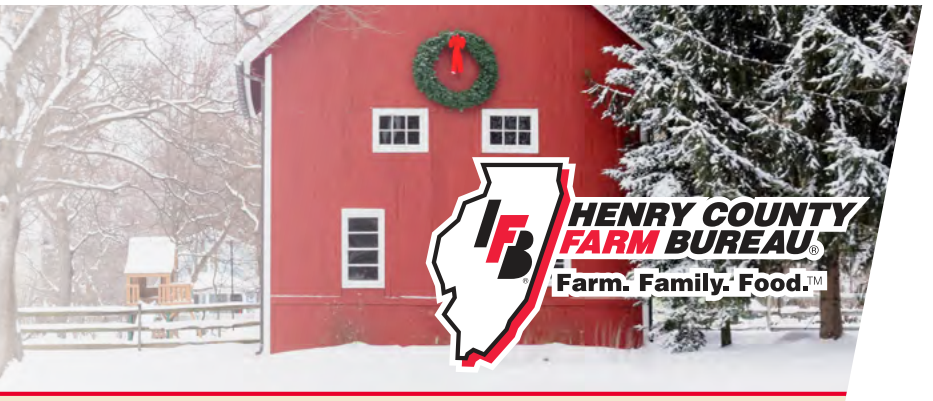


HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

JANUARY

- 1** **Happy New Year!!!**
HCFB Office Closed
- 6** **Henry County Pork Producers Meeting,**
HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 9** **Henry County Beef Association Meeting,**
HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 15** **Education Committee "Beginning Sourdough Class",**
HCFB Boardroom (Class is Sold Out)
- 17** **"Stress Management & Mental Health in Agriculture",**
HCFB Boardroom, 8:30am, (RSVP by 1/13 to attend)
- 17** **Young Leaders Winter Social,**
Arcadia Family Fun Center, Geneseo, 6pm
- 21** **HCFB Executive Committee Meeting,**
6:30pm
HCFB Board of Directors Meeting,
7pm
- 24-29** **American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention,**
San Antonio, Texas

FEBRUARY

- 3** **Henry County Pork Producers Meeting,**
HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 7-8** **Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Conference,**
East Peoria
- 18** **Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference,**
Springfield
- 19** **HCFB Executive Committee Meeting,**
6:30pm
HCFB Board of Directors Meeting,
7pm



More than 1,700 Illinois Farm Bureau members, including 331 voting delegates, attended at the 110th Annual Meeting at the historic Palmer House Hotel in Chicago. This year marked the end of an era as the event will move to the Chicago Hyatt Regency in 2025. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DELEGATES TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS IFB Delegates Clear: No Eminent Domain

By Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek

Illinois Farm Bureau policy will continue to support prohibiting the use of eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipeline projects.

A significant portion of resolutions discussed Dec. 9 during delegate session at Annual Meeting in Chicago centered on CO2 pipelines and carbon capture and sequestration projects. The 331 delegates voted on about 10 submittals concerning eminent domain, pore space, digital utility maps and more.

"Our members are pretty clear, and have been clear, we do not like eminent domain," IFB President Brian Duncan said during a press conference following the meeting. "It's hard for us to be part of (project and legislative)

negotiations if we have that hard and fast line in the sand, but our delegates are very clear.

"Our organization has been trying to balance the economic opportunities that come with carbon sequestration and some of these issues with the challenges related to property rights. I think we saw that discussion again today. You saw the delegates restate their position that they're opposed to eminent domain but yet they're open if pipeline projects can be done without using eminent domain."

Policy proposing removal of IFB's current policy of prohibiting use of eminent domain for CO2 pipeline projects was forwarded from the July Resolutions Committee, but Henry County Farm Bureau

President Steve Nightingale submitted an amendment to keep the policy, which was approved at last year's Annual Meeting.

"My county has made it clear to me that they believe that private property rights are first and foremost on their mind, and we feel like we are losing that when eminent domain is being used for private companies to have pipeline projects," he told FarmWeek.

Nightingale pointed to newly-approved policy that supports repealing the temporary moratorium on the approval of carbon dioxide pipelines for pipeline projects located on land owned by the pipeline operator or where eminent domain will not be utilized for the pipeline right-of-way.

continued on page 5

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

The Henry County Health Department, First Choice Healthcare, and the Henry County Farm Bureau announce 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

continued on page 5

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Brian Corkill
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IFB Young Leaders Donate 41,527 Lbs of Food During Harvest For All Campaign

Recognizing tremendous need in their communities, Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders proudly raised more than \$94,000 and donated a total of 41,527 lbs. of food and 501 volunteer hours during the annual Illinois Harvest for All campaign.

"The IFB Young leaders continue to demonstrate remarkable commitment to fighting food insecurity in our communities," said Perry Harlow. IFB Young Leader Program Coordinator. "With these great accomplishments, our Young Leaders are making a tangible difference in the lives of Illinois families who struggle with hunger."

He added, "These numbers reflect not just charitable giving, but the deep-rooted values of compassion and community support that are defined by the Young Leader's mission."

Each year, IFB Young Leaders through their local county Farm Bureaus support food banks with innovative food drives and donation campaigns to alleviate hunger. IFB is recognizing the CFB Young Leaders committees with outstanding programs and donation contributions.

2024 Most Outstanding Harvest for All Programs are:

- Henry CFB Young Leaders for their Cram the Cab Food Drive
- McDonough CFB Young Leaders for their FFA Week Food Drive Challenge
- Sangamon CFB Young Leaders for their Fill-a-Ford Food Drive

Harvest for All Top Contributors awards recognized CFBs with outstanding hunger-relief efforts. Each was selected based on a combination of overall pounds of food donated, volunteer hours and dollars raised. Winners in each category were also selected. Award recipients were given a cash prize to further their Harvest for All efforts.

2024 Harvest for All Top Contributors are:

- First Place Overall, Fayette CFB Young Leaders
- Second Place Overall, Carroll CFB Young Leaders
- Third Place Overall, Henry CFB Young Leaders

2024 Harvest for All Top Category Winners:

- First Place Pounds of Food Donated, Fayette CFB Young Leaders
- First Place Dollars Raised, Carroll CFB Young Leaders
- First Place Hours Volunteers, Carroll CFB Young Leaders

The Illinois Harvest for All program demonstrates the generosity of Illinois agriculture. IFB encourages local involvement and partners with county Young Leader Programs, FFA chapters and Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters to fight food insecurity in Illinois.

The Outstanding Harvest for All program winners and Top Contributors will be recognized during IFB's annual meeting in Chicago, held Dec. 7-10.

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HENRY COUNTY HONORED DURING ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Henry County Farm Bureau was recently recognized for its outstanding programming during the 110th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau.

At its annual meeting, IFB recognizes outstanding achievement by individual members and county Farm Bureaus (CFBs). Counties compete for awards with other counties of similar membership size. Awards are given for five county groups:

- Group I — counties with 1,320 and fewer members
- Group II — counties with 1,321 to 1,920 members
- Group III — counties with 1,921 to 2,820 members
- Group IV — counties with 2,821 to 5,620 members
- Group V — counties with 5,621 or more members

Awards were evaluated under the County Activities of Excellence (CAE) program. The CAE program recognizes CFBs for program excellence, encourages and assists CFBs in setting goals and priorities, inspires and promotes innovative programming to meet member needs, promotes programming in key areas and provides a resource to counties for the purpose of developing new programs. CAE recognized programs carried out between Sept. 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024.

The Excellence Awards are given to the county with the most outstanding project for each program area. A gold, silver and bronze Excellence Award was given in each membership group and program area. The eight program areas are: Ag Literacy, Farm Income and Development, Health and Safety, Advocacy, Local Affairs, Engagement and Outreach, Membership Value and Foundations and Fundraising.

Additionally, three awards are given to recognize outstanding efforts by CFBs:

- **New Horizon Award** – To encourage new and innovative programs;
- **Liberty Bell Award** – To recognize outstanding efforts on issues of public policy impacting state and local Farm Bureau organizational priorities;
- **Pinnacle Award** – Highest-level award given to the most outstanding county in each membership group to recognize overall program excellence as it relates to the county Farm Bureau’s goals and priorities.

Henry County Farm Bureau was recently awarded the following:

- **GOLD:** Advocacy
- **SILVER:** Farm Income & Development; Membership Value
- **BRONZE:** Ag Literacy, Engagement & Outreach; Farm Income & Development; Health & Safety



COUNTY ACTIVITIES OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECEIVED

Steve Nightingale, President of the Henry County Farm Bureau and Katie Laleman, Manager, accept the County Activities of Excellence Award for Henry County. The awards were presented at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held in December.



YOUNG LEADERS RECEIVE AWARDS

Accepting award recognition at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting are Shane and Sadie Asher of Henry County. Sadie Asher was presented with the Excellence in Agriculture Award and will represent Illinois at the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Rancher competition in January in San Antonio, Texas. Shane Asher, Chair of the Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders accepted the “Harvest For All” awards for Most Outstanding Project and 3rd place overall for total contributions. Pictured, at the Young Leader Awards program held in December, are Shane, Sadie and Judith Asher.



STAHLER NAMED TOP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER

Cassie Stahler, COUNTRY Financial Representative in Geneseo, was recognized as the Top Membership Recruiter in Henry County at the Farm Bureau’s Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau Manager, Katie Laleman (left), presented Stahler with the award.

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FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers



MEALS BLANKET US IN COMFORT

Mom made even the best of days better when she set a pot of homemade beef stew with dumplings in the middle of the table. This repurposed meal of my childhood rated more delicious than the roast beef supper she prepared the night before. The aroma hugged you upon walking in the door. And to this day, this main course dishes out as much happiness to my soul as beefy vegetable goodness to my taste buds.

Comfort foods seem magical, and as a parent, I attempt to replicate the magic with Swedish meatballs, pizza casserole and fresh-baked rolls with home-preserved jams. Certain foods make us feel good as they satisfy our needs, and the farm women and church ladies before me set flavor standards and meal-time priorities that we embrace.

Throughout the winter, we find fulfillment in family-recipe cinnamon rolls and homemade meals of chicken noodle soup, chicken pesto pasta, burgundy pork tenderloin, pulled beef and meatloaf with farm-raised beef from the freezer. Every cool-weather holiday includes my mother-in-law's dressing recipe, and at family parties, I attempt to mimic my late aunt's deviled eggs given we own hens that supply the main ingredient.

My adulthood favorite home-cooked meal of chicken pot pie makes the menu once per year on a quiet Saturday. After the

meal that took most of the day to prepare, I scrape every bit of residue from my personal ramekin with a spoon. While a decibel less annoying than fingernails on a chalkboard, I figure it's more polite than licking the bowl.

At Christmas, a cousin met requests for my late aunt's raspberry dessert. A neighbor's recipe for pizza strombolis has evolved into an interactive, meal-making memory for our family on Christmas Eve. And with Midwestern tradition, our farm family places Granny's four-layer "salad" next to the lettuce salad in the potluck line because it contains Jell-O. The "salad" also has whipped topping; nonetheless, we enjoy it with the main course and still leave room for dessert.

During the fall harvest, the anticipation of a hot evening meal is real. Mom's field-side meal deliveries stop combines, trucks and tractors temporarily for the operators to grab their daily dose on a long workday. Mom prepares her classics like barbecued meatballs and taco casserole. She adds a sweet treat often credited to a church lady's recipe in one of the United Methodist cookbooks, further proof that legacies live on through the foods that comfort us.

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.

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM



ALL ABOUT EVERGREENS

Second grade students at Cambridge Elementary School learned about evergreens and decorated an "evergreen" treat to eat.



GINGERBREAD LESSON

Kindergarten students at Cambridge Elementary School had fun decorating a gingerbread man cookie with Paula Janson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator for Henry County.

DOT EXAM Clinic

Friday, February 21st
8:00am-12:00pm
Henry County Farm Bureau,
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309-937-2411 To Register

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continued from page 1

Henry County Farm Bureau Delegates Take Action to Protect Property Rights

“We don’t want to hurt the SAF (sustainable aviation fuel) potential that we have in our area; we have two ethanol plants within the county, both of those are currently looking at ways to capture their carbon and store it, either on their facility or close to the facility, but they are not hoping to use eminent domain in order to get the access to cross property,” he said. “So our whole gist was to see if there’s a way that we can help keep aviation fuel going for its potential, while protecting property rights.”

In a reversal from his stance at last year’s delegate session, McDonough County delegate Steve Hess countered that he believes removing the policy doesn’t mean IFB is giving up on property rights protection, but helps the organization have a seat at the table when it comes to negotiating future projects or legislation.

“My response is, if you’re giving up your principles and values in order to get a seat at the table, is it worth it?” Nightingale told FarmWeek.

IFB staff previously explained when the ICC approves an application for a

CO2 pipeline to be built, that approval allows the project to request and receive eminent domain authority.

IFB Vice President and Resolutions Committee Chair Evan Hultine said the action on the delegate floor pertaining to the issue demonstrates the evolution of a conversation that started amongst members several years ago.

“I think our members are really trying to find that blend between meeting the mark for our expectations with eminent domain, but also navigating this complex issue,” Hultine said. “Our delegates really have taken hold of trying to also understand and navigate how our policy affects our ability to lobby and be a part of some conversations. And you heard that on the delegate floor.

“It’s kind of the beauty of our process that this conversation started a few years ago, and look at where we’re at now; developing and understanding the whole host of navigating the complexity of the issue.”

Delegates greenlighted several other new policies supporting:

Declaring stored carbon dioxide that moves into pore space located within the property lines of a property without an agreement for carbon dioxide storage to be a trespass.

Allowing property owners to access digital utility maps upon requesting utility line location services, ensuring transparency and safety during property management activities.

Fair and just compensation for non-consenting landowners for CO2 pipelines and sequestration.

Delegates also amended current policy, including:

Adding the additional wording of “soil structure, conservation practices in place” to the current policy: “Seeking further study on the proper means to compensate farm owners affected by utility installations. This should require certain minimum standards for compensations agreements or annual payments for certain structures. Compensation should include cost of repairs to damaged infrastructure and crop losses as a result of damaged infrastructure.”

Removing a temporary moratorium on the approval of the construction

and operation of any carbon dioxide pipeline until the PHMSA promulgates its revised federal safety standards for transportation of carbon dioxide.

Adding the additional wording “of at least 75% of easements and agreements necessary” to the current policy: “Developers of carbon dioxide pipelines and storage projects demonstrating progress at securing willing agreements for pipeline easements and willing agreements for storage rights prior to approval of the project by the ICC.”

Removing the policy: Support “Efforts to expedite the pipeline permitting process to bring Canadian crude oil to the United States.”

Removing the language: Support “Pipeline transportation of carbon dioxide captured from ethanol and fertilizer production to locations with favorable geological formations for permanent storage” from current policy: “All CO2 pipelines should be constructed to protect public safety and should adhere to the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) standards.”



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1220-507HC_10/4/2024



continued from page 1

Special DOT Exam Clinic on February 21st

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   

IFB YOUNG LEADERS CELEBRATED DURING 2024 ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU® ANNUAL MEETING

The outstanding efforts of young Illinois farmers and leaders took center stage Sunday morning during the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Annual Meeting, scheduled Dec. 7-10, in Chicago.

The 2024 County Young Leader Awards program highlighted the hard work and dedication of Young Leaders and county Farm Bureaus (CFB) across the state, including community projects and member engagement efforts.

A complete list of recipients – along with a brief description of each award – can be found below. For awards recognizing a CFB in each membership group, sections are broken down by membership size, with Group 1 being the smallest and Group 5 being the largest.

Young Leader Achievement Award: This award recognizes Young Leaders for their achievements on their farm and in leadership positions.

- Ethan and Katie Brown, Montgomery County

Excellence in Agriculture Award: This award recognizes Young Leaders who are actively contributing and growing their involvement in Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry.

- Sadie Asher, Henry County

Most Outstanding Young Leader Program: These awards honor CFB programs aimed

at developing 18-35-year-old members into agriculture leaders, including networking and professional development events, educational activities and partnerships with Collegiate Farm Bureaus. One CFB in each membership group is selected as the winner:

- **Membership Group 1:** Edwards County, 4-H & Young Leader Cemetery Clean-Up
- **Membership Group 2:** Wayne County, Howl at the Moon Fundraiser
- **Membership Group 3:** Christian County, Ag Safety Day
- **Membership Group 4:** Rock Island County, Pedal Tractor Pull
- **Membership Group 5:** St. Clair, Family Fun Day

Top County Young Leader Chair Award: This award recognizes county chairs that excel in Farm Bureau involvement and leadership, as well as motivating fellow county committee members to become involved in county, district and state activities. Winners in each membership group receive onstage recognition and a plaque.

- **Membership Group 2:** Michael Browning, Franklin County
- **Membership Group 3:** Justin Allaman, Warren-Henderson County
- **Membership Group 4:** Alison Gibbs, Woodford County
- **Membership Group 5:** RJ Nugent, Will County

Friend of Young Leaders Winners: This award gives county Young Leader committees the opportunity to nominate someone who has had a positive impact on their programs. Winners receive onstage recognition, a plaque and a cash prize. Recipients include:

- Gail Nettles, nominated by Woodford County Young Leaders
- Rich DeSchepper, nominated by Knox County Young Farmers
- Dale Kestel, nominated by Will County Young Farmers

Young Leader FB ACT Winner: FB ACT asks members to respond to legislative action requests on timely issues. Young Leaders who responded to all action requests this past year were entered into a drawing. The first name pulled gets a choice between attending a Leaders to Washington trip or Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference. The second through fifth names called get the opportunity to attend Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference. This year's winners are:

- Nowell Moore, Woodford County
- Brian Nelson, Knox County
- Drew Desutter, Knox County
- Nathan Peak, Pike-Scott County
- Ryan Reever, Ogle County



A Tri-County Workshop
CONSERVATION & FARMING
 January 15th, 2025
 Oxford Legion, 211 W A St, Alpha, IL 61413

Event Agenda

- 10:00 to 10:30 AM – Sign in and Brunch
- 10:30 to 11:15 AM – Keynote Speaker, Dr. Sean Jenkins, *Why Implement Conservation Practices on Your Farm?*
- 11:15 to 11:30 AM – Break
- 11:30 to 1:30 PM – *How to Implement Conservation Practices – What is Available and Funding Sources, multiple speakers*
- 1:30 to 1:45 PM – Break
- 1:45 to 2:30 PM – *Tri-County Farmer Panel*




RSVP to:

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Henry County - Nicolette.pysson@il.nacdnet.net or (309) 937-3377

Rock Island County - dgillespie@rockislandswcd.org or (309) 764-1486 x3

PLEASE RSVP BY JANUARY 3RD



RFD Radio Network Broadcasters Honored with Top Media Awards

FarmWeekNow.com

The RFD Radio Network celebrated a double win as two of its leading voices, Rita Frazer and Jim Taylor, were recognized for their outstanding contributions to agricultural media.

Frazer, audio news manager, received the 2024 Excellence in Media Award from the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA). Known for her authentic connection with farmers, Frazer has spent decades covering soybean programs, research and ag stories across Illinois.

“She has a genuine and warm presence that comes through in her interviews and telling the ag story is a job she takes very seriously,” said ISA Chairman Ron Kindred.

RFD broadcaster Jim Taylor earned the 2024 Excellence in Media Award from the Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA). Taylor was commended for his ability to simplify complex ag issues and his dedication to celebrating youth in agriculture.

“Throughout his many years of service in the radio industry, and the most recent years in service of farmers and agriculture specifically, Jim remains a dedicated voice for the people,” said ICGA President Dave Rylander.

Both Frazer and Taylor began their radio careers in 1990 and have since become key figures in ag broadcasting, known for their commitment to telling agriculture’s story.

These awards highlight the impact of RFD Radio Network’s talented team in elevating Illinois agriculture and advocating for farmers statewide.



Jim Taylor



Rita Frazer

ILLINOIS LICA HOSTS SAFETY WORKSHOP SERIES THROUGHOUT IL IN JANUARY



The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA) is hosting a safety workshop series at 3 locations across the state in January for anyone seeking 10HR OSHA, Flagger, and/or CPR certification. Training will be provided by ILICA member Grey & Associates.

The 2-day workshops include a full day and a half of 10HR OSHA certification training, followed by a half day of either flagger or CPR certification training. Attendees may register for any certification individually or receive a maximum of two (2) certifications per workshop. Member and non-member rates apply. No prerequisites required. **The first days of training run from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and the second days run from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. with lunch provided both days. Workshops are scheduled for the following dates and locations throughout January:**

- **January 9-10: Decatur, IL**
- **January 14-15: Mt. Vernon, IL**
- **January 23-24: Lanark, IL**

Designed for entry-level workers in construction and general industry, the 10HR OSHA safety training teaches workers how to recognize and avoid common job-related hazards. The program also explains employer responsibilities, workers' rights under OSHA and how to file a complaint.

Recognized as one of the most important operations in construction maintenance, controlling traffic through work areas can

be dangerous. The flagger safety training is designed to teach flaggers standard flagging procedures that provide safe passage of traffic through and around work areas, minimizing confusion and protecting project personnel and assets.

With over 350,000 cardiac arrests occurring outside of hospital settings each year, CPR can double or triple a person's chance of survival, according to the American Heart Association. The hands-on adult and child CPR safety training empowers anyone to change or save a life.

"Safety education remains a top priority for Illinois LICA, and we are excited to once again be offering construction safety training to multiple locations throughout the state this winter. Many don't realize that safety is a learned behavior; that means it takes training to ensure your safety and the safety of your family, friends, and co-workers that you depend on and that depend on you," said Ryan Arch, Executive Director of Illinois LICA.

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

About Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association

Illinois LICA is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated to the professional conservation of soil & water resources. ILICA provides contractors construction & conservation education, business & legislative resources, and industry discounts.



IAA FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE, ILLINOIS FARM FAMILIES

More than \$210,000 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 children are eligible to apply for 120 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$210,251 for the 2025-26 school year.

Applications are open for a variety of financial awards including the newly created Charles B. Shuman Memorial Scholarship and the William and Carol Keppy Memorial Scholarship. Additionally, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of Prairie Farms Dairy and several family scholarships established to honor 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.



DIRECTORS RECOGNIZED AT COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING

Steve Nightingale, President, congratulates directors that have completed their terms on the HCFB Board of Directors. Pictured (l to r) are Nightingale, Jon Chamberlain, Scott Jordan and Jim DeCrane, not pictured Dan Wolf.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



SHARP CHEDDAR SAUSAGE BALLS



Ingredients

- 1 ¼ c. all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 1 ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ tsp. freshly grated black pepper
- ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ½ c. coarsely grated yellow onion
- 8 oz sharp cheddar cheese, grated (about 2 c.)
- 1 lb. loose pork breakfast sausage
- 3 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted.
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh sage, plus small leaves for garnish.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Whisk together flour, baking powder, salt, black pepper, and cayenne pepper in a bowl.
2. Add onion, cheddar, sausage, butter and sage. Mix until fully combined (easiest method to mix would be by hand)
3. Scoop sausage balls (approx. 1 Tbsp. each) onto a largely rimmed baking sheet, leaving 1" between each. Gently press a small sage leaf into the top of each sausage ball. Bake until golden brown, 23-25 minutes.

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
Salutes the
COUNTRY
Financial
Membership
Recruiter of the
Month



*Eric Henderson,
Geneseo*

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

104. ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

We support:

1. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) as a stand-alone agency.
2. Strengthening the IDOA including its role in regulatory concerns as they apply to agriculture.
3. Strengthening Illinois county fairs, the Illinois State Fair, and the DuQuoin State Fair as agricultural expositions.
4. The State of Illinois fully funding its portion of premium dollars at Illinois county fairs.
5. The establishment of a charitable foundation to solicit donations and sponsorships to grow and improve the Illinois State Fair and the DuQuoin State Fair.
6. The IDOA and the State of Illinois putting a five-to-10-year plan in place to move the Illinois State Fair up at least one week.
7. Sufficient meat inspectors on staff so as to be readily available and not hinder the ability of local meat lockers to harvest as needed.

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 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.