

Clinton County leaders visited a community garden space in Rep. Delgado's district that was converted from an unused soccer field.

"Adopted" Urban Legislator District Visit

Farm Bureau leaders from Clinton County recently met with State Representative Eva-Dina Delgado in her Illinois' 3rd District in Chicago as part of the Illinois Farm Bureau's (IFB) "Adopt-A-Legislator" Program.

Illinois Farm Bureau developed its Adopt-A-Legislator® program with the purpose of building long-term personal relationships between urban state legislators and farmers from across the

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"Pulling for Agriculture" fundraiser Tractor Pull to be held Sept. 14

The Clinton County Farm
Bureau will be hosting an ITPA
Tractor Pull on Saturday,
September 14 at the Clinton
County Fairgrounds in Carlyle.

The "Pulling for Agriculture" is a fundraiser for the Clinton CFB's charitable Foundation and the establishment of a new Ag Mechanics Scholarship.

The event will include four ITPA pulling classes:

- 9,500 lb. Limited Pro Stock
- 8,500 lb. Limited Pro Stock
- 2WD Truck
- 11,000 lb. Pro Farm
 A "King of Clinton County"

Pull will also be held in conjunction with this event. Classes will include:

- 7,500 lb Farm Stock
- 10,500 lb Farm Stock
- 12,500 lb Farm Stock
- SI Pullers 12,500 lb Hot Farm Stock
- SI Pullers 5,500 lb Top Cut Class.

Funds will be raised from pull entry, gate admission, and a "Battle of the Brands" raffle.

Mark your calendars now and contact the Clinton CFB office at (618) 526-7235 for more information.



EXCHANGE COMPARES PRACTICES 300 MILES APART

We were honored to host a Regenerative Agriculture Exchange on our farms a couple weeks ago. Farmers from Clinton County and Jo Daviess County made the drive from one to the other just to see how things work on the

other end of the state.

There are plenty of differences between the two counties, starting with the 300-plus miles that separate our farms. Clinton County has a longer growing season and the most dairy cows

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Mark Litteken and Cliff Schuette demonstrate soil health principles in cover crop plot.

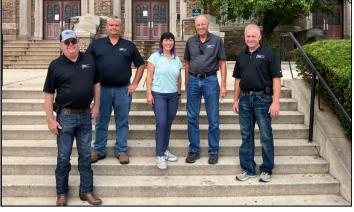
Visit

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state. The goal of the program is to educate urban legislators about agriculture – our state's largest industry – and rural life, while also helping our members better understand the needs and concerns of an urban district.

Legislators are matched with a "downstate" county Farm Bureau (which "adopts" the legislator),

and the program usually includes district visits in Chicago and farm visits/tours downstate. Relationships developed are valued by both the farmers and urban legislators and allow our members to be an important resource for their adopted legislators when important agricultural issues arise in the General Assembly. We look forward to welcoming Rep. Delgado's family and staff down to Clinton County for harvest tours in October.



Clinton CFB Directors Ray Krausz, Travis Hemker, Ron Holevoet, & Mark Litteken recently toured Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado's district in Chicago. The visit included a stop at Steinmetz College Prep, a public 4-year high school located in the Belmont Cragin community area on the Northwest Side of Chicago.

Exchange

Continued from page 1

in the state. Jo Daviess is in the Driftless Area and has the most beef cattle in the state. When you hear people talk about the diversity of Illinois agriculture, this is what they're talking about.

But when it comes to nutrient stewardship and regenerative agriculture, we have the same goal to keep our soil beneath our feet and out of the Gulf of Mexico. We both started experimenting with cover crops in 2012 and ioined Illinois Farm Bureau's Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program in 2016, part of IFB's longstanding priority to support the state's Nutrient Loss





Greg Thoren shares his findings from managing cover crops and interseeding during the summer 2023 Nutrient Stewardship Field Day.

Reduction Strategy.

It's been a journey for both of us. As you might guess, you start down this road with an eye on the economic impact it might have on your farm. Mark was trying to reduce his feed costs, and Greg thought he could lower his fertilizer bill. But once you see the soil health and environmental benefits that these practices have on your farm, that's what becomes your primary concern, and the economics take care of themselves. It won't look the same everywhere. The shorter growing season in Jo Daviess County requires different cover crop species and maybe a shorter season corn or soybean. Everyone has heard people say that regenerative ag doesn't

work in the north. Greg's farm proves otherwise.

We aren't alone.
Research institutions
from both Illinois and
Wisconsin are
partnering with our
projects. There's a link
between what we're
doing and soil health,
and that's why the
universities are moving
forward with these
projects.

Your journey starts here, just try it. It won't be perfect. Some things work better than others, and there's no silver bullet. See what spitball sticks to the wall. We have both learned a lot from failure, and we're dealing with Mother Nature and the environment. Things change, and it's our job to roll with it. The experiment will never end. Even today, more

than a decade after we started, Mark is mixing different polycultures and Greg is testing inter-seeding.

Both our operations involve cattle, but these practices can absolutely work well in a row crop farm alone. Mark has seen great progress in soil health on some of his rented ground that doesn't see any livestock. For cattle farmers, you can increase the speed of that change by five times.

Over time, you will be happy that you started this journey. Mark used to buy feed, and now he doesn't, despite farming the same number of acres. Greg used to have a high fertilizer bill, and now that bill has been near-zero for six years.

That's why this
Regenerative
Agriculture Exchange
was so important. We
have nothing to hide
and nothing to sell. If
we're true stewards of
the land, we want to see
an environmental
impact. It's not just for
us. It's for everybody.
And when people see it,
they believe it.

Take care of the soil, and it will take care of you.

"Gift of Blue" applications available to area FFA Members

The Clinton County Farm Bureau is pleased to honor a symbol of the future of our agricultural industry...the iconic blue corduroy jacket of the National FFA Organization.

We are offering first-year members of local high school FFA Chapters the chance to receive the "Gift of Blue" to cover the cost of the official FFA jacket.

Essay's must be completed using the online form available on our website Deadline to apply is September 30, 2024.

Explain the main goal you wish

to accomplish during your FFA career.

The Clinton
County Farm
Bureau is
excited to
bring back
our 3rd
annual FFA
Jacket Essay

our 3rd
annual FFA
Jacket Essay
Contest, "Give the Gift of
Blue". The FFA Jacket
Essay Contest is an
opportunity for your firstyear students to receive
their FFA Blue Corduroy

The Clinton County Farm Bureau would again like to receive as many applications from your first-year students as

jacket free, paid for by the

Clinton County Farm

Bureau.

possible. A committee will later

determine a program budget after reviewing the quantity

CLINTON COUNTY

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and quality of applications submitted from around the county, and ultimately decide on how many jackets/official dress to award in the county and/or per chapter.

The application can be found on our website: clintoncofb.org

The deadline to complete the online application is September 30, 2024.

3rd Annual Member Photo Contest Winners Announced

The beauty of rural life came into focus with Clinton County Farm Bureau's 3rd annual member photo contest... "Snapshots of Clinton County". This contest was an opportunity for our members to capture their favorite images showcasing the rich diversity of our county's agricultural landscape and its people. It was also a great way to show off their favorite photos, and maybe even win a prize. We would like to say thank you to everyone who took part this year by submitting a photo or two.

Our judges have selected our first and second place winners in each category, and our "People's Choice" winner was selected by the most "Likes" by our followers on Facebook. We had some fantastic entries, and we are thrilled to announce the winners!

Evervday Life

1st place - Sunflower at Sunset submitted by Jamie Pingsterhaus

2nd place - We love our cows and America too submitted by Jenna Varel

Kid's Corner

1st place - Naptime with the Cows submitted by Brianna Tebbe

2nd place - Cows taken to fresh pasture submitted by Brianna Tebbe

People's Choice

Checking crops after a big rain submitted by Tim Koerkenmeier.



Read FarmWeek's e-edition

Members don't have to wait at the mailbox for the latest edition of FarmWeek.

The e-edition is available online after 6 a.m. every Monday morning.





Volunteer for the better

During my side gigs over the years as parent-teacher club president, Sunday School teacher and FFA alumni volunteer enthusiast, my home office has served as much a dumping grounds for community service projects as it has a private space for writing commentaries and paying bills.

I call it my staging area, a designated place that holds the intent to make a difference in our small town of 600 people. I have friends with such spaces, too, because if small towns want or need something, their citizens often must collaborate to provide for the community.

Our parks offer some of the most visual evidence of volunteerism in our village, which lacks a taxpayer-funded park district. Volunteers fundraise, install and oversee the 18-hole disc golf course, perennial beds, arboretum, depot pavilion, caboose museum and the barn playground, an incredible project that alone won the state's top award for volunteerism. Currently, talented community members donate time and resources to install a mini golf course with nine holes of unique themes to reflect our community's history a coal shovel, grain bins and iron river bridge among them.

Unthinkable to my city friends, trained volunteers fight fires and provide our first-response medical care. Unpaid folks decorate the downtown for the holidays and archive our history in a small museum. Veterans hang dozens of flags in the park and cemetery every Memorial Day. Our musical leaders at

church sing and play for God's glory without compensation. Passionate volunteers endlessly support student success in the local FFA and make youth soccer, summer ball, 4-H and the scouts a reality.

Our kids learn at a young age that community service provides church dinners. roadside cleanups, fun youth programs, impactful non-profits and special events like the upcoming town festival. For the latter, more than 125 volunteers will organize and deliver agrientertainment-style fun for free to attendees at a festival that encapsulates the power of community service. Magic happens and friendships form when talents, skills and resources of volunteers come together for the common goal of community betterment.

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

Harvest permits available Sept. 1

Illinois Harvest
Permits will be available
starting Sept. 1 for those
hauling agricultural
commodities, allowing
trucks to exceed their
legal gross axle and
registered weights by up
to 10%.

Permits for state routes can only be obtained from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) at webapps.dot.illinois.gov/ITAP. They are available through Dec. 31.

A route authorization must be carried in the truck, along with the state permit and form OPER 993, either on paper or electronically. The route authorization prescribes the travel route and ensures no weight limits are posted along that route.

Route authorizations are also obtained on the Illinois Transportation Automated Permit (ITAP) website and must be updated at least every 14 days.

Other tips to remember:

 The Illinois Harvest Permit from IDOT only allows travel on state routes and does not cover travel on interstates or local routes.

- None of the overweight permits allow a vehicle to travel on a bridge or road with a posted weight restriction over the posted weight.
- Local jurisdictions may issue a harvest season permit for their road systems.
- Local jurisdictions also have the option to waive the requirement to carry a permit and can designate that they allow hauling overweight loads.

Illinois Farm Bureau offers resources including a harvest permit guide available online,

ilfb.org/harvestpermit.
Two videos featuring
frequently asked
questions about harvest
permits are available for
IFB members to watch at
www.myifb.org. "By
watching these videos,
you can find tips to
make the permit process

IFB members can direct further questions to Knittel at rknittel@ilfb.org.

more efficient," he said.

Helping you protect what matters most

Marvin Gerdes New Baden (618)588-7112 Aaron Haag Breese (618)526-4541 Travis Huels Carlyle (618)594-8700 Keith Rensing Carlyle (618)844-7010 Theresa Richards Breese (618)526-1100 Anne Marie Toeben Breese (618)526-4541

Brendan Wilkwn Breese (618)526-1179 Keith Wilken Breese (618)526-1179

"COUNTRY Financial" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life insurance Company", COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company", and their respective subsidiaries, locate in Bloomington, Illinois.

1220-511HC_11562-7/26/2024



Clinton CFB Hosts District IAITC Meeting



Congressman Mike Bost joined AITC Coordinators from around southern Illinois during their tour of Excel Bottling Company in Breese in August.



CLASSROOM GRANTS AVAILABLE The Clinton County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering classroom grants to area teachers for any project promoting agriculture awareness Online applications are available on the **Clinton County Farm Bureau's** website: www.clintoncofb.org Scan the QR Code to go directly to the online application Any questions can be directed to the Farm Bureau office at 618-526-7235 or by emailing Susan Kleiboeker at ccaitc@clintoncofb.org

The Clinton County Farm Bureau (CFB) recently hosted the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) District 5 Coordinators' meeting in August. Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Coordinators from County Farm Bureaus across southern Illinois met at the Farm Bureau office in Breese to hear updates from IAITC staff, share program ideas and network, and even had

the opportunity to take a tour at Excel Bottling, which is a Clinton County staple for most who live here.
While in the middle of the tour, Congressman Mike Bost showed up for a visit.
AITC Coordinators had the unique opportunity to chat with him about what they do in the classrooms and how they help educate children and adults on how agriculture is a part of our everyday lives.



Ski is such a local staple for those that grew up in Clinton County that Excel sells over 45,000 bottles of Ski within Breese for just the locals each week!

Young Leaders Donate to County Food Pantries

The Clinton CFB Young Leader (YL) Committee recently matched funding from their 50/50 drawing during the 2024 Clinton CFB Annual Meeting to purchase and donate \$600 worth of ground beef to food pantries in Germantown, Trenton, and Carlyle.



Young Leader Mitchell Mannhard stopped in for a photo at the Green Bean Food Pantry in Trenton for the committee's recent donation of \$200 worth of ground beef.



Clinton County Young Leader Chairman Quinton Huelsmann stopped by the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Germantown to donate \$200 worth of ground beef on behalf of the YL Committee.

Young Leaders Donate to Breese FPD

Members of the Clinton County Farm Bureau (CFB) Young Leader Committee recently delivered the first donation from their 2024 Farm Safety Grant program with a \$1,700 donation to Breese Fire Protection District (FPD). A total of



\$3,000 was awarded to two (2) rural fire departments in Clinton County, in cooperation with a \$700 "Farm Safety Grant" from the Illinois Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial.

With the donated funds, Breese FPD purchased a variety of Milwaukee batterypowered tools, lights, chargers, and a vacuum, in addition to assorted lengths of ropes for rescue harnesses and rigging.

Breese FPD was the first of two equipment grants to be awarded for 2024. An additional donation of \$1,300 will be scheduled with Beckemeyer Fire Protection District once their equipment arrives.



Clinton CFB Young Leader Chairman Quinton Huelsmann and Own Huelsmann present a \$1,700 donation to representatives from the Breese Fire Protection District.



No one represents Illinois Farm Bureau or its policies better than the members themselves.

That's the value of FB ACT.

Members enrolled in FB ACT on or before November 1, 2024, will be entered to win an all expense paid 3-night stay in Chicago to attend the Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting December 7-10, 2024.

Text the word "FARM" to 52886 to sign up and receive text messages when we need you to act.



A stop for a group photo at the strawberry fields at Flamm Orchards in Cobden.



Young Leaders got to get up close to the stars of Rolling Oak Alpaca Ranch in Makanda.



LOCAL YOUNG LEADER AG INDUSTRY TOUR

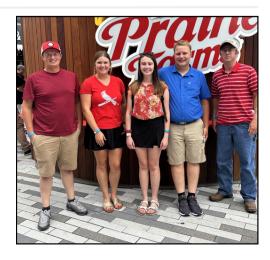
Several members of the Clinton CFB Young Leader Committee attended a local version of the Ag Industry Tour on August 24th sponsored by the Madison County Farm Bureau. Members from several area counties toured Rolling Oak Alpaca Ranch in Makanda, Flamm Orchards in Cobden, and wrapped up with lunch at Blue Sky Winery in Makanda. A big thank you to the Madison County Young Leaders for organizing another great opportunity for local Young Leader committee members!



Young Leaders from Clinton County that attended the August 24th Ag Industry Tour included (L to R) Vanessa, Heidi, & Lucas Hanke, Cora Meyer, Owen Huelsmann, Chelsey, Quinton, & Andrew Huelsmann, Morgan Huelsmann, and Will May.

YOUNG LEADERS ATTEND NETWORKING EVENT

Young Leaders (YL's) from Clinton County Farm Bureau joined other members from around Illinois Farm Bureau's District 16 for a St. Louis Cardinals game on July 28th. A big thank you to Prairie Farms Dairy for sponsoring this networking event for YL's in the area!



"Fall Farm Festival" to be held at St. Louis Magic House

Visitors can have an agricultural experience at the Magic House

On Saturday, September 21st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. families are invited to enjoy a fun-filled day down on the farm at The Magic House's Fall Farm Festival. During the event, kids can meet with local farmers to learn more about where their food comes from, check out a real tractor, participate in a variety of agricultural activities, learn about the importance of dairy, and even get up close and personal with live farm animals. The Fall Farm Festival is made possible by the Missouri and Illinois Farm Bureaus and is free with Museum admission. Contact your County Farm Bureau to inquire about a limited supply of tickets for free Museum admission to attend this vear's event!

In addition to the Fall Farm Festival, the Missouri and Illinois Farm Bureaus have also supported exhibits at The Magic House, including the Pizza Parlor and a Pizza Garden where children can actually see their pizza growing. Children can also "shop" for pretend fruits and vegetables at a Farmers Market supported by the Farm Bureaus located in the Sunshine Classroom. These fun and educational exhibits sponsored by the Missouri and Illinois Farm Bureaus give children the opportunity to learn about where their food comes from and discover more about family farms.

About the Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum The Magic House is a not-forprofit participatory museum that provides hands-on learning experiences for children and families and encourages experimentation, creativity, and the development of problemsolving skills within a place of beauty, wonder, joy, and magic. Regular Museum admission is \$12 per person. Children under the age of one are free.

The Magic House is located at 516 S. Kirkwood Road, one mile north of Highway 44 in historic downtown Kirkwood. For more information visit The Magic House online at www.magichouse.org.



The Gateway Advertising Committee, a joint effort of County Farm Bureaus in Illinois and Missouri, hosted an in-person event at Grant's Farm in St. Louis as part of their Alpaca Exhibit sponsorship for 2024

Gateway Information Committee greets visitors at Grant's Farm

Farm Bureau members from Illinois and Missouri were at Grant's Farm in St. Louis on August 10th to greet visitors and hand out some fun alpaca-themed fans near the exhibit that was sponsored by the Farm Bureau's Gateway Information Committee in 2024.

The Alpaca Exhibit sponsorship was one of several efforts for the committee's 2024 campaign, which will also include events at the St. Louis Magic House, Science Center, and social media and other digital advertising. With collaborative contributions from County Farm Bureaus and matching dollars from both the Illinois and Missouri Farm Bureaus, the budget for the 2024 consumer education campaign topped \$46,000.

The Gateway Information Committee is a joint effort of the Illinois Farm Bureau. Missouri Farm Bureau, and approximately 20 County Farm Bureaus from both sides of the river around St. Louis. Volunteer leaders from those County Farm Bureaus meet annually to develop strategies to help engage consumers and create a positive connection between farmers and consumers in the St. Louis and surrounding areas.

The goal of the Gateway Information Committee is to promote a consistent message to consumers in St. Louis and surrounding areas in Illinois on how farmers and farm families in Illinois and Missouri grow and raise their food.



Young Leaders Discover Global Agriculture on Costa Rican Tour

In an exciting journey far from the familiar fields of Illinois, 28 of the state's young agricultural enthusiasts embarked on the 2024 Young Leader Ag Industry Tour in Costa Rica. This international expedition, a hallmark of the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Young Leaders Program, offered a unique opportunity to explore agriculture beyond the corn and soybeans that define the Midwest landscape. Clinton County Young Leader Committee member Kali Michael was one of the 28 along for the trip.

The tour, which took place from July 15-23, 2024, aimed to broaden the participants' understanding of global agricultural practices and their impact on economies and communities around the world.

The journey began with a visit to a pineapple plantation owned by a Swiss family. Here, the young leaders delved into the intricacies of pineapple cultivation, observing each stage of growth and learning about Costa Rica's sophisticated methods of pineapple production and exportation. This experience highlighted how different climates and practices shape agricultural outputs and illustrated the global market's intricacies.

"The tour was an incredible eye-opener for all of us," said Perry Harlow, Young Leaders Program Coordinator at IFB. "It's not just about seeing how things are done differently; it's about understanding the underlying principles and challenges that shape agricultural industries worldwide. Costa Rica's approach to pineapple

cultivation is a testament to innovation and sustainability in agriculture."

Next, the group visited Arenal Vida Campesina, a family-owned farm renowned for its commitment to conservation and education. Participants explored the farm's diverse ecosystem, which boasts over a hundred plant species and various crops grown using organic techniques. The hands-on experience included picking tubers, fruits, and vegetables and trying their hand at hand milling sugarcane. This immersive experience not only provided practical agricultural skills but also emphasized the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Among the highlights was a tour of Arenal Lake and a visit to the hydroelectric plant that powers much of Costa Rica. The tour offered insight into the country's green energy policies and showcased how hydroelectric power contributes to the nation's sustainable energy goals. This part of the tour underscored the connection between agriculture and energy, revealing how renewable energy sources support agricultural and economic stability.

The journey concluded with a visit to a coffee plantation, where participants explored the global history and significance of coffee. The tour included a deep dive into the cultivation, processing, and economic importance of coffee in Costa Rica, enriching the young leaders' understanding of one of the world's most beloved commodities.



The Dahler family's Costa Rican pineapple plantation was successfully built in 2004. Young Leaders went on a trolley tour of the plantation, witnessing the entire process from cultivation to shipping. (Photo by Perry Harlow)



Clinton County Young Leader (YL) Kali Michael was one of 28 members from around Illinois that toured Costa Rica on the 2024 YL Ag Industry Tour in July.

The tour not only broadened participants' agricultural knowledge but also fostered personal growth and professional development. "Our goal is to enhance the Illinois Farm Bureau experience through diverse and immersive events like this one," said Harlow. "By

exposing our young leaders to international practices, we're preparing them to think more critically and innovatively about agriculture."

As the tour wrapped up, excitement for future endeavors was palpable. The planning for the 2025 trip is set to begin soon, promising more opportunities for young leaders to gain national and global insights and contribute to the agricultural community.

If you're a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18-35 with a passion for agriculture, contact the Clinton County Farm Bureau to learn more about our Young Leader Committee and opportunities to attend future events and activities.





SAT. SEPT 14, 2024

CLINTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS | CARLYLE, IL

1 P.M. "King of Clinton County" Farm Stock & Southern Illinois Pullers Classes

7 P.M. ITPA Tractor Pull Classes

General Admission \$20.00 (All day) Free parking

Active Clinton CFB member households get \$5 ticket discounts when purchased in advance from the Farm Bureau office

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

ITPA PULLING CLASSES:

8,500 lb Limited Pro Stock

(sponsored by Jansen Chevrolet)

11,000 lb Pro Farm (sponsored by Beck's Hybrids)

2WD Truck

(sponsored by COUNTRY Financial, Clinton County Agents)

9,500 lb Limited Pro Stock (sponsored by Ratermann Bros.)









"King of Clinton County" Farm Stock (Clinton County tractors only) & SI Pullers

- 7,500 lb Farm Stock
- 10.500 lb Farm Stock
- 12,500 lb Farm Stock
- GRAPPERHAUS COMPANY INC.

brought to you by:

- SI Pullers 12,500 lb Hot Farm Stock
- SI Pullers 5,500 lb Top Cut Class

A fundraiser for Ag Mechanics scholarships through the Clinton CFB Foundation.













