

HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY

- 1** Henry County Pork Producers meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 6-7** IFB Young Leader Conference, East Peoria
- 12** Henry County Beef Association, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 17** Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference, Springfield
- 17** HCFB Executive Committee meeting, HCFB office, 6:30pm
HCFB Board of Directors meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 19** Poster Contest and T-Shirt Contest Entries are due to the HCFB office
- 20** Farm Family Succession Planning Workshop, Lavender Crest Winery, 9am-4pm, RSVP Required
- 20** 4-H and FFA Project Grant Applications Deadline
- 24** Young Leaders Meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 6:30pm
- 26** Farm Bureau Women Leadership Team Meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 5:30pm

MARCH

- 2** Henry County Pork Producers meeting, HCFB Office, 7pm
- 4** Rules for the Road, Aledo Fire Station, 10am
- 4** HCFB Education Committee Consumer Engagement: Cheese-Making Class, Geneseo Community Center (Details to be announced)
- 6** HCFB Foundation Scholarship Application Deadline

“THE FARMER’S DAUGHTER” TO HEADLINE WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Tara Barrett-Duzan, “The Farmer’s Daughter” will be the keynote speaker for the annual Women in Agriculture Conference in Rock Island on Friday, March 27, 2026. Tara Barrett-Duzan is a former news anchor turned farmer, whose journey from the newsroom to the fields is a powerful testament of love, loss, and legacy. She shares her journey to encourage other women in agriculture to lead boldly, no matter how uncertain the path.

Our Mid-Day Panel consists of Dr. Josie Rudolphi and Adrienne DeSutter of “Sow Hope, Grow Hope” and their take on “Focus on the Female”. “For women in agriculture, the work doesn’t end in the field-it stretches across the kitchen table, the books, the barn, and the family.”

To round out the day, closing speaker Emily Reuschel, is a

passionate advocate for the leaders, dreamers, and changemakers of rural communities and beyond. Known for her ability to challenge the status quo, Emily empowers women to break free from limiting beliefs, step into their authentic power, and create meaningful impact in their lives and communities. As the host of the “Wild & Waking” podcast and the facilitator of transformative retreats, workshops, and virtual communities.

The conference also features a wide range of dynamic breakout sessions, covering everything from strategic tax planning and legal considerations to building your business and expanding your vision. Whether you’re focused on practical tools or big-picture growth, there’s truly something for everyone.



Tara Barrett-Duzan

More details can be found at womeninagricultureconference.com. This Conference is sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference Committee.

YOUNG LEADERS ANNOUNCE 2026 GRANT PROGRAM FOR HENRY COUNTY YOUTH

The Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders are announcing a grant 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 or by emailing manager@henrycofarmbureau.org. Completed applications are due to the Farm Bureau Manager (preferably via email) by midnight on February 20, 2026.

MEMBERSHIP Corner



ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH START HEARING

Illinois Farm Bureau is excited to announce a new partnership with Start Hearing. Start Hearing is owned by Starkey, the only American owned and operated hearing aid manufacturer. With savings up to 60% off, Start Hearing’s products feature numerous hearing aid models, many of which are virtually invisible.

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“UNLOCK YOUR PERSONALIZED ROADMAP TO SUCCESSION SUCCESS” Henry, Mercer & Rock Island County Farm Bureaus to Host Farm Succession Planning Workshop

Is your farm future-ready? Join us for an exclusive, full-day workshop designed to help farm families build a clear, confident path forward for future generations. Led by UnCommon Farms’ Mike Downey, an expert in farm succession planning. This hands-on session provides actionable strategies to transform your plans from overwhelming to organized. The approach is designed to be personalized for the needs of your farming operation.

The day-long workshop, with important information for your entire farm family, will be held on Friday, February 20, 2026; 9:00am- 4:00pm at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Hwy 6, Colona, IL.

Workshop highlights will include:

- The Common Traits of Highly Successful Farm Transitions
- Strong Business and Family Foundations
- Business Continuity and Governance
- Management and Leadership Transition
- Family Harmony and Communication
- Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation
- Your Personal Roadmap to Succession

Registration fee is \$40 per person, and includes the full day’s workshop, materials, light breakfast and lunch. A Farm Bureau membership within the farm family is required for attendance. Registration deadline is February 16 – contact the Henry County Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411 or email manager@henrycofarmbureau.org.

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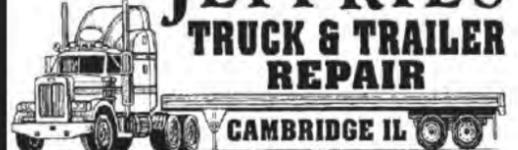

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Health Department & First Choice Healthcare Note Risk Factors for Heart Disease During Heart Month

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments and our First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee and Toulon note that February is American Heart Month. The Health Department notes during the month of February we tend to view the human heart as the symbol of love, admiration and affection. But this February show yourself the love. Learn about your risks for heart disease and stroke and stay “heart healthy” for yourself and your loved ones.

RaeAnn Tucker, Director of Health Promotion with the Health Departments states, “Cardiovascular disease (CVD)—including heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure—is the number 1 killer of women and men in the United States. It is a leading cause of disability, preventing Americans from working and enjoying family activities.” Truth is many CVD deaths could have been prevented through healthier habits; but it helps if you have a plan and carry out some strategies for better heart health:

Work with your health care team. Get a checkup at least once each year, even if you feel healthy. A doctor, nurse, or other health care professional can check for conditions that put you at risk for CVD, such as high blood pressure and diabetes—conditions that can go unnoticed for too long.

Monitor your blood pressure & get your cholesterol checked. The Department and our First Choice Healthcare Clinics remind area residents that our Family Nurse Practitioners in Kewanee and Toulon can help with the management of high blood pressure and high cholesterol. If you don’t know your blood pressure and cholesterol numbers; we have services

that can help you see where you stand.

Eat a healthy diet. Choosing healthful meal and snack options can help you avoid CVD and its complications. Limiting sodium in your diet can lower your blood pressure. Be sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables—adults should have at least five servings each day. Eating foods low in saturated fat, trans fat, and cholesterol and high in fiber.

Maintain a healthy weight. Being overweight or obese can increase your risk for CVD.

Exercise regularly. Physical activity can help you maintain a healthy weight and lower cholesterol and blood pressure.

Don’t smoke. Cigarette smoking greatly increases your risk for CVD. If you don’t smoke, don’t start. If you do smoke, quit as soon as possible.

Limit alcohol use. Avoid drinking too much alcohol, which can increase your blood pressure.

Manage your diabetes. If you have diabetes, monitor your blood sugar levels closely, and talk with your health care team about treatment options.

Take your medicine. If you’re taking medication to treat high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, or another condition, follow the instructions carefully. Always ask questions if you don’t understand something.

So, remember, this February show yourself some love, and lower your risk of heart disease. For more information on the “Heart Healthy” services available through the First Choice Healthcare Clinics can call Kewanee 309-852-5272; and Toulon 309-852-3115.

Follow Us   



A LESSON AND A TREAT!

Cambridge kindergarten students combined literacy and creativity as they read “The Gingerbread Man” and decorated gingerbread men cookies inspired by the story.



LEARNING ABOUT REINDEER

Annawan Elementary first graders explored fun reindeer facts in a video before mixing up their own “reindeer” snack mix.

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EGGS AREN'T DAIRY AND OTHER FARM TERMS TO KNOW

The veterinarian suggested her patient avoid dairy. The owners read through food and treat labels, making plans to eliminate eggs from their dog's diet.

Milk, cheese, butter ... eggs. The grocery store's layout had taught these consumers that cold case means dairy. Re-categorizing eggs as dairy wasn't a commonplace farm mix-up I had heard of or even considered before, but I personally have witnessed a dairy cow give milk and a hen lay an egg. The reality is fewer than 1% of us likely have according to the Census, so here's a quick guide to avoid the "not-from-around-here" vibe

– something I need when visiting Chicago.

Hay and straw are not interchangeable. Animals eat one and sleep on the other. Hay is made from grasses or legumes that are cut, dried and stored to feed animals. Straw is the leftover stalk from grains like wheat or oats. It's great for bedding, insulation or fall décor, but if you offer it as dinner to our cows, they'll stare you down. Literally. Cows are honest like that.

Silo is the catchier term, but most cylindrical farm structures in Illinois are actually bins. A grain bin is round, wide and made of corrugated shiny steel. It stores

dried grains like corn, soybeans and wheat. Silos are skinny, tall and narrow structures often made of brown-gray concrete or blue smooth steel. They hold moist animal feeds like silage. Both store farm products but avoid misspeaking in conversation with a farmer.

Not every piece of equipment with big tires is a tractor. Some are. Some are combines. Some are sprayers. Some pull things. Some do things. I get it. I still can't name all the tillage tools correctly. Likewise, not every cow is a cow unless you know it's a momma. But to avoid studying anatomy and

adding bull, steer and heifer to the vocabulary, "cattle" safely sums up the herd in the plural.

Please know that not every egg can produce a chick. Field corn and sweet corn look similar until you eat them. Generally, barns hold animals and sheds store equipment and tools. The exception is barndominiums, the new hybrid. And avoid saying dirt, especially in front of our FFA soils coach.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her parents and brother in Knox County, where they grow corn, soybeans and hay, raise beef cattle and operate side businesses related to the family operation.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN ANNOUNCED POSTER CONTEST

Entries are now being accepted for the 2026 Farm Bureau Women's Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Where Will Your Boots Take You?"

Grab your boots - it's time to explore life on a farm! Families work together to care for crops and animals on their farms through spring, summer, fall and winter. When you work and play outside, you might need to wear boots!

Read the book "Farm Boots" and follow farming families as they work and play in boots, all year long. Whether it's springtime puddle-splashing, riding at the summer fair, or herding sheep into the barn in winter, there's a type of boot for every kind of weather and activity.

Show us where your boots will take you with your poster design! Be creative!

The book "Farm Boots" has been donated, by Farm Bureau Women, to all school and public libraries in the county. 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 19, 2026 to the Henry County Farm Bureau, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238. Students receiving 1st place in each grade (1st, 2nd, 3rd) will be awarded a prize of a new pair of boots!

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



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IAA FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE, ILLINOIS FARM FAMILIES



More than \$340,000 in scholarships are available for agriculture students through the IAA Foundation.

“Offering scholarships that encourage students to explore degrees in agriculture related fields is a privilege,” said Jennifer Smith, IAA Foundation development manager. “It is imperative that future agriculture leaders receive financial support so they can focus on their education and begin to build their career in agriculture.”

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members, spouses and dependents are eligible to apply for college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau’s charitable arm.

Applications are now open for a variety of financial awards including the newly created Gene A. Daiber Scholarship, J. Lloyd and Elizabeth Broaddus Jones Scholarship, Joe and Sue Summerville Scholarship, Kenneth and Kay Engle Agriculture Scholarship, Pat Oaks Memorial Scholarship, and Paul Meints Scholarship. Additionally, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of Prairie Farms Dairy, Illinois Pork Producers Association and several family scholarships established to honor legacies and loved ones.

Scholarships are awarded based on involvement in extra-curricular activities, community service, academic performance, leadership experiences

and an essay. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the individual scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available at www.iaafoundation.org. Applications must be completed online by February 15. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or email Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ilfb.org

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau’s charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.



COUNTRY FINANCIAL TO HOST AG SUMMITS

Join us for a 2026 Ag Summit to set yourself up for a great year of farming. We are gathering ag economic and financial service experts, wellness professionals and legal experts to get you the information you need for a successful 2026.

2026 Ag Summit Schedule & Locations:

- Feb 18: Walker’s Bluff Casino Resort, Carterville, IL | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Feb 18: Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mount Vernon, IL | 4:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Feb 19: Panther Creek Country Club, Springfield, IL | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Feb 19: Pekin Country Club, Pekin, IL | 4:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Feb 20: Urbana Country Club, Urbana, IL | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Feb 23: Eagle Ridge Resort, Galena, IL | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Feb 24: Rich Harvest Farms, Sugar Grove, IL | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

The half-day includes a free meal with expert speakers, including:

- David Widmar Ag Economist offering the latest economic outlook
- Kris Kline, Financial Specialist at COUNTRY Financial and local attorney discussing succession planning and financial service offerings
- Illinois Farm Bureau providing stress management strategies and tips for and farm family well-being

Seats are filling up fast. Register at <https://cfin.us/2026AgSummit>

THEME: “AGRICULTURE: HERE & THERE”

Farming happens all around the world—sometimes right here in our own community, and sometimes far away in places we’ve only read about. From cornfields in Illinois to rice paddies in Asia, from dairy farms to city gardens, agriculture looks different depending on where you are. We want **YOU** to show us what farming means “**here and there**”!

WHAT TO DO:

- Create a T-shirt design that shows farming in different places.
- You can draw crops, animals, farmers, tractors, gardens, or anything that reminds you of agriculture.
- Think about how farming looks close to home and how it might look somewhere else.

Your design could be chosen to be printed on T-shirts for everyone to wear. It’s a chance to share your creativity and show how farming connects people everywhere!

Eligibility: Henry County 4th Grade Students

Student Award: \$25.00 and the design will be transferred to a t-shirt and presented to the winner and their class

Teacher Award: Teacher of first place entry receives \$ 75.00
(Teachers must submit a minimum of 10 entries from their class to be eligible for the cash prize.)

RULES:

- Entries must be submitted on regular 8 ½” x 11” white paper
- Entries must be an original design, hand drawn, no AI generated images
- Students may use crayons, markers, paint or colored pencils
- One entry per student
- Student’s name, teacher’s name, school, and grade must be 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 Henry County Farm Bureau®

ENTRY DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Return entries to: Henry County Farm Bureau, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238
(If you wish to have your entries picked up at your school, please contact the Farm Bureau office).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE FARM BUREAU

PHONE: (309) 937-2411

EMAIL: MANAGER@HENRYCOFARMBUREAU.ORG



'PINK HAT FARMER' SHARES SUCCESSES DURING AFBF COMPETITION

By Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek

What originated as a fun nickname for Kate Huffman has evolved into a platform promoting females in agriculture.

"I have always been fond of wearing a pink hat, and one time at a local grocery store, many years ago, someone shouted, 'Hey, pink hat farmer.' The name stuck," Huffman said.

Today, the Pink Hat Farmer has thousands of followers on social media.

Huffman of Henry County represented Illinois in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award competition in Anaheim, California during AFBF's Annual Convention.

Although she did not advance in the contest, Huffman said she's proud of what she has accomplished and appreciates the opportunity to represent Illinois at the national level.

"It's been an incredibly humbling and incredible experience knowing the amount of support that I've had through this entire journey, and knowing that you can make a difference and have those passions be heard at the national level ... and realizing that agriculture has some incredible leaders across our entire country is just amazing, and I'm excited to see where the future of agriculture is," she told FarmWeek.

During her presentation to judges and dozens of Illinois Farm Bureau members, Huffman said one of her many passions is

empowering women farmers to dream big.

"It's important for me to have that (Pink Hat Farmer) platform as I see these young females coming up in a generation where only 1% feed the world, I want them to know that they have a seat at the table, too," she said.

She shared the success of the Pink Hat Farmer initiative, as well as the many other hats she wears in agriculture health and safety, beginning farmer loan expertise and advocating for farmers on issues including carbon sequestration and Farm Service Agency loan program inconsistencies at the local and national levels.

The sixth-generation farmer took her Pink Hat Farmer venture beyond social media in 2022, enlisting an artist to paint Pink Hat Farmer artwork on a grain bin on her farm. It now serves as a local monument, and she's opened her farm as a Harvest Host location for traveling RVers to stay on the farm. To date, more than 160 RV visitors from 28 states have stayed on the property.

Growing up on her family's corn, soybean and hog farm, she caught the farming bug early. She spent time as a farm loan officer while also farming, and purchased two farms including her family's sesquicentennial farm.

"I was blessed to have a career in both finance and agriculture as a farm loan officer in my home county. As a farm loan officer, I was a part of a farmer's key inner circle or their board of directors, helping them make a multitude of financial decisions.

"But most importantly, I was a listening ear to those who needed it," she said, adding she has helped 30 farmers purchase their farms.

She is a 2022 IFB County Young Leader chair award winner, who was part of the 2023 Illinois Soybean Association 20 under 40 for achievements and is active in promoting farm safety.

As a presenter for Ag in the Classroom, she has showed over 700 students the importance of agriculture and the careers they can have in the industry.

She also put on her teaching hat when she created a program for her local high school in which she discussed safely sharing the road with farmers driving large equipment, letting the students get in her equipment to show them firsthand what farmers can and can't see while they're driving. That program has now reached eight schools



Kate Huffman of Henry County talks about the many hats she wears as a farmer, Young Leader and agriculture advocate during her presentation for the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture competition. (Photo courtesy of AFBF)

and more than 1,700 students.

Huffman is grateful for her Farm Bureau community that provided the push to apply for the award. The application process was a much appreciated learning experience.

Winning the state award also opened the door to her being part of an Illinois Farm Bureau Leaders to Washington trip last year where she talked directly with FSA Administrator Bill Beam about challenges with

beginning farmer loans.

"That's helped me really start pushing that passion of we need to figure things out for the FSA. So this has given me a launch forward into getting to better solutions for our farmers," she said.

The Excellence in Ag Award recognizes those whose primary interest is not production agriculture but have still excelled in their leadership and contributions to their community, Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry.

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HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$60,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering up to eight Agricultural scholarships, at a minimum of \$1,500 and up to two General scholarships, at a minimum of \$1500. In addition, Farm Bureau will be administering the following scholarships: Wilbert and Carol Keppy Foundation, four 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 at a minimum amount of \$1,000 each; James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000; and the Robert J. and Donna Jean Dobbels Memorial Scholarship, two in the amount of \$1,000 each.

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

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.



The Robert J. and Donna Jean Dobbels Memorial Scholarship honors life-long farmers and livestock producers, Bob and Donna Dobbels. The Dobbels family farmed in rural Cambridge, from 1954 until retiring in 1995. The Dobbels joined the Henry County Farm Bureau in 1954 and went on to hold outstanding leadership roles during their time as members. Bob served on the Board of Directors as Weller Township Director for

7 years and held the office of Secretary for 6 years. Donna was a member of the Women's Committee and held the office of Chair for ten years. The Dobbels dedicated their lives to agriculture and the youth of Henry County through their leadership and dedication.

This year the HCFB Foundation Board is continuing the Trade and Technical Program Scholarship for those pursuing a skilled trade or technical career. 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, CDL/truck driving, welding, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, HVAC, veterinary technician and many more.

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 6, 2026. 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 or by emailing manager@henrycofarmbureau.org.

If you have any questions concerning the scholarship application or the Farm Bureau Foundation, please contact the Henry County Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411.



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

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH



CHICKEN PARMESAN MEATBALLS

Ingredients

- 1lb. ground chicken
- ½ cup Parmesan Cheese, grated
- ¼ c. oat flour*
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 2 teaspoons oregano
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional
- 20-24 mozzarella cheese pearls
- 24oz (1 jar) marinara sauce

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil, parchment paper or a silicone baking mat and spritz with cooking spray. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine the chicken, oat flour, Parmesan, basil, oregano, Italian seasoning, salt, pepper and red pepper flakes if using. Mix together until just combined.
3. Form the chicken mixture into about 20 to 24 small meatballs and place on the prepared baking sheet.
4. Place a mozzarella pearl into the center of each meatball and reform the meatballs around the mozzarella.
5. Bake meatballs for about 15 minutes.
6. Pour the marinara into a medium saucepan and simmer over medium-low heat to warm. Add baked meatballs to the sauce. Cover with a lid and allow to simmer for about 30 minutes.
7. Keep the meatballs warm in the sauce until ready to serve.

* You can make your own oat flour by pulsing rolled oats in a blender or food processor until ground into a flourlike consistency

<https://farmflavor.com/recipes/chicken-parmesan-meatballs/>

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY



118. PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION

We support:

1. Provisions to specifically define property as real estate or personal property on an equitable basis statewide. We will continue to work with the State Department of Revenue (DOR) and local assessing officials on specific problems in this regard.
2. A change in the method of valuing mobile or manufactured homes for assessment and collection of taxes from the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act (privilege tax) to an Ad Valorem Tax (measured by value).
3. Reduction of costs for property assessment publications by allowing counties to utilize online publication in lieu of printed publication. This type of publication would be in addition to the required individual property assessment mailings to property owners.
4. Allowing counties to eliminate the office of Township Assessor by a county-wide referendum in which a majority of voters in the county and a majority of voters in the majority of townships approve.
5. Allowing by local referenda the dissolution of multi-township assessing districts.
6. Seeking uniform and equitable implementation of the Farmland Assessment Law, in cooperation with county Farm Bureaus.
7. Working with county Farm Bureaus to inform members of the limits of their responsibilities in providing information to assessing officials.
8. Cooperating with the DOR and the Association of Assessing Officials in developing educational materials for use by taxpayer groups.
9. Urging the members of the Illinois General Assembly not to change the present formula for calculating the assessed value of farmland.
10. Appointment of Supervisors of Assessment versus elected Supervisors of Assessment.
11. Encouraging county Farm Bureaus, in cooperation with local officials, to periodically hold information/education meetings for taxpayers.
12. Working with the DOR and the Association of Assessing Officials to achieve uniformity in depreciation (for assessment purposes) of all depreciable agricultural facilities.
13. Working with the Illinois DOR and the Association of Assessing Officials to encourage the assessment of all qualifying agricultural property, regardless of size, under the farmland assessment law.
14. Working with appropriate state agencies and other state officials to develop Conservation Management Plan rules that permit landowners to apply for a plan without submitting overly burdensome and prohibitive proposals.
15. We oppose legislation removing either the State DOR or the local Board of Review from the administrative process of approving or denying property tax exemptions. The DOR should continue to have final authority.

Market Outlook Seminar

Featuring Darin Newsom

Darin Newsom, President of Darin Newsom Analysis, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, March 12, 2026 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 5th to guarantee your attendance.**

Darin Newsom is the President of Darin Newsom Analysis and the Senior Market Analyst for Barchart. With nearly 40 years of experience analyzing commodity markets; including grains and oilseeds, livestock, energies, metals, softs, etc., he has developed a way of understanding the different characteristics of each market.

Darin has appeared on numerous international financial television programs and news sites talking markets and is an award-winning columnist whose work has been featured on websites and in magazines for decades. He is well-known for his unique analytical observations on how markets work. He has been involved in the industry on nearly every level; from grain merchandiser and broker to senior market analyst for a major agricultural media organization to having his own

commentary and analysis service, all while proudly reminding everyone he is neither a journalist nor an economist.

Additional dates and speakers for the 2025-2026 series include: June 30, 2026 – Kristi Van Ahn-Kjeseth, Van Ahn and Company, Inc.

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 contact the Henry County Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411 or email manager@henrycofarmbureau.org.

The Market Outlook Series is sponsored by the Henry, Mercer and Rock Island County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees and the following: Gold Star FS, COUNTRY Financial, BankORION, Alan Davis - COUNTRY Crop Insurance Specialist, Central Bank, River Valley Cooperative, Wyffels Hybrids, Big River Resources, Hertz Farm Management, State Bank of Toulon, IAA Credit Union and Blackhawk Bank & Trust.

MARKET OUTLOOK SEMINAR SERIES



Darin Newsom