

# HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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

## HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

### APRIL

**7** .....Henry County Pork Producers meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm

**10** .....Henry County Beef Association meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm

**15** .....HCFB Executive Committee meeting, HCFB Office, 6:30pm

**HCFB Board of Directors meeting,**  
HCFB Boardroom, 7pm

**18** .....HCFB Office Closed for Good Friday

### MAY

**5** .....Henry County Pork Producers meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm

## FARM BUREAU'S "BUSHELS FOR HUNGER" MARKS 1.7 MILLION MEALS

Quad City Illinois farmers are helping local families with a donation to the River Bend Food Bank through the Bushels for Hunger program for the 15th straight year. After 15 years, total contributions by the Bushels for Hunger program will exceed \$346,000 with this year's \$21,523 contribution. This year's total contribution now brings the total amount of meals donated to over 1.7 million.

Mercer County Farmer and Illinois Farm Bureau District 3 Director Jeff Kirwan presented the donation of \$21,523 to Chris Ford, President and CEO of the River Bend Food Bank in Davenport.

"Thanks to the generous donations of thousands of bushels of grain to the Bushels for Hunger campaign, local farmers worked together to fight hunger in the Quad City community with these funds" Kirwan said.

"With heartfelt appreciation, we extend our deepest thanks to the Henry, Mercer and Rock Island County Farm Bureaus and participating grain elevators, for 15 years of unwavering support and generosity through the Bushels for Hunger program" said Chris Ford, President & CEO of River Bend Food Bank. "Your commitment has helped provide 1.7 million meals—bringing hope and relief to countless individuals in need. Partnering with you enables River Bend Food Bank to continue making a meaningful LOCAL impact in our community. Thank you for being a vital part of our mission—your kindness truly makes a difference!"



Pictured at the recent check presentation for the Bushels for Hunger Grain Drive, are (l to r) Gretchen Nollman, Food Sourcing Manager at the River Bend Food Bank; Mike Secymore, Gold Star FS, Grain Department Manager; Jeff Kirwan, IAA District 3 Director; and Jenny Colvin, Vice President of River Bend Food Bank.

The Bushels for Hunger program is a joint program coordinated by the Henry, Mercer and Rock Island County Farm Bureaus, in conjunction with the following area grain elevators and ethanol plants: Atkinson Grain, Big River Resources, Cargill, CHS, Gold Star FS, Hillsdale Elevator and River Valley Cooperative.

Find of all the local discounts for Henry County Farm Bureau Members on our website at [www.henrycofarmbureau.org/member-benefits](http://www.henrycofarmbureau.org/member-benefits)

Farm Bureau...Where Membership Means Value!

## Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Application Available



We are pleased to announce that the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now open for applications. This program offers 15 scholarships, each valued at \$4,000, to support nurse practitioners committed to serving rural communities in Illinois.

For over 33 years, this scholarship initiative has been instrumental in fostering a robust network of rural health practitioners, addressing the primary healthcare needs in Illinois' rural areas. Scholarship recipients are expected to

*continued on page 3*

## MEMBERSHIP Corner

### GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES!

- Henry County Farm Bureau strives to support our local communities by supporting local food pantries. As you will read in this issue of *The Farmer*, we have just completed the 15th year of the "Bushels for Hunger" Grain Drive and have now donated over 1.7 million meals to the River Bend Food Bank.
- Each year the Farm Bureau donates ground beef and ground pork to all eight of the Food Pantries in Henry County. These donations are made in May for National Beef month and October in observance of National Pork month.
- The "Cram the Cab" Food Drive is held each November and sponsored by the Farm Bureau Young Leaders. The event, held at a local grocery store, collects non-perishable food items, supplies and monetary contributions for the local food pantry. Since 2019, the Henry County Young Leaders have collected and donated over 11,000 pounds of food!

# HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR VETERINARY STUDENT LOANS

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focusing on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

"Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career

in caring for food animals," said Tasha Bunting, IFB director of commodity programs and food systems. "To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an increase in demand in recent years."

Applications are due May 15, 2025, and can be found online at [www.ilfb.org/IVET](http://www.ilfb.org/IVET). The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2025. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$610,000 to 29 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at 309-557-2993 or [tbunting@ilfb.org](mailto:tbunting@ilfb.org).



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# FARM BUREAU WORKS TO ADVANCE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AT GALC

Illinois Farm Bureau members learned how to put democracy to work through advocacy during the organization's annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC), held on Feb. 18 in Springfield. Local, state political leaders and legislators met with Farm Bureau leaders from across the state, including members of the Henry County Farm Bureau, to discuss IFB's 2025 legislative priorities.

The event culminated in a legislative reception elected officials, who met with IFB members.

"As an organization, the most powerful thing we can do is connect our members with lawmakers," said IFB President

Brian Duncan. "Our members consistently make an impact on policy by giving legislators a true, boots-on-the-ground expert in agriculture."

The annual conference, themed "Democracy at Work," highlighted that good government takes continuous effort of engaging with legislators, regulatory agencies and fellow citizens. The event also shared IFB's national and state legislative priorities and provided insights from nationally recognized speakers.

This year's keynote speaker was Reince Priebus, former White House chief of staff (2017). He discussed behind the scenes stories from the campaign to

the White House and provided a candid look at the inner workings of the new administration. The afternoon keynote speaker was Nathan Gonzalez, editor and publisher of Inside Elections, a newsletter providing nonpartisan analysis of U.S. Senate, House and gubernatorial campaigns, presidential politics and political developments. Gonzalez offered an examination of the current condition of electoral politics

Breakout sessions featured experts on topics including a national legislative update, underground safety, livestock, policy development, renewable fuels and more.

GALC is the annual central event around IFB's longstanding

efforts to connect members and legislators. IFB's Adopt-A-Legislator program, which is more than 20 years old now, fosters long-term personal relationships between urban legislators and farmers across the state. IFB's annual Leaders to Washington trip connects farmers with national legislators.

"Every year, our members demonstrate both depth of knowledge on key ag topics and a desire to grow and absorb the latest information on emerging issues," said Duncan. "That's what makes GALC successful, and that's why so many key legislators go out of their way to meet and partner with our members."



## LEADERS MEET WITH ADOPTED LEGISLATOR

Brian Corkill (left) and Steve Nightingale are pictured with Henry County's Adopted Legislator, Representative Nabeela Syed. Representative Syed represents the 51st District in the Illinois House and has been the Adopted Legislator of Henry County Farm Bureau for the past two years. All were in attendance at the Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference held in February in Springfield.

## Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Application Available

*continued from page 1*

practice in an approved rural area within the state for a minimum of two years.

Eligibility criteria include being a resident of Illinois and either accepted into or currently enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as a Registered Nurse. The Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP) proudly funds this initiative.

Interested applicants can obtain application forms from county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, the RIMSAP website at RIMSAP.com, or by reaching out to Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, at the Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. Please note that the application deadline is May 1.

For additional information or inquiries, please contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or via email at dgallivan@iflb.org.

**30 Years NPHW National Public Health Week: It Starts Here**  
APRIL 7-13, 2025

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**DEADLINE IS MAY 1**



# FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers



## REPAIR, MAINTENANCE KEEP THE FARM RUNNING

Dad lifts the side panel of the combine to expose the gears, bearings, pulleys, chains and belts. And every single time, I'm in awe of its complexity and how anyone can understand how to engineer the machine or repair and maintain it. I'm thankful for the genius minds who designed a combine that "combined" the functions previously accomplished by multiple pieces of equipment, horses and open-station tractors. I'm especially grateful to the mechanically inclined brains on our farm who can fix and maintain it.

Socially accepted advice tells us to spend time on what's important, and our farm commits a significant amount of time on repair and maintenance. In fact,

my son has an FFA recordbook project with 1,000 hours focused on the subject area.

Repairs generally reduce costs compared to replacement. Maintenance intends to prevent repairs and costly "machine down" situations in the busy seasons. That strategy works most of the time to provide risk mitigation, a fancy way of saying we want to minimize the risk of breakdowns, accidents, delayed field operations, extra man hours and mental stress.

Equipment cycles through the shop about 60 days before its intended use in the field. This winter, our shop crew disassembled and replaced wear parts on every row unit on the planters, changed oils and filters

in the tractors that pull them, and checked over the sprayers by early March. On each item, they look for small problems that could morph into big ones. That shop time soon will extend to each combine. Each head attachment. The grain carts. The tractors again. Semi trucks and grain trailers. By winter, the cycle resets.

In all, our farm keeps repair and maintenance records for about 100 items, from lots of little equipment like leaf blowers and chainsaws to 500-horsepower tractors – anything that has an engine, tires, grease points or wearable parts. We DIY as much as possible and call in a technician when the repair exceeds our abilities.

My dad and experienced employees teach the next generation shop skills as their interests and time allow. My son starts a typical weekday leaving home at 6:45 a.m. to train at a college welding class to improve his repair skills. Then, he goes to high school and afterward focuses on repair and maintenance in the farm shop when we're not in the field. He plans to be among the next mechanically minded who keep the farm running.

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

## YOUNG LEADERS SHARE AG CAREER LESSONS

Each year the Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders present a program focusing on "Careers in Agriculture" to 4th grade students throughout the county. A special thank you to these volunteers for speaking to students!



CR Hanna Elementary - Steve Nightingale, Megan Dwyer



Northside Elementary - Shane Asher, Justine Johnson



Visitation Catholic School - Kate Huffman, Logan Van Rheenen, Katie Spivey

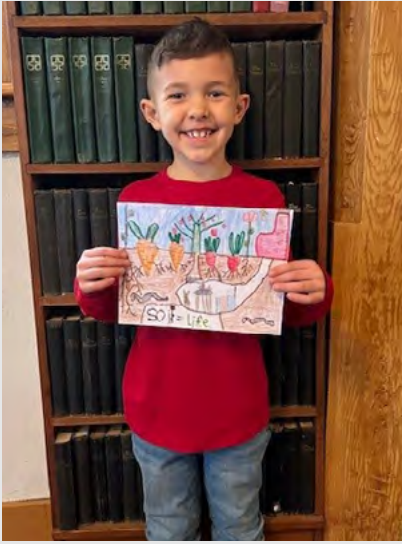


Galva Elementary - Makenna Walker, Conner King, Katie Spivey

# FARM BUREAU WOMEN ANNOUNCE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The Farm Bureau Women have announced the winners of the "The Wonders of Our Soil" Poster Contest. Entries were received from students in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades throughout the county. Entries were judged by neatness and the message conveyed.

## First Grade:



**1ST PLACE –**  
Wade Evans, Homeschool



**2ND PLACE –**  
Briella Carlson, Lake View Academy



**3RD PLACE –**  
Brycen Carlson, Lake View Academy

## Second Grade:



**1ST PLACE –**  
Marlie Evans, Homeschool



**2ND PLACE –**  
Royal Wilder, Wethersfield

**3RD PLACE –**  
Lawson Woller, Wethersfield



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## Third Grade:



**1ST PLACE –**  
Roslyn Iest, Homeschool

# IAACU'S SAVINGS SOLUTIONS for a Stronger Financial Future



Founded in 1951 to serve the Illinois Farm Bureau and its affiliated organizations—including GROWMARK and COUNTRY Financial—IAA Credit Union (IAACU) has grown from supporting employees and their immediate families into a trusted financial partner for all Illinois Farm Bureau County Members. Headquartered in Bloomington, IL, and operating nationwide, the not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative remains dedicated to delivering exceptional value through competitive rates, low fees, and personalized service.

With nearly 75 years of service built on a foundation of trust, IAACU has continually evolved to meet the changing financial needs of its members. Today, in addition to a comprehensive suite of products ranging from auto loans and mortgages to online banking and business services, the credit union proudly offers innovative savings solutions designed to empower every member—from seasoned savers to those just beginning their financial journey.

Committed to equipping members with the tools and knowledge to achieve their financial goals, IAACU provides a variety of savings accounts tailored to both short-term needs and long-term plans, ensuring financial success at every stage of life.

## CLUB ACCOUNTS: SAVING FOR SEASONAL GOALS

Members looking to reserve funds for special occasions can choose between two Club Account options:

- **Christmas Club:** Contribute either a lump sum or make regular deposits to earn a competitive rate throughout the year. Funds are automatically transferred to your Primary Share Savings account on the first Friday in October, making holiday preparations stress-free.

- **Vacation Club:** Save for summer adventures with a similar structure, where contributions earn interest all year long and funds are transferred on the first Friday in April—ready to cover travel expenses, camps, and more.

## SHARE CERTIFICATES (CDS): SECURE, FIXED-RATE GROWTH

For savers who prefer a secure, fixed-rate option, IAACU offers Share Certificates with flexible terms from 6 to 60 months. With a minimum deposit of \$1,000 and dividends compounded daily, these certificates are an ideal choice for steady, predictable growth. Youth members can take advantage of specially designed Youth CDs, available with a minimum deposit of just \$500.

## MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS: FLEXIBILITY MEETS HIGHER RETURNS

The Money Market Account provides higher interest rates than traditional savings accounts while still offering the flexibility of access when needed. With a starting deposit of \$1,000, members can enjoy this enhanced rate option—and those receiving direct deposits into their Platinum Checking can benefit from the even more attractive Platinum Money Market option.

## PREMIER SAVINGS: HIGH RETURNS WITH UNRESTRICTED ACCESS

For those who desire both profitable returns and the freedom to access funds, the Premier Savings account delivers competitive interest rates on balances up to \$20,000. With unlimited withdrawals, no minimum balance requirement, and quarterly interest payments, this account truly offers the best of both worlds.

## IRA: PLANNING TODAY FOR A SECURE TOMORROW

Planning for retirement is made easy with IAACU's Traditional and Roth IRA options. These accounts offer the flexibility to choose investments and contributions that align with long-term financial goals, ensuring a secure retirement future.

## YOUTH SAVINGS: NURTURING FINANCIAL LITERACY EARLY

Recognizing the importance of early financial education, IAACU offers Youth Savings accounts for members ages 0-23. These accounts introduce young savers to the benefits of regular deposits and growing funds over time. In addition, IAACU has partnered with Greenlight, a leading financial education app and debit card designed for kids and teens. This collaboration empowers families to teach budgeting, saving, and responsible spending, ensuring that even the youngest members are prepared for a financially secure future.


## A COMMITMENT TO MEMBER VALUE AND SECURITY




IAACU's unique structure and efficient operational model allow it to consistently rank in the top 7% of credit unions nationwide for the value returned to members, according to Callahan & Associates' "Return of Member (ROM)" metric. The cooperative's commitment to member security is also unwavering—with accounts insured up to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and an additional \$250,000 provided by Excess Share Insurance.

As IAACU continues to build on its nearly three-quarters-of-a-century legacy, its wide array of savings products reflects the credit union's commitment to financial education and member empowerment. Whether saving for a holiday, planning a vacation, preparing for retirement, or teaching the next generation about smart money management, IAACU remains a steadfast partner on the journey to financial well-being.



For more information on IAACU's savings solutions and other financial services, scan the QR code or visit their website at [www.iaacu.org/join](http://www.iaacu.org/join).



## A NEW WAY OF "EVEN PAY" CONTRACTING IS COMING!

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## Two Million Saved

**Illinois Farm Bureau members saved \$2 million in a year, using tangible member benefits.**



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# Henry & Stark County Health Departments Kick Off National Public Health Week, April 7-13, Celebration!



Each year officials at the Henry and Stark County Health Departments have showcased the many services they provide to protect the health of our communities as a part of National Public Health Week. This year National Public Health Week will take place from April 7-13, 2025. During National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2025, is celebrating its 30th anniversary of the designation and rallying around a theme of "30 Years – Public Health Week It Starts Here."

Duane Stevens, Public Health Administrator of the Henry and Stark County Health Departments notes, "This year's theme notes that

public health starts with each of us making a difference in our homes and communities. It's how the places we live, work and play affect our well-being. It's the way we are all stronger—and healthier—together through the efforts of organizations like the American Public Health Association and others that advocate for healthy communities. Join us for the 30th anniversary of National Public Health Week to celebrate successes, look ahead to upcoming challenges and create a vision for the future. National Public Health Week, because public health is all of us—and it starts here."

Stevens adds, "Join us in observing NPHW 2025 and become part of a growing movement to create the healthiest nation in one generation. During the week, we will celebrate the power of prevention, advocate for healthy and fair policies, share strategies for improving both the physical and mental health of our residents, and champion the role of a strong public health system."

Stevens concludes, "People often do not realize the full impact of the Health Department's programs and services. This Public Health Week please take a moment to remember how the Health Department is

continuously striving to create healthier communities. Our staff of 56 full-time employees are dedicated to making a difference in the health of 60,000 area residents each and every day."

For more information on the programs and services available through the Henry & Stark County Health Departments in Kewanee 309-852-0197 (Main Office); Colona 309-792-4011; or Toulon 309-852-3115 or visit our website at [www.henrystarkhealth.com](http://www.henrystarkhealth.com) or find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

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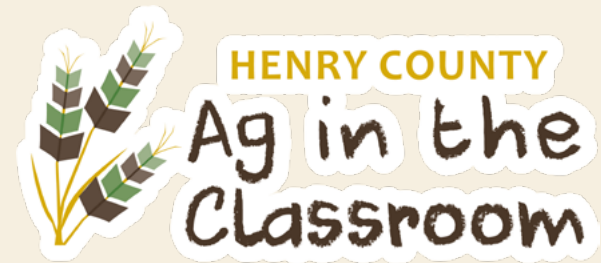
## PIZZA LESSON

Kindergarten students at Cambridge Elementary School learned where the ingredients for pizza come from during their Agriculture in the Classroom lesson.



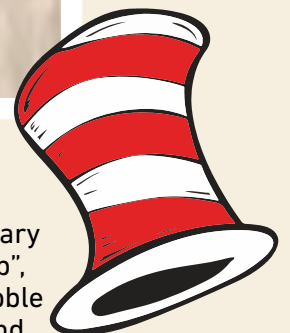
## WHAT DOES A HORSE EAT?

Katie Attig, Senior at Annawan High School and Annawan FFA member, presented Agriculture in the Classroom lessons to students. Pictured with Kindergarten students at Annawan Grade School, Katie taught the students about feed for horses and each student made a horse feed sack that was also a snack!



## "HOP ON POP"

Kindergarten students at Southwest Elementary School in Geneseo, read the book "Hop on Pop", by Dr. Seuss. Students also got to hop on bubble wrap, learned about different kinds of corn and also popped popcorn for a special treat. The program was conducted by Henry County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Paula Janson.



# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## APPLE CAKE



From the kitchen of Mrs. Hulda Curran, Cambridge IL

Featured in the 50th Anniversary Henry County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Cookbook



**Ingredients:**

- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. shortening
- 1 c. water
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 2 raw apples
- 2 c. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda

**Directions:**

Boil sugar, shortening, water, raisins, cinnamon, cloves, and apples for 3 minutes. Cool. Add flour and baking soda. Bake at 350\* until done.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

### 107. LAW AND ORDER

**We support:**

1. Vigorous enforcement of the current driving under the influence laws and legislative efforts to improve those laws.
2. Firm, fair, and prompt enforcement of existing laws.
3. Increased enforcement of existing littering laws.
4. Providing aid to victims of crime.
5. Greater member involvement in recruiting and electing qualified local law enforcement professionals.
6. Requiring that the County Sheriff and State's Attorney be notified when an inmate from their county is released from a correctional institution.
7. Reducing the fiscal impact imposed on local governments by giving them flexibility to meet minimum federal jail standards.
8. Law enforcement officials seizing vehicles used in the commission of a theft involving agricultural commodities, supplies or equipment.
9. Legislation where needed to prevent the illegal production, importation, manufacture, or distribution of drugs and related drug paraphernalia.
10. Expanding the conditions allowed to be treated with medical cannabis to those proven by medical research to benefit from medical cannabis treatment.
11. Work programs for prisoners.
12. The establishment of Juvenile Justice Councils.
13. Seeking legislation to provide for severe and mandatory sentences for crimes committed with weapons.
14. Clearly defining the legal definition of the defense of one's property.
15. Developing coalitions to address the problems with and education about methamphetamine production and use.
16. The development of an economical additive for anhydrous ammonia to prevent its use for the production of methamphetamine or other illegal purposes.
17. Seeking legislation imposing stiffer penalties for theft of anhydrous ammonia for methamphetamine production.
18. The regulation and taxation of recreational marijuana.

**We oppose:**

1. The "early release program" as a solution to prison overcrowding.
2. The use, production and distribution of illegal substances.
3. Giving a "Conservator of Peace" designation or granting similar law enforcement deputization powers to the members of the Illinois General Assembly.



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