



# THE SANGAMON *Farmer*

MAY / JUNE 2019



*Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through Education  
and Grassroots Legislation*

Phone: (217) 753-5200 • [www.sangamonfb.org](http://www.sangamonfb.org) • [farmbureau@sangamonfb.org](mailto:farmbureau@sangamonfb.org)  
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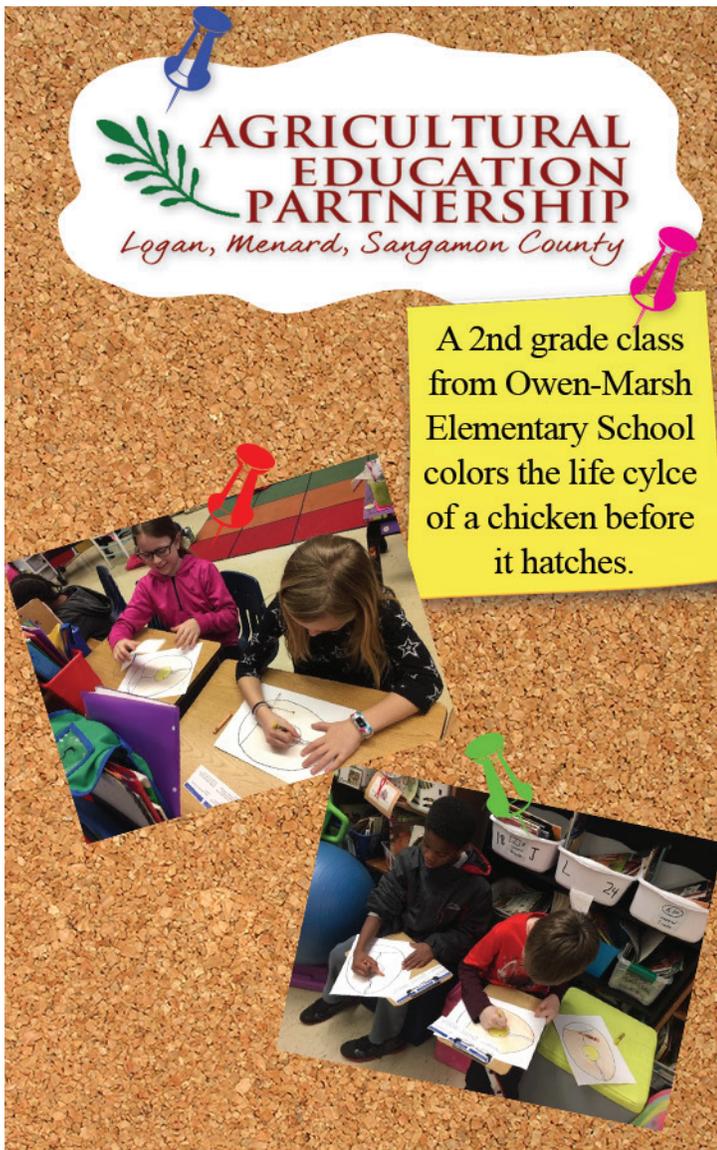
# Upcoming Meetings & Events

## MAY

- 6<sup>th</sup> ..... Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 12<sup>th</sup> ..... Mother's Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> ..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Women's Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 20<sup>th</sup> ..... Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 27<sup>th</sup> ..... Memorial Day, Office Closed

## JUNE

- 3<sup>rd</sup> ..... Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> ..... Women's Committee Bus Trip, (see page 8)
- 10<sup>th</sup> ..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 15<sup>th</sup> ..... Antique Tractor Drive, New Berlin
- 17<sup>th</sup> ..... Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20<sup>th</sup> ..... Women's Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.



DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2017/2018		A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
<b>District 1</b>	Brent Johnson	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	
	Michael Kinner (Treasurer)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Anna Stone	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	
<b>District 2</b>	Otto Rentschler	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	
	Randy Krone	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	
	Kevin Foran	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>District 3</b>	Dale Edwards	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	
	Jason Pickrell	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	
	Phil Sidles (President)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>District 4</b>	Mike Borgic	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Adam Bailey (Ass't Sec/Treas)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	
	Pam Neuman	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	
<b>District 5</b>	Cathryn Ayers Seifert (VP)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Diana Beaty (Secretary)	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	
	Matt Heissingner	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Marty Fairchild	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>District 6</b>	Colleen Carney-Harms	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Ben Ladage	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	
	Vacant										
<b>GAC Chair, Allen Entwistle</b>		X	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	
<b>M&amp;PR Chair, Janet Edwards</b>		X	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	
<b>YL Chair, Stephen Prather</b>		X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Women's Chair, Cassandra Bennett</b>		X	-	-	X	X	-	X	X	-	

THE SANGAMO FARMER	
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<b>SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU</b> Office: 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 President: Phil Sidles Vice-President: Cathryn Ayers Secretary: Diana Beaty Treasurer: Michael Kinner Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Adam Bailey Periodical Class Postage Paid at Springfield, Illinois	<b>DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF</b> Manager: James Birge, FBCM Outreach & Communication: Lauren Burris Finance/Membership: Arika Mason Farm Bureau Tel. 217-753-5200 E-mail farmbureau@sangamonfb.org Individual membership fee of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau includes payment of \$2 per year for a subscription to the Sangamo Farmer.



Phil Sidles

I can't help but think what a difference a year makes. The one constant in farming is that every year is different. Last year we hauled water all winter long and this year I don't think I ever took off my overshoes. Springtime on the farm is always a busy time of year. And as we all know, preparation is the key to a smooth and successful planting season.

At Farm Bureau, we continue to prepare for the upcoming events that we have scheduled on the calendar for this spring and summer. I'm excited about the many events that we have scheduled, but Agstravaganza is one of my favorite events that I look forward to every year. Market Outlook Steak Fry is another great event to as we gather together as friends, eat well and learn about the markets. I'm also looking forward to the Antique Tractor Drive organized by the Young Leaders Committee, as well as all of the other events throughout the summer.

Even some of the not so fun, but ever so important issues, I look forward to facing head-on. We will be in the trenches fighting for what's best for our members as the General Assembly and Administration move forward in the state of Illinois.

I encourage all of you that read this to become involved. If there are issues that concern you, reach out to me, SCFB staff or your representative on the Board of Directors. Please attend events this summer. The volunteers and staff work hard to put on great events. This organization will face many challenges in the future but I know with the strong member base and involvement, we will be able to face those challenges with success and prosperity. Here's to a great summer!

Ask us how you can get an additional \$200 cash bonus on your purchase of a NEW Ford or Lincoln!



Already a member of your County Farm Bureau? You're eligible to join IAACU!

800.676.2541

www.iaacu.org



.....  
TODAY, THE AVERAGE U.S. FARMER FEEDS 155 PEOPLE.  
IN 1960, A FARMER FED JUST 26 PEOPLE.  
.....

Source:  
americasfarmer.com

## WATER TESTING PROGRAM

This program is designed to engage farmers in the nutrient and water quality issues facing agriculture by providing information on possible nutrient losses from their production operations.

Contact the office at 217-753-5200 for more information and to schedule a time to test your samples after collection.

## Committee Reports



Matt Heissingering

Hello! I hope by the time you receive this month's Sangamo Farmer you are in full swing with field work and planting. It's been a long winter and spring and I'm glad to get out of the mud and onto dry dirt. For livestock farmers, it's always good to have better working conditions for the farmer and livestock. The marketing committee is working to finalize this summer's agenda. Our committee works hard to provide educational and informative events for our members. As we book our events, we will get the information out to the member's so they can make arrangements to attend. In other news, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules approved the rules for the license application process to grow industrial hemp. As of right now, the Illinois Department of Agriculture doesn't know the exact date the licenses will be available, but they will accept applications on a first come, first serve basis. You can access more information at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pages/default.aspx>.

We appreciate your participation and if you have any suggestions or comments, please contact the staff at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau office.



Stephen Prather

Happy Spring! The Young Leaders have been busy so far this spring. We hosted our annual FFA Acquaintance Day at Brandt Consolidated micro-nutrient lab & packaging plant on March 12. We were ecstatic to have 24 FFA students & their advisors spend the time learning about different opportunities in Agriculture and

about a product that is made for the world AG market here in Sangamon County. The schools participating were, New Berlin FFA, Pleasant Plains FFA, & Tri-City FFA. Thank you to each of the schools for your active participation in our programs. We are also preparing to plant our acre of sweet corn for our Harvest for All Campaign. A huge thank you to Grigsby Farm for allowing the use of an acre of land and taking care of the sweet corn until harvest, & thank you to DeKalb for the donation of sweet corn.

The Young Leaders also had a great time hosting the kids activity during the Women's Committee Spring Market held on April 13th. We had coloring sheets and a cow puzzle that they labeled the parts of the cow.

I know it seems like spring was never going to come, but fair season will be here before we know it. The Young Leaders will be hosting our Annual Antique Tractor Drive & Contest Saturday, June 15th at the Sangamon County Fair Grounds. We hope that all who have an antique tractor can join us for this great event to raise money for the Harvest for All Campaign!

Remember to be safe this spring planting season. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook at Sangamon County Farm Bureau Young Leaders for updates on meeting locations and events.



### YOUNG LEADERS



Janet Edwards

Welcome to SPRINGTIME in Illinois!! As I sit to write the article for this issue of the Sangamo Farmer, it is snowing and sleeting outside. Yesterday, we were out working in the yard with no coat on and today I wore a sweater and my winter coat to church. Earlier this week, a picture popped up on my facebook page from a year ago when we had measurable snow.

If I remember correctly, it wasn't long after that it dried up and we were able to get into the fields. Hopefully, it will dry up soon like last year and we will be able to get the spring planting done!

In the meantime, we are still having meetings and making plans for upcoming events. For this issue, I will run down some dates for you to start planning on your calendar. On Saturday, May 18th, the Tri-City FFA Chapter is hosting an agricultural education event that will feature livestock along with some equipment to look at. The hours are - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school. June 11th - 16th is the Sangamon County Fair at New Berlin. July will be a busy one. The Sangamon County 4-H Show is July 6th & 7th, the Foundation Annual Golf Outing is July 12th, Sangamon County Farm Bureau Annual meeting (date yet to be set) and of course, Ag-Stravaganza will be held July 27th and 28th at the Sugar Creek Methodist Church.

These are just a few things coming up this spring and early summer. As far as the Member and PR committee, we are always looking for suggestions on things we can try to do for our membership. If you have any suggestions, or would like to volunteer for an activity, please get a hold of me or one of the staff members at the Farm Bureau building and let us know.

I would also like to put in a reminder for this spring or, for that matter, any time you are driving on the road, be it in a tractor or car/truck, be safe on the roads, DO NOT drive distracted and please remember Scott's Law - (Move over or slow down for emergency vehicles!! They want to go home to their families too!!)

As always, may the Lord watch over all during this spring planting season and keep you safe. Until next issue, God Bless!!

### MARKETING

### MEMBER & PR



Allen Entwistle

It's hard to sit and wait to get in the field because of cool, wet weather. With so much to do this spring, folks are getting itchy. So, I try to look on the bright side, and that is the time we've been allowed to keep our attention on the happenings at both the state capitol and in DC. There's been no shortage of issues and legislation to keep everyone busy.

One of the biggest issues on the plate is the contemplation of a graduated income tax for Illinois. Illinois Farm Bureau's policy states, "We prefer a flat rate state income tax, and support deductions and credits benefiting agriculture and agricultural processes, and an exemption at some realistic level. We support the State of Illinois following Federal Depreciation rules regarding bonus depreciation." While we must find a solution to our drowning debt, this is not the solution Illinois Farm Bureau feels is in

the best interests of our members bottom line. An action request to contact your senator will be or by this time has been issued. Please make your voice heard on the matter.

Still on state issues, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has requested a waiver from USEPA to allow them to augment the regulations for applying dicamba products in Illinois. The rules would be more stringent and include implementation of a cutoff date of June 30th as being the last day dicamba can be used during the growing season. While there's been some support for this among ag groups, that support has been eroding in the countryside. If regulations are put in place to create a cutoff date of June 30th for use of dicamba this could cause late planted crops, as might be the case this year, to not have the opportunity to benefit from dicamba products when they're needed. A June 30th date could also have the negative effect of applicators trying to get the product applied on the last date even if conditions aren't optimal. This could create some of the very situations the additional regulations are meant to address.

There are many more state legislative issues on the table this year. Some benefit agriculture while many others are detrimental to it. County and state leaders and staff are working every day to affect the outcome of hundreds of bills. You can see a brief summary of bills and Farm Bureau's position on page 6 of this edition of the Sangamo Farmer.

On the federal side of legislation, there's the ongoing issue of trade and getting agreements in place with China, Mexico, Canada and others to allow fair and equitable trade of your agricultural products. This is obviously an internationally spotlighted issue and has many moving parts. Farm Bureau is in partnership with many other organizations whose members they represent are affected by these trade barriers. Standing as one, we're making some slow but steady progress.

I hope everyone gets the opportunity to prep their fields and get them planted in a timely and safe manner. In the meantime, we'll continue to look out for your best interests at all levels of government.



Jason Kornick

Our Policy Development Committee is always trying to encourage members just like you to provide ideas to us that you feel Farm Bureau needs to address. It's often misunderstood that we are looking for members to provide us with the issue, have a solution in mind, and have official policy language put together. This is far from the truth. All we really need

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

to get started is one thing....your idea. exposure. You can find this and all Illinois Farm Bureau policies at <http://www.ilfb.org/take-action/current-priorities/developing-ifb-policy/2019-policy-book/>. Or call our office and we can email you a copy.

Our committee REALLY wants your ideas on issues affecting you. Maybe they're already in policy and just need to be pushed harder or maybe it's something new that needs looking into. Either way, as a grassroots organization, you have the power to help steer the Farm Bureau ship! Make sure you use it.

to get started is one thing....your idea.

The ideas we seek are often simple commonsense thoughts that no one has thought to address in policy. Although others can be complex matters that require significant consideration. Either way, that's why the Policy Development Committee exists, to drive Farm Bureau's efforts toward issues affecting you.

To give you an idea of what policy looks like, one of our most recent issues brought to our committee from a member related to LLCs and farm program payment limitations. The member's farm is an LLC and is only allowed one payment limitation although there is more than one individual who owns it. Farms created as a general partnership have individual payment limitations for each owner. This is an unfair rule that affects farmers who are trying to limit their liability



Cassie Bennett

Hello SCFB members! I hope by the time you're reading this article things are all dried up and we're planting at full speed! The Womens Committee had a wonderful spring fling in March where we learned a whole bunch about beekeeping and cooking with honey. I even got to hold a real life letter B!

The Spring Market was our last big event in April. We had over 20 vendors present and had a lot of fun! Check out some pictures in this issue. Coming up in June is our annual bus trip which is always a good time! Be sure to look for the flyer in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer and reserve your seat.

Until next time have a safe planting season!

## The Bureau According to Jim



Jim Birge

Well it looks like the Farmers' Almanac got it right once again. It predicted a cool, wet spring and it hasn't disappointed, depending on your perspective, obviously. For many, it's been disappointing. In any case, everyone has been chomping at the bit and beginning to get a little stressed about the inability to get crops planted.

The "weather" at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau has been similar. Lots to do and not enough clear weather to get all our plans completed in time. I'm not sure if it's been good or bad for Farm Bureau business that our leaders can't be in the field. We've had more meetings and doing more things because our members just need to stay busy so as not to go crazy. Livestock producers, you're exempt. You're always busy!

Besides staying busy with local events and event planning, our governmental bodies seem to get ramped up this time of year just to add to it all. Below you can see some of the many state bills Illinois Farm Bureau is

engaged with, their status, and our position. Also, be on the lookout for one or more action requests as we work through early May. I'd appreciate your help to contact your appropriate elected officials if/when that time comes.

Finally, after approximately a year of vacancy we're blessed to have filled the position of Outreach & Communications Specialist in our office. The staff are thrilled to put someone on the team to help get everything done!! The new member of our team is Lauren Burris. Lauren is a local girl from the Middletown area. She is a recent graduate of Oklahoma State University and has considerable livestock experience. Lauren has been on the job since March 11th and has been working hard to put together this issue of the Sangamo Farmer for your reading pleasure. WELCOME LAUREN!!!

Until the next issue, please be safe as you work to get fertilizer on, crops planted, and sprayed. Never forget that the most valuable assets of your farm are you and your family. Make sure you protect those assets well!

### STATE BILL STATUS

#### COUNTY CONTROL OF THE LMFA – SB 1481 (Sen. Koehler)

This bill states that, for proposed livestock farms over 1,000 animal units, a county board shall submit a binding recommendation to the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) about the proposed new farm's construction. After reviewing the binding recommendation, the IDOA is required to deny any permit to construct if the county recommends that the farm not be constructed. If the county recommends the construction of the farm, then the farm must also receive approval from the IDOA. SB 1481 has not passed out of committee. IFB opposes SB 1481.

#### LAWSUITS AGAINST ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS - HB 2839 (Rep. Gong-Gershowitz)

HB 2839 would allow any person to file a lawsuit against an agency and the person involved in a permitting decision or approval, including the approval of a livestock farm under the LMFA. This undermines existing case law that a person must be a party of record to the administrative decision to challenge that decision in court. This will result in farmers and others seeking approvals from state agencies facing costly lawsuits from any person that does not agree with the approval. It will grind development of the agriculture economy to a halt. HB 2839 is in the Rules Committee. IFB opposes HB 2839.

#### UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT – SB 1780 (Sen. Crowe), HB 3677 (Rep. Didech)

SB 1780 and HB 3677 are identical bills that would allow for a right of first refusal of heirs of property upon a forced sale. The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act preserves the right of a co-tenant to sell his or her interest in inherited real estate, while ensuring that the other co-tenants will have the necessary due process to prevent a forced sale, the bill establishes a right of first refusal to co-tenants. HB 3677 and SB 1780 have both passed their respective chamber and are awaiting votes in the opposite chambers. IFB supports SB 1780 and HB 3677.

#### VEGETATIVE BUFFER REQUIREMENT FOR STATE LAND – SB 1231 (Sen. Morrison), HB 2930 (Rep. Mason)

This bill would require that vegetative buffer strips be installed on all state property adjacent to a body of water. The buffer must be a minimum of 30-feet in width. Land covered by roads, buildings, or other structures; public or private water access for recreational use; certain properties regulated by an NPDES permit; or property in a temporary non-vegetative cover due to plant seeding or other construction activities is exempted from the requirement. SB 1231 was postponed and referred back to Assignments. HB 2930 has been held in the Rules Committee. IFB opposes SB 1231 and HB 2930.

# Welcome!

Hello Sangamon County Farm Bureau members! I am Lauren Burris, your new Outreach & Communication Specialist. I am a December 2018 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a Bachelors Degree in Agribusiness. I currently reside in Middletown, IL where I, along with my family, raise and sell show cattle on a local and national level to 4-H and FFA members. Growing up, I competitively showed cattle across the country and was a part of the Sangamon County 4-H Livestock Judging team. I attended Lincoln Land Community College my first two years of college where I was on the Livestock Judging team, as well as the Illinois State 4-H Livestock Judging team my freshman year. I look forward to getting to know the Sangamon County Farm Bureau members and getting to work with an awesome organization!



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# Women's Committee Bus Trip

June 5, 2019

*Departing from the SCFB office at 9 a.m. and  
returning around 5:30 p.m.  
Come early for coffee and donuts!*

**Join us for a trip to  
Josephine's Tea Room  
and Gift Shops and a tour  
of the Grafton Winery at  
the Vineyards**

*Tickets:*

*\$35 for members*

*\$40 for non-members*

*(must be accompanied by a member)*



**Lunch, winery tour and light snacks  
will be provided**

*Claim your spot by calling 217-753-5200 or  
email [lburriss@sangamonfb.org](mailto:lburriss@sangamonfb.org)*



# SPRING Market



The Women's Committee had their 2nd Annual Spring Market on April 13th. There were over 20 vendors present and it was a beautiful day to support local businesses. The committee even had some great help setting up and tearing down the event. Thank you to all who helped make the event possible!



Ethan Krone, with the Young Leaders Committee, oversees the Kids Activity table.



Left: Gunner and Collins Bennett helped vendors move in Saturday morning.  
Right: Collins and Sloan Bennett gang up on SCFB Manager, Jim Birge, after the Spring Market



# Annual Antique Tractor

## Contest & Drive

**Saturday, June 15th**

**Sangamon County  
Fair Grounds  
316 W Birch St  
New Berlin, IL 62670**

**Unloading begins at 8:00am**

**Tractor Drive  
Begins at 9:00am**

**Lunch & Voting begins  
at 11:30am**



**EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION:**  
*(MUST BE REGISTERED BY JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>)*  
\$30- INCLUDES: FAIR ENTRY, T-SHIRT & LUNCH  
(OPTION TO DRIVE IN TRACTOR DRIVE)

**REGISTRATION:**  
\$40- INCLUDES: FAIR ENTRY & LUNCH  
(OPTION TO DRIVE IN TRACTOR DRIVE & T-SHIRT  
NOT GUARENTEED)

-Unloading will take place 8 a.m. at the  
New Berlin High School  
300 W. Ellis St. New Berlin, IL 62670

-The tractor drive will begin at 9 a.m.,  
departing from the High School  
-Drive will conclude at the Sangamon  
County Fairgrounds

-Tractors will line up at Fairgrounds  
for voting.

-Voting will conclude at 1:00 p.m.  
-Awards ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m.

-Please no steel wheeled tractors

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT HARVEST FOR ALL!!**

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of entries: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: (Adult Small-Adult 2XL) \_\_\_\_\_

Family Heritage: \_\_\_\_\_

**Earlybird Registration:** (before June 1st)

\_\_\_\_\_ # entries @ \$30 each

**Registration:** (after June 1st)

\_\_\_\_\_ # entries @ \$40 each

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

**SEND REGISTRATION SLIP AND PAYMENT TO:**

Sangamon County Farm Bureau

2631 Beechler Court • Springfield, IL 62703

Sangamon County Farm Bureau

# Visit From Congressman Darin LaHood

Congressman Darin LaHood stopped by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau office on April 5th to visit with our members about the current issues being debated in D.C. Among them were the ongoing trade issues with China. The Congressman recently went to China with a congressional delegation to learn more about their trade issues and discuss future opportunities. During his visit with our members, he also discussed the Mexican border issue, US/Mexico/Canada (USMCA) trade agreement, Midwest disaster assistance, and the biodiesel tax credit.

Thank you Congressman LaHood and your staff for taking the time to visit with us. And thank you to our members that came to be a part of this event.



It's always nice to get a photo op with the Congressman.  
L to R: Mike Borgic, Bill Etherton, Phil Sidles, Congressman Darin LaHood, Garry Niemeyer, Joe Pickrell, Jenny Jackson.



Congressman LaHood talks with the members of the Sangamon County farming community.

Congressman LaHood and Sangamon County Farm Bureau President, Phil Sidles, discuss local agriculture topics.



Congressman LaHood and Roger Cooper discuss matters after the meeting.





**Sangamon  
County Farm Bureau®  
Foundation**

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing

Friday, July 12, 2019

**Edgewood Golf Club • Auburn, IL**



Save the Date!

\$300/foursome • or •  
\$75/individual golfer

includes lunch, beverages on the course, cart  
rental, and 18 holes of golf

**7:15 AM: Registration**  
**8:00 AM: Shotgun Start**

Lunch & Prizes  
immediately following play

Not a golfer? Join us for lunch!

The goal of the SCFB Foundation Golf Outing is to raise funds for our scholarship program. This year we were proud to award five \$1,250 scholarships to outstanding local youth!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY LEARNING ABOUT AGRICULTURE!**

# Ag•Stravaganza

SUGAR CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1022 NEW CITY RD, CHATHAM, IL

EXPERIENCE AGRICULTURE HANDS-ON AND TALK WITH FARMERS  
AS YOU LEARN ABOUT PIGS-HONEY BEES-GARDEN-SOYBEANS-  
BEEF CATTLE-SHEEP-TECHNOLOGY-POULTRY-FARM MACHINERY AND  
MORE!

**07.28.19**

**A FREE FAMILY EVENT!**

**1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**



Call 217-753-5200 or email  
[farmbureau@sangamonfb.org](mailto:farmbureau@sangamonfb.org) for more information.

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Contact the office at 217-753-5200 or email  
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***Good Luck and Be Safe  
This Planting Season!***

Be sure to send your planting pictures to [lburriss@sangamonfb.org](mailto:lburriss@sangamonfb.org)



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