designated as National Farm Safety and Health Week to emphasize the importance of safety and health in this critical industry.

"Farmers are notorious for their work ethic and determination, both qualities that also can be a detriment when it comes to safety," said Laleman. "While farm safety is top of mind every week for farmers, their families and their employees, National Farm Safety and Health Week is an opportunity to spotlight safety reminders that keep those both inside and outside the agriculture industry aware and mindful during the busy harvest season."

For more information about National Farm Safety and Health Week, contact your local county Farm Bureau, visit www.necasag.org, or contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or dgallivan@ilfb.org.

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2025 AGRICULTURE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Are you, or someone you know, ready to take the next step in their leadership development? The Illinois Farm Bureau has a program to help with that. The Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) provides participants with the tools they need to reach their full potential and emerge as a leader in agriculture. Whether you serve on your county Farm Bureau board, county Farm Bureau committee, or a leader in agribusiness or your local community, you'll benefit from ALOT just as the over 1,200 previous graduates have.

Classroom studies cover leadership, communication & professional skills, political process, agricultural economics, and global issues, and are taught by experts in a variety of fields. Classes will be conducted over a seven-week period in a different region of the state each year, so there's sure to be one near you.

In 2025, there will be seven weekly sessions held across Northwestern Illinois, Springfield, and Bloomington, Illinois. The seven-week program includes four overnight sessions, two single-day sessions, and one virtual session.

The ALOT program is limited to 25 participants, who are chosen following interviews conducted on December 3rd via Zoom by the ALOT advisory committee. There is an \$800 tuition fee, which includes meals, lodging, and instructional materials.

Applications are available online at www.ilfb.org/alot and are due by November 1st. For more information about the program visit www.ilfb.org/alot or contact Henry County Farm Bureau at manager@henrycofarmbureau.org or the IFB Training and Development Department at 309-557-2038.

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ILICA TRAP SHOOT & GOLF OUTING

SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 13 IN KEWANEE

The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA) is hosting its Area 3 - Trap Shoot & Golf Outing on September 13, 2024 in Kewanee, IL. For over a decade, Illinois LICA has hosted golf outings throughout the state, recently pairing these events with trap shoots, to bring local contractors, businesses, and landowners together for some friendly competition, a chance to win cash prizes, and networking within the conservation and construction industries.

The event kicks off with a morning trap shoot (50 clays) at the Izaak Walton League Trap-Skeet Grounds, followed by lunch at Baker Park Golf Course. At noon, the 18-hole golf outing kicks off with a chance to win door prizes, cash hole prizes, and a 50/50 raffle. After golf, the event wraps up at the clubhouse with awards announcements and a grill-your-own dinner (steak, chicken or porkchop options available). Anyone can participate; ILICA membership not required. Full event registration includes trap shoot, lunch,



golf, and dinner for only \$110! Partial registration options are available, as well.

For more information, please visit www.illica.net/events or call Illinois LICA at (309) 932-1230.

Illinois LICA is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated to the professional conservation of soil & water resources. For over 65 years, ILICA has been providing contractors construction & conservation education, business & legislative resources, and industry discounts.



Your farm is your legacy.
We can help you protect it.



Eric Henderson
Geneseo
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Julie Hessler
Orion
(309)526-8024



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1220-507HC_9/15/2023



FUNdraising for the Foundation

A great day on the course was enjoyed by over 90 golfers at the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation Golf Fun Day held at Baker Park Golf Course on August 9. Special thanks to all of the golfers, volunteers and sponsors! Funds raised support the work of the Foundation, to include the Ag in the Classroom program and scholarships awarded to high school seniors and college students.

10 TIPS ON HOW TO ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU'RE STRUGGLING

By Lesley Kelly, Farmer and Co-Founder of the Do More Agriculture Foundation

Sometimes, life can be tough. And when life's tough, things can get overwhelming and make it hard to manage your feelings. But you don't have to go it alone.

Reaching out for help isn't easy. It's common to feel unsure about how to ask, or wonder if you need to reach out at all. But asking for help is always okay. Whether you're going through something big right now, have an ongoing mental health problem that needs support, or you're just having a bad day on or off the farm, the important thing is not to try and cope on your own.

Asking for help is the first step to feeling better. Here is some advice to help you start.

Who to turn to

Everyone's support network is different and only you can know best who you feel most comfortable to turn to. But when you're ready to reach out, there are plenty of people who can help.

- Family and friends
- A helpline
- Your doctor
- A support network or group
- A faith leader

Barriers to reaching out for help

There are lots of things that might be stopping you from asking for help. You might be worried about:

- what others might think
- the problems not being serious enough, or not being taken seriously
- putting an extra strain on mental health services
- help being unavailable, difficult to get, or not being right for you
- things getting worse when you ask for help, like making your family worry
- how to ask for help or how to express your concerns

It's normal to feel worried about these things. But don't let this stop you reaching out. It's always okay to ask for help. Your feelings are valid and you are not burdening anyone by speaking up.

You deserve help and support

Sometimes when you reach out for help, the person you talk to might not react the way you hoped. This can be really tough. They might not share the same understanding of mental health as you, perhaps because of their culture, age or gender, or there might be another reason they've reacted that way. But know that if this happens, their reaction is about them, not you.

Don't let people's reactions discourage you from reaching out again, whether that be to the same

person or someone else you trust. Remember, you can always contact a helpline for support.

Things to keep in mind

Opening up about how you feel can be scary. It's normal to worry about how people will react or that talking about things might cause other problems. But reaching out is always okay and it's the first step to getting better. Here are some tips to help you talk to someone.

1. **Know when you need help.** Learn to recognize the signs that you need some extra support (and any patterns of social withdrawal). Have you been stuck in your own head lately? Is there anything you've been bottling up? Is that impacting your day-to-day life? When's the last time you reached out or felt connected to someone else?
2. **Think about the outcome you want.** What do you want to get from the conversation? You might want practical advice and support, or perhaps you just need someone to listen. It's okay if you're not sure what you want, but if you do know, tell the person you're reaching out to so they know how best they can help.

If you want what you share to be kept private, it might be helpful to say this before you start the conversation and explain why. Not everyone you speak to will be able to keep what you say private, but they will tell you if they need to pass the information on.

3. **Be mindful of boundaries.** You should absolutely ask for help when you need it. Just be conscious of where the other person is at physically, emotionally, and mentally. Make sure you're keeping healthy boundaries and expectations. Ask if they have the time and space, and respect if they're at capacity.
4. **Choose your method of communication.** Sometimes speaking face-to-face can feel too much. If that's the case for you, there are lots of other ways you can reach out for help. Whether it's by text, over the phone, or in a letter or email, think about how you feel most comfortable to express yourself.
5. **Pick your time and place.** Talking about how you feel is already tough, so make it easier for yourself by picking a time and place that works for you. It can help to find a quiet, private space where you can talk without interruptions.
6. **Ask for what you need.** This means you'll need to do a little introspection. What are you feeling, and what are those feelings trying to tell you? What do you need at this moment, and what would help fulfill that? Here are some common examples:

1. *I feel overwhelmed. I need rest. I'll ask them to take something off of my plate.*
2. *I feel sad. I need connection. I'll ask to spend quality time with them.*
3. *I feel anxious. I need reassurance. I'll ask for advice about this situation.*

You don't have to be able to perfectly articulate what you're going through or have a full game plan for fixing it. But the more direction you have, the easier it'll be to get the help you need. If you don't know what you need, it's okay to acknowledge it. Ask to talk through it together and see what comes up.

7. **Give yourself permission to ask.** Asking for help can feel scary. You're putting yourself out there and showing a lot of vulnerability — but also tremendous courage. The people who love you will recognize that and be happy to help. If you're having doubts, put yourself in their shoes: How would you feel if a friend or neighbor came to you with the same request? Give yourself the compassion that you would give other people.
8. **Follow-up afterwards.** When people show up for you, let them know how much it means to you. Thank them for their support, tell them how their actions impacted you, and offer to repay the favor when you can. People like knowing that they made a difference for the folks they care about, and it'll also give them more confidence in how to support you in the future.
9. **Be patient.** Remember that the first conversation you have with someone doesn't have to be the last. It's unlikely that everything will be magically better after one conversation, but know that it's a really positive first step. Take the conversation at your own pace. You don't have to share everything right now if you don't want to. If you think it would be helpful to have another conversation but you need some time, try saying: "It's been really helpful to talk to you about how I'm feeling. I'd really like it if we could talk about this again sometime soon."

10. How to ask for help

These are just a few examples of texts you can send or things you can say to ask for help.

WHEN YOU WANT TO GAUGE THEIR AVAILABILITY:

I'd like to ask for your help with something. Is there a time today when you're free to talk?

I've been struggling with something lately, and I could use your help. Do you have the time and space to listen right now?

I'd really appreciate your help with

something. Could you let me know when you're free to talk through it?

I was wondering if you could do me a favor. Is now a good time for you to talk?

WHEN YOU'RE ASKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIFIC:

I'm feeling really overwhelmed at the farm right now but I know fresh air is good for my mental health. Could we take a walk together this week?

I'm in a bit of a slump with my mental health right now. Reaching out feels tough, but I want to stay in touch. Could you check in on me every so often?

I've been struggling to adjust after I lost my dad last month, and it feels pretty lonely. I could really use your company. Can we grab a bite to eat this week?

WHEN YOU'RE NOT SURE WHAT YOU NEED:

I'm not sure what to do, but I'm open to any ideas. Do you have any thoughts? What usually helps you in situations like this?

I don't know what I need right now. Would you mind talking through it with me? Maybe we could find some solutions together.

I'm not sure what I need from you, but processing out loud could be helpful. Could I just talk with you about how I'm feeling and see what comes up?

I'm not ready to talk about it, but I don't think I want to be alone right now. Can we call and just chat for a bit? I'll let you know if I think of anything else I need.

Waiting for support

It can be incredibly frustrating when you reach out for support with your mental health, only to find long waiting lists and overwhelmed support services. It's disheartening to realize that the system designed to help you might not be there for you when you need it most. But don't give up hope. Even though the road to getting support may be challenging, it's worth sticking with it. Your wellbeing matters and taking the first step to ask for help is incredibly brave. While you're waiting, reach out to friends and family, people you trust, or online support groups and helplines. You are not alone on this journey, and there are people out there who can help you through this difficult time.

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, remember that support is available. AgTalk provides a safe and anonymous space for individuals in the agricultural community to connect, share, and receive support. Don't hesitate to reach out and explore the resources available at AgTalk for guidance and assistance.



Students Learn about Dairy

The Cambridge FFA Chapter held their annual mAGic Camp this summer for students to learn about agriculture. Paula Janson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, led students in a dairy activity teaching them about why cows have ear tags, about ice cream and how it is made, enjoying ice cream themselves! Students also learned about the code that is on a jug of milk and that you can find out where your milk comes from at www.whereismymilkfrom.com.

IMPORTANT DATES - 2024 GENERAL ELECTION



Barb Link, Henry County Clerk, would like to remind the Henry County residents of important dates coming up for the **November 5, 2024 General Election.**

- **September 26, 2024** - First day for election authority to mail an official ballot to voters upon request.
- **September 26, 2024** - First day for early voting in the Henry County Clerk's Office
- **October 8, 2024** - Last day to register to vote or change address at the election authority's office
- **October 9, 2024** - First day for grace period voting in the County Clerk's Office
 - During this period an unregistered qualified elector may register to vote as long as they have lived in the precinct for 30 days.
 - A registered voter may submit a change of address during this period also.
 - In both of these cases each shall be

done in the Henry County Clerk's Office and in both cases each must vote in the Henry County Clerk's Office at this time.

- **October 19, 2024** -County Clerk's Office open from 8:00am to 12:00 pm for early voting
- **October 26, 2024** -County Clerk's Office open from 8:00am to 12:00 pm for early voting
- **October 31, 2024** - Last day for the County Clerk's Office to receive an application to vote by mail and also to mail a ballot
- **November 2, 2024** - County Clerk's Office open from 8:00am to 12:00pm for early voting
- **November 4, 2024**- Last day for early voting at the Henry County Clerk's Office
- **November 5, 2024** - Last day for grace period voting 6 am to 7 pm at the Henry County Courthouse

Please go to our webpage at www.henrycty.com to find your current polling locations for the upcoming election.

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Link, Henry County Clerk at 309-937-3480.

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Farm Bureau Joins “National Night Out”

The Farm Bureau Education Committee participated in the National Night Out event held in Colona on August 6. The committee had fun games for both children and adults while sharing information about farming and food. Special thanks to Steve & Lia Nightingale, Gary Asay and Jon Chamberlain for representing Farm Bureau!

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Fall Freezer Meal Fundraiser
Deadline to order: Monday, Sept. 9



Meal pick-up: MONDAY, October 7 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the Henry County Farm Bureau Office

Meal Set includes one of each:

Meals prepared by:

- Chicken and Biscuits
- Pulled Pork Mac and Cheese
- Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta
- Ham & Beans
- Smoked Pork Tenderloin



- Swiss Steak
- Pulled Pork
- Chuckwagon Beans
- Hawaiian Chicken
- Broccoli Cheese Soup

Cost for the set \$200

Return bottom portion with payment by September 9th
Checks payable to: Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation
Mail to: HCFB, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238
Questions: (309) 937-2411 or email: membership@henrycofarmbureau.org


Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Meal Sets ordered: _____ Payment Total Enclosed: _____

FARM
GATE

By Joanie Stiers



VOLUNTEER
FOR THE
BETTER

During my side gigs over the years as parent-teacher club president, Sunday School teacher and FFA alumni volunteer enthusiast, my home office has served as much a dumping grounds for community service projects as it has a private space for writing commentaries and paying bills.

I call it my staging area, a designated place that holds the intent to make a difference in our small town of 600 people. I have friends with such spaces, too, because if small towns want or need something, their citizens often must collaborate to provide for the community.

Our parks offer some of the most visual evidence of volunteerism in our village, which lacks a taxpayer-funded park district. Volunteers fundraise, install and oversee the 18-hole disc golf course, perennial beds, arboretum, depot pavilion, caboose museum and the barn playground, an incredible project that alone won the state's top award for volunteerism. Currently, talented community members donate time and resources to install a mini golf course with nine holes of unique themes to reflect our community's history – a coal shovel, grain bins and iron river bridge among them.

Unthinkable to my city friends, trained volunteers fight fires and provide our first-response medical care. Unpaid folks decorate the downtown for the holidays and archive our history in a small museum. Veterans hang dozens of flags in the park and cemetery every Memorial Day. Our musical leaders at church sing and play for God's glory without compensation. Passionate volunteers endlessly support student success in the local FFA and make youth soccer, summer ball, 4-H and the scouts a reality.

Our kids learn at a young age that community service provides church dinners, roadside cleanups, fun youth programs, impactful non-profits and special events like the upcoming town festival. For the latter, more than 125 volunteers will organize and deliver agri-entertainment-style fun for free to attendees at a festival that encapsulates the power of community service. Magic happens and friendships form when talents, skills and resources of volunteers come together for the common goal of community betterment.

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.

HENRY & STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & FIRST CHOICE HEALTHCARE NOTE SEPTEMBER-SEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments and our First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee, Colona and Toulon note that September is Sexual Health Awareness Month. Sexual Health Awareness Month is an annual observance held throughout September to raise awareness about the importance of sexual health and well-being. The reasons behind observing this month are manifold:

- Promoting Safe Practices. One of the primary goals of Sexual Health Awareness Month is to educate individuals on the importance of practicing safe sex. It's an opportunity to discuss the use of contraceptives, including condoms and birth control, to prevent unintended pregnancies and the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Breaking Stigmas. Sexual health issues often carry a significant societal stigma, which can discourage individuals from seeking help or information. By observing this month, we aim to break down these stigmas, create a safe space for discussions, and encourage open and honest conversations about sexual health.
- Empowering Individuals. Education is a powerful tool for empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

- With these goals in mind, Sexual Health Awareness Month is an opportune time to remind area residents that the First Choice Healthcare Clinics offer confidential:
- ~ STD Testing for Males and Females
 - ~ Treatment of STDs
 - ~ Contraceptive Supplies
 - ~ Free Condoms
 - ~ Preventative immunizations against such STDs as Hepatitis B and HPV ~ Counseling, Education, and Referral
 - ~ Expedited Partner Treatment

Though the subject of one's sexual health may not be a comfortable healthcare issue to discuss, we want people to remember that our First Choice Healthcare locations in Kewanee Colona, and Toulon are sources of confidential testing, treatment, and education. And we are literally just a phone call away. People should know we offer the tools and services people need to stay healthy.

For more information or appointments call First Choice Healthcare in Kewanee 309-852-5272; Colona 309-792-4011; or Toulon 309-852-3115.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

BERRY ANGEL DESSERT *FROM THE KITCHEN OF CATHY CARLSON*

Ingredients:

- 1 small package of raspberry or strawberry Jello
- Dash of salt
- ¼ cup boiling water (for Jello)
- One 10oz package of frozen strawberries
- 1 cup whip cream (1 package from box of dream whip)
- ¾ loaf of angel food cake (1/2 of cake mix)

Instructions:

1. Dissolve Jello in boiling water- add frozen berries. Chill until partially set.
2. Fold in whip cream.
3. Arrange ½ of torn pieces of cake in pan.
4. Pour half of Jello/berry mixture over the cake pieces
5. Arrange other half of cake pieces on top of the previous layer, then add remaining Jello/berry mixture.
6. Cover and chill for 4-5 hours before serving

HENRY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FALL SALES

Henry County SWCD fall tree and fall fish sale dates listed below; please call the SWCD at 309-937-3377 Ext 3 for a brochure. You may also view the brochures on our Facebook page (Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District)

- Fall Tree Orders Due: September 16th
- Fall Fish Triploid Grass Carp Orders Due: September 20th
- Fall Fish Orders Due: October 3rd
- Rain Barrels – check availability

Bluebird houses made by the Henry County Natural Area Guardians - check availability



Students Recognized at Foundation Dinner

This year’s scholarship recipients and scholarship donors joined together for an evening meal held at the Foundation Scholarship Award Night. Donor families attending had the opportunity to meet the students, learn about their future education plans and enjoy an evening together. Special thanks to the scholarship donors, the HCFB Foundation Board, Keppy Foundation, Kevin & Karen Urick, the DeSmith Family and the Ufkin Family.

Farm Bureau
Salutes the
COUNTRY
Financial
Membership
Recruiter of the
Month

A portrait of Eric Henderson, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark blue zip-up jacket with a small logo on the left chest. He is standing outdoors with green foliage in the background.

Eric Henderson,
Geneseo

A circular logo for 'The Vintage Rose Clothing Boutique'. The words 'CLOTHING' and 'BOUTIQUE' are arched across the top and bottom respectively. In the center, there is a detailed illustration of a bouquet of roses and greenery. The words 'THE VINTAGE ROSE' are written across the middle of the bouquet.

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confident in their
own skin, and
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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

100. FARM EQUIPMENT

We support:

1. Clarifying and simplifying the vehicle code and regulations relating to farm vehicles.
2. Proper use of the slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems, retailers providing information regarding proper use and law enforcement agencies enforcing proper use of SMV emblems to be used in accordance with the most current American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) standards.
3. Seeking legislation to increase the fine for the misuse of SMV emblems to at least \$75.00 for the first offense.
4. State and county Farm Bureaus developing an SMV and lighting campaign to encourage farmers to update their older equipment with new amber flashing lights and SMV emblems.
5. Development and utilization of standardized specifications for pesticide containers and equipment connectors for closed pesticide application systems.

6. Farm equipment manufacturers and ASABE working together to create an improved system for new equipment that would better indicate turns, utilizing a unique color/style of flashing lights, such as sequentially-flashing red arrows, making them more noticeable for vehicles that are approaching or following.
7. Development and utilization of standardized wire color/function for any trailer licensed for over-the-road use or any towed implement of husbandry.
8. A farm equipment owner's right to maintain, service, repair, and rebuild their vehicle or farming equipment on their own accord or by the repair shop of their choice.

We oppose:

1. Licensing farm tractors and other implements of husbandry.
2. Mandatory retrofitting of lighting on farm equipment beyond that which was required by law as of 2018

COUNTRY RECEIVES SUPERIOR FINANCIAL RATINGS

FarmWeekNow.com
(August 13, 2024)

AM Best, an independent insurance ratings agency, affirmed A+ (Superior) financial strength ratings for the COUNTRY Financial Property/Casualty group and COUNTRY Life Insurance Co. It also affirmed stable outlooks for both companies.

The A+ (Superior) rating generally indicates a superior ability to meet ongoing obligations designated by AM Best and is based on profitable operating earnings, strong risk-adjusted capitalization and favorable geographic and product line diversification.

For more than 90-consecutive years,

COUNTRY Financial Property/Casualty group and COUNTRY Life Insurance Co. have been rated A or higher.

"COUNTRY has been in business for nearly 100 years, and we are making long-term decisions that position us to be there for clients for the next 100 years," said Rob McDade, executive vice president, chief financial officer and chief strategy officer at COUNTRY. "We are focused on bringing the best value to clients through relationships with COUNTRY Financial representatives, and by offering modern products to fit their needs and matching price to risk."

COUNTRY upheld its rating as the industry faced higher costs and

rising losses. According to Best's Special Report, titled "U.S. Property/Casualty Downgrades Outpace Upgrades in 2023," downgrades on U.S. property/casualty insurance companies rose to 55 in 2023 compared with 30 in the previous year.

"The last couple of years have been very challenging for the insurance industry, and for COUNTRY," said McDade. "We suffered the largest claims losses in our history in the spring of 2023, and like others, are facing higher litigation costs and increased regulation. But our prudent investment portfolio, focus on the client and strong risk management strategy have made the difference."



Young Leaders Compete

Logan Van Rheenen, of Henry County, received first place honors in the Illinois Farm Bureau District 3 Discussion Meet. The competition is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each committee member. District winners will compete in the state contest at the 2024 IAA Annual Meeting, December 7-10.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL UPCOMING EVENTS, BENEFITS, AND MORE
HENRYCOFARBUREAU.ORG



THANK YOU TO THE 2024 SPONSORS

Join

The Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders strive to be a leading voice for our agricultural community through education, involvement and leadership.

- Building leadership skills
- Networking with other young people involved in agriculture
- Giving back to our communities through service projects
- Developing future leaders of agriculture

Farm Bureau Young Leaders Programs

Food Pantry Donations	Farm Safety Awareness
Adopt a Highway Cleanup	Leadership Development
Elementary Classroom Presentations	Legislative Involvement
FFA Jacket Scholarships	Social Networking

Contact: HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238, 309.937.2411