

Funding help for IAITC keeps activities buzzing

Clinton County Ag in the Classroom program awarded \$8.867

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) program received \$647,000 for materials, training, educational lessons and activities from the IAA Foundation to support 81 local county coalitions that serve 88 counties.

"Providing these grants ensures teachers have a local connection and access to engaging resources to integrate accurate agricultural content into their classrooms," said Kevin Daugherty, IAITC education director.

Continue on page 2 - Grant important to all of us.



Ag in the Classroom Activities

Around 2,500 first and fourth grade students across Clinton County receive educational lessons monthly from the Ag in the Classroom Program. The program was formed to teach students why agriculutre and conservation are important to all of us.

Bookmark Contest winners announced

Winners of our first bookmark contest are Deklyn Markin, age 9 of Aviston, and Alyssa Mueller, age 8 of Breese, each won a family 4 pack of tickets to the St. Louis Magic House and an ag themed book.

Thank you to the children who entered this year's Bookmark Contest with the theme of "Agriculture is". We had over 60 entries! Some came from schools and others from individuals. All showed how much children understand the importance of agriculture.



13 micro talks on tap for Annual Meeting

More than a dozen micro talks



ranging from topics including CDL training, ethanol demand, farm youth emotional wellbeing and more will be offered during Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting.

The sessions are scheduled Dec. 7 and 8 at the Palmer House in Chicago. A tradition at Annual Meeting, the talks bring experts and members together to share information on popular agricultural topics.

The lineup includes:

- Melody Rosche, IFB local government research specialist: "Examining the Support of Urban Agriculture across the U.S."
- Jennifer Killian, IAA Credit Union marketing manager: "Raising Money-Smart Kids!"

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"Adult Ag in the Classroom" Winter series planned

We are thrilled to announce a new winter workshop series designed for all skill levels, and varying interests. Our "Adult Ag in the Classroom" workshop series will be led by local 'experts' or Farm Bureau staff who will share their insights and provide hands-on training to help you master new skills and techniques. These workshops are designed to be fun, engaging, and interactive. Our winter series will run from December through March and include a new workshop series each month!

December's workshop will be a holiday wreath making workshop to hang on your door or above your fireplace. Come and join us for a fun session making a traditional wreath to take home to hang on your door or above your fireplace. We will have a vast array of natural materials and all equipment on hand for you to use and lots of ideas to help

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Grants

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Last school year, 634,314 students and 48,380 teachers engaged in ag literacy lessons through IAITC.

County programs presented 32,232 individual programs throughout the state, an average of 400 per coalition. Classroom presentations, farm field trips and agriculture expos add a new dimension to existing curricular standards.

County coalition grants are made possible through funding from the IAA Foundation, the charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau.

The IAA Foundation raises funds for the IAITC program each year, and in addition to county grants, provides funding for Ag Mags, teacher grants, Summer Ag Academies and more.

"Consistent and sustainable funding is key for IAITC to have great results," said Susan Moore, IAA Foundation director. "And knowing that so many Illinois students are making stronger connections to agriculture drives our donors to keep making ag literacy a priority, and we are grateful for that."

Partner organizations of IAITC include the Illinois Farm
Bureau, Facilitating
Coordination in Agricultural
Education, University of Illinois
Extension, Illinois Beef
Association, Illinois Corn
Marketing Board, Illinois Pork
Producers Association, Illinois
Soybean Association, Midwest
Dairy Association, Illinois
Department of Agriculture and the Association of Soil and
Water Conservation Districts.

In addition, annual donors include agribusiness partners and individuals interested in supporting the future of agriculture. For information on how individuals can contribute, or to view a listing of all major donors, visit iaafoundation.org. For information on IAITC, visit agintheclassroom.org.

AAITC

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you make your own fantastic wreath, a perfect gift or a wreath for yourself. Chris Lueking, Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator, with the University of Illinois Extension, will be leading this workshop.

January's workshop we will be creating a super cute snowman made out of solid 4 x 4s. These snowmen are an adorable addition to your winter and holiday decor! You will be able to customize the accessories to fit your personal style and home decor - there are TONS of options on this project! You do not need any craft or painting experience to attend this workshop.

You can join us in February for a Super Bowl Charcuterie Class! Charcuterie boards are tasty, beautiful and perfect for any gathering or occasion. Whether you're looking to impress at your next get together or create the ideal snack to enjoy with your family, meat and cheese boards are the perfect solution. In this workshop you will learn to create and style your very own board time and time again.

The final workshop in this series will be held in March, where you can create a custom 12"x12"
Barn Quilt Painting. Barn quilts make the perfect outdoor or indoor decoration! Join us for this beginner level workshop to learn simple techniques to create a beautiful piece for you to take home.

All supplies will be provided with each workshop. Proceeds from this series will benefit the Clinton County Ag in the Classroom program.

The Ag in the Classroom program provides monthly agricultural lessons to all first and fourth grade students in the Clinton County Schools.

Registration will be required to attend the workshops and information will be available on our Facebook page and our website: www.clintoncofb.org



Meeting

Continued from page 1

- Collin Watters, director of exports & logistics, IL Corn: "Ethanol Demand to Maximize Farmer Profitability"
- Sanjay Sofat, IFB director of environmental policy, and Amelia Cheek, associate director of environmental policy: "PFAS Basic"
- Josie Rudolphi, assistant professor and Extension specialist in agricultural safety and health, University of Illinois: "Farm Youth Mental Health"
- Ryan Tate, IFB associate director of local government: "Investing in Rural — IFB's Rural Development Grant Program"
- Craig Conroy, COUNTRY
 Financial agribusiness
 product manager: "Investing in your Farm's Future"
- Sierra Henry, IFB media relations specialist, and Jeff Rogers, executive director of the Illinois Press Foundation/Capitol News
- Illinois: "The State of the Newsroom"
- Jacob Dickey, WCIA meteorologist: "Weather and Agriculture"

- Organizational Membership Strategy subcommittee members (farmer leaders):
 "Organizational Member Strategy & Changing for the Future"
- Kevin Semlow, IFB
 Governmental Affairs &
 Commodities executive
 director: "Legislative &
 Regulatory Update"
- Rodney Knittel, IFB associate director of transportation & infrastructure: "Training Employees to Get a CDL"
- Kevin Daugherty, IFB education director, and Chris Wyant, education manager: "Illinois AITC and Awesome Agriculture"

The Annual Meeting also will feature a free concert Dec. 7 by country music singer Drew Baldridge, whose song "She's Somebody's Daughter" reached No. 1 on the country music charts.

This year's meeting theme is Planting a Vision, and attendees can also expect the return of charitable auctions, ice cream fundraiser, Young Leader Discussion Meets and awards programs.

To register, contact your county Farm Bureau.

ALOT: Pursue your potential

BY OUINTON HUELSMANN

I first became involved in Farm Bureau around 2017. A neighbor was re-establishing a Young Leader Committee in our county after several years without such a program. My dad was excited. He shared many great experiences from his time on the committee formerly known as Young Farmers, Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) was one of his favorite memories. He brought it up to me several times when I first got involved, but I never viewed myself as a leader. No matter how much he praised the program for opening his eyes to leadership, it never clicked with me.

I cannot recall what first piqued my interest in leadership, but it was sometime after starting my first job after college. Since then, no number of books, podcasts or professional trainings have quenched my thirst to unlock the leader within me. Even in my professional career, I work with the Training and Development team on an Individual Development Plan to map out my goals for professional development and challenge myself to betterment. At the forefront of my goals: Leadership.

Almost two years ago, I took the chance to test my leadership skills as the chairman of Clinton County's Young Leader





Quinton Huelsmann is a customer support supervisor for GROWMARK, sits on Clinton County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors and is the chairman of the Young Leader Committee.

Committee. In the beginning of my new role, so many questions and self-doubts rolled in: Was I a leader? What impact could I have compared to anyone else? Even though I was not confident in the beginning, I did my best to lead. A year later, applications opened for the 2024 ALOT class, and my county Farm Bureau president, along with my dad, was not going to let me miss the opportunity. I applied and was accepted.

I was nervous going into the first session. Getting to know everyone in class, the different backgrounds they came from, and seeing us all progress through the weeks made for a great overall experience. But to me, nothing I experienced has been more valuable than what I learned about myself. My strengths, my weaknesses and most importantly, I discovered my potential. Since I know myself as a leader, I can also see the potential of others. Through ALOT, I am equipped to help others reach their potential. even if they do not see it. For this reason, I highly recommend ALOT to anyone, even if you do not see yourself as a leader. Let ALOT help you pursue your potential.



Illinois Farm Bureau members save millions

From hotel rooms and theme parks to restaurants and movies, Illinois Farm Bureau members save money through using their membership benefits.

IFB recently launched the "Millions Saved" campaign to recognize the \$2 million dollars members save in a year through their exclusive access to more than 300,000 local, statewide and national discounts.

"The intent is to highlight savings by our members who have used their tangible member benefits, and encourage other members to start saving today," said Stephanie Knittel, IFB member benefit and events manager. Knittel said that hotels and travel discounts are used regularly. She added brands such as Ford, Case IH, John

Deere and Caterpillar also offer great discounts that many members already take advantage of on a regular basis.

Other benefits include Disney Park and Universal Studios theme park discounts, deals on Goodyear tires and 10% off all MLB ticket and VIP packages.

BetterHelp therapy is also a newer addition to the IFB membership benefits program, offering members 50% off their first month of online counseling.

Members can reach out to their county Farm Bureaus for more information on membership benefits or visit ilfb.abenity.com for the full list of current benefits. Members can also download the Abenity app to access their benefits on the go.



Simple Machines

Carlyle 4th graders learned about pumpkins and simple machines while constructing a catapult to launch mini pumpkin erasers.

October Ag in the Classroom Activities

During the month of October both the first and fourth grades learned about Pumpkins. The first-grade classes read the book 'Oh my Pumpkin Pie.' Then they got to see all the unusual colors of pumpkins while using the new Ag Mag Jr. leaflets produced by Illinois Ag in the Classroom. Afterward students created their own jack-olanterns during a following directions craft lesson.

The fourth-grade classes also learned about pumpkins while reading the older version of the Ag Mags. Each group was assigned a section to read and then presented to the class the most interesting and important parts for everyone to know. The highlight of the lesson was

building a catapult to launch a mini pumpkin eraser. Students discovered that building a simple machine is not always easy or simple but loads of fun.

Ag Mags are FREE and can be picked up from the Clinton County Farm Bureau office or delivered to schools in Clinton County by our AITC Coordinator with advance notice. The Illinois Farm Bureau Ag Mags are 4page, colorful agricultural magazines for kids. They contain information about agriculture, bright pictures, classroom activities, and agricultural careers. For a full listing of available Ag Mags, check out our website: https://clintoncofb.org/ag-inthe-classroom/



grants to IL Counties. Local Ag Literacy Coordinators are key in reaching

work and thank you to every donor who helps make this effort possible!

630,000 students and 48,000 teachers each year. Thank you for your



Jack-o-lanterns

First Grade Students at Albers Elementary School show off their jacklanterns.



Uncovering the benefits of Cover Crops

Grandpa never dreamed we'd be planting and harvesting at the same time. Nor did we.

A sizable percentage of our farmland will green up with new growth as we park the harvesting equipment in the shed for the season. Because shortly after corn is harvested from the fields, our local cooperative plants cereal rye that grows to provide a protective growing blanket before the next cash crop of soybeans.

The rye survives the winter and by early spring, the green-andgrowing cover crop in our fields contrasts the otherwise barren landscape. You can literally see that you're keeping the soil alive.

Alive and well: Earthworms thrive. Soil feels soft and smooth in our hands. Cover crops help the land percolate, welcoming water and nutrients to reach the roots of our soybeans rather than run off the surface.

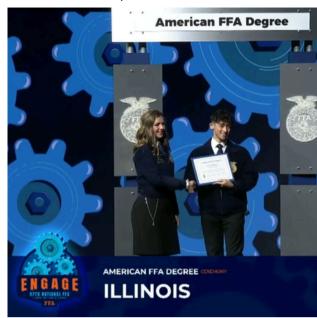
Throughout the Illinois landscape, more farmers adopt the use of cover crops, a groundcover planted with the intention of never harvesting it. Instead, a cover crop's job is to hold soil in place, keep the soil active, store nutrients, retain moisture and improve the soil structure. The cover crop makes an impressive mechanism that chokes out yield-robbing weeds. Environmental benefits abound, including reduction of both soil erosion and nutrient loss into rivers and streams. The practice is highly rewarded in carbon programs for a farm's ability to cut its carbon footprint.

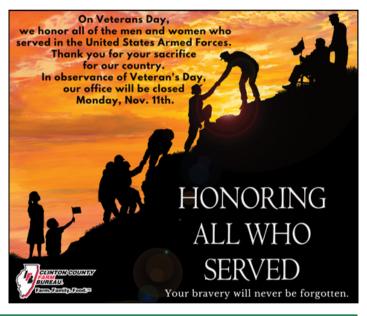
By spring, I plant soybeans directly into what appears to be fields of grass. Dad then terminates the cover crop with herbicide, prompting a residual blanket between the rows for continued weed suppression while the decomposing material releases moisture and nutrients for the new growing crop.

This fall, some farms will use a drill to mechanically sow cover crops on the land. Others hire aerial applications by plane or drone, which involves showering cover crop seed above standing corn or soybeans just before fall harvest to grow by late fall. For us, the local cooperative uses fertilizer-spreading trucks to broadcast cover crop seeds across a harvested field.

No matter the method, those seeds make soil contact, grow and green up the landscape soon after harvest, ensuring a form of crop continuously covers a growing percentage of farmland in our state – even in the dead of an Illinois winter.

2023 CARLYLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, CONNOR WADEMAN, EARNS AMERICAN FFA DEGREE





Helping you protect what matters most

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"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, locating Bloomington, Illinois.

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Members engage as one at National FFA Convention



Carlyle High School

Pictured from left: Nick Schomaker, Tanner Speiser, Audrey Rahm, Katelyn Davison, Samantha Heinzmann and Maddy Rae Schomaker.

Over 40 Clinton County FFA members and advisors traveled to the National FFA Convention and Expo on October 22-25 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The members attended several tours and participated in various National FFA Convention activities while on the trip.

This year's convention theme, "Engage," is meant to remind members that when they choose to engage in FFA and in something bigger than themselves, they can change the world.

Beyond opening ceremonies, FFA members participated in Career Development (CDE) and Leadership Development Events (LDE), a career and college fair and workshops. Chapters also had the chance to attend events such as a rodeo and a concert by Megan Moroney and special guest Nate Smith.

Close to 75,000 FFA members and guests from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands attended the convention over the few days, making this a record year for attendance. The convention is the largest national student convention held annually. The National FFA Organization membership has also reached a record high, topping 1 million members.





Central High School

Pictured from left: Blake Wolter, Connor Carrillon, Alex Voss, Chase Varel, Peyton Markus, Addison Tebbe, Maecie Carrillon, Cora Eversgerd, Grace Henrichs, Celia Huelsmann, Cara Carrillon and Shelby Hagen.



Christ Our Rock High School

Pictured from left: Caden Arnold, Matt Steinkamp, Tommy Cox, Evan Beal, Drew Lueking, Blake Hanke, Colton Cartright, Peyton Jett and Jenson Langenhorst



Mater Dei High School

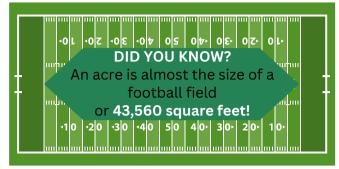
Pictured from left: Lyla Koch, Addison Hilmes, Lynn Shirley, Sophia Roelf, Reid Koch, Angeleen Wesselmann, Christian Schwarz and Briar Bickl.



Wesclin High School

Pictured from left: Jenna Hemker, Advisor, members - Addison Brown, Cora Hill, Aowyn Olier, Aiden Wells, Noah Haas, and Grant Fielder.



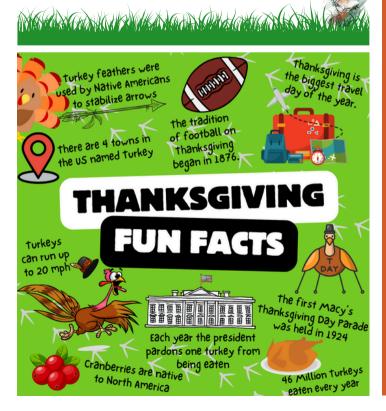


Agriculture ties to Football

Uniforms: Come from cotton plants
Turf Grass: Comes from sod grass
Tickets, Programs and Schedules:
Come from trees and soybean ink
Tape and Bandages: Come from
corn dextrines and cattle gelatins
Photography Film:
Comes from cornstarch and gelatin

Comes from cornstarch and gelatin

Football: comes from cowhides



History of Thanksgiving

After spending IO weeks at sea, English pilgrims traveling from Holland arrived at the tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on Sept. 20, 1620. Their ship, the Mayflower, carried IO2 passengers and 30 crew.

The winter was difficult for the settlers, and many died due to sickness, cold and starvation.

In November 1921, after the pilgrims' first harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the colony's Native American allies, including Wampanoag Chief Massasoit.

The 53 Plymouth colonists and the 90 members of the Wampanoag Tribe shared an autumn harvest fest that lasted three days. The festival also included games, races and bow and arrow competitions.

Thanksgiving Fun Facts

What president refused to declare Thanksgiving a holiday?

Answer: Thomas Jefferson. Presidents originally had to declare Thanksgiving a holiday every year up until Lincoln made it a national holiday during his tenure. The only president who didn't? Thomas Jefferson. He refused to recognize the event because he believed so firmly in the separation of church and state. Since Thanksgiving involved prayer and reflection, he thought designating it as a national holiday would violate the First Amendment. He also thought it was better suited as a state holiday, not a federal one.

How many turkeys do Americans prepare each Thanksgiving?

Answer: 46 million. Thanksgiving without turkey would be like Christmas without a tree, and most American families wouldn't dream of foregoing the almighty bird. While not super popular the rest of the year, turkey is a huge hit for holidays, probably because it can serve large gatherings.

Everything local conference to be held in January

Sign up today to receive discounted registration price

Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, and the Illinois Farmers Market Association are excited to announce the return of the From Food to Flowers: Everything Local conference in January 2025.

This one-of-a-kind event brings together farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state with other partners throughout the Illinois local food supply chain. By more efficiently connecting the supply chain, more income is generated; fewer businesses handle the product in processing and transit; and the products are harvested and packaged at a fresher stage. These improvements benefit the local economies and food opportunities of communities

across the state.

PLEASE NOTE: Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Specialty Growers Association memberships are individual memberships. To receive member conference rate each individual attendee must be a registered member. The only association that accepts organizational/business membership is Illinois Farmers Market Association. We ask each attendee to please consider membership to an association to guarantee member discount rate. If you are not a registered member or do not become a member, we will bill for full conference rate.

To register or for more information, go to: https://web.specialtygrowers.or g/events/ 2025-Everything-Local-Attendee-Registration-202211/details

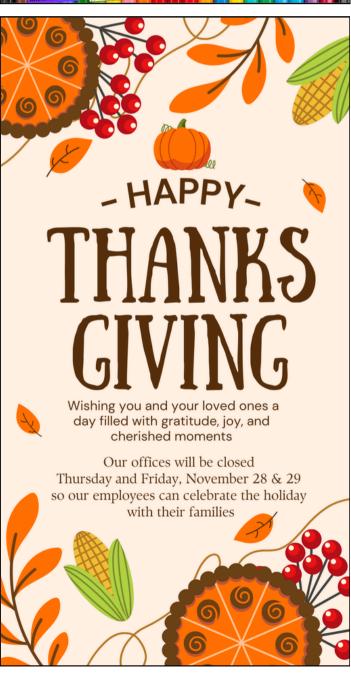
Everything Local Conference registration information

	DEADLINE	COST
Members (IFB, ISGA, ILFMA) - pre-Registration	Jan 13, 2025	\$100.00
Non-Member - Pre-Registration	Jan 13, 2025	\$225.00

After January 17, only in-person registrations will be accepted at the conference on January 29, 30, 31. The increased rate will be the same regardless which day attending.







"Adopt" a Classroom program available for area schools

Our Ag in the Classroom program is offering a new opportunity for local businesses (or even individuals) to support the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program in Clinton County through our new "Adopta-Classroom" activity.

Your \$100 tax-deductible donation will allow you to select a classroom to "Adopt" or just donate to be paired with an available "Adopted" classroom.

We'll also be sure to spotlight all of our supporters through our

Farm Bureau newsletters, Annual Meeting activities, social media, and additional "tags" on Facebook during classroom visits throughout the year.

Have questions? Want to donate with a credit card instead? Have other ideas to support our AITC efforts? Contact us at (618) 526-7235 or clintcfb@clintoncofb.org today!

Full listing of available schools and classrooms are listed in the graphic at the bottom of the page.

How Farm Bureau Served YOU in October

- State and national legislators visited IFB members' farms throughout Illinois, giving members the opportunity to talk about priority ag issues such as the farm bill, Family Farm Preservation Act and more.
- The IAA Foundation awarded \$647,000 in grants to 81 local ag literacy coalitions where ag literacy coordinators serve 88 Illinois counties. Last school year, these coordinators helped reach 634,314 students and 43,380 teachers with engaging agriculture content as part of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program.
- IFB hosted a meeting with University of Illinois system leaders to discuss opportunities for the longstanding partnership to drive strategic initiatives that benefit Illinois agriculture.
- IFB advocated for its members in submitted comments surrounding spray drift and on-field mitigation measures outlined in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's draft Insecticide Strategy.



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Clinton County Schools

2024 - 2025

	First Grade	Fourth Grade	
Albers	Ms. Wellen	Ms. Scott	
All Saints Academy	Ms. Mote, Ms. Barrett, Ms. Albers	Ms. Holthaus, Ms. McSparin, Mr. Ruble	
Aviston	Ms. Lampe, Ms. Markus	Ms. Albers, Ms. O'Brian	
Bartelso	Ms. Hilmes	Ms. Schulte	
Beckemeyer (Dist 12)	Ms. Reckling, Ms. Schrand, Ms. Smith		
Breese (Dist 12)		Ms. Becker, Ms. Jansen, Ms. Niemeyer	
Carlyle	Ms. Albers, Ms. Alexander, Ms. Miller, Ms. Smith, Ms. Lance	Ms. Johnson, Ms. Schilling, Ms. Wademan, Ms Wreath	
Damiansville	Ms. Stiebel	Ms. Galbiati	
Germantown	Ms. Antonacci, Ms. Peppenhorst	Ms. Wilken, Ms. Knapp	
New Baden	Ms. Haake, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Segelhorst		
North Wamac	Ms. Holtkamp	Ms. Tate (3/4)	
St. Rose	Ms. Brown	Ms. Cirrincione	
Trenton	Ms. Dryden, Ms. Haag		
Trinity Hoffman	Ms. Redeker (1/2)	Ms. Kuper (3/4)	
Wesclin Middle School		Ms. Billhartz, Ms. Boeckman, Ms. Brocaille, Ms Oelrich, Ms. Ringler, Ms. Schlimme	
15 Schools	26 Classes	26 Classes	



