

HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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



HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

JUNE

- 11** Henry County Farm Bureau Executive Committee meeting, HCFB office, 6:30pm
- Henry County Farm Bureau Board meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 14** Katie Laleman, HCFB Manager on WKEI "Wake Up Tri-Counties" Tuned in, 8:25am
- 18-23** Henry County Fair, 311 E. North Street, Cambridge — stop by our booth in the Merchants building to get your discount pork sandwich ticket and a free bottle of water!
- 19** Henry County Young Leader's Kids Pedal Pull Midway Entertainment Tent, Henry County Fair Registration at 4:30pm, Pull begins at 5pm
- 27** Farm Bureau Women's Program: "Real Colors" with Illinois Farm Bureau HCFB Boardroom, 6pm- Reservations required

JULY

- 2** Market Outlook Seminar Lavendar Crest Winery, 6:15pm (reservations required)
- 4-5** Happy Fourth of July! HCFB Office closed
- 10** Katie Laleman, HCFB Manager on WKEI "Wake Up Tri-Counties" Tuned in, 8:25am
- 10** "Safety Starts with YOU" Central Bank Pavilion (101 N. State Street, Geneseo), 5:30-7pm

AUGUST

- 9** HCFB Foundation Golf Fun Day Baker Park Golf Course, Kewanee Call the office during business hours to reserve your tee time

IAA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$151,501 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS PURSUING AGRICULTURE DEGREES

Students can count on support of scholarships for college tuition during the 2024-2025 school year, courtesy of the IAA Foundation. The charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation, is



David Mock

awarding \$151,501 to 89 students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields. Students are selected based on their activities and leadership, their community involvement, professional career goals and their overall commitment to success.

"Each year we are proud to support and encourage students who represent agriculture's strong and vibrant future," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation.

David Mock of Galva, in Henry County is the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership

Scholarship recipient and receives a \$7,500 scholarship for the honor. IAA Foundation Distinguished Scholars Eric Wisely of Oakdale, Alex Jagers of Princeton, and Justin Huff of Savoy, each will receive a \$5,000 award. Other scholarships being presented range in value from \$1,000 to \$3,001. A full listing of recipients can be found at www.iaafoundation.org. Annually, the Illinois Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus combine to award more than \$1,000,000 in scholarship support.

"The scholarship program acknowledges hard-working students

and offers financial support so they can pursue their dreams and land careers in agriculture," Smith said. "Through generous farm gifts and contributions from individuals, farm families, Illinois Farm Bureau members, and others who support our industry, we continue to see diversification and growth in our program."

For more information on the IAA Foundation scholarship program, how to establish a scholarship, or to donate to a scholarship fund, visit the IAA Foundation's website at www.iaafoundation.org or call 309-557-2232.

BE SURE TO VISIT THE HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOOTH AT THE

2024 Henry County Fair

- Members can pick up their Pork Patio Discount tickets
- Help us GO FOR THE GOLD in our annual Ag in the Classroom Fundraiser
- Be sure to grab a kids bag and some farm bureau giveaways!

Discount tickets for HCFB Members

The Henry County Farm Bureau will offer its current members discounted tickets for the upcoming 2024 Henry County Fair, June 18-23.

Prices are as follows:

- Day Passes: \$4 each (Limit 4)
- Week Passes: \$18 each (Limit 2)
- Senior Passes: \$13 each (Limit 2)

Passes may be purchased at the Henry County Farm Bureau Office any time during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4 pm)

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Vice President: Brian Corkill
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DISTRICT 3

Lisa VanWatermeulen, Evan Youngren, David Schmedt, Thad Curry

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DISTRICT 4

Jim DeCrane, Justin Frank, Kate Huffman, Steve Krause

AT-LARGE

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

STAFF:

Manager: Katie Laleman, FBCM
Administrative Assistant: Chelsea Vyncke

AG IN THE CLASSROOM LESSON



First grade students at Cambridge Elementary School read the book *Tops and Bottoms* during their Agriculture in the Classroom lesson. The students learned how some fruits and vegetables grow above ground or below. They also go to enjoy a snack of “tops & bottoms”! Pictured with the students is Henry County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Paula Janson.

OSF SAINT LUKE TO HOST SENIOR HEALTH FAIR ON JUNE 4

A Senior Health Fair hosted by OSF HealthCare Saint Luke Medical Center and the Henry County Senior Citizens Center is set to take place on Tuesday, June 4, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Henry County Senior Center. This free event promises an engaging and informative experience for seniors in our community, highlighting the importance of health and wellness.

The Senior Health Fair will feature a wide variety of vendors offering services tailored specifically for seniors. From health care resources to lifestyle enhancements, attendees can explore and connect with experts in various fields to address their unique needs and concerns.

“We are excited to host the Senior Health Fair, providing a space for seniors to access valuable resources and information related to their health and well-being,” said Brenda Streit, supervisor of Volunteer Services at OSF Saint Luke. “This event underscores our commitment to supporting the health and vitality of our senior community members and maintaining strong partnerships within the Kewanee area.”

Attendees can also look forward to door prizes, giveaways and complimentary refreshments. We invite seniors to stay after the event and enjoy the weekly meal provided by the Henry County Senior Center.

The Senior Health Fair is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to gather valuable information, engage with local resources and foster a sense of community well-being.

For more information about the Senior Health Fair, please visit osfhealthcare.org/saint-luke/calendar.

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(Registration deadline June 25)
TUESDAY JULY 2 6:15 P.M.
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5401 US Highway 6
Colona, IL 61241
www.lavendercrest.com


HENRY COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES 2023 PAYABLE 2024



By Kelly Vincent,
Henry County Treasurer

Henry County tax bills are now out for 2023 payable in 2024. The 1st installment is due June 12, 2024 and the 2nd installment due September 12, 2024.

The Treasurer's office would like to inform you, the taxpayer, of our process in the property tax cycle. There will be additional articles in the coming months that will cover the other processes in the tax cycle.

If you don't already know, the State of Illinois has the 2nd highest property taxes in the United States, but did you also know that Illinois is 16th in most educated states in the US. You might be asking why that matters with property taxes, but if you were to look at your tax bill, you would see that on average you pay 65% of your tax dollars to the schools in your area. The remaining districts make up the remaining 35%. Henry County has 128 taxing districts, 24 drainage districts and 19 TIF districts. The Treasurer's office generates and mails the tax bills to every property owner in Henry County. Our information comes from the combination of assessed values, exemptions and tax rates that are completed by the Assessor's office and the County Clerk's office. The Treasurer's office collects and distributes to all the districts three times each year 100% of the property tax money collected including interest earned on those fund. This year we will collect and distribute approx.

\$103,850,000.00.

Please see your tax bill for what taxing districts you pay into. If you have questions in regards to those districts, please contact that district directly.

When you receive your bill, please look it over and make sure you are getting all of your exemptions. Most common exemptions are owner occupied, senior citizen and senior assessment freeze. Questions about exemptions, please contact the County Assessor's office at 309-937-3570. Henry County makes every effort to make sure all of the information is correct.

The Treasurer's office offers several ways to pay your taxes. You can pay online or over the phone by credit card, debit card or electronic check. Processing fee will apply. You can pay at any local bank with the exception of Wells Fargo and the Credit Unions. You can mail or drop off your payment in our office or use the drop box located outside the Courthouse. Lastly, you can sign up for automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account.

We now offer prepayments from December 1st thru April 1st. You can pay up to what was paid the previous year. All prepayments will be applied to your bill and your bill will only reflect the balance due. If you have overpaid, you will receive a refund in June.

All of this information is also located on the back of your tax bill or on our website at www.henrycty.com. You can also call our office 309-937-3576 with any questions you might have.

I hope this article has given you a brief but informative information on how the County Treasurer's office processes, mails and distributes your tax dollars. Any questions please contact our office at 309-937-3576.



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HENRY & STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT TO INSTALL ‘SHARPS COLLECTIONS KIOSKS’ IN 6 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Henry & Stark County Health Department announces they’ve been awarded a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to purchase and place Residential Sharps Collection Kiosks in 6 communities (5-Henry County, 1-Stark County) where citizens may safely drop off their used sharps.

Duane Stevens, Health Department Public Health Administrator, states “Medical sharps, such as needles, syringes and lancets, pose an injury risk for anyone who comes in contact with these items. Large numbers of sharps are used and generated by individuals and in homes and residences each and every day. If sharps are not disposed of correctly, they

can be a safety & health hazard to any children, adults or sanitation workers that may come in contact with them.”

Stevens adds, “The Health Department is partnering with local law enforcement and county officials, and a pharmacy to locate convenient disposal sites for local residents to utilize.

The Residential Sharps Collection Kiosks will be located at the following locations during regular business hours:

- **First Choice Healthcare Kewanee Clinic, 110 N. Burr Blvd., Kewanee**
- **First Choice Healthcare Colona Clinic, 103 1st St., Colona**

- **First Choice Healthcare Toulon Clinic, 120 E. Court St., Toulon**
- **Geneseo Police Department, 119 S. Oakwood Ave., Geneseo**
- **Henry County Courthouse, 307 W. Center St., Cambridge**
- **Alpha Pharmacy, 211 S. 1st St., Alpha**

The Health Department notes they will also be working with local law enforcement agencies to conduct sharps collection drives at various times throughout the year for additional disposal opportunities. Henry County Sheriff Josh Verscheure states, “The Henry County Sheriff’s Department is pleased

to work with the Health Department on this important initiative that provides community members with a safe, convenient and free way to dispose of used or unwanted needles, syringes and other medical sharps.”

Stevens notes, “In addition to the sharps collection kiosks and drives, the Health Department is working with our own Home Services clients that have sharps waste. The grant will now cover the cost of placing sharps containers in clients’ homes; thereby, helping to protect the

safety of our clients, their healthcare workers, and any guests coming into the home.”

For more information on the programs and services available through the Henry & Stark County Health Departments and First Choice Healthcare call (309) 852-0197 or visit our website at www.henrystarkhealth.com or find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments and Follow Us on Twitter.



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ALL ABOUT INSECTS

Third grade students at Wethersfield Elementary School learned about insects, and how they can help or hurt agriculture. During their Ag in the Classroom lesson, they also go to build an insect. AITC Coordinator, Paula Janson, concluded the school year reaching 11,325 students and teachers with the message of agriculture!!!! Thank you, Paula!!!

25th Anniversary Club meeting

Join us to remember all the Good times you had at the Union Stockyards in Chicago
At the International Livestock Show or any livestock yards **815-325-3738**

JUNE 29th

The Gathering Place
500 N. State Street
Atkinson, IL 61235
LUNCH at 12:00 NOON
AUCTION at 1:30PM
Please call for Lunch reservations; 815-325-3738

Auction items including international livestock books. glasses, jack knives, Morris Men's shop, Pencils, gate Latch, signs and much more
Auction is open to the public

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY – DONATE TO THE FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

It is Birdies for Charity Time! When you fill out a pledge form for the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation, your donation goes further with the support of John Deere, and you have the chance to win a two-year lease on a 2024 Lexus NX!

Pledges are now a one-time flat donation. You will also be able to guess the number of birdies recorded during the John Deere Classic for your chance to win a car or other prizes. Simply fill out a pledge form by June 20 with your contact information and pledge amount and mail it to the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238.

You may also make your donation online at <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate> and select the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation.

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. Contributions to the Foundation are accepted from the public and are tax deductible.

Please help us preserve our past and grow our future for the generations to come!

CRP AND FORESTRY MANAGEMENT CLINIC TO BE HELD JUNE 7

The 2024 CRP and Forestry Management Clinic will be held on Friday, June 7th at 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Oxford Legion Hall Post 1197 211 WA Street, Alpha, IL. Check in 8:30 to 9 with Continental Breakfast!

Workshop speakers will include: Dr. Sean Jenkins-Botanist; Luke Koett-IDNR Forester; Jason Hessman-DC-NRCS; Louis Liva-Precision Conservation; Justina Chlum-FSA-CRP.

Lunch will be served by “RJ EATS” and have pulled pork, macaroni and cheese,

and beans at approximately 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Please RSVP by May 28 by contacting: Henry County SWCD 309-937-3377x 3, Mercer County 309-582-5153 x 3, or Rock Island County 309-764-1486 x 3.

The clinic is free to the public to attend and is sponsored by Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District, Mercer County Soil & Water Conservation District and Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District.

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Central Bank Pavilion, Geneseo

Wednesday, July 10

5:30-7:00pm

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Farm Bureau Salutes the COUNTRY Financial Membership Recruiter of the Month

Erin Spivey, Kewanee



FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers

AG FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

FREE RESOURCES USE AGRICULTURE TO TEACH CORE SUBJECTS

Last summer, a Chicago teacher told me how excited she was to soil her undies for her students when the new school year started.

The second-grade teacher and her students buried cotton underwear in the school courtyard as a “Soil Your Undies” science experiment through Illinois Farm Bureau’s Ag in the Classroom program. Periodically, they dug up the undies to observe and record decomposition to measure the soil’s health and microbial activity.

The teacher used agriculture as an avenue to teach science after her attendance at a Summer Agricultural Institute hosted by the Illinois Farm Bureau’s Ag in the Classroom program. This summer, 40 institutes will take place across the state, providing pre-K-to-12 teachers an enjoyable, well-spent way to earn required Professional Development Units while they gain hands-on experiences, receive free teaching materials and take adult field trips to local farms.

The raving reviews of the institutes are no surprise given the nationally recognized success of Illinois Ag in the Classroom, which provides agriculture-based curriculum resources for free to teachers year-round. Topics of Illinois-grown pumpkins, apples, corn, soybeans, dairy, pork, pollinators and more serve as the vehicle to teach science, literature, math, STEM and social studies. In each topic area, students learn about agricultural careers, increasing awareness of the state’s top employer and the overlooked job opportunities within the industry. The available curricular resources are relevant to student life and correlate to Illinois Learning Standards with various delivery options.

My favorites are the two dozen magazines called “Ag Mags” that highlight a single ag topic with vibrant images and graphics that benefit readers of any age. Double-sided classroom posters turn from themes of apples to agriculture’s part in football. Lesson plans have students making ice cream in a

bag and grinding wheat to make flour. Digital resources work well with Chromebooks or smart boards. Translations in Spanish and French allow materials to reach more students.

Accessibility to resources gives Illinois Ag in the Classroom its edge. Materials are free online and through local county Farm Bureaus, which employ county coordinators to manage distribution of materials and even provide no-cost, in-classroom presentations. This valuable classroom resource is a concept to embrace: Let’s use Illinois’ No. 1 industry of agriculture to understand the food, fiber and energy products that impact our lives, explore careers that surround us and teach core subjects in engaging ways – whether through pumpkins, pollinators, corn, cows or underwear.

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

‘SHOP LOCAL’ ONLINE DIRECTORY BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO COUNTY

Local food is becoming more accessible than ever with enhanced direct-to-consumer marketing opportunities for local farms and businesses through a new online county directory, Shop Local. Henry County Farm Bureau is making it easier to shop local and support your local community.

The Shop Local directory provides simple, yet powerful search tools to connect growers, sellers and consumers.

“Whether you’re looking for fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, herbs, flowers, a pumpkin patch, a pick-your-own farm, vineyards, breweries or distilleries, you’ll find them in Henry County’s Shop Local online directory,” said Katie Laleman, Henry County Farm Bureau Manager.

Local farmers and specialty growers can reach thousands of new customers by registering their business and adding the Illinois Farm Bureau affiliation to their Shop Local profile. Users can create an e-commerce store, or if the user has an already established online store, they can embed the link. Businesses will also be promoted to all Illinois Farm Bureau members through the Abenity membership discount program and mobile app.

Local community members interested in fresh and local food can access locally-grown or crafted products through a search, find their nearest farmers market, connect with community partners and more using the directory’s digital features.

“This is a new way to promote Illinois Farm Bureau members and local food through county Farm Bureaus and our membership app, Abenity,” said Raghela Scavuzzo, associate director of food systems development, IFB.

Shop Local is brought forth through a partnership with Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), in cooperation with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association and Illinois MarketMaker.

“FARM TO FLAVOR” HOSTED BY FB WOMEN



The Farm Bureau Women hosted Kim Schwarzkopf, owner of “A Spotted Apron” for a fun and delicious program. “Farm to Flavor” had attendees sampling Kim’s products, enjoying a delicious meal, and learning about seasonings, oils, mixes and more.

Farm Bureau Women host programs throughout the year, bringing informative topics and speakers to all who wish to attend. For more information or to be included on the Farm Bureau Women’s mailing list, email manager@henrycofarmbureau.org. All events are also posted to the HCFB Facebook page and website.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CREAMY CUCUMBER SALAD



Ingredients:

- 2 English Cucumbers
- 1 tbsp Dill
- 1/2 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Sugar
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tbsp White Vinegar
- 1/4 tsp Garlic Powder
- 1/2 Red onion (Optional)

Instructions:

1. Peel the cucumbers.
2. Cut peeled cucumbers into thin slices and put into a large bowl.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the sour cream, dill, vinegar, salt, sugar, and garlic together until combined.
4. Pour over the cucumber slices and mix until all coated.
5. Put in the fridge for 1 hour before serving. Serve cold.

MARKET OUTLOOK SEMINAR FEATURING MATTHEW KRUSE



Matthew Kruse, President of Commstock Investments, will be the featured speaker on Tuesday, July 2 at 6:15 p.m. at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Dinner will be served followed by an update from Tom Parchert, River Valley Cooperative. *Reservations are required and must be made by June 25 to guarantee your attendance.*

Matthew Kruse is a 5th generation farm manager who grew up on a farm near Royal, Iowa. He is President of Commstock Investments, an agricultural risk management firm providing brokerage services, market research and crop insurance to clients throughout the United States. Beginning in 2002, Mr. Kruse co-founded an investment company that purchased and operated farmland on the frontier of Brazil. As Chief Operational Officer, he lived and worked on-site in Brazil for nearly 14 years, overseeing production of approximately 22,000 acres of soybeans, corn and cotton. He is fluent in Portuguese and has earned dual Brazilian citizenship. Mr. Kruse is actively engaged in production agriculture through his family farm in both Iowa, as well as in Brazil, producing soybeans, corn, coffee and milk.

Mr. Kruse received two bachelor's degrees from Iowa State University in Political Science and Communications. He earned his Executive MBA from Walden University. He has participated in The Executive Program for Agriculture Producers at Texas A&M. He is an Accredited Farmland Manager through ASFMRA. He holds Series 3, 30, and 31 licenses.

\$35.00 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$40.00). 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 Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees in conjunction with: Gold Star FS; BankORION; COUNTRY Financial - Alan Davis, Crop Insurance; Central Bank; COUNTRY Financial - Brent Bigham, Tracy Bigham, Chad Nelson, John Waugh; Big River Resources; River Valley Cooperative; Diamond Ag; Wyffels Hybrids; Compeer Financial (Aledo & Geneseo offices); COUNTRY Financial - Dan Kniss, Mike Geuns, Eric Henderson, Julie Hessler, Tom McKie, Jerry Samuelson, Erin Spivey, Katie Spivey, Cassie Stahler; Blackhawk Bank & Trust; Hertz Farm Management.



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- Drink water frequently
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- Take regular breaks in the shade and rest
- Know the signs and symptoms of heat illnesses - monitor yourself and use a buddy system if possible
- Know what the emergency plan is for heat-related illnesses

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

97. BUSINESS CLIMATE IN ILLINOIS

We support:

- 1. Moderating the increasing cost of unemployment compensation.
- 2. Reducing costs involved in providing Worker's Compensation benefits.
- 3. Repealing the prevailing wage laws relating to public works projects. Failing to repeal, we will support legislation reducing the burden of the prevailing wage on public bodies outside of major metropolitan areas.
- 4. Bringing Illinois' minimum wage law in line with federal minimum wage law.

- 5. Working directly with Illinois' regulatory agencies to improve their efficiency in issuing the permits for business, economic, and natural resource development projects.
- 6. Ongoing analyses using state and federal statistics and support reporting of the economic performance of natural-resource-based and mineral-based economies across Illinois' counties.

We oppose:

- 1. The creation of a state or local tax on any financial transaction, including a tax on any commodity, currency, or securities.
- 2. Efforts to incorporate into law the doctrine of "comparable worth" as it relates to compensation levels for various types of jobs.

IDOA SCHEDULES CLEAN SWEEP COLLECTION IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Residents of 11 Illinois counties can dispose of unwanted agrichemicals for free this year through the Illinois Department of Agriculture's (IDOA) agricultural pesticide "Clean Sweep" program.

A "Clean Sweep" collection has been scheduled in late summer for Bureau, Carroll, Henry, JoDaviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties, IDOA announced today. The collection, which rotates among Illinois counties, is open to farmers, retired farmers, nursery owners,

private pesticide applicators, structural pest control applicators and landowners who inherited unwanted agricultural pesticides with their property.

"There are two main reasons to take advantage of this program," said Brad Beaver, Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs. "The Department is able to provide the service free of charge thanks to a grant obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If individuals were to properly dispose of agrichemicals on their own, it could be expensive.

Secondly, the state of Illinois, not the program participant, will assume liability for the proper disposal of all materials collected."

Participants must register the products they plan to dispose of by July 26. Registration is required to give the waste disposal contractor time to prepare for the different kinds of materials being collected. Forms can be obtained either by calling the IDOA Pesticide Hotline at 1-800-641-3934, online at agr.illinois.gov/pesticides/pesticide-clean-sweep-program.html or by

visiting one of the program sponsors listed below.

Completed forms should be mailed or faxed to the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The mailing address is: Clean Sweep Program, Illinois Department of Agriculture, State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL, 62794-9281. The fax number is (217) 524-4882. Participants then will be sent a reservation card indicating the date, time and location of their collection.

The "Clean Sweep" program began in 1990 in Illinois. Since its inception, the

Department has held 54 collection events through the state and collected 662,517 pounds of material from 2,301 participants.

Clean Sweep Sponsors in Henry County

- **Henry Farm Bureau**
128 N Prospect St.
Cambridge, IL 61238
- **Henry - Co. SWCD**
301 East North St
PO Box 162
Cambridge, IL 61238
- **Henry - Univ. Of IL Ext.**
358 Front Street
Galva, IL 61434

FARMERS INVITED TO "CULTIVATING CONVERSATION: EDGE-OF-FIELD PRACTICES PANEL AND WORKSHOP" JUNE 25 IN GALESBURG

When it comes to farming, experience is often the best teacher. This June, producers can get answers to their questions about installing edge-of-field conservation practices by connecting with farmers who have first-hand knowledge at the Cultivating Conversations: How and Why Illinois Farmers Implement Edge-of-Field Practices panel discussion for west-central Illinois. It is scheduled for Tues., June 25 from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Knox County Farm Bureau in Galesburg, IL.

Four local producers will share their experiences and valuable lessons learned along the way before answering questions about their use of edge-of-field practices in this free event. Those who attend

will be able to network with other farmers, learn how practices work, explore cost-share opportunities, and discover local professionals installing practices such as buffer strips, constructed wetlands, and bioreactors that are designed to capture nutrient and sediment and keep them out of nearby bodies of water.

"We want to share real-life experiences of farmers who have used edge-of-field practices and not shy away from the considerations and complications that come up," said Rachel Curry, University of Illinois Extension agriculture and agribusiness educator. "Farmers listen to other farmers when it comes to stewarding their land."

The conversation will also include a discussion about the Illinois Nutrient Loss Strategy led by Curry and strategies that producers can use when talking about conservation practices with others led by water quality expert Catherine DeLong from Iowa State University.

Event details: The program is from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on June 25 at the Knox County Farm Bureau, 180 S. Soangetaha Road in Galesburg. Sign up at go.illinois.edu/EdgeOfField or call (309) 342-5108. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This program is presented in collaboration with the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership, Midwest Dairy, Illinois Soybean Association, and the Soil and Water Conservation

Society. Across Illinois, farmers are working together to reduce the loss of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus from fields, which can pollute local waterways, contaminate drinking water supplies, lower property values, hinder recreational opportunities, and harm local businesses and tourism. Local water quality also has an impact downstream from the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, where a hypoxic zone the size of Yellowstone National Park threatens the fishing industry. Explore more about preventing nutrient loss in Illinois with Illinois Extension and the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.