

# HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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

## HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

### MAY

- 19** ..... Henry County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, TBA
- 25** ..... Memorial Day, HCFB Office Closed
- 28** ..... Young Leaders Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup and Meeting, Geneseo, 6pm

### JUNE

- 2** ..... Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Team Meeting, 5:30pm
- 16-21** ..... Henry County Fair
- 30** ..... Market Outlook Seminar, Lavender Crest Winery, 6:15pm

## HENRY COUNTY TREASURER ANNOUNCES NEW PROPERTY TAX BILL LAYOUT

By Kelly Vincent, Henry County Treasurer

Henry County Treasurer, Kelly Vincent, did a complete overhaul to the upcoming property tax bill, which is scheduled to be mailed mid-May. The change focuses on being more transparent to where the property tax money is being distributed throughout the County. The bill will also be larger in size, going from 8 ½ x 11 to 8 ½ x 14. There will be a colored pie chart, breaking down the taxing districts by percentage of the total tax bill. The taxing districts will be listed from the highest to lowest change from the prior year and it will show the change in dollars for each district. The taxing districts will now have their phone number listed on the bill, allowing the taxpayer

to call if they have any questions regarding the change from last year in that specific district's tax rate, which is based on their approved tax levy. The section of how taxes are determined will now be on the back of the tax bill. This will give total assessment, exemptions and installment break down. The back of the bill also lists who to contact with questions, where to pay your taxes, a list of exemptions available to tax payers if they qualify, a link to the Illinois State Comptroller's office in regards to TIF district projects and a request for change of address, which is on the back of the 1st installment payment coupon.

"My goal as Treasurer is to give tax payers all the information available



Kelly Vincent

to know who to call, where to go to pay and how much of their property tax dollars are going to the various taxing districts and any significant changes from the prior year. I want to make sure that the taxpayers of Henry County know exactly who is receiving their money."

Please contact the Treasurer's office with any questions or concerns at 309-937-3576

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



## FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

### Awards 2026 Scholarships



The Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation, in conjunction with the Wilbert & Carol Keppy Foundation, Kevin & Karen Urick, Glenn & Betty DeSmith Memorial, James Ufkin Memorial and the Robert J. & Donna Jean Dobbels Memorial are proud to award \$61,000 in scholarships to students pursuing higher education.

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. Beginning in 2023, the Foundation created the Trade and Technical Program

Scholarship for individuals pursuing training in an area of a skilled trade.

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

(2026 Scholarships continued on page 3)

## MEMBERSHIP Corner

### SPRING IS HERE, AND THAT MEANS PLANTING SEASON!

- Farmers are busy getting crops in the ground, but with that comes slow-moving farm equipment on the roads.
- When you see farm equipment ahead, slow down, and give them plenty of distance.
- Don't try to pass unless you're sure it's safe.
- Remember that farmers may not see you, especially on narrow or winding roads.

These extra moments of caution and patience could prevent accidents and save lives. Let's make planting season safer for everyone—drivers and farmers alike—by sharing the road and staying safe.

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# IFB RECOGNIZES TOP 10 ILLINOIS FFA SECTION PRESIDENTS

By Hannah Spangler, FarmWeek

The top 10 Illinois FFA Section presidents have been selected for their excellence while serving the organization in their role.

“Earning a place among the Top 10 FFA Section presidents isn’t just recognition of accomplishments, it’s a reflection of a leader who has invested in the future of agriculture,” said Lori Jackson, Illinois Farm Bureau youth and collegiate program coordinator.

These award winners will be recognized during the Illinois FFA Convention in Springfield, June 9-11:

- Section 3: Jolene Blackert, Henry County
- Section 7: Shelby Garbacz, LaSalle County
- Section 9: Tiffany Rustman, Livingston County
- Section 10: Isabella Bunting, Livingston County
- Section 14: Collin Johnson, Morgan County
- Section 16: Gehrig Bunselmeyer, Macon County
- Section 19: Levi German, Montgomery County
- Section 22: Sydney Kurgeleis, Monroe County
- Section 23: Haven Cash, Clay County
- Section 24: Mackenna Wesseln, Perry County



Across Illinois, 25 FFA Section presidents lead the schools and students in their section while serving on the state officer team, which is led by the six Illinois FFA Major State Officers.

“Being a Section FFA President is quite the responsibility. These officers are leading events, organizing opportunities and stepping up when it matters most,” Jackson told FarmWeek. “They invest time and effort into strengthening their section and beyond while uplifting members and creating a lasting impact.”

The top 10 FFA Section presidents went above and beyond in their duties throughout the year. These students, along with the recipients of the Illinois 4-H Sustaining the Future Award, will be invited to attend the Premier 20 Leadership Conference April 27-28 at IFB.

Sponsored by IFB and its affiliates’ Youth Education in Agriculture Committee, the event provides an opportunity for top student leaders to engage in professional development, explore new skills and learn how to continue making a meaningful impact.

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# FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION AWARDS 2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from page 1

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. The DeSmith's farmed southwest of Annawan until their retirement in 1990. Glenn and Betty were very active in their church, community and Farm Bureau. 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 and service of Jim Ufkin. Jim was a life-long farmer, retiring after 46 years of farming corn, soybeans and raising hogs. He served on the Board of Directors of the Henry County Farm Bureau for 40 years and served on the Board of the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation.

The Robert J. and Donna Jean Dobbels Memorial Scholarship honors lifelong 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.

## Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation Agricultural Scholarship

- Ella Anderson – Agricultural Studies, Iowa State University
- Trent Chamberlain – Agricultural Studies, Iowa State University
- Tyler Chamberlain – Ag Systems Technology
- Avery Knupp – Pre-Vet, Lake Land College
- Matthew Maher – Agriculture Business Management & Agriculture Production, Black Hawk East
- Mason Palmer – Animal Science, Iowa State University
- Makenna Walker – Agronomy, Iowa State University

## Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation General Scholarship

- Emily Downing – Aerospace Engineering, Unites States Naval Academy
- Mallory Pronschinske – Kinesiology & Health, Iowa State University

## HCFB Foundation Trade and Technical Program Scholarship

- Savannah Faulkner – Culinary Arts, Kirkwood Community College
- Brayden Hardin – John Deere Diesel Technician, Lake Land College
- Raymond Herring – HVAC, Midwest Technical Institute
- Jade Markey – Veterinary Technician, Black Hawk East

## Wilbert & Carol Keppy Foundation Scholarship

- Camryn Anderson – Elementary Education, Illinois State University
- Kendra Downing – Soil & Crop Science, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- Kalleigh Gale – Biology & Spanish, Augustana College
- Miranda Reed – Agricultural Studies, Iowa State University

## Kevin & Karen Urick Farm Bureau Legacy Scholarship

- Emily Downing – Aerospace Engineering, Unites States Naval Academy

## Glen & Betty DeSmith Memorial Scholarship

- Jolene Blackert – Ag Business, Iowa State University
- Kashen Ellerbrock – Agricultural Business, Black Hawk East
- Brayden Hardin – John Deere Diesel Technician, Lake Land College

## James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship

- Emma Yerkey – Ag Business, Western Illinois University or Southern Illinois University

## Robert J. & Donna Jean Dobbels Memorial Scholarship

- Megan Oliver – Crop & Soil Science, Illinois State University
- Aleigha Witte – Ag Business, Black Hawk East



## FROM ROOTS TO LEAVES

Third grade students at Galva Elementary School learned about the parts of a tree and what we can use from the different parts.



## DIGGING INTO SOIL

Kindergarten students at Cambridge Elementary learned about gardens and soil. Then made "Edible Soil" for a snack with Ag Literacy Coordinator, Paula Janson.



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## WOMEN IN FARMING: New to the Narrative, Not the Work

Grandma never questioned butchering two chickens for lunch before church. She cleaned, cut, breaded and partially fried the ultra-fresh poultry, which finished baking in the oven while the family of six attended worship.

Holy chicken.

It's almost Mother's Day. I love Sunday dinner out. And the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the first time ever named 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer. In reality, female farmers aren't a new phenomenon. The industry is just finally talking about it out loud.

On both sides, my family tree is rooted in farming, and I'm blessed that both my grandmas – a fresh 88 and almost 89 – still can coherently share about their careers on the farm. Today, my mom farms, I farm, and more exciting yet, the fourth generation (the oldest now 20 studying agriculture in college) has grown to know two generations of

grandmas and their quiet impact on agriculture as partners with the men in their family businesses.

The narrative used to frame a women's farm labor as "just helping." Yet, their husbands will attest these ladies would disk fields, sort and load hogs, locate field tiles, unload racks of hay, fetch parts, market crops, manage the farm financials, sign into debt, pay the taxes and elevate ear corn into the wire crib. They managed massive gardens that fed the family on summer evenings and year-round through preservation.

Meanwhile, they raised farm kids inspired to enter the same business. With children in tow for farm duties, my mom and grandmas packed lunches for the entire family, feeding hearts and minds with life lessons as much as bellies with nutrition during a hard day's work.

I don't see us returning to the era of buying 100 straight-run chicks, butchering half for meat and

raising half for selling eggs. But our farm's ownership by gender is a 50/50 split – Mom, Dad, my 40-something brother and I – all working full-time, pulling the occasional 90-hour weeks and collectively operating, managing, decision-making, succession planning, turning wrenches and respecting the talents each brings to the table, both in the conference room and at family dinners.

The team mindset and collaborative approach support farm continuity, community, harmony and the motive to live values, not just list them. Communally, we create a culture that has the next generation – both males and females – welcome and wanting to belong. That kind of narrative endures.

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

## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE TAKES 'ONGOING' EFFORT

By Hannah Spangler, FarmWeek

Rita Frazer contributed to this story.

Putting together the annual Illinois Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference takes a full team of county Farm Bureau managers.

Chair of the committee, Rock Island County Farm Bureau Manager Tara Mayhew, said the event, which drew about 230 women to the Quad Cities March 27, reflects the expanding role women play on the farm and in professional careers tied to the industry. County managers on the executive planning committee work throughout the year to shape a conference agenda that meets evolving interests and challenges faced by women in agriculture.

"This is my favorite event of the year," Mayhew said. "We start within a month after we complete a conference and we start planning the next one."

The conference draws women from multiple generations, ranging from those just beginning their careers to those preparing to transition the farm to the next generation, said Jill Frueh, manager of the Bureau County Farm Bureau who will begin her new position as IFB Region 1 manager April 20.

"It's really fun to see just a different group of people that come out and listen to the conference give us feedback on what they're looking for," she said.

Katie Laleman, a member of the planning committee and manager of the Henry County Farm Bureau, said deciding what to include in the conference each year is an ongoing process. Attendee needs and preferences change from year to year, requiring the team to continually refine and grow the event.

Managers rely on their direct connections with members to guide speaker selection and topic development, Laleman said. While they may not personally know every attendee, she said the managers work in the same communities and understand the importance of staying connected and delivering a meaningful conference experience.

"I think between everyone that's part of the committee and all the managers, we have a really good feel for our attendees, and know what they are looking for, what they're wanting," Laleman said.

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You may also make your donation online at <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate> and select the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation, #2161.

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. Contributions to the Foundation are accepted from the public and are tax deductible.

Please help us preserve our past and grow our future for the generations to come!

# MARKET OUTLOOK SEMINAR FEATURING KRISTI VAN AHN KJESETH

Kristi Van Ahn Kjeseth, Chief Operating Officer, Van Ahn and Company, Inc., will be the featured speaker on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Dinner will be served, followed by the local grain market update from Tom Parchert of River Valley Cooperative. Reservations are required and must be made by June 23 to guarantee your attendance.

Kristi started with Van Ahn and Company, Inc. part time in 2009 while she finished her last year of college at North Dakota State University. She graduated with a degree in finance and a minor in Ag business. Kristi is very proud that she gets to carry on a family business and hopes that it continues to flourish for generations to come. Kristi is married with

three daughters (just like how she grew up).

A comment from Kristi: "There are many things that I love about my job, but what I love the most is the integral part of relationship building we get to do with our producers for marketing. It is very important to remove the emotion involved in marketing and someone helping you do that along the way, is key."

Cost for the series is \$90.00 and a single session is \$35.00 (if not pre-registered, cost will be \$40.00). To make reservations, please contact the Henry County Farm Bureau at (309) 937-2411 or email [manager@henrycofarmbureau.org](mailto:manager@henrycofarmbureau.org).

The Market Outlook Series is sponsored by the Henry, Mercer and Rock Island County Farm Bureau



Kristi Van Ahn Kjeseth

Marketing Committees and the following: Gold Star FS, COUNTRY Financial, BankORION, Alan Davis - COUNTRY Crop Insurance Specialist, Central Bank, River Valley Cooperative, Wyffels Hybrids, Big River Resources, Hertz Farm Management, State Bank of Toulon, IAA Credit Union and Blackhawk Bank & Trust.



# HELPING FARMERS TAKE THE INITIATIVE

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about mental health and promote resources and support. This is especially important for farmers, whose mental health is often overlooked and under-addressed.

In recent years, mental health has become a prevalent topic in our daily lives. The constant change and stress, compounded by the pandemic, have left many people feeling depressed or anxious, and farmers are no exception.

Fortunately, help is available through SIU Medicine's program designed to assist farmers and their families. The Farm Family Resource Initiative (FFRI) provides a network of support and resources, including a confidential 24/7 helpline (1-833-FARM-SOS) connecting you to health professionals who specialize in ag-related stress. These medical professionals live in Illinois and can relate to the local economy, weather, and other daily stressors specific to our region.

In addition to text, email, and website services, telehealth counseling sessions are available for those in need of additional support. Up to six individual, couple, or group sessions are available, all at no cost to the farmer or farm family member thanks to grant funding.

FFRI Ag Resource Specialist Karen Stallman understands the challenges that farm families may encounter, having lived on a farm in southern Illinois. "In farming, there tends to be a new challenge each day, and nothing seems easy," Stallman says.

FFRI also offers opportunities for healthcare professionals

to learn more about farming-related issues and earn CME credits through its Rural Community Mental Health program. The virtual training illuminates how mental and physical health issues can impact those working in farming and agriculture. To learn more, visit [siumed.edu/farm/events-and-webinars](http://siumed.edu/farm/events-and-webinars).

The AgriSafe Nurse Scholar Program is also available to rural nurses through on-demand webinars, increasing their knowledge in the prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. Find more details by visiting [learning.agrisafe.org/nurse-scholar-program](http://learning.agrisafe.org/nurse-scholar-program).

It is crucial to recognize that mental health care is not a luxury and that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. The Family Farm Resource Initiative is just one example of the resources available to those in agriculture who may be struggling with their mental health.

Please check on friends, family members, and neighbors regularly. Spread the word about the Farm Family Resource Initiative and encourage others to reach out and talk to someone. It may save the life of someone you know!

This Mental Health Awareness Month, let us continue to advocate for mental health care and support in the agricultural community and beyond. Let us work together to break down the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage those who may be struggling to reach out for help. Together, we can promote healing and well-being for all. Find more information about the FFRI at [siumed.org/farm](http://siumed.org/farm).

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# YOUNG LEADERS ANNOUNCE WINNER OF T-SHIRT CONTEST

The Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders have awarded the 32nd Annual T-Shirt Contest award to Cayson Mallum, 4th grade student at Southwest Elementary School in Geneseo. The theme for this year's contest was "Agriculture: Here & There."

Henry County fourth grade students were eligible to participate in this drawing contest, with the winning entry placed on a t-shirt for the entire class. Special thanks to Gold Star FS, co-sponsors of the annual t-shirt contest along with the Young Leaders.



Pictured at the surprise announcement with Cayson are (l to r) Justine Johnson, Chair of the Young Leaders; Stacy Markey and Megan Dwyer, Gold Star FS.

# FARM BUREAU WOMEN ANNOUNCE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

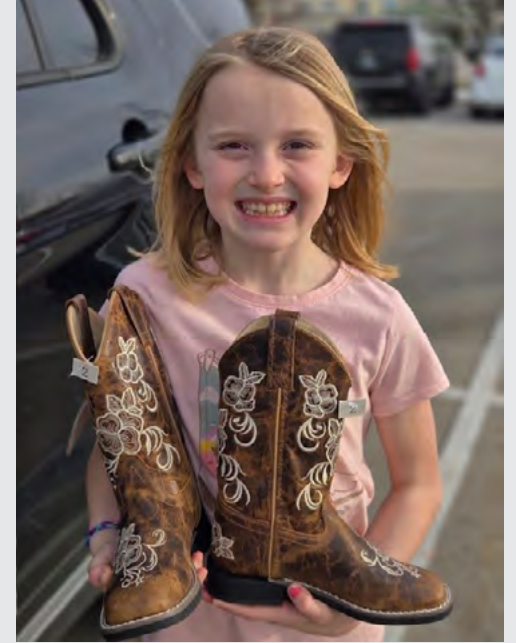
The Farm Bureau Women have announced the winners of the "Where Will Your Boots Take You?" Poster Contest. Entries were received from students in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades throughout the county. Entries were judged by neatness and the message conveyed. First place winners received a \$50 gift card for the purchase of a new pair of boots!

*First Grade:*



Emma Moehring, Galva Elementary

*Second Grade:*



Lindsey Dwyer, St. Malachy School

*Third Grade:* Marlie Evans, Fath Homeschool Group

# USPS POSTMARK RULES HAVE CHANGED AND HOW THIS CAN AFFECT THE MAILING OF PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS BY THE DUE DATE

By Kelly Vincent, Henry County Treasurer

The USPS has announced that postmark rules have changed, which can affect when you mail your property tax payments. Previously, mail was postmarked the day you mailed it, but the rules have changed and mail will now be postmarked the day it is processed, which can result in at least a 1-2 day delay. Tax bills must be postmarked by the due date to be counted as on time and not incur a late penalty. To help avoid this, I would suggest going to the post office counter and request a manual postmark. This will insure that the postmark is on or before the due date. The Treasurer's office offers many alternative trusted payment options other than mailing to pay your property taxes, that include a drop box at the entrance of the courthouse that is accessible anytime; in person in the Treasurer's office, which is open Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 and located inside of the Courthouse; online at [www.henrycty.com](http://www.henrycty.com) (fees apply); over the phone (fees apply); at participating Henry County banks until the 2nd installment due date (you don't have to bank there to pay your taxes at that bank) and direct ACH withdrawal from checking/savings account if you sign up at least 10 days prior to the due date. It is your money, why risk a late penalty by hoping the post office postmarks your payment on time.

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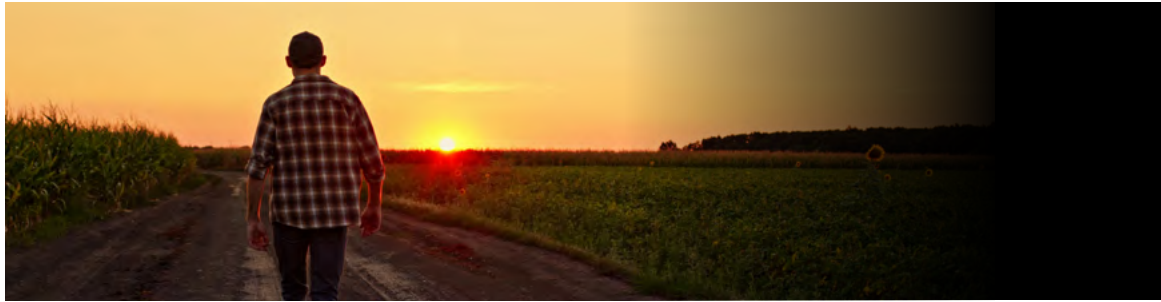
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# Henry & Stark County Health Departments & First Choice Healthcare Note May - Mental Health Awareness Month

The Henry and Stark County Health Department and First Choice Healthcare announces that May has been designated as Mental Health Awareness Month. The Mental Health Awareness Month 2026 theme is "More Good Days, Together." This theme encourages us all to reflect on what a "good" day looks like, both for ourselves, and for our communities. In addition, it also reminds individuals and communities to move beyond simply recognizing mental health issues and take tangible steps to support mental well-being.

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the US since 1949. Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. During May, First Choice Healthcare joins in the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Each year we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.

Consider the following Mental & Behavioral Health Facts:

- 1 in 5 US adults experience mental illness each year, and less than

half of them receive treatment.

- 1 in 6 US youth experience mental illness each year, and only half of them receive treatment.
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24.
- The average delay between onset of mental illness symptoms and treatment is 11 years.
- 60% of Americans are concerned about the stigma and around mental illness.

Paige Humphrey, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with First Choice Healthcare notes, "We know that mental health is integral to overall health. People need to care for their mental health so they can respond to the stress of daily life and the challenges it presents. This Mental Health Month, we are encouraging everyone to learn about steps they can take to protect their mental health and balance both mind and body."

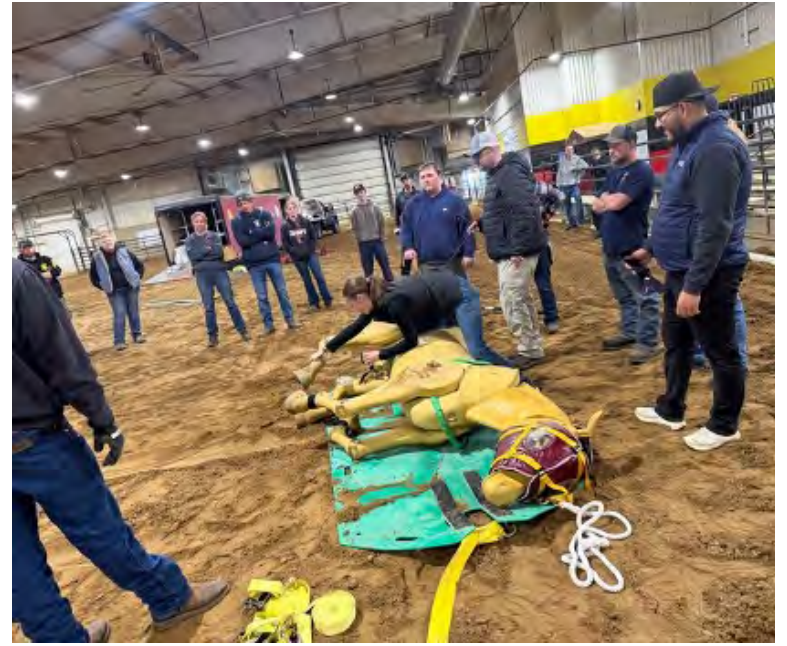
With limited resources for mental health in our community and the current circumstances we are facing locally and globally, it is now more important than ever to provide individuals

with the behavioral/mental health support they need. Through the hard work and dedication of our psychiatric nurse practitioner, clinic and school-based mental health therapists, and mental health nurses and support staff; First Choice Healthcare is pleased to be able to offer this support to our community.

There are many reasons an individual may seek treatment. Our behavioral health staff are prepared to support patients for counseling & therapy beginning at age 5; and beginning at age 6 for medication management who may be struggling with depression, anxiety, stress, behavior problems, bipolar disorder, family/parenting issues, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia and other related disorders, sexual assault, suicide prevention, trauma and loss.

For more information on Mental Health services or to schedule an appointment simply call First Choice Healthcare in Kewanee at 309-852-5272! Help and understanding are just a phone call away.

Follow Us   



## LOCAL RESPONDERS COMPLETE LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE TRAINING AT BLACK HAWK EAST

Twenty-five emergency responders and volunteers from multiple Illinois counties completed the Large Animal Rescue Operations Course through the Illinois Fire Service Institute held at Black Hawk East on March 28. This specialized training equipped participants with critical animal rescue techniques and safety procedures, enhancing their ability to respond to emergencies involving livestock. The program emphasized scenarios such as farm accidents and severe weather events, aiming to better protect both animals and handlers. Organizers highlight the importance of such training in agricultural regions, where swift and knowledgeable re-

sponse can make a significant difference during emergencies. The newly certified responders are expected to serve their communities with improved expertise.

Bureau County Farm Bureau, Henry County Farm Bureau, Knox County Farm Bureau, Marshall-Putnam Farm Bureau, Mercer County Farm Bureau, Peoria County Farm Bureau, Rock Island County Farm Bureau, Stark County Farm Bureau, and Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau counties sponsored the event, with support from Apex Clean Energy, Galesburg Community Foundation, Knox County Pork Producers Association, Knox County Cattlemen Association and Black Hawk College East Campus.

## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

As farmers, you take great care of your land and livestock. But sometimes you forget to take care of yourself. May is Mental Health Month and your county Farm Bureau reminds you to put yourself first. A healthy farm needs a healthy you.

If you or someone you know is struggling with stress, anxiety,

depression, addiction, or other mental health challenges, you are not alone. Reach out and ask for help.

For signs and symptoms, as well as helpful tools, resources, and hotlines, go to [www.ilfb.org/MentalHealthWellness](http://www.ilfb.org/MentalHealthWellness).

**Remember... We Are Stronger Together.**

**SICK VISIT APPOINTMENTS**

*Healthcare For Everyone!*



**KEWANEE TOULON**  
309-852-5272 309-852-3115

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

### 121. PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION

#### We support:

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

We oppose legislation removing either the State DOR or the local Board of Review from the administrative process of approving or denying property tax exemptions. The DOR should continue to have final authority.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



**Makes:** 16 servings  
**Prep Time:** 15 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 25 minutes  
**Total Time:** 40 minutes

**Recipe Created By:**  
Jodie Shield

**Featured In:**  
Illinois Farm Bureau Partners

## CHEESY ASPARAGUS TART

Fresh asparagus signals the start of spring. Use this green queen as the topping for a Cheesy Asparagus Tart on lemony puff pastry loaded with fontina cheese and a hint of fresh dill.

#### Ingredients

- 1 ½ pounds asparagus, trimmed of woody stems
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ½ lemon, zested and juiced
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (half of a 17.3-ounce package), thawed
- 2 ½ cups dill-rubbed fontina cheese\*, shredded (divided)

*\*Can't find dill-rubbed fontina? Add ¼ teaspoon of chopped fresh dill to the shredded fontina cheese and stir to combine.*

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Set aside.
2. In a large skillet, bring 1 inch of water to a boil. Add the asparagus and cook, covered, until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Drain and pat dry. Set aside.
3. In a small bowl whisk together the oil, lemon juice and zest, salt, and pepper. Set aside.
4. On a lightly floured surface, roll the puff pastry sheet into a 16-by-12-inch rectangle. Transfer to the prepared baking sheet and bake until golden brown, about 10 minutes.
5. Sprinkle 2 cups of shredded fontina evenly over the puff pastry, leaving a ½-inch border with no cheese around the edges. Arrange the asparagus over the cheese in a single layer, then drizzle with the oil mixture.
6. Bake until cheese is melted, about 10 minutes. Allow to cool slightly, then sprinkle the remaining ½ cup of shredded fontina over the top. Slice and serve warm.

**Nutrition Information:** Calories: 130, Sugar: 1g, Sodium: 184mg, Fat: 10g, Saturated fat: 5g, Carbohydrates: 6g, Fiber: 1g, Protein: 6g, Cholesterol: 20mg

**TAKE YOUR FLEET FURTHER  
WITH DEF SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT**

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