

# HENRY COUNTY FARMER



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



## HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU DATEBOOK

### MAY

- 8** ..... Katie Laleman, HCFB Manager on WKEI  
*Tuned in, 8:25am*
- 8** ..... Henry County Beef Association meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 21** ..... Henry County Farm Bureau Executive Committee meeting, HCFB office, 6:30pm
- Henry County Farm Bureau Board meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 22** ..... "First Aid for the Farm & Family" Program, sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women, HCFB Boardroom, 6pm  
*(Reservations required)*
- 27** ..... HCFB Office CLOSED for Memorial Day

### JUNE

- 11** ..... Henry County Farm Bureau Executive Committee meeting, HCFB office, 6:30pm
- Henry County Farm Bureau Board meeting, HCFB Boardroom, 7pm
- 12** ..... Katie Laleman, HCFB Manager on WKEI  
*Tuned in, 8:25am*
- 18-23** ..... Henry County Fair, Cambridge

**Save the Date: Wednesday July 10,**  
"Safety Starts with YOU!"  
*Central Bank Pavilion, Geneseo 5:30-7pm*

# FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION AWARDS 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

This year the Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation, in conjunction with the Wilbert & Carol Keppy Foundation, Kevin & Karen Urick, the Glenn & Betty DeSmith Memorial and the James Ufkin Memorial are proud to award \$45,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and college 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 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. Mr. Ufkin was a dedicated leader in the agriculture community in Henry County and beyond.

## Henry County Farm Bureau Foundation Agricultural Scholarship

- **Lucas Althaus** – Agribusiness Markets & Management, University of Illinois
- **Kaden Davison** – Ag Engineering – Power & Machinery, Iowa State University
- **Kendra Downing** – Soil & Crop Science; Environmental Horticulture, University of Wisconsin – Platteville
- **David Mock** – Agricultural Economics, Policy, International Trade and Russian, University of Illinois
- **Olivia Mosbarger** – Environmental Horticulture, Colorado State University
- **Madeline Nightingale** – Ag Communications, Iowa State University

## HCFB Foundation Trade and Technical Program Scholarship

- **Caleb Baze** – Welding, Midwest Technical Institute
- **Joseph Faulkner** – Diesel Technician, Lake Land College
- **Nicolas Shillington** – Equipment Service Technician, Lake Land College

## Wilbert & Carol Keppy Foundation Scholarship

- **Taylor Burke** – Agriculture Education, The University of Tennessee at Martin
- **Traiden Heir** – Pre-Law, Political Science, Augustana College
- **Hannah Maher** – Agronomy, Iowa State University

## Kevin & Karen Urick Farm Bureau Legacy Scholarship

- **Madeline Nightingale** – Ag Communications, Iowa State University

## Glenn & Betty DeSmith Memorial Scholarship

- **Abigail Frank** – Pre-Health, University of Nebraska
- **Emma Frank** – Animal Science/Pre-Vet, Oklahoma State University
- **Miranda Reed** – Ag Studies, Iowa State University

## James Ufkin Memorial Scholarship

- **Isaac Kuster** – Mechanical Engineering, Iowa State University



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Farm Bureau  
Salutes the  
COUNTRY  
Financial  
Membership  
Recruiters of the  
Month



Eric Henderson,  
Geneseo



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May is *Mental Health*  
Awareness Month



WWW.ILFB.ORG/MENTALHEALTHWELLNESS

FIVE STEPS TO HELP SOMEONE AT RISK

1. Ask

2. Keep them safe

3. Be there
4. Help them connect

5. Follow up

Source: National Institute of Mental Health

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1-800-273-TALK (8255) and 988



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP PAVING THE WAY



“You have to stand up for what you believe in and you have to be able to advocate that eloquently and with integrity and you will go a long way,” said Iowa State Sen. Dawn Driscoll, R-Des Moines. Pictured left to right: Driscoll, Heather Hora, Cheryl Walsh and Megan Dwyer. (Photo by Catrina Rawson, IFB)

By Hannah Spangler,  
*FarmWeek*

Step up, show up and support each other. That was the message from four dynamic female leaders at the 12th annual Women in Agriculture Conference who shared how they are paving the way for the next generation.

Iowa state government officials, Sen. Dawn Driscoll and Rep. Heather Hora, along with representatives from Illinois commodity groups — Cheryl Walsh, president of the Illinois Pork Producers Board, and Megan Dwyer, IL Corn director of conservation and nutrient stewardship — spoke to attendees during a panel discussion. These parents, farmers and professionals put in years of work to get to where they are today.

“I worked hard and I believe in everything I advocate for,” said Driscoll, R-Des Moines. “You have to stand up for what you believe in and you have to be able to advocate

that eloquently and with integrity and you will go a long way.”

Driscoll explained how she supported legislation removing Iowa’s gender balance requirement for state boards and commissions. If the bill passed, she said boards could be made up with the right people for the position, regardless of their gender. She said it was important for her to stand up for this issue so her daughters could know they can do anything if they work hard and put their minds to it.

Hora, R-Washington, Driscoll’s legislative counterpart, said, “If anybody has been watching what we’re doing, I feel like we are an example to the rest of the United States as the way we should take care of our children. I feel like that as women, we have got to reclaim who we are for our girls.”

Also with daughters of her own, Dwyer emphasized the importance of stepping up

and showing up at all levels. She said it is more important than ever for women in agriculture to have a seat at the table.

“Knowing that you’ve got people on your behalf is so important, but if you have any opportunity to step up, whether we’re looking at local community or politics or boards and involvement, it’s really important to make sure that your voices are heard,” said Dwyer.

Each panelist shared the importance and value of the work they do. But they’ve each learned that setting boundaries is crucial for success.

“The jobs that we’re doing, it is very important work,” said Walsh. “But it’s not the end of the world if an email or phone call gets pushed. If I could tell myself something and do it over, it would be to set better boundaries.”

Hora agreed.

“You just got to give up on the little things and work on the things that really matter.”

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# FIRST CHOICE HEALTHCARE CLINICS CELEBRATE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK, MAY 12-18, 2024

The Henry and Stark County Health Departments and First Choice Healthcare announce that this Mother's Day-Sunday, May 12th, acts as the official kick-off for National Women's Health Week, May 12-18, 2024.

RaeAnn Tucker, Health Department Director of Health Promotion, states, "The goal of Women's Health Week is to empower women to make their health a priority. National Women's Health Week also serves as a time to help women understand what it means to be well."

Tucker adds, "As we celebrate National Women's Health Week, we will also focus on what it means to be a well woman. The fact is it's really a state of mind. It's being healthy as you can be. And, most importantly, it's about taking steps to improve your physical and mental health. Important steps include:"

- Continue to take steps to protect yourself against Covid-19, by staying up-to-date on Covid vaccinations.
- Getting at least 2 1/2 hours of moderate physical activity, 1 hour and 15 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or a combination of both each week.
- Eating a nutritious diet. Eat mainly fruits and vegetables; grains (at least half should be whole grains); fat-free or lowfat milk and dairy products; fish, skinless poultry and lean red meats; and polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats.
- Visiting a health care professional for regular checkups and preventative screenings.
- Paying attention to mental health, including getting enough sleep and managing stress.

- Avoiding unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking, texting while driving, and not wearing a seatbelt or bicycle helmet.

During Women's Health Week, the Department hopes to raise awareness of the women's health services available at their First Choice Healthcare locations. The First Choice Healthcare Clinics in Kewanee, Colona and Toulon offer area women such services

as annual exams, pap smears, pregnancy testing, contraceptive counseling and supplies, clinical breast exams, fasting blood profiles, immunizations, and our mental health services. Payment for Department services include private pay, medicaid, and most insurances.

Tucker adds, "Every woman should have access to affordable health care services. We encourage local

women to take advantage of the savings offered through our First Choice Healthcare Clinics."

To find out more about the First Choice Healthcare Clinic's health services for women call at Kewanee 309-852-5272; Colona 309-792-4011; or Toulon 309-852-3115. Also find us on Facebook at Henry and Stark County Health Departments or Follow Us on Twitter and Instagram.

## APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR VETERINARY STUDENT LOANS

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focusing on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education.

The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

"Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals," said Tasha Bunting, IFB director of commodity programs and food systems. "To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an increase in demand in recent years."

Applications are due May 15, 2024, and can be found online at [www.ilfb.org/IVET](http://www.ilfb.org/IVET). The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2024. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$610,000 to 29 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at 309-557-2993 or [tbunting@ilfb.org](mailto:tbunting@ilfb.org).

## You're Invited!

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# 2024 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Farm Bureau Women announce the winners of the “Food and Family Traditions” 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 GRADE:

SECOND GRADE:

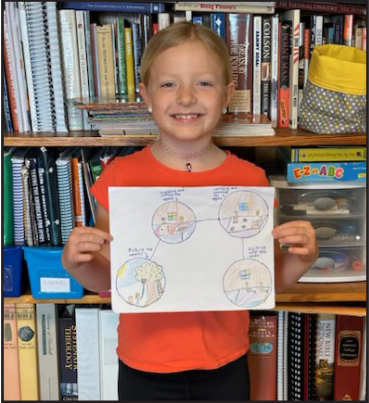
THIRD GRADE:



1st place – **Marlie Evans,**  
*Homeschool*



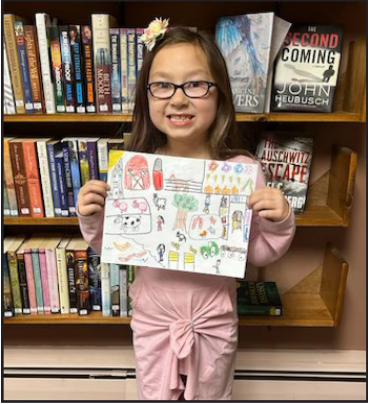
1st place – **Roslyn Iest,**  
*Homeschool*



1st place – **Lynsey Carlson,**  
*Homeschool*



2nd place – **Thea Gillum,**  
*Galva*



2nd place – **Alena Hoste,**  
*Cambridge*



2nd place – **Hailey Dwyer,**  
*St. Malachy*



3rd place – **Jackson Dorman,**  
*Visitation*



3rd place – **Hadley Frank,**  
*Wethersfield*



3rd place – **Blake Vandersnick,**  
*St. Malachy*

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# SAFETY IS KEY THIS PLANTING SEASON

By **Hannah Spangler,**  
*FarmWeek*

The first week of April was cold, windy and wet but the kickoff to planting season is still on the radar for Illinois farmers.

Safety is key as farmers head to their fields this spring. With slow-moving vehicles on roadways, the driving public and farmers need to be extra careful to prevent accidents and ensure everyone gets home safely at the end of the day.

Rachel Fulton, Agronomy Innovations Manager for Corteva Agriscience, farms with her father and husband in McLean County. She is also a mother of two young girls, Daisy and Caroline. Fulton's message for those on the road this spring, "Slow down and be aware of your surroundings. It doesn't matter if the crops are in the ground if you're not here to harvest it."

During the 2023 harvest, Fulton said she drove the tractor and wagon to the grain elevator for the first time. "You just can't move over like a regular car can," she told FarmWeek. "It's just eye opening even for somebody that grew up on a farm to actually sit in the driver's seat and haul on the road."

When moving farm equipment on the road, Fulton pointed out these vehicles make wide turns adding more dangers for motorists that may attempt to pass. Additionally, it's harder for tractors, semis and planters to make quick stops.

The general rule of thumb for passing is three seconds from the vehicle ahead. Still, Fulton recommended drivers give more space between themselves and the farm equipment before attempting to pass safely. "The typical planting season in Illinois runs from mid-April to mid-June, and crashes involving farm equipment are not uncommon in a state where the majority of overall land is farmland," said Illinois State Police Trooper Joshua Robinson. "Awareness and patience by everyone

traveling, especially on rural routes and in rural communities, is imperative and will contribute to highway safety."

In 2021, Illinois Department of Transportation data reported 295,604 crashes involving motor vehicles in Illinois. Crashes involving tractor-trailers accounted for 3.8% of total crashes and 8.5% of fatal crashes.

With the heightened risk of tractor-trailer and other farm vehicle accidents this planting season, Robinson wants to remind the driving public:

- Slow down and share the road responsibly.
- Don't pass until it's safe and legal to do so.
- Watch for farm implements on the road and as they enter and exit farms.
- Allow extra room when following farm equipment.
- Remember a farmer cannot always move over to let motorists pass.
- Know that if you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you.

Additionally, Johnson stressed the importance of limiting distractions while driving.

"Distracted driving is one of the four most common contributing factors in all fatal crashes in the state of Illinois," he said. "It falls upon the farmers and falls upon the rest of the motoring public to put all their focus on what's in front of them."

Johnson highlighted further important safety practices for farmers to remember as well:

- Look both ways before pulling out into a roadway.
- Take extra time to clean off all safety equipment.
- If there is a large traffic backup behind you, pull off to the side of the roadway if it is safe to do so, or move into a safe area.
- Remember to use turn signals when changing lanes or pulling into a field entrance.

"Motorists and operators of farming equipment and other specialized motorized apparatuses must share the roadway," Johnson added.



# BLACK VULTURE DEPREDATION PERMITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR IMPACTED LIVESTOCK FARMERS

In recent years Illinois' black vulture population has increased, creating significant disruptions for livestock farmers. The birds, which are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, are known to prey on livestock and birthing mothers, can cause significant injuries and even death.

To provide farmers a tool to better protect their livestock, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) recently secured statewide black vulture depredation permits through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The permits are effective April 1 through March 31, 2025.

"Illinois' black vulture population has increased significantly in recent years, particularly in the southern portion of the state. These birds often prey on young livestock, especially in open pastures, and can create major financial losses for farmers," said IFB President Brian Duncan. "Securing these federal depredation permits streamlines the application process and reduces

cost to the producer. It is our hope that this process helps farmers access the necessary tools as quickly as possible to protect their livestock."

As migratory birds, black vultures are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, state laws and regulations, therefore, they can't be killed or destroyed without a migratory bird depredation permit from USFWS and a Class B nuisance wildlife control permit from IDNR.

IFB continues to work with U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to issue federal sub-permits to livestock farmers who are experiencing issues with black vultures on their land. IFB will also continue to work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to secure the necessary state permits for farmers seeking approval.

Black vultures, which have a dark gray head and are aggressive, should not be confused with their

larger, less aggressive and red-headed relative, the turkey vulture. Turkey vultures may be found throughout Illinois. Black vultures live in southern regions but are expanding their range further north, creating depredation problems for farmers.

"The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is continuing to cooperate with the Illinois Farm Bureau and USDA Wildlife Services to develop a simple process for livestock producers to receive federal and state permits for removing black vultures that can be harmful to their operations," IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie said. "I am glad we were able to continue the process created two years ago that provides relief to Illinois stockmen while still meeting our obligation to conserve protected species."

IFB will issue sub-permits as a benefit to livestock farmers who are experiencing problems with black vultures and assist in securing IDNR's required permit. The sub-

permit is available to livestock farmers facing depredation of commercial livestock, which includes cattle, horses, sheep, goats and swine.

Approved applicants will be allowed a maximum of three birds, determined after consultation with USDA Wildlife Services. Following the consultation and approval, a state permit will also be provided by IDNR. Applicants must agree to follow all rules and regulations required by USFWS in the IFB statewide permit and the requirements of the IDNR permit. Illinois Farm Bureau, IDNR, USFWS and USDA Wildlife Services created this permit process in 2021 to assist livestock producers.

Interested livestock producers may request a sub-permit application by contacting Illinois Farm Bureau Associate Director of Commodity and Livestock, Tasha Bunting, at [tbunting@ilfb.org](mailto:tbunting@ilfb.org).



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**STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT AG CAREERS**  
Young Leaders, (l to r) Katie Spivey, Shane Asher, and Trent Fransene, spoke to 4th grade students at Cambridge Elementary and discussed their careers in agriculture. The Young Leaders wrapped up their presentation, speaking to 380 students in Henry County, focusing on careers in agriculture.





**FINDING A FIT WITH FOOD, FIBER, FUEL**  
*MATCH PASSIONS, INTERESTS WITH AGRICULTURE CAREER*

The agriculture industry employs more citizens than any other industry in the United States at 22 million people across more than 250 career areas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Commonly unrealized, greater than 90% of jobs in the agriculture and food sector are not farming. The industry employs engineers, plant breeders, foresters, veterinarians, agriscience teachers, food scientists, climate specialists and hundreds more professions. In fact, too many choices made our high school senior struggle to decide on a particular career field in agriculture. She enjoys almost every aspect of the industry, but finally leaned on her fascination with plants and her FFA experiences with soils to select a double-major in agronomy and horticulture. Too often, agriculture is overlooked for satisfying and successful careers, and no farm background is required. I remember my conversation with a Chicago high school sophomore from the south side of the city, who hadn't

considered agriculture as a career path until attending a conference for minorities in agriculture. He developed an interest in agricultural technology through MANRRS, or Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. Illinois Farm Bureau actively supports this traditionally collegiate organization, which has experienced a rebirth at the high school level. It brings exposure to agricultural careers for students as young as 7th grade largely in schools that lack an agricultural education department. Schools can develop local chapters, which deliver career awareness and opportunities for personal and leadership development through resume building, public speaking, agriscience research, essay contests and training in workplace skills. Just last year, the Illinois Farm Bureau supported the launch of Agnitor, a digital platform designed to connect agriculture professionals to classrooms for virtual conversations about careers. The

mechanically minded may like a profession as an agriculture engineer or diesel technician. Techy teens might take interest in high-tech livestock barns or agricultural application drones. Students who enjoy biochemistry should consider agronomy or biofuels. We need graphic designers for jobs in ag marketing, writers as ag journalists, and researchers to keep agriculture cutting edge. The job demand in agriculture outpaces the available college graduates. More than 59,000 job openings will be available – per year – in agriculture, food, renewable natural resources and related industries through at least 2025, according to the 2020-2025 Employment Opportunities Report by the USDA and Purdue University. Good news for college graduates: The nation's largest employer is looking for applicants.

*About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family, growing corn, soybeans and hay and raising beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.*



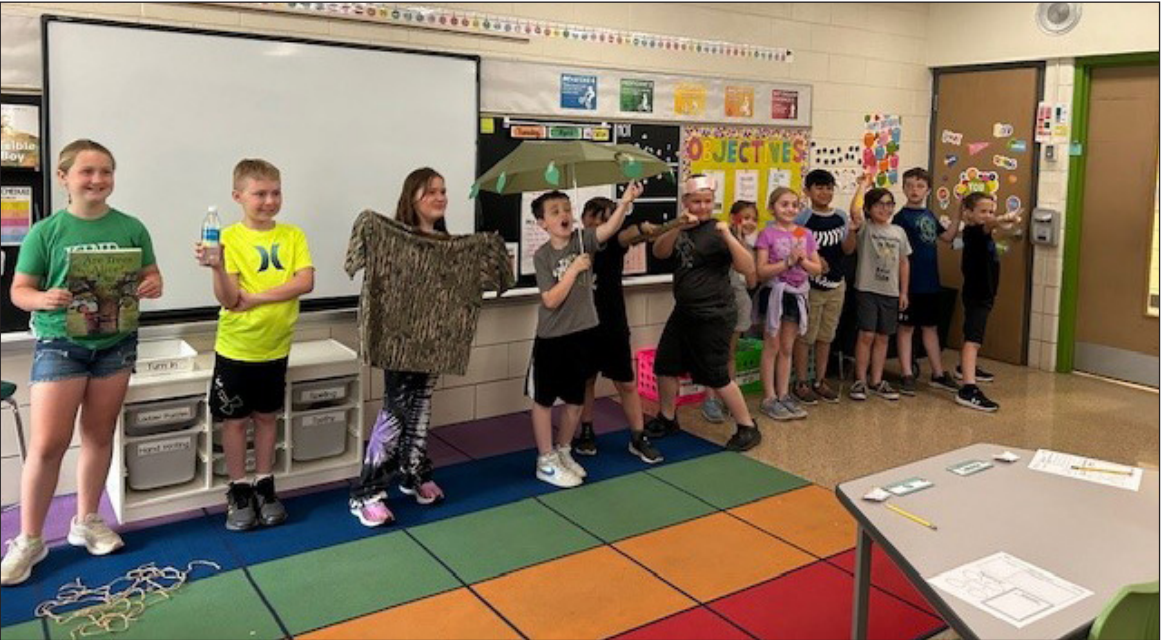
**LEARNING ABOUT SOIL**  
Kindergarten students at Northside Elementary School in Geneseo, learned about plants and soil. During their Agriculture in the Classroom lesson, they also made edible soil, a tasty snack with their lesson!



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**8.9.24**  
**Baker Park Golf Course, Kewanee**  
Watch our Facebook page for more information! We can't wait to see you there!



**AITC LESSON ABOUT TREES**  
Third grade students at Northside Elementary School in Geneseo, learned about tree farming and the parts of a tree. Lessons such as this, taught by Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Paula Janson, brings the knowledge of agriculture to students throughout Henry County.



**SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



**Central Bank Pavilion, Geneseo**  
**Wednesday, July 10**  
**5:30-7:00pm**





## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

# GRILLED CHICKEN RANCH WRAPS

Prep Time: 5 minutes • Cook Time: 5 minutes • Total time: 10 minutes • Serves 4

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked grilled chicken breasts\*, chopped and seasoned
- 1/4 cup Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing
- 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup cilantro, minced (optional)
- 4-8" Tortillas

### Instructions:

1. Lay tortillas on a clean, flat surface. Place approximately 1/2 cup of chicken, 1 tablespoon of ranch, 2 tablespoons of cheese, and 1 tablespoon of minced cilantro on each tortilla. Fold tightly to form a burrito shape.
2. Heat a heavy-duty pan or grill to medium heat. Coat with a light layer of oil or cooking spray and cook wraps for 1/2 minutes on each side or until the tortilla is crispy and golden. Remove from heat, slice in half and serve immediately.

*\*For the chicken: you can use cooked rotisserie chicken, leftover chicken, or grilled chicken seasoned with your favorite spices!*



## EASE TICK BITE FEARS THIS SPRING

By Hannah Spangler,  
FarmWeek

Everyone faces risks posed by tick bites, but due to time spent outdoors and with livestock, farmers face an even greater risk.

Research from a multi-department team at the University of Illinois, in partnership with U of I Extension, shows education is key to ease fears and prevent tick bite-related issues.

In 2020, the U of I Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine received a \$57,000 U of I Extension Collaboration Grant. The research team's goal was to better understand the risks associated with ticks, and in turn, provide Extension offices with proper educational tools.

"The first goal was to talk to farmers in the state of Illinois and understand their knowledge and their awareness, as well as the practices they were taking to protect themselves, their companion animals and their livestock from ticks and tick-borne diseases," said Sulgana Chakraborty, lead researcher for the project.

Once data was collected, Chakraborty said the next step was to get U of I Extension involved. Around 238 Illinois Extension employees participated in training developed by Chakraborty and her fellow researchers, giving them the skills needed to spread

awareness and disseminate important tick information.

"We want everyone to educate and train themselves so they can protect themselves and their animals against tick bites," Chakraborty told FarmWeek. "We want people to keep doing the things that they love doing, while also taking the necessary measures so that they don't fall sick."

In the Midwest, deer ticks, American dog ticks, Lone star ticks and others can cause diseases such as Lyme, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and alpha-gal syndrome, a red meat allergy. In the spring, larvae and nymphs of these tick species are active and adults will come out soon, finding hosts in animals and humans.

Chakraborty encouraged the public to take necessary precautions, including:

- **Hiking on the middle of trails.**
- **Avoiding areas with high grasses.**
- **Wearing full-sleeved, light-colored clothing as well as tall socks and long pants.**
- **Wearing clothing treated with Permethrin if spending long hours outside.**

"Something that's really helpful is to not go out alone. Have someone else go with you so that you can constantly check each other," Chakraborty said. "Check behind the hair, behind the ears and then check each other."



## YOUNG LEADERS SPONSOR T-SHIRT CONTEST

Fourth grader, Iris Mosley, was named the winner of the 2024 Young Leaders T-shirt Contest. The theme for this year's contest was "Farm Gate to Dinner Plate". With the support of our contest co-sponsor, Gold Star FS, all students received a t-shirt with the winning drawing. Thank you to all 4th graders in Henry County that entered this year's contest! Pictured with Iris are (front l to r) Ethan Washburn, Gold Star FS; Iris and her teacher Anna Olson, 4th Grade at Galva Elementary; (back l to r) Nikki Cone, Gold Star FS; Shane Asher, Henry County Young Leaders; and Rob Weston, Gold Star FS.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FARM BUREAU POLICY

96. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

We support:

1. Placing rural development as one of our highest priorities.

2. Examining private and government rural development programs to determine their viability and practicality in improving the rural economy and quality of life in Illinois.

3. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program to make loan guarantees to farmer-owned projects sited in urban or urbanizing areas if the locations are the most economically viable to return benefits to the rural owners of the project.

4. Monitoring the impact of the new definition of "Micropolitan Areas" and, if negative economic effects of rural areas are observed, support changes to that definition to better serve rural areas.

5. Developing a comprehensive program for coordinating rural development activities within the state and county Farm Bureau levels.

6. Entrepreneurial programs that promote rural economic development including business incubator programs in rural high schools.

7. Identifying specific rural initiatives which our organization will support during the development of our comprehensive program.

8. Providing county Farm Bureaus advice and guidance on rural development programs.

9. County Farm Bureaus taking a leadership role in rural, community and economic development programs and activities in cooperation with local business, political and agricultural leaders.

10. The federal government fully funding Rural Partners and similar projects. Additional federal funds should be provided to these types of projects which use volunteers instead of government agencies to solve rural problems.

11. Additional USDA Rural Development funding and targeting

a greater portion of all funds towards stimulating commerce in rural areas.

12. Increased USDA Rural Development funding for technical and marketing assistance to provide value-added opportunities for farmers.

13. Integrating community services through a single, local economic unit (such as a school) through voluntary local initiatives.

14. A government-based clearinghouse at both the federal and state levels to provide onestop-shopping for information, coordination of all information regarding government sponsored or aided rural development programs, and information on allied nongovernmental programs.

15. Legislation to assist local governments to develop integrated Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

16. Local governments, when considering offering incentives for the purpose of spurring economic development, to:

A. Balance new-growth incentives against those available to existing businesses;

B. Make incentives contingent on promised performance;

C. Carefully examine program costs relative to the increase in economic activity and tax revenue generated by the development.

17. Program development and funding for low-interest loans to assist small business owners in identifying and training a successor who would then purchase the business and continue its operation.

18. Landowners granting easements that improve rural services in areas that need access to better utility services.

19. Multiple sources and increased levels of funding for developing and expanding broadband and cellular network access to rural areas.

20. Studies regarding the quality of life and well-being

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