

HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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



HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

JANUARY

- 1-2** HCFB Office Closed
- 8** Henry County Beef Association, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 9-14** American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention, Anaheim, CA
- 20** HCFB Executive Committee meeting, HCFB office, 6:30pm
- HCFB Board of Directors meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 23** HCFB Young Leader's Winter Social, Arcadia Family Fun Center (Geneseo), 6:30pm
- 29** Women's Mental Health Program, Black Hawk East Auditorium, 6pm (RSVP by 1/23)

FEBRUARY

- 1** Henry County Pork Producers meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 6-7** IFB Young Leader Conference, East Peoria
- 17** Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference
- 18** HCFB Executive Committee meeting, HCFB office, 6:30pm
- HCFB Board of Directors meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 20** Farm Family Succession Planning Workshop, Lavender Crest Winery, 9am-4pm
- 24** Young Leaders Meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 6:30pm



Illinois Farm Bureau voting members discuss and debate new policy during the organization's Annual Meeting on Dec. 9 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago. (Photo by Catrina Rawson, Illinois Farm Bureau)

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS DEBATE, ADOPT NEW POLICY DURING ANNUAL MEETING

Illinois Farm Bureau's traditional grassroots process was on full display during the organization's 2025 Annual Meeting as 324 voting members considered and adopted new policy on topics such as land use and farmland preservation, development of new uses and new markets, labor and more.

Members gathered at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago Dec. 6-8 to celebrate the year's successes and introduce new policies that will guide the organization over the next year. In total, voting members debated and approved 36 policy submittals.

Policy highlights include:

- New policy language calling for opposition to the development of data centers, cryptocurrency mining operations, and similar facilities if they decrease the reliability of the electric grid, increase the cost of electricity to the rural community, or have the potential to deplete aquifers that communities depend on.
- Support for expanding consumer and wholesale market opportunities for Illinois poultry producers to

process on the farm at USDA/FSIS limits. Support for retailers to increase the availability of Illinois-grown products and IDOA advertising directly to consumers to purchase Illinois-grown products.

- A new subheading on 'Specialty Crops' calling for expanding the size and scope of specialty crop insurance tools, a permanent structure to deliver emergency economic assistance, expanding and permanent various direct purchase and procurement programs, support for industry research and grant programs that promote new agronomy practices and technologies, partnerships among industry participants, infrastructure development, and the adoption of on-farm value-added activities.
- New policy language supporting H-2A Work Program Administration calling for clarity in H-2A regulations and administration, streamlining the application process to support electronic application filing, employers filing a single application for labor needs, even if needs are staggered throughout the year, removing the "seasonality" requirement to make all agricultural jobs eligible, lengthening the term of

continued on page 2

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS ELECT PHILIP NELSON AS PRESIDENT, RE-ELECT EVAN HULTINE AS VICE PRESIDENT

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) members elected Philip Nelson, a grain and livestock farmer from Seneca in LaSalle County, as the organization's 17th president, and re-elected Evan Hultine, a grain farmer from Princeton in Bureau County, as vice president. They will each serve a two-year term at the helm of the organization.

"I thank all of you for the confidence that you've put into me to lead this organization again," Nelson told delegates following the election. "I'm thrilled. I love this organization."

Five new members were also elected to serve two-year terms on the IFB Board of Directors. IFB is a nonprofit membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB's 324 voting delegates elected these leaders during the organization's annual meeting in Chicago.

Nelson is a fourth-generation farmer and farms with his wife, Carmen, and family members Kendall, Rachel and Kyle. He previously served as IFB's 14th president from 2003 to 2013, vice

president from 1999 to 2003, and LaSalle County Farm Bureau president. He also held the position of Trade Advisory Chair of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and served on the AFBF Board of Directors for 10 years. He was the Illinois Director of Agriculture in 2015.

Hultine has served as IFB vice president since 2023. He has held various leadership roles with Bureau County Farm Bureau (BCFB), including president from 2017 to 2023, BCFB Foundation president and the Young Leader Committee

continued on page 2

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****DISTRICT 1**

Emily Baum
Tim Gould, Secretary
Adam Schroeder
Bridgett Wildermuth

DISTRICT 2

Sadie Asher
Brian Daniels, Vice President
Legislation
BJ Weber
Tim Yager

DISTRICT 3

Thad Curry
Heather Poppy, Vice President
Organization
Dave Schmedt
Evan Youngren

Henry County Farmer (USPS-240- 260) published monthly, A nominal fee charged for subscription, by the Henry County Farm Bureau, Inc., 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238. Periodical postage paid at Cambridge, IL and/or additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Henry Co. Farm Bureau, 128 N. Prospect Street, Cambridge, IL 61238

DISTRICT 4

Justin Frank
Chris Kendall
Steve Krause

AT-LARGE

Gary Asay
Hilary Boelens
Jim Larson
Pat Martens
Steve Nightingale, President
Jan Weber
Dave Westerlund, Treasurer
Bill Wyffels
Steve Zobrist

STAFF

Manager: Katie Laleman, FBCM
Administrative Assistant:
Chelsea Vyncke

Freezer Beef for Sale

50/50 Wagyu and
Angus Simmcntal

Halves & Quarters Available

Mitchell Vincent
(309) 489-6301

**Illinois Farm Bureau Members Debate, Adopt New Policy
During Annual Meeting.....**

.....continued from page 1

stay for workers, a quicker, less intensive application process for hiring H-2A workers if the farm has had no changes from the previous year, farmer and worker sharing the expenses of the guest worker program visas, transportation, housing, and related expenses, and allowing workers with remaining time on their visa to work on other qualified farms.

- New policy language would also oppose the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) being above the state minimum wage and additional state regulations that add application processing delays.
- New policy to support regenerative agriculture practices referring to improving soil health and function, the

key principles focusing on keeping soil covered, minimizing soil disturbance, keeping living roots as often as possible, maximizing biodiversity and integrating livestock, within local context.

- Support for incentives being based on a menu of regenerative agriculture practices, rather than a prescriptive list, policy supporting regenerative practices, and education, outreach and technical assistance around the value and implementation of regenerative agriculture practices.
- Approximately 2,024 IFB members and staff registered to attend the conference in which members celebrated individual and organizational achievements in 2025.

**Illinois Farm Bureau Members Elect Philip Nelson As President,
Re-Elect Evan Hultine As Vice President**

.....continued from page 1

chair. He was a member of the IFB State Young Leader Committee from 2013 to 2016. He also serves on the agriculture advisory committees for his state senator and state representative as well as U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood.

Hultine is a sixth-generation farmer in Princeton, where he grows corn, soybeans and seed corn alongside his father.

IFB Board Directors Elected

Five new members were elected to serve two-year terms on the IFB Board of Directors:

- Joe White of Kane County will represent District 1, which includes DeKalb, McHenry, Kane and Lake counties

- Brian Corkill of Henry County will represent District 3, which includes Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, Stark and Whiteside counties
- Brian Dirks of McLean County will represent District 7, which includes Marshall, McLean, Putnam, Tazewell and Woodford counties
- Dennis Green of Lawrence County will represent District 13, which includes Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland counties
- Jason Balding of Edwards County will represent District 17, which includes Edwards, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Wabash, Wayne and White counties

Streitmatter
Land Improvement, Inc.
110 S. Main • Wyoming, IL 61491

Drainage & Excavating • GPS Equipped
Water Table Management

Office 309-695-2800 Cell 309-696-9861

• GPS Mapping & Design
• Farm Drainage
• Waterways
• Commercial Tile Plow

**ILLINOIS
LICA**

starktiler@gmail.com

Miller Farm & Business, Inc.
Taxes • Accounting • Payroll
Individual • Farm • Corporate • Trust & Estate
1041 S Oakwood Ave • Geneseo, IL 61254
Ph. 309.944.3290 • Fax 309.857.0182 • Email: llmiller@millerfb.com
www.millerfb.com

Maertens
FARM DRAINAGE
EXCAVATING & TRUCKING
309/937-2585
Cambridge, IL

Hertz
Farm Management, Inc.
Caring for You and Your Farm®

Make the Most of Your Farmland Investment
Professional Farm Management • Farm Auctions
Farmland Sales & Acquisitions • Certified Appraisals
309.944.2184 www.Hertz.ag

GALESBURG
LUMBER & CONSTRUCTION
SUPPLY, LLC

161 N Academy St
Galesburg, IL 61401
Lumber Ardex
Milwaukee Tools W.R. Meadows

Phone: 309-342-5185
Email: sales@galesburglumber.com

Local Service Delivery Specialty

**Farm Bureau
Salutes the
COUNTRY
Financial
Membership
Recruiter of the
Month**

**Mike Geuns,
Annawan**

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Winter Blues? We Can Help!**

- Depression
- Anxiety & Stress
- Behavioral Problems
- Bipolar Disorder
- ADHD
- Family/Parenting Issues
- Suicide Prevention
- Trauma & Loss

Call Today! 309-852-5272


First Choice
Healthcare

HENRY COUNTY HONORED DURING ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Henry County Farm Bureau was recently recognized for its outstanding programming during the 111th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau.

The County Activities of Excellence awards are given to counties with the most outstanding project for each program area. IFB recognizes Gold, Silver and Bronze ranked programs in each area and membership group. All activities reported shall have taken place between Sept. 1, 2024 through Aug. 31, 2025.

There are eight program areas: Ag Literacy, Farm Income & Development, Health & Safety, Advocacy, Local Affairs, Engagement & Outreach, Membership Value, and CFB Foundation & Fundraising. Counties compete for awards with other counties of similar membership size.

Awards are given in each of the five county membership groups:

- Group I — counties with 1,325 and fewer members
- Group II — counties with 1,326 to 1,925 members
- Group III — counties with 1,926 to 2,825 members



Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President, Evan Hultine (left) presents the Liberty Bell and County Activities of Excellence awards to Steve Nightingale, Henry County Farm Bureau President and Katie Laleman, Henry County Farm Bureau Manager.

- Group IV — counties with 2,826 to 5,125 members
- Group V — counties with 5,125 or more members

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

New Horizon Award —

To encourage new and innovative programs that were completed in the last two program years;

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 LIBERTY BELL and Gold Stars in Health & Safety and Advocacy.

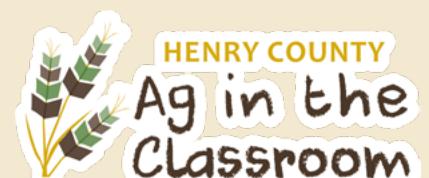


YOUNG LEADERS AWARDED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders were recognized for awards and achievements during the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held in Chicago.

(left to right) Sadie, Judith and Shane Asher, Kate Huffman and Makenna Walker. Shane and Makenna competed in the Young Leaders Discussion Meet, representing District 3.

The Young Leaders received third overall for Harvest for All contributions and Kate Huffman was awarded the Excellence in Agriculture Award.



LEARNING ABOUT EVERGREENS

Annawan fifth grade students watched a video about evergreens and made wreath ornaments during their Agriculture in the Classroom program.



O CHRISTMAS TREE!

Third grade students at Galva Elementary School learned about evergreens and made edible Christmas trees during their December Ag in the Classroom program with Paula Janson, Ag Literacy Coordinator.

IMEL PUMP SERVICE
Business 937-5332 • Cell Phone 945-8533
Water Well Contracting • Water Systems Installed
Red Jacket & Goulds Pumps
Submersible Pump & Jet Pump Repairs
Trenching/Backhoe Service
Iowa Hydrants & Water Conditioning
403 N. West St., Cambridge
Residence: 207 N. Poplar, Cambridge

JEFFRIES
TRUCK & TRAILER
REPAIR
CAMBRIDGE IL
309-937-2402 **HYDRAULIC HOSE REPAIR**

Now Open
Canine Boarding

Learn More

Mel-o-dLane
BOARDING
309-306-1776

Coming Soon
Equine Boarding

Connect with us

mel-o-dlaneboarding.com

FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers

KITCHEN LEGACIES

Homemade Dishes Outlive Generations

Field meals deliver their own form of heroism, and Mom saves the day. She dishes out the seasonal suppers spring and fall with guidance from her sidekicks – women past and present who submitted their kitchen's best recipes to a church cookbook. Leah's fiesta bake, Marie's orange salad, Debra's pizza casserole and Ann's marble squares have fueled our field crew for years.

Out here in farm country, the names of past landowners often carry forward, becoming part of the land's identity long after ownership has changed. For instance, the "Lievens Back Bottom," which my parents have owned half my life, was previously tended by the late Mr. and Mrs. Lievens. I'll spare you 50 more examples. My point: the same goes for good, home-cooked food.

Thanks to small-town recipe books, home cooks earned their own version of legacy status without needing

acreage on a balance sheet. Instead, they claimed a kitchen, embraced a passion and created recipes or refined family ones in 9x13 batches that fed and delighted the local masses.

Long before Google became a verb, churches published cookbooks filled with personal recipe submissions, each tied to a name. No digital versions exist of these limited-edition paper relics. There are no pictures. No reviews. Each recipe stands solely on the credibility of the cook who submitted it as a time-tested family favorite – and that alone serves as a built-in 5-star rating.

I have proof with Lorraine's broccoli soup, Pam's pizza crust, Lou's cool cucumber pasta and Mary's Thanksgiving dressing. Mom and I made 12 batches of Kathy's hash brown au gratin for a farm wedding. I adore Susan's corn casserole and chuck wagon baked beans. And Grandma's published recipe for frosted banana

bars is better than bread. It freezes well, too.

The book entries tell stories. Ingredients like strawberries, zucchini, rhubarb and blackberries signal home gardeners and wild blackberry pickers who love to cook. The salad section proves that Jell-O and Cool Whip absolutely qualify as salads by Midwestern standards.

I own hundreds of pages of local recipes in five cookbooks. Mom has a dozen. Grandma's stash fills a cabinet, and my aunt collects them. The recipes are worth repeating, the novelty worth preserving and the pages a testament to the women who – in their quiet heroism – fed a community. And still do.

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.

"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.

Strong Enough to Bend: TURNING BREAKDOWNS INTO BREAKTHROUGHS!

A fun, informative night for the ladies that live and work in agriculture! Coffee, dessert and good ole' girl power!

Thursday, January 29, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Black Hawk College East Campus
Auditorium, Building A
26230 Black Hawk Rd, Galva, IL

Women in ag are tough. We carry families, farms, and futures on our backs, and we still manage to show up to town looking halfway decent (well, some days). But real strength isn't about never breaking; it's about being brave enough to bend before you snap. Adrienne's message is a celebration of the women who hold it all together- even when they're running on caffeine and sheer willpower- and a reminder that vulnerability isn't weakness, it's leadership. Together, we'll laugh, exhale, and find tools to care for ourselves and the people we love. You'll leave feeling grounded, hopeful, and remembering that strong women don't do it all- we do what matters...with grit, grace, and a whole lot of girl power.



Adrienne DeGitter, M.S.Ed.
AG MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST
SOW HOPE GROW HOPE



NO COST TO ATTEND, BUT PLEASE MAKE A RESERVATION.
RSVP BY JAN 23 BY CONTACTING YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Sponsored by: Henry, Stark, Mercer, Rock Island, Knox, Bureau and
Marshall-Putnam County Farm Bureaus



UNLOCK YOUR PERSONALIZED ROADMAP TO SUCCESSION SUCCESS

A WORKSHOP FROM UNCOMMON FARMS

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.

JOIN US

Friday, February 20, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lavender Crest Winery
5401 US HWY 6, Colona, IL

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- 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



UNCOMMON FARMS
Led by UnCommon Farms' Mike Downey, an expert in farm succession planning.

A Farm Bureau membership within the farm family is required.
Please register with your local county farm bureau by February 16th.

REGISTRATION
\$40 PER PERSON

IFB YOUNG LEADERS CELEBRATED DURING 2025 ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Illinois young farmers and leaders were recognized for their outstanding achievements and programs during the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Annual Meeting, held Dec. 6-9 in Chicago.

The 2025 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.

- Daniel and Constance Herriott, Champaign 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.

- Kate Huffman, 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: Lawrence County
- Membership Group 2: Richland County
- Membership Group 3: Christian County
- Membership Group 4: Clinton County
- Membership Group 5: Kane County
- Multi-County: District 2 Young Leader Committees

- **Top County Young Leader Chair Awards:** These awards recognize 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 1: Ragan Anthis, Edwards County
- Membership Group 1: Addie Hemrich, Richland County
- Membership Group 3: Mitch Stawalt, Coles County
- Membership Group 4: Joseph Ratliff, Cass-Morgan
- Membership Group 5: Joseph White, Kane 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:

- Business/Organization: Edwards County Sportsman's Club, Edwards County
- Drew DeSutter, Knox County
- Dusty Daugherty, Lawrence County
- Greg and Jamie Kent, Stephenson County

- **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:

- Nathan Gibbs, Woodford County
- Ryan Reeverts, Ogle County
- Bradley Browning, Franklin County
- Steve Willard, Kendall-Grundy
- Sam Detiler, Livingston County



Kate Huffman



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.

OUR FUEL IS WINTERIZED

Dieselex Gold
Power • Efficiency • Protection

+ SURE-FLO
Diesel Cold Flow Improver

*It Diesel fuel is added to extreme temperatures

GO FURTHER GO FS

F5

©2019 GROWMARK, Inc. Proprietary

GOLD STAR FS, INC.

Henry & Stark County Health Departments Note January-Radon Action Month

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments note that January has been proclaimed National Radon Action Month in Illinois, by calling attention to the fact that radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer overall and the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

RaeAnn Tucker, Health Department Director of Health Promotion, notes, "It really doesn't matter where you live in Illinois or what type of home you live in, because we've seen excessive radon in every county in Illinois, and in every type of home - old, new, with basements, with a crawlspace or on a slab."

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas that comes from the radioactive decay of naturally occurring uranium in the soil. It can enter homes and buildings

through small cracks in the foundation, sump pumps or soil in crawlspaces.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes 21,000 deaths annually. That's because when you breathe air containing radon, you can get lung cancer.

The State of Illinois has enacted the Illinois Radon Awareness Act. According to this law, anyone buying a home, condominium or other residential property in Illinois must be provided with information about indoor radon exposure and the fact that radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause overall.

Since radon gas is undetectable, specialized radon detectors must be used to measure the amount of radon gas present in

the air. The Environmental Health Division of the Henry and Stark County Health Department announces that they now have Radon Home Test kits available for purchase through their offices in Kewanee, Colona and Toulon. The kits are being offered at the low cost of \$15 per kit.

Tucker adds, "Radon gas is found in 66% of homes in Henry County and 92% of homes in Stark County.

Testing your home is the only way to know if you have elevated levels of radon. If radon levels, above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) action level of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), are detected in your home; the Health Department can provide you with information regarding radon mitigation on our website at www.henrystarkhealth.com.



WREATH DECORATING CLASS

Paula Janson, Henry County Ag Literacy Coordinator, spoke to those attending the Holiday Wreath Decorating Class. Paula shared about the educational programs that she does with students, about evergreens and shared some fun facts about Christmas trees.



ALL READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The Farm Bureau Women sponsored a Holiday Wreath Decorating Class held in December. Instructors Julie Frisk and Katy Mertz led the ladies through decorating an evergreen wreath for the holiday season.

WHERE WILL YOUR BOOTS TAKE YOU?

2026 HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU POSTER CONTEST

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. 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!

RULES: at henrycofarmbureau.org

HAVE QUESTIONS?
Contact the office: (309) 937-2411, manager@henrycofarmbureau.org

Sponsored by 

Life insurance that grows with you



Eric
Henderson
Geneseo
(309)-944-4618



Erin
Spivey
Kewanee
(309)-852-2121



Mike
Geuns
Annawan
(309)-935-6697



Julie
Hessler
Orion
(309)-526-8024



Tom
McKie
Cambridge
(309)-937-3372



Jerry
Samuelson
Woodhull
(309)-334-3430



Cassie
Stahler
Geneseo
(309)-944-4618

Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

“COUNTRY Financial®” is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, “COUNTRY”), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois. 27106673



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.



Wilbert and Carol Keppy farmed and raised hogs along the Oscob slab for decades. The Keppys 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 DeSmiths 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.

SCHOLARSHIP

HENRY COUNTY PORK PRODUCERS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Henry County Pork Producers Association will award scholarships to several Henry County students enrolled in college in the fall of 2026. The applicant must be an undergrad and in their first four years of college attendance. The ideal candidate will have a background in agriculture; however, pursuit of an agriculture degree is not required. The student or their family will be required to be a pork producer member. Those with interest please contact Tom Dale.

ENTRY DEADLINE:
JANUARY 16, 2026

MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT: TOM DALE
henrycountypork@gmail.com
Call or Text: 563-357-0093

Simic Irwin
CPAs & Advisors

Ready to take control of your finances? Let's talk.

- Tax Preparation & Planning For Farmers, Individuals, Partnerships and Corporations
- Monthly & Quarterly Bookkeeping

10% Discount to Farm Bureau Members
on tax preparation

Henry County Office
222 N. Main St. Kewanee, IL 61443
309-852-5515

Farm Bureau
Cambridge, IL 61238
309-937-2411

Call Today to Schedule Your Appointment!

Simic Irwin CPA

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL UPCOMING EVENTS, BENEFITS, AND MORE
HENRYCOFARMBUREAU.ORG



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



CREAMY CHICKEN & BISCUIT BAKE

Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced or shredded
- 1 can (10.5 oz) cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can refrigerated biscuit dough (8 count), each biscuit cut into quarters

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375°F.
- In a large bowl, whisk together the cream of chicken soup and milk.
- Stir in the chicken and mixed vegetables. Pour mixture into a greased 9x13 baking dish.
- Scatter the biscuit pieces evenly over the top.
- Bake 25–30 minutes, until biscuits are golden and the filling is bubbly.
- Let rest for 5 minutes before serving.

Optional Add-Ins:

- A sprinkle of shredded cheddar over the top
- A dash of garlic powder or black pepper in the soup mixture
- Swap chicken for turkey—perfect for leftovers!

Join us for the
**HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU
YOUNG LEADERS**

WINTER SOCIAL! BOWLING AND PIZZA



FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD 6:30-8:30PM
Arcadia Family Fun Center
925 S. Oakwood Ave, Geneseo, IL 61254

PLEASE RSVP BY 1/21 TO
manager@henrycofarmbureau.org
OR 309-937-2411



Health Department & First Choice Healthcare Clinics Offers a Healthy Resolution Checklist

Are you planning your New Year's resolutions for 2026? The Henry and Stark County Health Department and our First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee and Toulon offer the following Healthy Resolutions Checklist for your consideration:

- ✓ Get Your Annual Exam
- ✓ Seek Help for Behavioral and Mental Health Issues
- ✓ Keep Your Annual Pap Test
- ✓ Make sure all in the family are up-to-date on needed immunizations
- ✓ Eat Healthy
- ✓ Get Exercise
- ✓ Keep/Make Well Baby/Well Child Exams
- ✓ Get an Annual Fasting Blood Draw
- ✓ Protect Your Sexual Health

If you are considering one of these resolutions, the First Choice Healthcare Clinics may be able to help you with clinic and lab services, mental health clinic services and therapies, PrEP/HIV prevention medications & services, immunizations, women exams, and health education and

counseling. These services are available at our clinic locations in Kewanee and Toulon, many for a nominal fee.

The Health Department and First Choice Healthcare Clinics remind area residents that we have grant funds, services and programs to help you keep your 2026 New Year's Resolutions.

The New Year can be a great opportunity to start fresh. And New Year's resolutions can be a powerful tool to give your health a big boost - and improve your whole life. Far too often, though, resolutions don't last past February or March. Instead of motivating you for success, resolutions are often unrealistic - and can make you feel like you've failed. Let the Health Department & First Choice Healthcare help you meet your goals and resolutions for the upcoming year.

For more information call the First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee at 309-852-5272; and Toulon at 309-852-3115 or visit our website at www.henrystarkhealth.com or find us on Facebook, or Follow Us on Twitter and Instagram at Henry and Stark County Health Departments. And, have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

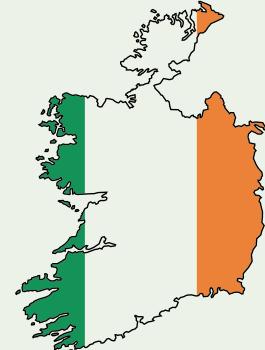
FARM BUREAU ANNOUNCES EXCITING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY TO IRELAND IN SUMMER 2026

Henry County Farm Bureau is thrilled to announce an exclusive travel opportunity for its members: the **Shades of Ireland Tour, scheduled for July 25 – August 3, 2026**.

This unforgettable journey will take travelers from history-filled Dublin to the rolling green hills and dramatic coastline that make the Emerald Isle world-renowned. Highlights of the trip include exploring the breathtaking Ring of Kerry and the stunning Cliffs of Moher, visiting the historic Blarney Castle to kiss the legendary Blarney Stone, and enjoying a traditional Irish sheepdog demonstration. To top off the experience, participants will enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime overnight stay on the grounds of an authentic Irish castle.

"This is a wonderful chance for members to travel with friends and neighbors while

discovering the rich culture, history, and natural beauty of Ireland," said Katie Laleman, Henry County Farm Bureau Manager. "We are delighted to offer such a memorable experience."



Enrollment for this unique travel opportunity is now open and will close on January 26, 2026. To reserve your spot, please visit the official tour website: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1381753>.

For additional questions, please contact Christina Zobrist, Tour Coordinator, at czobrist1119@gmail.com.

Hwy 17 Aledo, IL



TIRE OFFER

PAYMENTS DEFERRED
UNTIL JUNE 2026

with approved credit



Hwy 81 Cambridge, IL



- Any new tire purchase in Jan. or Feb.

GOLD STAR FS, INC.

- Minimum spend of \$2,000.00