

# HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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

## HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

### FEBRUARY

- 3**..... Henry County Pork Producers meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 5**..... HCFB Legislative Action Committee meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 4pm
- 7-8**.... IFB Young Leaders Conference, Embassy Suites, Peoria
- 13**..... Henry County Beef Association meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 14**..... Entries due for Farm Bureau Women's Poster Contest: "The Wonders of Our Soil"
- 18**..... IFB Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference, Springfield
- 19**..... HCFB Executive Committee meeting, HCFB Office, 6:30pm  
HCFB Board of Directors meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 20**..... Entries due for Young Leaders T-Shirt Contest: "Agriculture-Then & Now"
- 21**..... Health Department DOT Exam Clinic (appointments required), HCFB Boardroom
- 24**..... Farm Bureau Women Leadership Team meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 5:30pm
- 25**..... Young Leaders meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 6:30pm
- 26**..... Henry County Ag Literacy Coalition meeting, hosted via Zoom, 4pm

### MARCH

- 3**..... Henry County Pork Producers meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 5**..... CPR & First Aid Class, hosted by FB Women, HCFB Boardroom, 6pm
- 7**..... Henry County Health Department Health Check Clinic, (appointments required), HCFB Boardroom
- 28**..... Women in Agriculture Conference, Bally's Quad Cities, register at [www.womeninagricultureconference.com](http://www.womeninagricultureconference.com)

## Health Department, First Choice Healthcare and Henry County Farm Bureau to Hold Special DOT Exam Clinic on February 21

The Henry County Health Department, First Choice Healthcare, and the Henry County Farm Bureau remind Farm Bureau Members they will be holding a special Certified DOT Exam Clinic for all Henry County Farm Bureau members on Friday, February 21st at the Henry County Farm Bureau, 128 N Prospect St., Cambridge. The clinic is open to all men and women 18 years of age and older.

The special clinic will be featuring Certified DOT Exams for only \$115. The Department will also offer Tetanus Booster Shots for \$25. Tetanus boosters are recommended every 10 years in adulthood. Professions and activities strongly encouraged to stay up-to-date on tetanus vaccination include: farming, construction, healthcare, childcare, food handling and gardening.

Appointments for the February 21st clinic are necessary and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Please note, these DOT Exams and Tetanus Shot

specials are available on a "Cash Only" basis and the Farm Bureau Discount has already been applied. To schedule an appointment, or for more information on the upcoming Henry County Farm Bureau DOT Exam Clinic, call the Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411.

Health Department and First Choice Healthcare staff note that the Department of Transportation requires some drivers to get regular physicals to make sure they can drive safely. If any of the following apply to you, you must get a DOT physical and carry a DOT medical certificate when you drive a commercial vehicle:

- You are paid to operate a motor vehicle that holds nine to 15 passengers; you drive the vehicle more than 75 miles from where you report to work; you operate this vehicle for interstate commerce purposes
- You operate a motor vehicle with a gross combination weight rating, gross vehicle weight, gross vehicle weight rating,

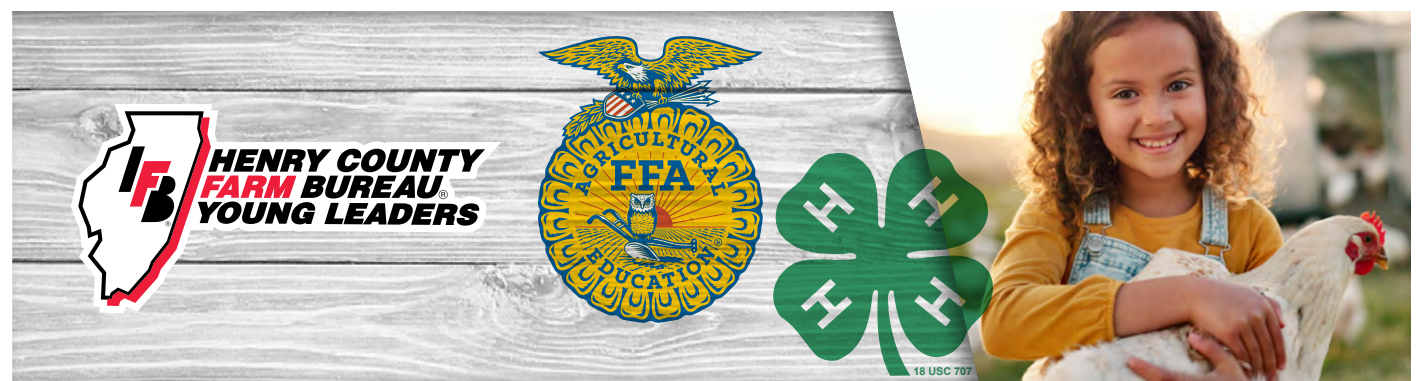
or gross combination weight of at least 10,001 pounds; you operate this vehicle for interstate commerce purposes

- You transport hazardous materials in certain quantities

In addition, those who are seeing a provider and are on medication for sleep apnea, diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiac, anxiety, ADHD/ADD, depression and other mental health issues, and seizures. Participants need to obtain a "Clearance Letter" from the provider of care and bring to their appointment. Those forms will be made available to participants when they register for the February 21st clinic.

In addition to the exams & vaccination services, the clinic will feature free donuts, coffee and juice courtesy of the Henry County Farm Bureau. A variety of health pamphlets, brochures and giveaways will also be on display.

Follow Us   



## YOUNG LEADERS ANNOUNCE NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR HENRY COUNTY YOUTH

The Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders are announcing a new scholarship program for Henry County 4-H and FFA members.

The Henry County 4-H and FFA Project Scholarship will award funds to provide financial support to 4-H and FFA members in Henry County for their projects. Individuals applying must be a current 4-H or FFA Member in good standing in Henry County. Depending on the number of grants awarded, the total could be up to \$300 in scholarship awards.

To be eligible for evaluation, applications must have comments submitted by their 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor. Applications will be evaluated by the HCFB Young Leaders and selected winners will be notified and have the funds paid to their 4-H Club or FFA Chapter for distribution to them.

Applications are available on the Henry County Farm Bureau website at [www.henrycofarmbureau.org](http://www.henrycofarmbureau.org) or by emailing [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto:manager@henrycofarmbureau.org). Completed applications are due to the Farm Bureau Manager (preferably via email) by midnight on February 20, 2025.

## HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Steve Nightingale  
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# Health Department, First Choice Healthcare and Henry County Farm Bureau to hold special Health Check Clinic on March 7

The Henry County Health Department, First Choice Healthcare, and the Henry County Farm Bureau announce they will be holding a special Health Check Clinic for all Henry County Farm Bureau members on Friday, March 7th at the Henry County Farm Bureau, 128 N Prospect St., Cambridge. The clinic is open to all men and women 18 years of age and older.

In keeping with the Health Department's mission of promoting healthier living, the Health Department's Farm Bureau Health Check Clinic will be featuring a combination General Health/Thyroid & Lipid Panel Blood Test for only \$50. This test offers 45 results, including a full lipid "Cholesterol" panel. Please note, fasting is recommended for this test for optimum results.

The Department will offer a \$10 Prostate

Specific Antigen (PSA) test for men aged 50-64. In addition, free blood pressure checks will also be available to clinic participants.

Appointments for the March 7th clinic are necessary and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Please note, these lab specials are available on a "Cash Only" basis and the Farm Bureau Discount has already been applied.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information on the upcoming Henry County Farm Bureau Health Check Clinic, call the Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411.

In addition to the health screenings, the clinic will feature free donuts, coffee and juice courtesy of the Henry County Farm Bureau. A variety of health pamphlets, brochures and giveaways will also be on display.

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**DOT EXAM Clinic**

Friday, February 21st  
8:00am-12:00pm  
Henry County Farm Bureau,  
128 N. Prospect St., Cambridge  
309-937-2411 To Register

Coffee /Donuts/Juice  
Health Information & Giveaways!  
Open To All Farm Bureau Members!

**\$115 DOT Exams**  
\$25 Tetanus Shots  
**CASH ONLY!**

- No Insurances Billed
- Appointments Only

**HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
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# Market Outlook Seminar

## to feature Joe Camp, CommStock Investments

Joe Camp, CommStock Investments, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, March 13 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 River Valley Cooperative. **Reservations are required and must be made by March 6 to guarantee your attendance.**

Joe Camp is a broker at CommStock Investments, assisting grain and livestock farmers across the Midwest. Joe earned a master's degree in economics at Eastern Illinois University and is a graduate of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program. He resides in central Illinois with his wife and son.

The final date and speaker for the 2024-2025 series will be Tuesday, July 1, 2025 featuring Chip Nellinger, Blue Reef Agri-Marketing.

Cost for the series is \$90.00 and a single session is \$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 Seminar Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees, in conjunction with: Gold Star FS,



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**Health Check Clinic**

Friday, March 7th  
7:30-10:00am  
Henry County Farm Bureau,  
128 N. Prospect St., Cambridge  
309-937-2411 To Register

Coffee / Donuts / Juice  
Health Information & Giveaways!  
Open To All Farm Bureau Members!

**\$50 General Health & Lipid Panel**  
(Includes CBC/CMP/TSH & Lipids)  
**\$10 PSA**  
(Prostate Specific Antigen, Men 50+)

**CASH ONLY!**

- ✓ No Insurances Billed
- ✓ Appointments Only
- ✓ Fasting Recommended For Optimum Results

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**MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 9 AM**

Hosted by: Whiteside CFB

**SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RIVERVIEW CONFERENCE CENTER**  
173 IL-2 / DIXON, IL

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members.

**REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>.**  
Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.

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## SNOWY SCENES LIVEN LANDSCAPES



A light snow arrived after New Year's Day, and my soul cued up the song "Snow" from Irving Berlin's musical, *White Christmas*. The white stuff compelled me to plug our exterior Christmas lights back in after previously retiring them for the season. I wanted photos of our lit, snow-capped roof line and the warm white lights glowing through the snowy bushes.

Yes, snow sometimes deserves the four-letter word status, but forget about the wet boots at the back door, the treacherous road conditions or the livestock and barnyards that need scooped out. Disregard the people who escape to Florida because of it or the life-altering chaos of breaking both arms while sledding with your kids in a cattle pasture (yeah, that happened to someone).

Enjoyed in the moment, snow brings peace. It delivers calmness. The precipitation generates a serene feeling unmatched in any

other season. It makes us crave beef roast and chicken pot pie, a fire in the fireplace, a blanket and a book. The snowy landscape glistens, producing reflections at sunrise that rival bodies of water. The white stuff magically turns barrenness to beauty, and the glow of a barnyard light on a fresh batch defines silent night – calm and bright.

During my country travels, I appreciate the high contrast as the snow accents every leafless branch of a tree. It adds elegance to everything brown and provides evidence of presence by humans, wildlife, tractors, sleds and snowmobiles. While our chickens hesitate to step out of the coop when they see a carpet of white, our cows stand majestically beautiful and undeterred with snow on their backs.

Freshly fallen snow likens a new jar of peanut butter, highly tempting to disturb. The kids eagerly oblige. Snow spawns some of

our fondest family memories of snowmen, sledding, hot cocoa and days off school. In fact, my transplanted Illinois family that lives in southern California escapes to the mountains to find snow and play in it.

Mom said our region experienced the blizzard of a lifetime one week after my birth. More than two feet of snow and high-wind conditions made Dad crawl down the roadside to work, following the tops of the fence posts that peaked from the snow. Roads were impassable or allowed a single lane for traffic only because road crews recruited the support of end loaders to make a path. We don't need too much of a good thing.

*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.*

# Agricultural *Leaders* OF TOMORROW

## CLASS OF 2025 ANNOUNCED

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ellen Day • Bureau               | Brandon Heiman • Lee            |
| Malena Cook • Bureau             | Jay Long • Lee                  |
| Alyssa Nelson • Carroll          | Jenna Meurer • Lee              |
| British Griffis • Cook           | Matt Englehart • Lee            |
| Jonny Poole • Cook               | Paige Durham • Madison          |
| Katrina Milton • Cook            | Hannah McKee • McHenry          |
| Kayla Biegel • Cook              | John Grant • McLean             |
| Austin Anderson • Henry          | Kacie Kaufman • McLean          |
| Shane Asher • Henry              | Tim Marten • Montgomery         |
| Madison Schultz • Kankakee       | Kristen Ewing • Schuyler        |
| Bridget Bedeker • Kendall-Grundy | Ashlyn Quinn • Warren-Henderson |
| Kinsey Hall • Knox               | Matt Wagenecht • Whiteside      |
| Addison Hopkins • Lee            |                                 |
| Ashleigh Erbes • Lee             |                                 |

**LEADERS**  
Yesterday, Today & Always



## BROOKE CLAY TAYLOR, *Rural Gone Urban,* to Headline Women in Agriculture Conference

The Women in Agriculture Conference committee is excited for the 2025, Women in Agriculture Conference. Brooke Clay Taylor, *Rural Gone Urban*, will headline for the annual Women in Agriculture Conference in Rock Island on Friday, March 28, 2025. Join Brooke Clay Taylor, founder of *Rural Gone Urban* and the *Rural Gone Urban* Foundation, and discover the raw truth behind her remarkable career in strategic communications and entrepreneurship in the agricultural industry, intertwined with the personal struggles of battling cancer and raising a family.

Our Mid-Day Panel consists of Kathrin Grady of John Deere, Laura Fidler of Fairview Sale Barn, and Allison Schwingle of Marquis Energy and their take on how to cultivate a "Work/Life Balance".

With a variety of breakouts from Wind, Solar, Livestock and Legislation, to Farm Family Resources and much more in between – there is something to spark everyone's interest!

Registration is now open and more details can be found at [womeninagricultureconference.com](http://womeninagricultureconference.com). This Conference is sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference Committee.



**SAVE *the* DATE**

**2025 Women IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

**BALLY'S QUAD CITIES**  
777 BALLY BLVD | ROCK ISLAND, IL

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Brooke Taylor**

[www.womeninagricultureconference.com](http://www.womeninagricultureconference.com)



## LEARNING ABOUT REINDEER

First grade students at Annawan Grade School watched a video about reindeer and made "reindeer food" to snack on during their recent Ag in the Classroom program.



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Julie Hessler  
Orion  
(309)526-8024



Tom McKie  
Cambridge  
(309)937-3372



Jerry Samuelson  
Woodhull  
(309)334-3430



Erin Spivey  
Kewanee  
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Katie Spivey  
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Cassie Stahler  
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Mike Geuns  
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1220-507HC\_9/15/2023



## A HOLIDAY FAVORITE – CANDY CANES!

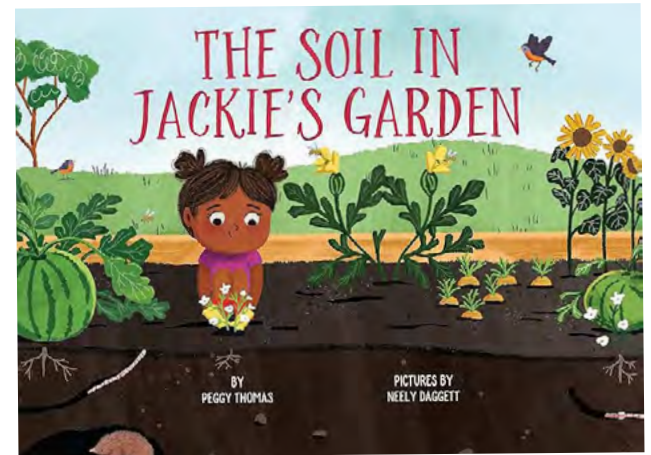
Fourth grade students at Cambridge Elementary School watched a video of how candy canes are made and learned about mint plants and enjoyed a candy cane snack.



### FARM BUREAU WOMEN HOST CLASS

The Farm Bureau Women held a Wreath Making Class right before the Christmas holiday. Julie Frisk, of Atkinson, led those attending to assemble and decorate a wreath to enjoy all winter long. Farm Bureau Women hold educational and hands-on programs throughout the year for all who wish to attend. If you wish to receive notifications of upcoming programs or to learn more about FB Women, contact the HCFB office or email [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto:manager@henrycofarmbureau.org).

## FARM BUREAU WOMEN ANNOUNCED POSTER CONTEST



Entries are now being accepted for the 2025 Farm Bureau Women's Poster Contest. This year's theme is "The Wonders of Our Soil".

Soil, plants and pollinators are so important to agriculture and to feed the world. You can discover the joys of planting a garden, nurturing and harvesting your own food, and ensuring that the magical cycle of growth continues. Students are asked to use their poster to tell us about growing food and how important is soil!

The book "The Soil in Jackie's Garden" has been donated, by Farm Bureau Women, to all school and public libraries in the county. Students can join Jackie and her garden friends in this charming picture book as they discover the wonders of gardening, soil secrets, and the magic of composting. Look for this book in your school or local library!

Contest rules are: students must be in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade in Henry County; entries must be submitted on regular 8 1/2" x 11" white paper; may use crayon, marker, pencil, or ink; no tracing, free-hand drawings only; poster will become property of the Farm Bureau and may be reprinted for publication. The back of the post must have the following: Student's Name, Grade, Teacher and School.

All posters are due by February 14, 2025 to the Henry County Farm Bureau, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238. Students receiving 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in each grade, along with the teacher of each first-place entry, will receive cash prizes.

For questions or more information, contact the Farm Bureau office at (309) 937-2411 or email [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto:manager@henrycofarmbureau.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MARCH 14-15 2025**

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**SCAN TO LEARN MORE**

### FROM FIELD TO FUEL: UNLOCKING AGRICULTURE'S CARBON INTENSITY POTENTIAL

Learn about carbon intensity (CI) scoring programs that monetize carbon credits generated by growing feedstocks for renewable fuels, the policies driving CI scores, and key considerations for participating in these programs. Participants will gain valuable insights and information about CI scoring and how they can get value from these programs.

**FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | 2PM**

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
128 N Prospect St. | Cambridge, IL

**SPEAKER: Noelle Neef** | Assistant Director of Energy



**RSVP:** Henry CFB: [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto:manager@henrycofarmbureau.org) or (309) 937-2411 by Feb. 21st as seats are limited



# HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$50,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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



The **James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship** honors the life, legacy and service of Jim Ufkin. Jim was a life-long farmer, retiring to Geneseo after 46 years of farming corn, soybeans and raising hogs near Hooppole, IL. He served on the Board of Directors of the Henry County Farm Bureau for 40 years, representing Yorktown and Geneseo townships and held the offices of Vice President and Secretary. During that

time Jim also served on the Board of the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation. Mr. Ufkin was a dedicated leader in the agriculture community in Henry County and beyond.

This year the HCFB Foundation Board is proud to announce, for the third year, that they will award those pursuing a skill in a "Trade and Technical Program." Up to six scholarships will be awarded, at a minimum of \$1,000 each, 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 7, 2025. The Foundation Board will make the final selections after the deadline.

**Guidelines and applications may be obtained on the Henry County Farm Bureau website [www.henrycofarmbureau.org](http://www.henrycofarmbureau.org) or by emailing [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto: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.



## YOUNG LEADERS SPONSOR 31ST ANNUAL T-SHIRT CONTEST


Thirty-one years of the Annual Farm Bureau Young Leaders t-shirt contest is a great tradition in Henry County! Each year the contest allows 4th grade students in Henry County to be creative and showcase their creative and artistic skills.

This year's t-shirt contest theme is "Agriculture – Then & Now". Farming today is just as important as it was in the past. Farmers continue to produce the food needed by humans and livestock, as well as producing other resources, just as they did years ago, but with new technology and innovation. Students are asked to be creative and use their design to explain how farming has changed over the years.

The contest is open to all Henry County 4th grade students. The first-place design will be transferred to a t-shirt and presented to the winner and their class. The first-place student and their teacher will receive cash awards.

Contest rules are: entries must be submitted on regular 8 1/2" x 11" white paper; must be an original design, hand drawn; students may use crayons, markers, paint or colored pencils; one entry per student; student's name, teacher's name, school, and grade must be placed on the back of the entry; all entries become the property of Henry County Farm Bureau; additional t-shirts may be available for purchase through the Farm Bureau.

Entries are due to the Farm Bureau office, 128 N. Prospect St, Cambridge, IL 61238, no later than February 20, 2025. **For more information contact the Farm Bureau (937-2411) or email [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto:manager@henrycofarmbureau.org).**



## HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$50,000 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
- James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship

Applications are available at [www.henrycofarmbureau.org](http://www.henrycofarmbureau.org) select Foundation

**Deadline to apply: March 7, 2025**



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

# CHICKEN AND NOODLES

Reprinted from the 50th Anniversary Farm Bureau Women's Cookbook

From the kitchen of Mrs. Warren Beuster (Kewanee)



### Ingredients:

- 1 large chicken, cut up
- 6 bay leaves
- 6 cloves
- 1 whole onion
- ½ c. flour
- ¾ c. sour milk
- 2/3 c. vinegar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 pkg. wide noodles

### Directions:

Boil chicken in just enough water to cover it. Put in salt, bay leaves, cloves and onion. Take chicken out when done and let broth boil down. Beat egg. Make a paste of flour and sour milk, add egg, then add to broth. Add vinegar to taste. Boil noodles separately in salt water, then drain. Serve separately with gravy over noodles.

# OMS ROADMAP RELEASED

Full list of recommendations available at [ilfb.org/oms](http://ilfb.org/oms).

### Quick Hits

- The roadmap is a list of **25 recommendations** to strengthen and modernize Illinois Farm Bureau for the next generation of farmers and agricultural professionals.
- The recommendations will be **implemented and evaluated over the next three years**.
- Visit [ilfb.org/oms](http://ilfb.org/oms) to read the full list of recommendations and the reasons behind each one.
- The OMS Advisory Committee and subcommittees made the recommendations **based on member feedback** from surveys and focus groups. The committees are comprised of Farm Bureau members and Young Leaders, county managers and presidents, IAA directors, and IFB staff.

The Organizational Member Strategy (OMS) roadmap has been released, containing 25 recommendations aimed at strengthening and modernizing Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) for the next generation of farmers and agricultural professionals.

Recommendations centered around three strategic initiatives - representation, engagement and organizational strength - and they include pilot projects, behind-the-scenes efficiencies, and

expanded programming for members. For a comprehensive list of recommendations and the reasons behind them, visit [ilfb.org/oms](http://ilfb.org/oms).

Four of the recommendations require bylaw changes and will be voted upon by delegates at the 2025 IFB Annual Meeting. Two of those focus on membership – simplifying all memberships into two categories: voting and supporting members – and two other recommendations involve streamlining dues and membership processing.

All recommendations were made by the OMS Advisory Committee and three subcommittees, comprised of Farm Bureau members and Young Leaders, county managers and presidents, IAA directors, and IFB staff, and then approved by the IFB Board of Directors.

The committee based the recommendations on member data from nearly 4,000 survey responses and more than 40 in-person focus groups. IFB staff traveled more than 7,500 miles meeting with members and collecting the data from across the state.

“We enjoyed hearing the vision our members have for the future, and this roadmap is a starting point for how we will turn that vision into reality,” said Lyndsey Ramsey, IFB’s director of organizational strategy.



The roadmap will be implemented and evaluated over the next three years. The OMS Advisory Committee will continue to meet regularly to evaluate progress and examine additional ideas for recommendations. Feedback is welcomed at [oms@ilfb.org](mailto:oms@ilfb.org).

### About the Organizational Member Strategy

The OMS is a grassroots, forward-looking initiative started by then-IFB President Richard Guebert, Jr., in 2021. After more than 100 years of powerful advocacy for Illinois farmers, Illinois Farm Bureau recognized a declining membership and a changing agricultural landscape. The OMS is an all-encompassing look at the organization to ensure that IFB provides its members with the state’s best advocacy, information and development in the future.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

### 105. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

#### We support:

1. Expanded use of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act by units of local government.
2. The shared use of buildings, equipment, personnel and programs by units of local government to reduce the cost to each unit.
3. County Farm Bureaus working with local government officials and other interested parties to encourage local government cooperation.

## MARKET OUTLOOK SEMINAR SERIES



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