



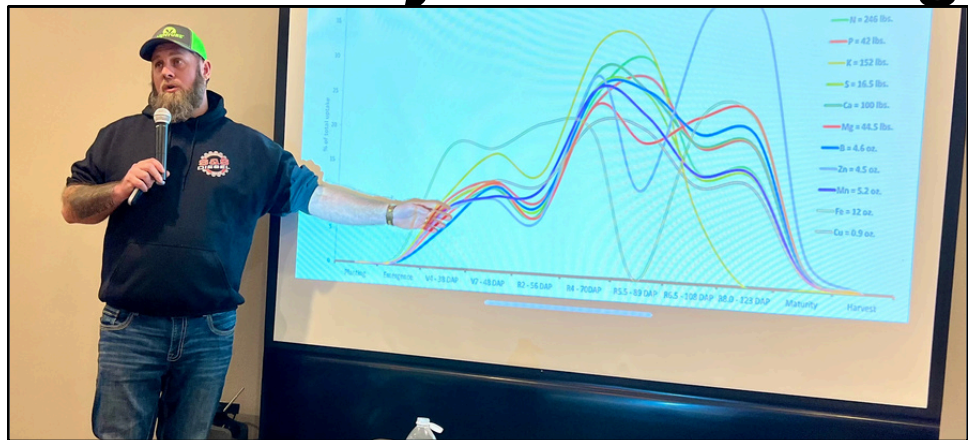
Over 200 Attend “Healthy Soils” Meeting

As part of Clinton County Farm Bureau’s (CFB) 2025 Nutrient Stewardship Grant project, we were excited to bring North Carolina no-tiller Russell Hedrick to the St. Rose Development Club on February 26th for an informational seminar on soils.... and he did not disappoint.

Over 200 people attended the “Growing Healthy Soils & Record Yields” seminar to learn about Russell’s journey and how they could hopefully implement some of his practices and findings to add profitability and soil health to their own operations in Clinton County and further.

Russell’s story is an impressive one too. From firefighter to first-generation farmer, Hedrick made history with his 2022 corn harvest, raising a dryland no-till corn crop that topped 459 bushels per acre. His willingness to challenge conventional wisdom, try on-farm experiments, and use regenerative agriculture practices all contributed to his success. His open-book approach, and willingness to travel all over the world (46 states, 8 countries, and counting) to share his story at events like

Continue on page 2 - Hedrick



Healthy Soils Seminar

Over 200 attended the February 26 Healthy Soils meeting with guest speaker Russel Hedrick to learn about Russell’s journey and how they could hopefully implement some of his practices and findings to add profitability and soil health to their own operations in Clinton County and further.

Third in winter series of Adult Ag in the Classroom Workshops held

Twenty-eight (28) participants attended the third workshop in Clinton CFB’s four-part winter “Adult Ag in the Classroom” series. Attendees enjoyed a hands-on experience of creating their own Super Bowl Charcuterie Board with Cheri Mansfield from Oh. So. Sweet. Bakery & Deli in Carlyle.

The final workshop of the series will be held on March 14th, where participants will learn about the history of Barn Quilts and design and paint their very own 12” x 12” barn quilt. A few seats remain in the last of our first series of Adult Ag in the Classroom Workshops.



Production robot to aid in grain bin efficiency, safety

Two Illinois enterprises are helping bring a new robot for grain bin efficiency and safety to farms in the state this year.

A Nebraska ag-tech start-up, The Grain Weevil Corporation, launched its first production robot this winter, designed to revolutionize grain bin management. The Grain Weevil robot efficiently levels bins, feeds extraction augers and breaks up crusts while keeping farmers safely out of the bin.

As part of its expansion, Grain Weevil partnered with L&R Ag in Breese, and Brian's Precision Ag in Pollo, two Illinois leading BinAssist Network providers, to bring this innovative technology to Illinois farmers.

"Last fall, we partnered with nine agribusinesses across the Midwest to introduce our robots-as-a-service model. Now, farmers in Illinois can work directly with L&R Ag and Brian's Precision Ag to schedule services or secure their own Grain Weevil robot for next fall," said Chad Johnson, CEO of Grain Weevil.

"The Grain Weevil robot is designed to improve efficiency, protect grain quality and, most importantly, keep people out of the bin," said Preston Parmley, senior product manager at Grain

Weevil. "With trusted partners like L&R Ag and Brian's Precision Ag, we're excited to bring a safer and more effective grain management solution to farmers across the Midwest."

The first wave of robots is being released to farmers near BinAssist partners, ensuring strong regional support. The standard robot package is priced at \$15,500, with pre-orders requiring a \$1,500 deposit. Each package includes everything needed for safe operation, including a robot controller, bin camera system, standard charger and robot lift system.

Deliveries are expected to begin in September, just in time for the fall harvest season.

Some farmers in the Corn Belt have faced increased crusting issues in grain bins due to conditions this winter, reinforcing the importance of proactive grain management. Crust break-ups and bin inspections to maintain grain quality are important.

"It's always easier to prevent grain from going out of condition than to fix a problem later," added Parmley.

Information about the Grain Weevil robot is available at www.grainweevil.com.

Hedrick

Continued from page 1

this one, are a testament to his passion for helping other farmers achieve yield while promoting soil health principles and conservation.

Eligible producers that attended were also entered into a drawing for 40-acres worth of cover crop seed expenses to get them started on their own regenerative journey in the Fall of 2025. Recipients of the local cover crop grants included: Kent Brinkmann, Marvin Rensing, Chad Vonder Haar, and Neal Tebbe. The Clinton County SWCD also donated two free rentals of their roller-crimper to help terminate covers prior to planting, with Marty Schumacher and John Bruggeman being drawn for that prize.

Be sure to join us at one of our two (2) upcoming Field Days on April 26th or July 26th to learn more about nutrient stewardship efforts and research in Clinton County and additional opportunities for 40 acres worth of cover crop incentives.

More information will be available by contacting the Clinton CFB office or checking out our website at www.clintoncofb.org.

Read FarmWeek's e-edition

Members don't have to wait at the mailbox for the latest edition of FarmWeek. The e-editions is available online after 6 a.m. every Monday

SAVE THE DATE

Summer AG TOUR

JUNE 7 2025

Our destinations are centered around a tug boat ride and barge tour on the Illinois River as well as a viewing of diverse agriculture in the heart of Illinois.



March 15th Deadline

Clinton County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship Applications are DUE MARCH 15!

Scan the QR code or visit our website for more information and online application.

SCAN ME!





Ag Mechanic Students Apply for a chance to be awarded a scholarship for your education

We're here to help you grow!

This scholarship opportunity is focused on aspiring ag mechanics looking to advance their studies or achieve a certification.

CLINTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION AG MECHANICS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

To learn more about our scholarship opportunities, and the online application, please visit our website: www.clintoncofb.org




Adult Ag in the Classroom Charcuterie Workshop



Barn Quilt Painting
Workshop
Friday, March 14 • 6 p.m.



Mark your calendars; it's almost time for Illinois municipal elections

By Hannah Spangler
FarmWeek

It is almost time for the April 1 Illinois Consolidated Municipal General Election.

Although the election is about a month away, Ashley Cravens, Illinois Farm Bureau associate director of political affairs, wants to ensure voters know the upcoming deadlines.

Voter registration

Online voter registration for the consolidated election is open Feb. 27 to March 16 through the Illinois State Board of Elections website. Voters can use their Illinois driver's

license or state identification card to register to vote online or change their name or address for voter registration. For an online application, visit ova.elections.il.gov.

Voters must be 18 or older on the next Election Day, live in the jurisdiction for 30 days before the election and be U.S. citizens to be eligible to register to vote.

A voter may register at a local election authority through March 4. If they are obtaining a new driver's license or state identification card, they can also register at a secretary of state office.

Voters may still register in person at an early voting site, or at their polling place on Election Day, April 1.

Early voting

Election authority offices began offering early voting Feb. 20. Early voting at permanent polling places begins March 7. Locations for early voting can be found at: bit.ly/EarlyVoting25.

Voters may register in person when casting a ballot during early voting. To register, individuals will need to bring two forms of identification, one of which must have their current address. Early voting will close on March 31.

Voting by mail

Any registered voter is eligible to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot. Illinois also allows voters to apply to receive a ballot every election through its permanent vote-by-mail program.

The last day to request a vote by mail ballot is March 27 through mail or March 31 at a local election authority. Ballots can be mailed, delivered in person to a local election authority or dropped in a mail

box. About half of Illinois election jurisdictions offer the drop box option. Applications must be sent to the election authority for the jurisdiction where the voter is registered.

Visit the State Board of Elections website for vote-by-mail details and an online list of drop box locations:

bit.ly/onlineapplication25

Grace period

Grace period registration and voting is available through Election Day for voters who don't register or submit an address change before the deadline. With grace-period voting, voters may cast a ballot during the grace period at the election authority's office, at a location specifically designated by the election authority, or by mail if no ballots are available at the election authority's office. This year, grace-period registration and voting are offered March 5 through April 1.

The IFB website offers important election information including a list of offices up for election this year, Cravens said. Go to www.ilfb.org/vote.



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Together, We Cover Illinois Ag Better



Farmers Name their Fields

We paused harvest to host our daughter's sixth birthday party at Norman North, a field along a winding gravel road. The dusty path contains just two houses and a hill you wouldn't want to attempt in slick conditions.

Whether remote or often seen, the fields we drive past on interstates, highways or rural routes have names. Farmers identify some by numbers, but most have names known only to their keepers. Thank goodness for Google pins that I can text to navigate new employees to Dump Road, Big Top or Myrtice 33 that adjoins with Don 40 (and which side is which). Likewise, I would need directions to find The Y or Seldom Seen – field names that local farmers shared with me.

Field location, size, the owner or, most commonly, the surname of the previous owner, dictate field names. My family owns Lievens Back Bottom, Beecher North and Haxton Homeplace but the previous owners' names still identify the field, a culturally influenced practice and a nod to the past.

The Big and Little Bottoms have everything to do with rivers and nothing with glutes. Doug's Southeast, Pat's North and Ostrom South of Lane indicate directions from that landowner's homestead. Sometimes, round numbers like 40 or

80 in the name represent the acreage but we do have anomalies like Donna 73. The add-ons of Cemetery and Railroad in the name reference local landmarks except for Sunoco, which alludes to the gas station that once was.

The labels carryover into vehicles, equipment and structures with most names preceded by "the," such as The Kodiak, The One Ton, Truck Six, The Lower Shed or The New Bin that turns 30 years old this year. We will forever remember Jaws, the 1974 steel-bodied, white and rusty farm car for which the Secretary of State generated a random license plate with "JAW" plus some numbers. Dad put a hitch on that Chevelle, and Mom used it like a truck.

From a record-keeping standpoint, field names are associated with large amounts of data, such as acreage totals, government numbers, insurance identification, satellite images, guidance lines, crop nutrient information and production histories. The names also preserve stories. In the Big Bottom, my family learned of 9/11. At the Wataga Farm my husband asked permission for my hand, and during our farm's harvest at the State Ground, our daughter was born. Within those field boundaries, we live life and make a living.

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

SAVE *the* DATES

2025 **Nutrient Stewardship** field days



SAT **APRIL 26th**
10 A.M. – 12 P.M.
RAIN OR SHINE

SAT **JULY 26th**
10 A.M. – 2 P.M.
RAIN OR SHINE



LOCATION:
Sugar Creek Valley Farms
12555 Poettker Road
Aviston, IL 62216

Funded in part through a 2025 IFB Nutrient Stewardship Grant



HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN FEBRUARY

- 1 Illinois Farm Bureau hosted the Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference, giving members the opportunity to learn about IFB priorities and directly engage with legislators on issues facing agriculture.
- 2 More than 425 IFB Young Leaders, including about 85 Collegiate Farm Bureau members, attended the 2025 Young Leaders Conference to engage in networking and meaningful development.
- 3 IFB hosted two series of seminars that provide continuing trusted information for members. Rules for the Road keeps members informed on transportation regulations that could affect their businesses, and anhydrous ammonia certified grower training is required for growers or grower operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia.
- 4 The Family Farm Preservation Act has been filed in both chambers as SB 1688 and HB 2677. The FPPA reforms the Illinois estate tax to protect the long-term stability of family farms.



Clinton County Farm Bureau
2025 Summer Ag Tours
JUNE 10 & 11
AG TOURS PLANNED

Keith Meyer - Aquaculture/Fish Farming
Carl's 4WD & Performance Center
Standin Proud Veterans Center
Tim & Lucas Hanke - Beef, Grain, Sheep & Trucking
Gateway FS
Hoffman House Bar & Grill
Charcuterie & Food Demonstration

Illinois Ag in the Classroom staff will provide hands-on lessons along with learning and grant opportunities

\$65 for 16 PDCH's
Must be in attendance both days
lunch provided one day
travel not included.

CONNECTING
agriculture and education
in the classroom

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT PLEASE COMPLETE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.CLINTONCOFB.ORG OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

Scan for online registration

Nurse practitioner scholarship applications available

Continuing a tradition of more than three decades, the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is accepting applications for 2025 scholarships.

The program offers 15 scholarships, each valued at \$4,000, to support nurse practitioners committed to serving rural communities in Illinois.

Scholarship recipients are expected to practice in an approved rural area within the state for at least two years.

Eligible candidates must be Illinois residents and either be accepted into or currently enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner program as a Registered Nurse. The Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP) funds this initiative.

Application forms are available from county Farm Bureaus throughout the state, on the RIMSAP website, RIMSAP.com, or by emailing Donna Gallivan at dgallivan@iffb.org. The application deadline is May 1.



Breese Historical Society awarded 2024 Community Impact Grant

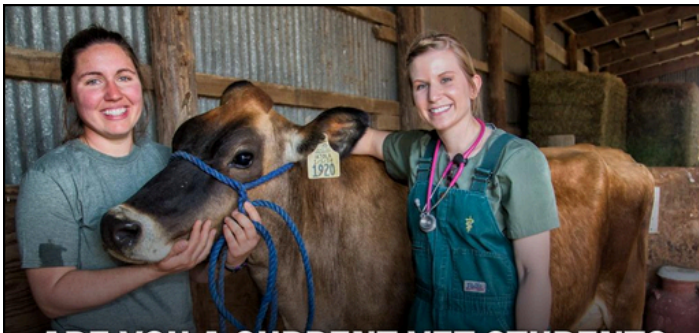
Members from the Breese Historical Society stopped by the office to receive their 2024 Community Impact Grant Reimbursement Check. The Historical Society was awarded \$500 for their project "Exploring Our Town's Namesake". One of the goals of this project was to help people learn about and preserve the rich legacy of Breese's past, including its founders and generations of families and friends that followed. A 16-page booklet on the history of Judge Sidney Breese along with ten optional lesson plans were developed to accompany the booklet. The project was a perfect way to accomplish this goal with the young people in the community. It was a way to explore the life and legacy of Judge Sidney Breese. More than 100 eighth grade students from both Breese Elementary Dist. 12 and All Saints Academy participated in the Judge Sidney Breese field trip to his home in Carlyle. In addition to the tour, the teachers and students completed all 10 lesson plans; hopefully the lesson plans fostered an appreciation of our rich heritage and instilled in them a sense of civic pride. Pictured from left: Breese Historical Society Members - Janice Beckemeyer, President, Barbara Von Alst, Board Member and Marg Beckmann, Treasurer with Ray Krausz, Clinton County Farm Bureau Director.

KEEP IN TOUCH AND...

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Our Website
www.clintoncofb.org



ARE YOU A CURRENT VET STUDENT?

Apply for Illinois Farm Bureau's IVET loan program today.

- Loan for food animal vet students
 - No interest on loan while you're in school
 - Up to \$40,000 loan distributed over three years
- STUDENT TIMELINE:**
- Applications due May 15
 - Interviews are conducted in June
 - Loan proceeds are dispersed in August

APPLY NOW: www.ilfb.org/iVET

FIELDING RESILIENCE: IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING STRUGGLING FARMERS

Farm Family Resource Initiative Webinar presented Virtually via Zoom

Wednesday, April 2 | 11 AM - 12 PM

- PARTICIPANTS WILL**
- Discuss challenges producers and their families face.
 - Identify signs of depression, anxiety, and suicidal behavior.
 - Learn triage strategies for suicidal crises.
 - Explore available resources for producers and their families.
- WHO SHOULD ATTEND**
- Farmers, agricultural professionals, mental health providers, community support personnel, and anyone interested in learning how to support the mental health and well-being of farming communities.

HOSTED BY

Dr. Nick Weshinsky, a licensed professional educator in the state of Illinois who also holds national board certification in counseling.
Margo Thien Block, Project/Outreach Coordinator for the Farm Family Resource Initiative.

REGISTER

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit bit.ly/Fielding_Resilience
You can also call 618.536.7751

For more information, please contact Margo Thien Block at mblock95@siumed.edu | 618.536.7751

To learn more about the FFRI, visit siumed.org/farm

There is no charge to participate thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Division of Mental Health.

IFB closely monitors federal downsizing

By Hannah Spangler
FarmWeek

Illinois Farm Bureau is closely monitoring the Trump administration's efforts to downsize the federal government and the impact on Illinois farmers.

President Donald Trump has cut more than 1,000 Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) jobs nationwide, 550 jobs from USDA Rural Development and dozens more from the Foreign Agriculture Service.

"Our farmers still like to go into their county Farm Service Agency offices and have people to talk to that have technical expertise. They don't want to do it through the internet, don't want to pick up a phone," said IFB Director of National Legislation Ryan Whitehouse. "Communication and having staff that is able to implement those programs and explain those programs is really important to our membership."

Whitehouse provided an update on national issues to attendees of IFB's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference Feb. 18 in Springfield.

All NRCS service payments and contracts were frozen if funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. However, USDA announced Thursday the release of some conservation funding.

"Even with everything that's going on, we are going to focus on our policy book," Whitehouse said of the IFB national legislative agenda moving forward. "What our long-standing policy is, and what our national legislative priorities are, that's what we will continue to respectfully push out in Washington, D.C."

A five-year bipartisan farm bill is still a priority to ensure a crop insurance safety net and a fix to California's Proposition 12, but Whitehouse said the administration remains focused on reconciliation, budgets, tax reform and border security.

"For now, we got to stay on top of it, have a conversation with them so they know, and then when it's time to fire, we're there to do it," he said.

With a razor-thin Republican majority in the House and Senate, Whitehouse emphasized it is important to get bipartisan support to get things done. IFB will also use the opportunity of a new administration to meet with appointed staff and ensure the organization has relationships with secretaries under the USDA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He said strong relationships help IFB have important conversations on both sides of the aisle as the organization focuses on issues important to its members.



Clinton County Farm Bureau President, Mark Litteken, attended the Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference on Feb. 18 in Springfield.

Local DISCOUNT Spotlight

\$5 OFF Any XL 16" Pizza & Appetizer of Your Choice*	\$27.99 Large 16" Specialty Pizza, Toasted Ravioli, Garlic Cheese Bread*
\$15.99 Large 14" 2-Topping Pizza**	

*O'Fallon & Belleville Locations
**O'Fallon Location

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Community IMPACT GRANT

Applications Available

The Clinton County Farm Bureau's "Community Impact Grant" program seeks to identify projects that will improve our communities and create partnerships with groups and individuals to make them happen.

Examples of eligible organizations in Clinton County could include schools, civic organizations, churches, 4-H clubs, FFA chapters and more. Project ideas could include efforts like upgrades to community buildings, spaces, and playgrounds; needed equipment for 4-H clubs, FFA Chapters, or other school clubs/organizations; and other community-based projects that could use additional funding.

Online applications available on our website:
www.clintoncofb.org

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES



MARCH AG ADVENTURE: *Sheep*

FACTS *about Sheep*

Statistics from the 2025 Sheep and Goats Report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, released Jan. 31, 2025.

- Shorn wool production in the United States during 2024 was 22.5 million pounds.
- 3.04 million lambs were born in 2024.
- The states with the most sheep in the United States are Texas, California, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.



Uses of Sheep

Food

Sheep meat is called lamb from young animals, typically less than 1 year old, and mutton from older animals.

Sheep's milk is often used to make cheese, including feta, ricotta, Pecorino Romano, Roquefort, and Manchego.

Sheep's milk yogurt is higher in protein, fat, and calcium than cow's milk yogurt, but has a lower lactose content, making it suitable for some people with lactose intolerance.

Fiber

Sheep are sheared annually to harvest their wool, which is used to make clothing, blankets, and carpets.

Wool can be white, black, or brown and is used to make yarns and felts.

Lanolin, a waxy substance that sheep naturally produce to protect their wool, is used in soaps, cosmetics, skin and hair care, lip balm, and medicine.

Landscape Management

Sheep can be used to manage weeds and increase sustainability in crop-livestock farming.

Since 2013, a herd of up to 150 goats and sheep have been used to clear dense scrub vegetation at O'Hare International Airport, removing the habitats of birds and other wildlife that could lead to safety hazards.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS MARCH 17!

- Sheep are a vital part of Ireland's agriculture. Sheep are well-suited to Ireland's mountainous landscape and weather.
- Farmers in Ireland paint their sheep's wool in order to keep track of which sheep belongs to them or which field they graze in.
- Agriculture began in Ireland more than 6,000 years ago. Irish sheep often live on commonages, or shared grazing lands where multiple farmers hold grazing rights, a practice rooted in ancient tradition.




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Illinois products branding relaunching with new label

Illinois Grown Product



This voluntary food label, developed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) supports food products with at least one ingredient grown in Illinois. Qualifying producers can choose to display the logo on their farms, at their businesses and more.

Clinton County represented at IFB Young Leaders Conference



Networking Opportunity

Clinton County Young Leader Committee Chairman Quinton Huelsmann networked with other members from across the state at the annual YL Conference.

More than 415 young leaders in agriculture from across the state met in East Peoria for the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Conference, held Feb. 7-8.

At least four (4) members of Clinton County Farm Bureau attended the 2025 conference, which featured industry experts

from across the ag landscape, educating the attendees on a wide range of topics, including succession planning, a focus of this year's conference. Other topics covered included financing, urban agriculture, accessing government programs, livestock



Young Leaders attend IFB Conference

Blake Twenhafel, Quinton Huelsmann, and Lucas and Vanessa Hanke attended Illinois Farm Bureau's Young Leader Conference in East Peoria on February 7th-8th.

management, niche agriculture markets and effective agronomy.

"Succession planning is very important to Young Leaders as they decide what path to take back to the farm," said Stephen Riskedal, 2025 Young Leader State Committee chair. "It's important to many of us. My family is looking at the 'who does what, when.' My friends and other Young Leaders all work full-time jobs and are figuring out what the future looks like for them."

The keynote address was given by Elaine Froese, who is known as the "Dr. Phil for farmers." Froese said she grapples with the same issues as young farmers in Illinois on her family's

farm in Manitoba, Canada. When a generation will "step back," not necessarily "step away" is a tough topic, she said of succession planning. During the conference, Froese offered "Coach on Call in the Hallway," in which participants contacted her by phone to arrange one-on-one conversations.

The state Young Leader Committee is comprised of 18 district representatives between ages 18 and 35 who are passionate about promoting agriculture and Illinois Farm Bureau.

Committee members engage with others from around the state at conferences and workshops and through their district and county Farm Bureau.

WE ALL HAVE A PIECE IN THIS!
STAND UP 4 GRAIN SAFETY WEEK
 MARCH 24-28, 2025

WE ALL HAVE A PIECE IN THIS!
 Every year dozens of employees are injured or die from preventable hazards while working in grain storage and handling. Safety doesn't need to be big to be effective, but it does need everyone to make it happen.
 This year commit to safety by making small changes in the workplace or how tasks are performed to make a positive safety impact.
 Join the Conversation | #StandUp4GrainSafety

	MONDAY, MARCH 24 KICKOFF	10AM - 12PM	Livestreamed from Kent Feed Mill & Grain Science Center, Ames Iowa. The Kick Off highlights the importance of participating in Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week and the benefits received from this national, industry wide focus on safety. We ALL have a piece in ensuring our workers go home safely at the end of every work day!
	TUESDAY, MARCH 25 FATIGUE	10AM - 11AM	A lively discussion on how fatigue affects your health and safety at the workplace. Learn how much sleep you need, what happens when you don't get enough sleep, and how sleep deficiency is linked to many chronic health problems.
	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS	10AM - 11AM	How to plan for and be prepared for emergencies at the workplace. From grain entrapments and falls to fires and weather events, injuries and deaths can occur during emergencies when workers don't know how to respond rapidly and correctly.
	THURSDAY, MARCH 27 HOUSEKEEPING	10AM - 11AM	Housekeeping is an integral part of safety by reducing slips, trips, and falls, dust accumulation, and other hazardous conditions in the workplace. Preventative maintenance reduces injury risks associated with malfunctioning or broken equipment, ignition sources for fires and dust explosions, and other potential hazards.
	FRIDAY, MARCH 28 GROUND PILES & FLAT STORAGE	10AM - 11AM	As more grain is produced, alternative grain storage solutions are being used more frequently. Flat storage and ground piles have unique hazards. John Lee explains the hazards and safety strategies to use when using alternative storage methods.

EXPLORE ACTIVITIES AT STANDUP4GRAINSAFETY.ORG

Michigan
YOUNG LEADER
AG INDUSTRY TOUR
 July 14-20, 2025
 Registration is open from March 20 - April 21
 Contact your County Farm Bureau Manager to register.



The Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader program provides opportunities for individuals ages 18-35 to fuel their passion for agriculture. Whether you're a full or part-time farmer, ag professional, college student, or supporter of the industry, there is a place for you in Young Leaders.

Grow through Action • Develop Professionally • Lead through Service

Why Get Involved with the Young Leaders Program?

Young Leaders are agricultural producers and enthusiasts who want to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and our world.

In the Young Leaders program, you will. . .

Grow through Action:

- Engage at the local, state and national levels
- Participate in premier educational conferences and events
- Build a network with fellow producers and agriculture enthusiasts
- Earn recognition for achievements in business excellence and leadership success

How do you grow through action?

- Active membership
- Competitive events:
 - Achievement Meet
 - Discussion Meet
 - Excellence in Agriculture
- Young Leaders Conference

Develop Professionally:

Young Leaders offers opportunities to engage as a grassroots leader through committees at all levels. The program is focused on growth in the following areas:

- Issue Advocacy
- Business Development
- Networking
- Media Training
- Public Speaking
- Telling the Story of Agriculture

How do you develop professionally?

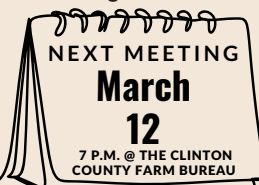
- State Young Leader Conference
- Young Leader Ag Industry Tour
- Young Leader Achievement Award
- Young Leader Excellence in Agriculture Award
- Young Leader awards program

Lead through Service:

- Provide workable solutions for issues affecting agriculture
- Influence public policies that affect agriculture now and in the future
- Share the story of agriculture with diverse audiences
- Serve communities by volunteering and making a difference

How do you lead through service?

- Visits with elected leaders
- Opportunities in leadership, education, legislation and networking



Developing tomorrow's agriculture leaders today, to educate consumers and legislatures, while giving back to our communities.