

# HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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

## HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

### MARCH

- 5**.....CPR & First Aid Class,  
Sponsored by Farm Bureau Women,  
HCFB Boardroom, 6pm
- 7**.....Henry County Health Department:  
Health Check Clinic  
(by appointment only),  
HCFB Boardroom
- 7**.....HCFB Foundation Scholarship  
application deadline
- 13**.....Market Outlook Seminar,  
Lavender Crest Winery, 6:15pm,  
Speaker: Joe Camp, Commstock  
Investments, RSVP required by 3/6
- 14-15** ...IFB Advantage Conference,  
East Peoria
- 18**.....HCFB Executive  
Committee meeting,  
HCFB Office, 6:30pm  
  
HCFB Board of Directors meeting,  
HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 25**.....HCFB Young Leaders meeting,  
HCFB Boardroom, 6:30pm
- 28**.....Women in Agriculture Conference,  
Bally's Quad Cities - Rock Island,  
registration required [www.womeninagricultureconference.com](http://www.womeninagricultureconference.com)

### APRIL

- 1**.....Farm Bureau Women's Real  
Colors" Workshop,  
HCFB Boardroom, 6pm

# ASHER SETS SIGHTS ON FUTURE AG ADVOCACY

by Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek

For Sadie Asher, competing in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Excellence in Agriculture contest was an emotional roller coaster, yet highly rewarding.

Placing in the top 10 amongst competitors throughout the country, Asher's ability to help tell agriculture's story sealed her spot among agriculture's biggest advocates for the industry within the 18-35 age group.

Presenting to a panel of three judges during AFBF's Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, the Henry County Young Leader walked them through her life growing up on a Madison County farm through her professional career in ag marketing to taking a chance on an agritourism business with her husband, Shane. She also demonstrated a knowledge for local and national issues affecting Illinois farmers, including carbon pipelines and the need for better rural medical services, including maternal care.

Helping move the needle on ag literacy has been Asher's biggest passion — a theme throughout her presentation titled "Quilting a Blanket of Ag Literacy."

"I have done a lot to hone my communication skills, and with that, my networking ability, and I've been graced with a lot of leadership opportunities because of that," she said during her presentation.

As a senior marketing strategist with Nutrien Ag Solutions, Asher said she's afforded the platform to talk about agriculture, both in and outside of the industry.



Sadie Asher, of Henry County, pictured with husband Shane, represented Illinois and placed in the Top 10 for the "Excellence in Agriculture" competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention recently held in San Antonio, Texas.

continued on page 3

## MEMBERSHIP Corner

*Thank You*

## FOR BEING A PART OF THE HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU!

By renewing your membership, which starts with your Henry County Farm Bureau, you'll be able to maintain your support for Illinois family farmers and continue reaping the benefits we have for you:

### Programs, education, events, and more

- Illinois Farm Bureau and the Henry County Farm Bureau provide a variety of ways for you to engage with Illinois family farmers and learn how they are growing a better future

for our communities, our next generation, our environment, and local food.

### Agriculture in the Classroom

- Your membership supports our efforts to provide Henry County educators and students with resources that will help them understand where their food comes from and the role agriculture plays in their lives.

### 300,000+ discounts

- For your membership dues, you have exclusive access to more than 300,000 discounts, saving

you money on everything from burgers to beach vacations, hotel stays to hearing aids, and pickup trucks to tire rotations.

Thank you for being a member of Henry County Farm Bureau! We appreciate you and we work hard every day to support all of our members! If you have questions about any benefits, programs or local issues – call the Farm Bureau today at (309) 937-2411 or via email to [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto:manager@henrycofarmbureau.org).



# HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Steve Nightingale  
**Vice President:** Heather Poppy  
**Vice President:** Brian Corkill  
**Secretary:** Kevin Schwartzkopf  
**Treasurer:** David Westerlund

## DISTRICT 4

Justin Frank, Kate Huffman,  
Chris Kendall, Steve Krause

## AT-LARGE

Gary Asay, Sadie Asher,  
Hilary Boelens, Jim Larson,  
Pat Martens, Jan Weber, Bill  
Wyffels, Steve Zobrist

## STAFF

**Manager:** Katie Laleman,  
FBCM

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Chelsea Vyncke

## DISTRICT 1

Emily Baum, Tim Gould,  
Adam Schroeder, Bridgett  
Wildermuth

## DISTRICT 2

Brian Daniels, Greg Decker,  
BJ Weber, Tim Yager

## DISTRICT 3

Thad Curry, David Schmedt,  
Lisa VanWatermeulen,  
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



# Health Department, First Choice Healthcare and Farm Bureau to Hold Special Health Check Clinic on March 7

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

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

The Department will offer a \$10 Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test for men aged 50-64.

In addition, free blood pressure checks will also be available to clinic participants.

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

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

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

**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
- General Hauling
- Dry Dams
- Terraces
- Basement & Ponds
- Stabilization Structures

ILLINOIS LICA  
starktiler@gmail.com

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

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

**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

**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

# HENRY COUNTY PORK PRODUCERS

## Annual Banquet

Saturday, March 15th, 2025  
6:00 p.m. Doors Open - 6:30 p.m. Meal  
Location: Midland Golf Club  
Tickets are available at the door

# TICKETS: \$10.00

All Henry County Pork Producers & Pork Promoters Welcome

Reminder - Exhibitors of the 4-H Barrow Sale receive one complimentary ticket  
Door Prizes will be given!  
Scholarships will be presented!  
Current and Past Pork Producers are Welcome!

### QUESTIONS

President, Chris Dobbels - (309) 507-1975  
Vice President, Owen Curry - (309) 373-3661  
Secretary, Steve Buysse - (309) 945-3850  
Treasurer, Jesse Edlefson - (309) 945-8024

**Stump removal**  
Don Haars  
333 East Park St.  
Geneseo, IL 61254  
309-944-4992  
309-944-7975

**Douglas W. Irwin & Co., Ltd.**  
Certified Public Accountants  
Tax Preparation & Planning For Farmers,  
Individuals, Partnerships and Corporations  
Monthly & Quarterly Bookkeeping  
10% Discount to Farm Bureau Members on tax preparation  
We offer electronic tax filing  
Make your appointment NOW!  
222 N. Main Street Kewanee, IL 61443  
309/852-5515  
Farm Bureau Cambridge, IL 61238  
309/937-2411





## HENRY COUNTY MEMBERS ATTEND CONFERENCE

Young Leaders from Henry County attended the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Conference in East Peoria. Those attending are (l to r) Justine Johnson; Ben, Kathryn & Reed Justus; Makenna Walker; Sadie, Shane & Judith Asher; Kate Huffman.

## ASHER SETS SIGHTS ON FUTURE AG ADVOCACY

*continued from page 1*

On the state and local level, Asher has been part of IFB's Adopt-a-Legislator program, helping share the challenges of Henry County farmers with state Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Palatine, whose district includes only one farm. She's also proud to have been interviewed for IFB's Fields Apart: Rooted Together docuseries.

"It is so cool to talk about agriculture in the rural space that I grew up in versus the urban space that some of my colleagues are in today," Asher said. "It's just so cool to be a part of this and talk about the similarities that we have, whether it's securing land or financing, what our goals are, because we all want to make a safe and healthy food source. We all want to talk to our consumers and understand their needs."

As she ages out of the IFB Young Leader program, Asher's sights are also set on continuing her advocacy, including participating in an IFB Leaders to Washington trip and possibly starting a mentorship program for professional members like herself.

A fifth-generation grain farmer, Asher transitioned to become a first-generation Christmas tree farmer several years ago.

Despite initial plans to raise cattle, she and her husband found a passion with the tree farm near Geneseo, where they've also developed a couple more agribusinesses on their farm to help diversify their operations and bring more people to their farm to learn firsthand about agriculture.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an agricultural operation, but who actively contribute and grow through their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations.

**Make the Most of Your Farmland Investment**  
Professional Farm Management • Farm Auctions  
Farmland Sales & Acquisitions • Certified Appraisals

309.944.2184 [www.Hertz.ag](http://www.Hertz.ag)

**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: [lmiller@millerfb.com](mailto:lmiller@millerfb.com)  
[www.millerfb.com](http://www.millerfb.com)



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

**SCHOLARSHIP PERIOD NOW OPEN**

- Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation Agriculture Scholarship
- Wilbert & Carol Keppy Foundation Scholarship
- Kevin & Karen Urick Farm Bureau Legacy Scholarship
- Glenn & Betty DeSmith Memorial Scholarship
- Trade & Technical Program Scholarship
- James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship

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

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

## Henry County Beef Association Banquet

Saturday, March 22, 2025  
Lavender Crest Winery

Social Hour: 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$25

For tickets or questions contact Courtney Ericson (309) 507-2025

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL UPCOMING EVENTS, BENEFITS, **AND MORE**

**HENRYCOFARBUREAU.ORG**







# FARMERS NAME THEIR FIELDS

We paused harvest to host our daughter's sixth birthday party at Norman North, a field along a winding gravel road. The dusty path contains just two houses and a hill you wouldn't want to attempt in slick conditions.

Whether remote or often seen, the fields we drive past on interstates, highways or rural routes have names. Farmers identify some by numbers, but most have names known only to their keepers. Thank goodness for Google pins that I can text to navigate new employees to Dump Road, Big Top or Myrtice 33 that adjoins with Don 40 (and which side is which). Likewise, I would need directions to find The Y or Seldom Seen – field names that local farmers shared with me.

Field location, size, the owner or, most commonly, the surname of the previous owner, dictate field names. My family owns Lievens Back Bottom, Beecher North and Haxton Homeplace but the previous owners'

names still identify the field, a culturally influenced practice and a nod to the past.

The Big and Little Bottoms have everything to do with rivers and nothing with glutes. Doug's Southeast, Pat's North and Ostrom South of Lane indicate directions from that landowner's homestead. Sometimes, round numbers like 40 or 80 in the name represent the acreage but we do have anomalies like Donna 73. The add-ons of Cemetery and Railroad in the name reference local landmarks except for Sunoco, which alludes to the gas station that once was.

The labels carryover into vehicles, equipment and structures with most names preceded by "the," such as The Kodiak, The One Ton, Truck Six, The Lower Shed or The New Bin that turns 30 years old this year. We will forever remember Jaws, the 1974 steel-bodied, white and rusty farm car for which the Secretary of State generated a random license plate with

"JAW" plus some numbers. Dad put a hitch on that Chevelle, and Mom used it like a truck.

From a record-keeping standpoint, field names are associated with large amounts of data, such as acreage totals, government numbers, insurance identification, satellite images, guidance lines, crop nutrient information and production histories. The names also preserve stories. In the Big Bottom, my family learned of 9/11. At the Wataga Farm my husband asked permission for my hand, and during our farm's harvest at the State Ground, our daughter was born. Within those field boundaries, we live life and make a living.

*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.*

**FIRST CHOICE HEALTHCARE**

**"Convenient & Close Prompt Care"**

**3 Clinics To Serve You! WALK-INS WELCOME IN KEWANEE & TOULON!**

 <p><b>KEWANEE</b> 309-852-5272</p>	 <p><b>COLONA</b> 309-792-4011</p>	 <p><b>TOULON</b> 309-852-3115</p>
--	---	--



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE SPONSORS SOURDOUGH CLASS

The HCFB Education Committee held a Beginning Sourdough Class as part of their Consumer Engagement programs. Andi Konie, The Garden Guru, was the instructor for the class, teaching all things sourdough to the participants. Pictured are Heather Poppy (left) and Kelly Yager mixing their dough for delicious bread to bake and enjoy!

**WE APPRECIATE YOU.**

**NATIONAL AG WEEK MARCH 17-22**



**ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU**  
Farm. Family. Food.™



# MARKET OUTLOOK SEMINAR

## to feature Joe Camp, CommStock Investments

Joe Camp, CommStock Investments, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, March 13 at 6:15 p.m. at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Dinner will be served followed by the local grain market update from Tom Parchert of River Valley Cooperative. **Reservations are required and must be made by March 6 to guarantee your attendance.**

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

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

Cost for the series is \$90.00 and a single session is \$35.00 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$40.00). To make reservations, please call the Henry County Farm Bureau (309) 937-2411, Rock Island County Farm Bureau (309) 736-7432 or Mercer County Farm Bureau (309) 582-5116.



The Market Outlook Seminar Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees, in conjunction with: Gold Star FS, COUNTRY Financial, BankORION, COUNTRY Crop Insurance, Central Bank, Compeer Financial, Big River Resources, River Valley Cooperative, Wyffels Hybrids, Hertz Farm Management, Blackhawk Bank & Trust.

# ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU ANNOUNCES NEW FARM BUREAU ADVANTAGE CONFERENCE

Gain valuable insight and knowledge on emerging issues in agriculture during Illinois Farm Bureau's first-ever Farm Bureau Advantage conference.

The conference, held March 14-15 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, seeks to empower IFB members through opportunities to connect with experts, learn and build new relationships. Attendees will hear five keynote presentations from agriculture experts, political strategists and motivational speakers, including Peter Zeihan, a geopolitical strategist and author.

Other speakers include Eric Snodgrass, a principal atmospheric scientist with Conduit Ag; Josh Sundquist, a Paralympic ski racer, author and motivational speaker; and representatives with Illinois Corn, Illinois Soybean Association and the University of Illinois Center for Digital Agriculture.

The conference will open with an evening social event featuring a dueling pianos show and opportunities to support the IAA Foundation. A hotel room block is available at the Embassy Suites. For more information or to register, visit: <https://www.ilfb.org/get-involved/events/farm-bureau-advantage-conference/>.



Your farm is your legacy.  
We can help you protect it.



Mike Geuns  
Annawan  
(309) 935-6697



Eric Henderson  
Geneseo  
(309) 944-4618



Julie Hessler  
Orion  
(309) 526-8024



Tom McKie  
Cambridge  
(309) 937-3372



Jerry Samuelson  
Woodhull  
(309) 334-3430



Erin Spivey  
Kewanee  
(309) 852-2121



Katie Spivey  
Galva  
(309) 932-3272



Cassie Stahler  
Geneseo  
(309) 944-4618

Commercial insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance 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.  
0125-104MM



Learn more about **CDL & TRUCKING REGULATIONS** to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road.

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

Hosted by: Whiteside CFB

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

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members.

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







# HENRY & STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOTES NATIONAL GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK, MARCH 9-15, 2025

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments' Environmental Health Division announces that March 9-15, 2025 has been designated National Groundwater Awareness Week. This annual observance has been established to highlight the responsible development, management, and use of groundwater. Life, as we know it, would be impossible without groundwater. It is the world's most extracted natural resource. Don't take groundwater for granted. Therefore, this week is also a platform to encourage yearly water well testing and well maintenance.

National Groundwater Awareness Week was designed to urge each of us to consider various ways to protect our most valuable natural resource. So remember things like not running water while you brush your teeth; getting that leaking faucet fixed; and the farmers that rely on groundwater to grow the food we eat. And remember to have your well inspected to protect your drinking water system.

The Health Department Environmental Health Services staff states, "Through National Groundwater Awareness Week, we would like to recommend to area residents that maybe it's time for your annual water well checkup!" Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

Why is it a good idea to have my water well checked annually? "The truth is an annual checkup is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water," say Department officials. "Also, preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance, like good car maintenance, can prolong the life of your well and related equipment. The Health Department recommends you test your water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced. Health Department staff are always available for inspections if homeowners feel there may be an issue with their water. In addition, the Department offers water testing for bacteria, nitrates, lead and arsenic. It should be noted, many areas of Henry County are high in arsenic."

Schedule your annual water well checkup. Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order.

The Health Department also recommends that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.

- Remember, inadequately maintained wells can become a direct pathway for contamination to enter the water supply for you and your surrounding neighbors/communities.
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.
- Maintain your waste water systems.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.
- Make sure abandoned well are sealed properly within 30 days of abandonment.

For more information on the Health Departments' Water Program, water testing and sealing abandoned wells, contact the Environmental Health Division at [eh@henrystarkhealth.org](mailto:eh@henrystarkhealth.org) or call (309) 852-0197 Extension 270. You can also visit our website at [www.henrystarkhealth.com](http://www.henrystarkhealth.com) or find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments or Follow Us on Twitter and Instagram.

Follow Us   



## YOUNG LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Henry County Young Leaders attending the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention are (l to r) Shane Asher, Sadie Asher and Kate Huffman. The convention was held January 24-29, 2025 in San Antonio, Texas.



# Women **IN AGRICULTURE** CONFERENCE

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

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

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



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

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

## HENRY COUNTY **Ag in the Classroom**



### **AG IN THE CLASSROOM AT ANNAWAN**

Katie Attig, Senior at Annawan High School has been teaching Agriculture in the Classroom programs as part of her FFA experience. Katie is pictured instructing second grade students at Annawan Grade School as they make "Beanie Babies". The lesson teaches students about seed germination using soybeans.

**TWO APPS. ONE TOTAL SOLUTION.**

**myFS AGRONOMY**

myFS Agronomy helps you make data-driven decisions for your fields.

**myFS AGRONOMY FEATURES**

- Access real-time alerts and insights for more proactive farming
- Integrate data for simplified decisions
- View regional, local, and field level weather
- Follow the latest markets and news
- Collaborate with trusted business partners

**myFS SOLUTION CENTER**

myFS Solution Center helps you stay in control of your farm's operations.

**myFS SOLUTION CENTER FEATURES**

- Access robust eBusiness insights
- Manage balances, invoices, and payments
- Access your FS Agri-Finance account
- E-sign for bookings and contracts
- View purchase summary reports
- Get field notifications with Agvance Dispatch

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FS TO LEARN MORE**



### **WHAT IS A COTTON BOLL?**

Students at Orion Middle School learned about cotton during their Agriculture in the Classroom lesson. As part of the lesson the students were able to dissect a cotton boll. Did you know? The boll is the rounded mature fruit of the cotton plant. It is made up of separate compartments which are called locks, in which cotton seeds and lint grow. These open at harvest time. An average boll will contain nearly 500,000 cotton fibers.





## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

# PORK CHOP 'N POTATO BAKE

From the Kitchen of Carol Dobbels



**Ingredients:**

- 6 pork chops
- ½ cup milk
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 pkg. frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can French fried onions

**Directions:**

Brown chops in oil. Sprinkle with seasoned salt and set aside. Combine soup, milk, sour cream & pepper. Stir in potatoes, ½ cup cheese, & ½ cup onions. Spoon mixture into 9x13 pan. Arrange pork chops over potatoes. Bake covered at 350 degrees for one hour. Top with remaining cheese and onions. Bake uncovered for 5 additional minutes.

## MARKET OUTLOOK SEMINAR SERIES



**Joe Camp**  
CommStock Investments  
(Registration deadline March 6)

**THURSDAY MARCH 13 6:15 P.M.**

Lavender Crest Winery  
5401 US Highway 6  
Colona, IL 61241  
[www.lavendercrest.com](http://www.lavendercrest.com)




## HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY


We are lucky to have you as a member!



Visit [FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau](http://FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau) today for complete offer details!

**Farm Bureau members receive a \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward\*** toward an eligible new F-150® Lightning®, Super Duty®, F-150, Ranger® or Maverick®

\*Available on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2024/2025/2026 model year Ford Maverick, Ranger, F-150, Super Duty or F-150 Lightning. Not available on any other Ford or Lincoln vehicles, including F-150 Raptor® and Ranger Raptor. Vehicle eligibility may change at any time. Available to U.S. residents only. Place a new retail order or take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 1/5/26. Limit of five purchases or leases per household during the program offer (PGM# 32524). Offer subject to dealer participation. May not be used/combined with most other Ford private offers. See an authorized Ford Dealer, or go to FordRecognizesU.com, for complete details and eligibility (PGM# 32524). Due to high demand and global supply chain constraints, some models, trims, and features may not be available or may be subject to change. Check with your local dealer for current information. Offer subject to confirmation of eligibility.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

### 106. JUDICIAL REFORM

**We support:**

1. An amendment to the Illinois Constitution permitting downstate judicial districts to choose by referendum between election of judges or appointment of judges from candidates recommended by advisory commissions made up of laymen and lawyers.
2. Working with members of the legal profession and legislative bodies on a state and national level to substantially reform the judicial system by addressing issues such as tort reform, attorney contingency fees, incompetent or unqualified judges, and lengthy trials.
3. Limiting the tenure of judges at the local and state level.
4. Providing adequate information to the public regarding the qualifications of individuals seeking election or retention to judicial office.

## YOUR EQUIPMENT DESERVES THE BEST DIESEL FUEL



**Dieslex Gold**  
Power • Efficiency • Protection

**FS GOLD STAR FS, INC.**