

HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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



HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

SEPTEMBER

- 1**..... **Labor Day,**
CFB Office Closed
- 8**..... **Farm Bureau Women, Business Meeting,**
HCFB office, 5:30pm
- 9**..... **Market Outlook Seminar,**
Speaker: Brian Splitt,
Reservations required-
Lavendar Crest Winery, 6:15pm
- 16**..... **HCFB Executive Committee meeting, HCFB office, 6:30pm**
HCFB Board of Directors meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7:00pm
- 30**..... **HCFB Young Leaders Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup & Meeting, 6:00pm**

AG IN THE CLASSROOM SUPPLY DRIVE

- Plastic spoons & knives
- Small paper plates
- 5oz cups
- Baby wipes
- Scotch tape
- Toothpicks
- Quart & gallon freezer bags
- Snack/sandwich Ziploc bags
- Yarn (red, orange, green, black)
- 6" red & orange plates



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ILLINOIS GRAZING LANDS COALITION ANNOUNCES 2025 GRAZING SCHOOLS

The Illinois Grazing Lands Coalition (ILGLC) is pleased to announce two upcoming Grazing Schools, with events scheduled this September in Cambridge and Waltonville, Illinois. These two-day educational events are designed for both beginning and experienced livestock producers looking to build more profitable, resilient grazing operations.

"The Grazing Schools are one of our most valuable offerings each year," said Logan Karcher, Director of Producer Programs for ILGLC. "They provide a chance for Illinois producers to learn from both grazing experts and fellow farmers about practical tools and strategies they can use in their operations. We're especially excited to highlight innovative topics like virtual fencing and direct marketing approaches at this year's events."

ILGLC's 2025 Grazing Schools will focus on practical strategies for

improved forage management, animal performance, and profitability:

September 12–13: Cambridge, IL (Bottens Family Farm)

Topics will include cropland grazing systems, the use of virtual fence technology, direct-to-consumer meat marketing, and multi-species grazing with goats and cattle. This event is sponsored by NoFence, the world's first commercial virtual fencing solution for livestock.

September 26–27: Waltonville, IL (Hottes Angus Farm)

This school will explore adaptable marketing plans, maximizing the use of NRCS EQIP programs, and genetic improvements for grazing-focused herds.

Each school features a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on field learning from both expert and peer perspectives.

Registration is \$50 per attendee and includes meals, handouts, and refreshments. Registration is required 10 days in advance, and space is limited. Historically underserved producers are encouraged to attend, and scholarships are available to those in need.

For more information or to register, visit ilgrazinglands.org/events

About Illinois Grazing Lands Coalition

Illinois Grazing Lands Coalition is the voice of regenerative grazing in Illinois. ILGLC promotes regenerative grazing in Illinois through regional farmer-led grazing groups. They facilitate pasture walks, grazing schools, and other educational opportunities for graziers in Illinois, as well as no-cost on-farm consultations. Visit www.ilgrazinglands.org to learn more and find an upcoming event in your area.

YOUNG LEADERS ANNOUNCE ACHIEVEMENT, EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

(Photo by Catrina Rawson)

By Phyllis Coulter, FarmWeek

Years of hard work were recognized July 17 as the Illinois Farm Bureau announced the winners of this year's Young Leader awards.

"We're thrilled to recognize Daniel and Constance Herriott, along with Kate Huffman, for their outstanding contributions to Illinois agriculture," said Perry Harlow, IFB Young Leader program coordinator.

"The Herriotts exemplify the dedication and passion we see in our young production agriculture leaders, while Kate's work in mental health shows the diverse ways our members are strengthening rural communities," he said.

The 2025 Young Leader Achievement Award, won by the Herriotts, recognizes Young Leaders with farming as their primary source of income, for their successful production agriculture and leadership.

Daniel Herriott is best known by FarmWeek readers as a CropWatcher and is the second

generation doing so. His father, Steve, was the first, and still helps Daniel and his brother, Matt, on the family farm, where they grow corn, sweet corn and soybeans near Sidney in southeastern Champaign County. Herriott also works in farmland appraisal in east-central Illinois.

Constance Herriott's role on the farm is a blend of caregiver, coordinator and encourager.

"I take care of our kids during the long stretches of work, make sure they get their time in the field with their dad, run for parts, help move the guys from one field to the next, bring out warm meals and provide a listening ear and honest feedback when tough choices come up," she said.

The Herriotts, parents of three sons ages 4 to 8, are "doers" whether working together in their sweet corn business or the community.

"It's not just Constance and me; it's the people along the way that



Kate Huffman

helped us." The team includes ag leaders, mentors and family.

"We are here because of a lot of people who were on our journey and along the path. A lot of people contributed," Daniel Herriott told FarmWeek.

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

Continued on page 3

HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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FROM PIGGY BANKS TO PAYCHECKS:
GROWING WITH IAA CREDIT
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At IAA Credit Union (IAACU), financial education begins at an early age. Our Youth Program is designed to grow with your children from their first savings to their first paycheck. Meet Avery, a graduate of the IAACU Youth Program. She'll walk us through her journey and how the program helped her develop lifelong money management skills.

Kids Club: Ages 0–12

Avery's journey began with the Kids Club, where she opened her very own savings account and learned the importance of keeping money safe at a trusted financial institution.

When Avery turned eight, her mom signed up for Greenlight! The best part? Avery's mom was able to get Greenlight for free* by linking her IAA Credit Union checking account as the funding source. With Greenlight, Avery's mom could set controls like where Avery could use her Greenlight debit card and how much she could spend. She also set up chores for Avery to earn an allowance.

Avery used her Greenlight debit card to make purchases, set savings

goals (like the new bike she'd been asking for), and play the financial education game LevelUp®!

Dollars & Sense Club: Ages 13–17

When Avery turned 13, she joined the Dollars & Sense Club. The money she had saved in her Kids Club Savings account automatically rolled over into her new Dollars & Sense Savings account. Her parents also opened a Dollars & Sense Checking account for her.

Avery's family took advantage of an exclusive investment opportunity: a Youth Shared Certificate (CD) starting as low as \$500! With her Youth CD, Avery learned about setting money aside for a fixed period and watching it grow with a high interest rate.

Elite Club: Ages 18–23

As Avery transitioned into adulthood at 18, the Elite Club supported her growing financial independence. With a part-time job and college underway, she managed her income through her Elite Checking account.

As an Elite Club member, Avery qualified for IAACU's lowest rate on her first auto

loan just in time to purchase her first car.

In college, Avery applied the knowledge she gained from using her Greenlight debit card to start building credit with a Secured VISA credit card linked to her Elite Savings account. She learned to manage credit responsibly while building a strong financial foundation. Mobile banking, direct deposit from her part-time job, and automatic savings transfers helped Avery stay on track with her financial goals even while away at school.

Looking Back

Avery credits IAACU's Youth Program for her financial confidence. "I didn't just learn how to save, I learned how to plan, budget, and grow my savings," she said. "Start early, ask questions, and take advantage of every tool IAACU offers."

Ready to Start Your Child's Financial Journey?

IAACU offers a variety of resources to help children build financial literacy, from counting coins to managing their first paycheck. Learn more about our Youth Program and our Greenlight partnership by visiting www.iaacu.org/youth.

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Young Leaders Announce Achievement, Excellence Award Winners

continued from page 1

"It came as quite a surprise yesterday but I'm very honored and excited," Huffman, who works in ag financing and is co-chief operator on the family farm with her father, Jim, in Galva (Henry County), told FarmWeek of winning the award. "I just want what's best, and that drives my passion for agriculture," said Huffman. After growing up in the stressful 1990s on a hog farm, she sought a business career in Chicago. But only nine months into the big city life, she knew farming was for her.

The sixth-generation farmer started renting farmland in 2016, bought her first farm in 2018 at the age of 27 and works fulltime as a farm loan officer.

Shocked by statistics showing how many farmers considered suicide in 12 months, Huffman, as chair of Henry County Farm Bureau (HCFB) Young Leaders health and safety committee with the HCFB Women's committee, has spearheaded events including Mocktails and Mental Health, and training for people who work with farmers to spot the signs of mental health crisis and offering resources.

Huffman said HCFB, family and friends and her community help push her out of her comfort zone, adding "I'm happy to be a positive voice for agriculture."

"These awards celebrate not just individual achievement, but the bright future of farming in Illinois. We're proud to support these Young Leaders as they represent our state at the national level and continue making their mark in agriculture," Harlow said.

Illinois Farm Bureau, National Education Center for Agricultural Safety Celebrate National Farm Safety and Health Week



The Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is once again collaborating with the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to promote farm safety and health during National Farm Safety and Health Week, which will take place from September 22-27, 2025. This year's theme, "Safety First, Avoid the Worst," is dedicated to raising awareness about the hazards of working

in agriculture. It underscores the importance of prioritizing the health and safety of those who work tirelessly to provide our abundant supply of food, fiber, and fuel.

"We're excited to help promote and support NECAS's efforts in keeping farmers and farm families safe," said Katie Laleman, Manager, Henry County Farm Bureau. "Harvest season can be particularly dangerous for farmers with long hours and stress of weather delays, equipment breakdowns or high operating costs, and this year's activities will reinforce the importance of organizations like ours working together to ensure farmers make it home safely to their families at night."

Each day of the week has a designated topic of focus to promote various aspects of farm safety:

- Monday, Sept. 22 – Equipment and Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday, Sept. 23 – Health and Wellness
- Wednesday, Sept. 24 – Generations of Farming
- Thursday, Sept. 25 – Confined Spaces
- Friday, Sept. 26 – ATV/UTV

The 2022 data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that the agricultural sector remains the most hazardous industry in America, with 417 fatalities. Fall harvest time is particularly busy and perilous for those in agriculture. Consequently, the third week of September has been designated as National Farm Safety and Health Week to emphasize the importance of safety and health in this critical industry.

"Farmers are notorious for their work ethic and determination, both qualities that also can be a detriment when it comes to safety," said Laleman. "While farm safety is top of mind every week for farmers, their families and their employees, National Farm Safety and Health Week is an opportunity to spotlight safety reminders that keep those both inside and outside the agriculture industry aware and mindful during the busy harvest season."

For more information about National Farm Safety and Health Week, contact your local county Farm Bureau, visit www.necasag.org, or contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or dgallivan@ilfb.org.

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NOMINATE AN ACTIVELY ENGAGED STUDENT

High school students who invest their time and talents across a wide array of programs and interests will be celebrated for a second year through the Illinois Farm Bureau Actively Engaged Student of the Month program.

IFB will begin accepting student nominations for the 2025-26 school year starting Aug. 1.

"It was really nice to see a quality number of great nominations during the first year of the program," said Jim Taylor, a broadcaster for RFD Radio Network. "We're looking forward to another academic year of sharing examples of students who are actively engaged in their schools and communities across the state. Again, we're looking to highlight those well-rounded and involved youngsters who devote their time and energies to FFA, 4H, interscholastic athletics and activities, and student clubs and organizations."

Nominations should come from an FFA adviser, coach, club or activity sponsor, 4-H or county-fair representative. Applications received during the 2024-25 must be resubmitted for consideration.

Monthly winners will be spotlighted on the RFD Radio Network, FarmWeekNow.com and FarmWeek.

Nominations may be made online, farmweeknow.com/activelyengaged.



KEEPING THE FAMILY IN FARM

Continuation Takes Thoughtful Action

Our family farm hosted our small town’s first-ever all-class school reunion this summer. Kudos to the alumni on the organizing committee, who gathered 350 graduates and guests for this “Fest on the Farm.” That’s a big party in the farm shop for one of the smallest schools in the state.

In that crowd, four of us claimed the most living generations in attendance: My grandma, dad, daughter and I. Two factors contributed to this four-generation achievement. My grandparents and parents had babies at 20 years old, and we dedicated ourselves to the family farm, a business rooted in that small school district.

Farming is inherently generational, a family business transferred through successive heirs to create a profound sense of legacy and identity while preserving traditions, values and relevant practices. The livelihood generates a way of

life that binds us to the land and our communities, evidenced by the four-generation photo we captured at the reunion.

This story resonates across the state, where families, not corporations, control ownership for 96% of the 71,000 farms in Illinois. Family members make decisions that steward the land and care for the animals. They carry out the work, uphold the commitment to community and inherit the responsibility to plan for the next generation. My brother and I feel gravity in that obligation and commit thoughtful planning to improve the likelihood of a successful transition.

Soon, we will attend a meeting where one of the agenda topics explores strategies to attract, integrate and position the farm for our kids. The complex undertaking must navigate legal and financial challenges. It must consider their talents and the farm’s resources while defining their roles. And

we insist the process cultivates a leadership mindset to respect shared values and facilitate strong and healthy family dynamics.

A deeply emotional connection draws our kids’ hearts to the family business as it did ours. At the core of their childhood, they experienced four generations of family working the fields together at harvest. The kids formed a close-knit cousin bond baling straw and playing hide and seek on the farm. Grandparents teach them trade skills, expose them to family traditions, make farm life fun and showcase the values of respect, integrity, hard work and reliability.

While those ideals create a framework, successful sustainability of the business will require structure, strategy and a shared commitment. It’s a daunting task to make sure they know the history of risk and sacrifice that afforded the

opportunity, that we allot time for the transfer of skills and we teach them to be adaptive. The consideration of time-tested techniques with new ideas and technologies is imperative for the business to thrive.

At the all-school reunion, the contrast between a 1954 Farmall and a 2024 CaseIH tractor on display strikingly reflected the 71-year span of graduates in attendance. Farming, like education, has evolved far beyond the visible changes of barns and equipment or textbooks and one-room schoolhouses. Successful continuity upholds the values that endure through time while also embracing innovation and change to remain relevant.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle and backyard chickens.



Education Committee attended “National Night Out” in Colona. Fun trivia for children and adults, learning all about food and agriculture!







Thank you to the sponsors and golfers taking part in the 2025 Foundation Golf Fun Day!

Market Outlook Seminar Featuring BRIAN SPLITT, AGMARKET.NET

Brian Splitt, Chief Strategist with AgMarket.Net, will be the featured speaker on Tuesday, September 9 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 September 2nd to guarantee your attendance.**

Brian Splitt is the Chief Strategist and co-founder of AgMarket.Net®, the Farm Division of John Stewart & Associates. He began his financial services career in 2004, developing expertise in a range of investment vehicles including insurance, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and annuities. In 2007, Brian became a registered commodity representative.

Brian combines financial acumen with an understanding of the agricultural sector, specializing in technical analysis, to provide tailored solutions for his clients. His service as Marine combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, including time as a Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival, instilled in him traits which serve him well in the high-pressure environment of commodity risk management. Brian regularly shares his market insights as a contributor to prominent agricultural media outlets including U.S. Farm Report, This Week in Agribusiness, RFDTV, and AgriTalk After the Bell.



Brian cherishes time with his wife, Lauren, and their three children, Sophia, Justin and Brody. He is active in his community coaching youth sports, and enjoys personal pursuits including swimming, working out, and marksmanship.

Additional dates and speakers for the 2025-2026 series include:

- November 13, 2025 – Naomi Blohm, Total Farm Marketing
- March 12, 2026 – Darin Newsom, Darin Newsom Analysis
- June 30, 2026 – Kristi Van Ahn-Kjeseth, Van Ahn and Company, Inc.

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

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





Henry & Stark County Health Department & First Choice Healthcare Announce a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Lab Special for September in Kewanee, Colona & Toulon in Honor of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Although its mortality rate has steadily fallen in the last decade, prostate cancer is still the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men in the United States. Therefore, the First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee, Colona and Toulon remind residents they are offering a \$10 Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Test Special. The PSA Test is open to all men ages 50-64; or any men younger who have a first-degree family member (father/brother/son) who has been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

Males under 50 years of age will need a physician's order for the screening. No fasting is necessary for this screening. This screening can be a "stand alone" test or be added to any of our other popular lab tests.

The First Choice Healthcare Clinics will be offering this special at all clinic locations in Kewanee, 110 N. Burr Blvd. 309-852-5272; Colona, 103 1st St. 309-792-4011; and Toulon, 120 E. Court St., 309-852-3115. This special is open to all area residents, and appointments are necessary and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Please note, this PSA special is available on a "Cash Only" basis.

To schedule an appointment or for more information on the First Choice Healthcare Clinic location nearest you. Also, find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments & First Choice Healthcare or Follow Us on Twitter and Instagram.




Henry & Stark County Health Department & First Choice Healthcare Note Cholesterol Education Month & Announce Fall Clinic Special in Kewanee, Colona & Toulon

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments and their First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee, Colona and Toulon announce that September is Cholesterol Education Month. Too much cholesterol in the blood can lead to heart disease and stroke - America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. Seventy-one million American adults have high cholesterol, but only one-third of them have the condition under control. With this in mind, the Health Departments and the First Choice Healthcare Clinics are offering a clinic special during September and October featuring a combination General Health/Thyroid Panel Blood Test for only \$50. This test includes a full lipid "Cholesterol" panel. Please note, fasting is recommended for these tests for optimum results.

The First Choice Healthcare Clinics will be offering this special at all of their locations in Kewanee, 110 N. Burr Blvd.; Colona, 103 1st St; and Toulon, 120 E. Court St. This special is open to all area residents, and appointments 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.

To schedule an appointment or for more information on the First Choice Healthcare Clinics' Fall Lab Special call Kewanee 309-852-5272; Colona 309-792-4011; or Toulon 309-852-3115 or find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments & First Choice Healthcare or Follow Us on Twitter and Instagram.

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ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU YOUNG LEADERS EXPLORE MICHIGAN DURING AG INDUSTRY TOUR

Eighteen Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders traversed through Michigan’s rugged landscapes and visited local farms during the group’s annual Ag Industry Tour. Makenna Walker, represented Henry County and attending the trip to Michigan.

This year’s tour, which took place July 14-20, took participants on an adventure through natural wonders and provided insights into the state’s unique agricultural practices, which were adapted to the region’s cooler climate and shorter growing season.

“From wine caves at Black Star Farms to volunteering with food rescue programs and exploring everything in between, this Michigan tour opened our eyes to so many new experiences. Whether you’re in agriculture or not, seeing the innovation happening across Michigan and connecting with fellow Illinois Farm Bureau members made this trip unforgettable,” said Perry W. Harlow, Young Leader Program Coordinator.

The tour began with a visit to Black Star Farms and a behind-the-scenes walking tour across the stunning 160-acre estate, set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Traverse Wine Coast. Participants explored the lush vineyard, charming inn, a historic centennial barn and the iconic wine cave.

On day two, the group spent part of the day volunteering with Goodwill of Northern Michigan in their Food Rescue Healthy Harvest Program. The program works to reduce food waste and address food insecurity in Northern Michigan by distributing fresh, excess produce from local farms and orchards to local food pantries and meal sites.

In addition to visiting historic landmarks, gardens, and artisanal shops, the young leaders made multiple visits to local farms, including Robinette’s Apple Hause & Winery and True Blue Farms.

Robinette’s Apple Haus & Winery is a family-owned orchard that sells fresh baked goods and other produce. The group toured the 125-acre orchard which boasts fresh, seasonal fruits including apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines, blackberries and 35 varieties of apples

At True Blue Farms, the group got a glimpse into the world of blueberry farming and learned about the farm’s sustainable practices. They also learned about the process of growing and harvesting premium blueberries.

This Michigan tour was an incredible opportunity for our young leaders to see firsthand how agriculture adapts to different climates and conditions,” said Sam Deisher, District 17 Young Leader representative. “From the innovative blueberry farming techniques at True Blue Farms to the community impact of food rescue programs, we gained valuable insights that we can bring back to Illinois agriculture. These experiences strengthen our understanding of farming beyond our state borders.

ALL ROADS LEAD ‘BACK TO SCHOOL’ THIS TIME OF YEAR

By Kevin Daugherty, FarmWeekNow.com

As students arrive for their first day back for the 2025-26 school year, Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) wants our students thinking ahead to a special occasion coming up in 2026.

A century ago, Route 66 was opened and connected Chicago to Santa Monica, California, cutting right through Illinois. Throughout the 2025-26 school year, AITC will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of this historic route and asking students of all ages to think of the “Roads, Rivers and Rails” that are a vital part of Illinois agriculture, which is also the theme of the effort.

For most students (and even a few teachers), Route 66 will call to mind the movie “Cars,” yet some readers will remember that our interstates weren’t completed until the late 1960s and into the 1970s.

Just how much has transportation changed in

the last 100 years? It calls to mind just how much agriculture has changed in the last 100 years.

Illinois AITC provided several new lessons and resources linking the importance of transportation and agriculture for our students. You can find these on our website, agintheclassroom.org.

Look closely at our new Transportation Ag Mag, generously sponsored by the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, as we share with students the importance of moving agricultural products on roads, rivers and rails to provide access to markets.

Rail and river transportation is one that many teachers and students might overlook and don’t readily associate with agriculture. Our AITC team has provided activities to help students understand these.

In addition to all the great stops that will be featured on Route 66 throughout Illinois

in the coming year, AITC has worked with our county coordinators to compile a list of agritourism/historic/unique spots in each county that might surprise locals or even those traveling.

We hope to share with students unique ag related spots that might be in their own backyard. Check out the website, iaitc.co/RRR, for those resources, and if you have a suggestion, you can email us about your county!

While on that page, check out our Road Trip Bingo, with downloads for your own paper copy or the interactive online version.

Transportation is a vital part of Illinois agriculture and we at Illinois AITC are pleased to share how they work together and the unique career opportunities available.

Kevin Daugherty is the education director for the Illinois Farm Bureau.



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Harvest season is a crucial time for farmers as they work day and night against many odds like weather and equipment breakdowns. It’s also a time when the risk of combine and tractor fires is at its peak.

Fires can result in significant damage or loss to valuable equipment and time in the field. Additionally, these incidents pose a significant safety threat to operators and their surroundings. Taking extra precautions to prevent fires can ensure a safe and successful harvest. Try these equipment fire prevention tips:

1. Perform regular maintenance on your equipment.

The foundation of fire prevention during harvest season begins with regular maintenance.

- Inspect your combines and tractors before harvest season starts and each day they’re used, checking for any signs of wear and tear.
- Replace damaged wiring, belts, and hoses, and ensure that all electrical components are in good working condition.
- Routine maintenance can identify potential issues before they become serious problems.

2. Keep equipment clean.

Harvesting often involves working with dry and flammable materials such as straw, chaff, and dust. These materials can accumulate in and around your equipment, creating a fire hazard. To minimize this risk:

- Clean your combines and tractors daily, paying particular attention to the engine and exhaust areas.
- Use air compressors or blowers to remove debris from hard-to-reach spots.
- Ensure that all access panels and hatches are securely closed to prevent debris from entering the engine or exhaust systems.

3. Practice safe refueling

- When refueling your combines and tractors, always turn off the engine and allow it to cool before adding fuel.
- Keep a safe distance from the fuel source to avoid accidental spills and ignition.
- Store fuel in approved containers, away from heat sources.

4. Check electrical wiring and connections

Faulty electrical wiring and connections are common causes of fires in agricultural equipment. To reduce this risk:

- Routinely inspect wiring and connections for frayed wires, loose connections, or exposed components.
- Replace damaged or worn wires immediately.
- Use electrical components designed for agricultural use.

5. Always carry fire extinguishers

- Ensure that your equipment is equipped with the proper fire extinguishers and that they are easily accessible.
- Regularly check the extinguishers to ensure they are in good working order, and train operators on how to use them effectively.

6. Monitor temperature and heat

Harvest season can bring scorching temperatures, which can increase the risk of fires due to overheating. To mitigate this risk:

- Monitor temperature gauges and engine heat closely during operation.
- Install heat shields and insulating materials where necessary to protect vulnerable components.

7. Establish no smoking zones

- Create a strict no-smoking policy around your agricultural equipment and storage areas.
- Smoking materials can easily ignite dry crops or fuel spills, so create designated smoking areas far from the machinery.

8. Educate and train employees

- Ensure that all operators are well-trained in fire prevention and safety measures and how to properly operate each piece of equipment.
- Make sure they are aware of the risks and know how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Conduct regular safety meetings to reinforce best practices.

If you have a fire, after making sure no one is injured, file a farm claim and take steps to mitigate further damage to equipment, property and crops.

Learn more about farm and crop insurance coverages at countryfinancial.com/farm.



FAIR QUEENS DONATE TO AG IN THE CLASSROOM

The Henry County Fair royalty visited the Farm Bureau with a donation of supplies for the Ag in the Classroom program. Special thanks to (l to r) Queen Miranda, Jr. Miss Lilah and Little Miss Lydia for donating to our supply drive.



WELCOMING NEW AG TEACHERS!

Pictured (l to r) are Agriculture Teachers beginning a new year at our area schools: Christina White Orion; Bradleigh Schaefer, Kewanee Middle (Central); Connor Ray, Kewanee High School; Hunter Johnson, Sherrard; Kia Davis, AlWood; Ella Cagwin, Kewanee High School;

Ellie Franks, Sherrard; Sarah Paige Tarr, Annawan.




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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

BROCCOLI CHEDDAR DROP BISCUITS

Recipe Created By: Nick Castro / Featured In: Mississippi Farm Country

Makes: 8 biscuits
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 40 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour



Ingredients

- 2 cups broccoli florets, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ¾ teaspoon salt, divided
- ¾ teaspoon black pepper, divided
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup (1 stick) cold butter, diced
- ¼ pound sharp yellow cheddar cheese, diced
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons green onions, diced
- 1 cup low-fat buttermilk (plus 1-2 tablespoons if needed)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, combine the broccoli, garlic, oil, ¼ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Toss to combine, then transfer to the prepared baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes. Set aside to cool and increase the oven temperature to 450 degrees.
3. Return the broccoli mixture to the large bowl and add the flour, butter, cheese, baking powder, sugar, green onions, and remaining ½ teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper. Toss well to combine and break apart the larger pieces of butter and cheddar. Add the buttermilk and stir with a spatula to combine. Use an additional 1 to 2 tablespoons buttermilk if mixture seems too dry.
4. Line the baking sheet with a clean piece of parchment paper. Using a large spoon, drop dough in ½- to ¾-cup scoops onto the baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches between each scoop. Bake biscuits for 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool and serve immediately.

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GETTING TO KNOW
YOUR FARM
BUREAU POLICY

114. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

We support:

1. Efforts to inform our leaders and members of the basic provisions of the current public employee collective bargaining laws in Illinois.
2. Urging the use of various innovative consensus and non-adversarial approaches to resolve public employee disputes in order to minimize the potential of work stoppages by public employees.
3. Cooperation with major public employee and employer groups in the State in pursuit of reasonable solutions to disputes in the public sector.
4. Binding arbitration only when agreed to by both negotiating parties.

We oppose:

1. Mandatory membership in any bargaining group, or mandatory financial support of such group by non-members.
2. Strikes by public employees which might jeopardize public health, safety, welfare and education.
3. Inclusion of administrative, supervisory or management personnel in a collective bargaining unit.

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