



Sangamon County Farm Bureau  
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# THE SANGAMON *Farmer*

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2020



*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)  
Springfield, IL • Volume MMXX Number 1

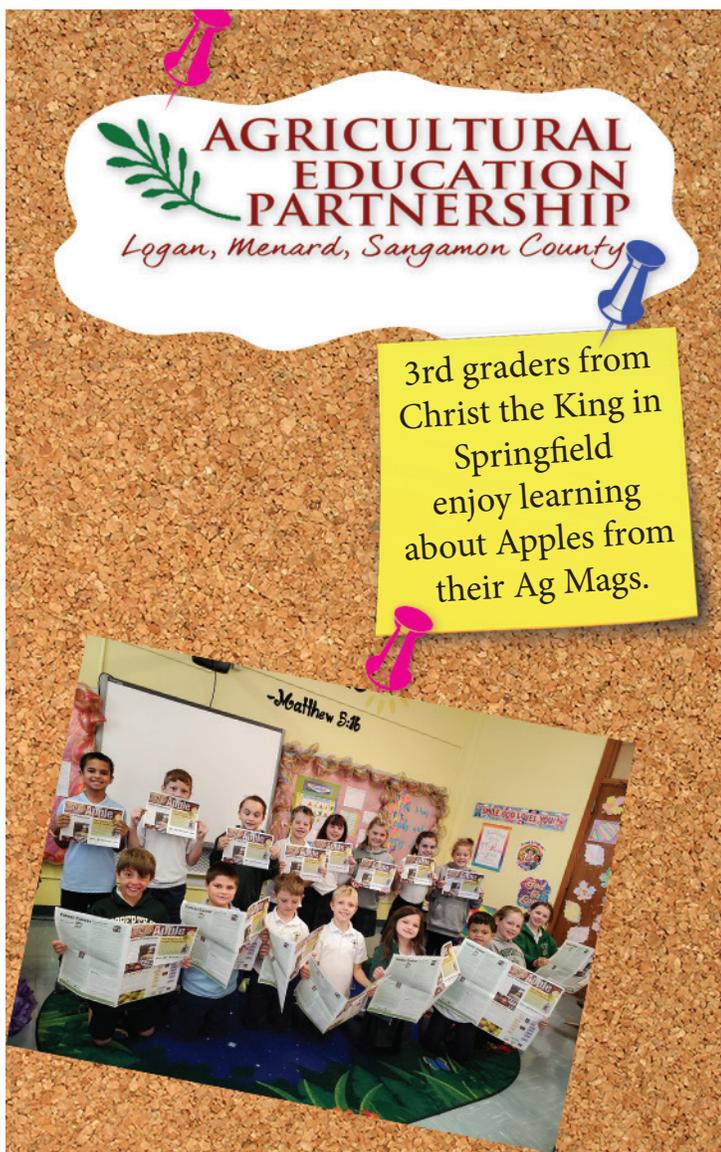
# Upcoming Meetings & Events

## JANUARY

1<sup>st</sup> ..... New Year's Day, Office Closed  
 6<sup>th</sup> ..... Governmental Affairs Committee (Tentative), 6:00 p.m.  
 13<sup>th</sup> ..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Women's Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> ..... AFBF Annual Meeting, Austin, TX  
 27<sup>th</sup> ..... Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 31<sup>st</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> ..... Young Leader Conference, Peoria

## FEBRUARY

3<sup>rd</sup> ..... Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
 10<sup>th</sup> ..... Young Leader Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
 17<sup>th</sup> ..... Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 20<sup>th</sup> ..... Women's Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
 18<sup>th</sup> ..... Governmental Affairs Conference



DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2019		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<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
	Jason Pickrell	X	X	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
<b>District 2</b>	Otto Rentschler	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
	Kevin Foran	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X
	Dale Edwards	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	X	X
	Ethan Krone	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	X	X	-	X	X
<b>District 3</b>	Ben Ladage	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	X	-
	Mike Borgic	-	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	X
	Adam Bailey (Ass't Sec/Treas)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	X
	Cathryn Ayers (VP)	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	X
<b>District 4</b>	Phil Sidles (President)	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	-	X	X
	Diana Beaty (Secretary)	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X
	Matt Heissinger	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X
	Marty Fairchild	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	X
<b>At-Large</b>	Pam Neuman	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X
	Gary Reavis	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	X	-	-	X
	David Ray	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	X	-	X	X
<b>GAC Chair, Allen Entwistle</b>		-	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
<b>M&amp;PR Chair, Janet Edwards</b>		X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X
<b>YL Chair, Stephen Prather</b>		X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	X	X
<b>Women's Chair, Cassandra Bennett</b>		X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X
<b>Policy D. Chair, Vacant</b>											

THE SANGAMO FARMER	
Published bi-monthly by the <b>Sangamon County Farm Bureau</b> James Birge, Editor Periodical # 481320 <b>SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU</b> Office: 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 President: Phil Sidles Vice-President: Cathryn Ayers Seifert Secretary: Diana Beaty Treasurer: Michael Kinner Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Adam Bailey Periodical Class Postage Paid at Springfield, Illinois	Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Sangamo Farmer 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 <b>DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF</b> Manager: James Birge, FBCM Outreach & Comm. Specialist: Lauren Burris Finance/Membership: Arika Leka 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.

## President's Report



Phil Sidles

The turning of the calendar is always a refreshing time. It's the wiping of the slate, starting new, and starting fresh. This year it seems the turning of the calendar comes with a sigh of relief that 2019 is finally behind us. I am not going to be the one to dwell on the negatives of 2019. We still get to turn the page and start new, and yes, the shadows of 19 will always be there but the resilience of farmers is an amazing power. In my eyes the positives that we have ahead of us in the future far outweigh the negatives that we leave behind, Yes there are still issues that hang over the agricultural community that need to be resolved. But I hope to leave us all with a fresh, positive outlook. The definition of optimism is as follows "hopefulness and confidence about the future or the successful outcome of something." I cannot think of a better term to describe farmers. So I hope all of our

members know as an organization, we will continue to fight the struggles that we as farmers face as well as continue to push forward to provide better quality rural life.

As we follow the path of optimism, let us remember the past to the degree that we learn from it and can carry those lessons into the future. The new year brings us just that opportunity. I wish everyone a renewed sense of the blessings we are given to be the stewards of the fertile soils we till and the livestock we raise. Farmers will always hold our heads high and do the work that our creator has granted us. Best wishes as everyone continues to do that vital work.

### The Bureau According to Jim



Jim Birge

Happy New Year, all! I hope all the holiday activities and New Year's events have been plentiful and enjoyable for each of you. Mine was most enjoyable with family and friends. I did get to work on a project with my wife during some time off. Typically, I enjoy the time I get to spend with her. Typically! It seems she gets a plan together for her and me to paint some portion of the house while we're both off. That's where the "typical enjoyment" with her goes right out the window. God bless everyone who enjoys painting. I'd rather skip it and just do the clean up as my contribution to the process. So... the walls look beautiful and she didn't kill me. I call that an acceptable compromise.

Sometimes life works in these ways. We are compelled to do something we really don't want to do, and then looking back on it somehow it all mostly worked out. That about summed up 2019 for farmers. But the fresh paint of the new year will hopefully present us with that opportunity to have the beauty of our fields flourish once again. And with it provide some much needed fresh paint for our souls too.

While I don't suggest anyone call me to do any painting jobs this year, I do hope to assist our organization in conducting the work of our members successfully so you can make a prosperous farm and a rewarding life in rural America. I like that task better than painting anyway!

### William N Etherton Scholarship



The William N. Etherton Agricultural Scholarship Fund was created in conjunction with the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation in 2019 by his family. The objective is to award one Sangamon County student who is pursuing a degree in Agriculture a \$500 scholarship. The Scholarship Fund was created to honor the memory of William N. "Bill" Etherton who passed away on September 18, 2019. Bill, of Buffalo, Illinois, was raised on the family farm and married Peggy Higginson in 1946. He was then enlisted in the 11th Airborne Division as a paratrooper and served in Japan for two years. Upon his return, he and Peggy started raising corn, beans, hogs, cattle, and their four children. Bill was also a member of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board, Pork Producers, Sangamon County Extension Council, Mechanicsburg Farmers Grain Elevator, 4-H leader in Lanesville, Illiopolis School Board, Illini Bank and one of the founding members of the Mechanicsburg Citizens Bank. Bill believed that giving young people an opportunity to study agriculture is an important step to ensuring that American agriculture remains the world leader in food, fiber, and fuel.

Applications, with a picture of the applicant must received by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Office by March 31, 2020. For the scholarship application and more information, please visit [www.sangamonfb.org](http://www.sangamonfb.org).

# Committee Reports



Allen Entwistle

recent push to enact the United States Mexico and Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) has finally given agriculture something to be encouraged about. On the heels of that announcement was yet another bit of promising news that we have agreement on portions of a China trade deal. Obviously, more is to come on both of these deals, but optimism is finally with us.

With the General Assembly in recess, there's not a lot of formal action to report. However, there's always plenty of discussions and wrangling behind the scenes to keep an eye on. The lobbyists at Illinois Farm Bureau are working hard to stay up on issues and disseminate that information out to us as soon as is reasonably possible.



Janet Edwards

Farm Bureau lunches. Auburn held theirs before Christmas and a good time was had by all.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Foundation Trivia Night to be held at Bunker's (Illipolis) this year on March 14th. Check out the flyer on page 9 of this issue. We will have a silent auction again during Trivia Night and if you would like to donate an item for the auction, please let the office know. The proceeds from the event go towards scholarships. Also, consider getting a team together or even sponsor a round of trivia that night. Everyone who has come in the past have had a good time and enjoyed an evening of laughter and fellowship. So, get your friends together and let's see who knows the most Trivia in the County.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER & PR



Cassie Bennett

event coming up will be the Spring Fling which I am quiet excited about our speaker! Be sure to look for the flyer in this article! Have a great winter and keep warm!



Stephen Prather

The young leaders were ecstatic to bring home the Most Outstanding Program with our Ag-Stravaganza event for our membership group. We look forward to moving this program around the county and continuing to improve upon our success. We also received a silver medal for our young leader group. I am humbled to have also accepted the top Young Leader County Chair award for our membership group. I want to thank the entire committee of young leaders; as without their participation in events and help in doing more for our members; I would never have been considered for this award. Thank you also to the board and SCFB staff for your support and guidance throughout the years.

It is a bitter sorrow to leave all the friends, new & old, we see at Annual Meeting; but we return with excitement and ideas flowing for programs and ways to better reach the consumer.

We had our December Christmas party where great new ideas were shared and many laughs were had. Many young leaders will be attending the State Young Leader Conference in Peoria on February 1st. We are eager to bounce our ideas off others in the state and learn from them. This March, we will be hosting our FFA Acquaintance Day where we will tour Springfield Plastics, Scoular Company Elevator, and have lunch at Lincoln Land Community College.

Hello SCFB members! The Womens Committee had a wonderful fall luncheon in November where we awarded Gigi Heissinger as our farm woman of the year! She was quiet surprised! In December we prepared a meal at Ronald McDonald house then enjoyed a great Christmas lunch. The next

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the young leader committee. I write this article as I travel back on the train from the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Sangamon County should be proud of all our accomplishments this past year.

WOMEN'S

YOUNG LEADERS

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

At the conclusion of Illinois Farm Bureau Annual meeting last month, Sangamon County had several successes. We submitted four policy resolutions for consideration by the delegate body for inclusion in IFB policy. One resolution involved having a standardized yield calculation method for fall crop reports. That resolution was not sent forward to the delegates for reason of a planned IFB comprehensive review of all NASS reports and activities.

Another resolution submitted by Sangamon County was aimed at restricting the IDOA's use of additional regulatory requirements above existing federal requirements as it pertains to pesticide regulations. After debate on the floor, a similar version of our resolution was adopted by the delegates. This was followed by the passage of another of our resolutions to move the federal crop insurance premium payment date to December of each year.

The last resolution we sent to the delegates was to push for the same payment limitations for all farm program payments for any actively engaged farmer regardless of the farm's organizational structure. This resolution was also adopted.

Thanks to all the committee members who spent considerable time researching and crafting these important policies.



Matt Heissinger

The committee will be looking forward to organizing another bus trip this summer, along with several market outlook opportunities. We're also beginning discussions on restructuring our committee in order to serve our members' interests more completely. More to come on this as it develops.



## ITALIAN CUPBOARD SOUP

recipe

### Ingredients

- 2 boneless pork chops, cut into ½" cubes
- 2 T. vegetable oil
- 15 oz. chopped tomatoes, undrained (can substitute with one 15-oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained)
- 29 oz. chicken broth
- 2 T dried minced onion
- 15 oz. cannellini beans, drained and rinsed (can substitute with great northern beans)
- 8 oz. fresh spinach leaves, torn
- Grated Parmesan cheese for serving

### Instructions

1. In deep saucepan, heat oil over medium-high heat; brown pork in oil.
2. Add all ingredients except spinach to saucepan. Bring to a boil; lower heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
3. Stir in spinach and cook for 2 more minutes.
4. Ladle into individual serving bowls and garnish with grated Parmesan cheese.

Recipe courtesy of National Pork Board.

# 2019 IAA ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



L to R: Gary Reavis (Alien), Bobbie Jean Reavis (Forky), Mike Borgic (Buzz Lightyear), Lauren Burris (Rex), Stephen Prather (Sid), Katie King (Woody), and Emily Prather (Hamm).

Left: This years Trivia theme was "Let's Get Animated" Sangamon County's Team, "Soy Story," dressed up as their favorite Toy Story Charcters.

Right: Sangamon County's delegates at the Delegate Session



L to R: Phil Sidles, Gary Reavis, Diana Beaty, Mike Borgic, and Adam Bailey. Delegates not pictured are Cathryn Ayers Seifert, Michael Kinner, Dale Edwards, and JD Sudeth



Sangamon County Farm Bureau attendees at the IAA Annual Meeting



**Sangamon COUNTY**

**2 GOLD**

**0 SILVER**

**5 BRONZE**

**9,195 Members**  
**QUOTA**

PHIL SIDLES

JIM BIRGE

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU

# SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## 2020

# FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

### APPLICATION CRITERIA:

- High school senior graduating in 2020 or 1st year student in a postsecondary school
- Be a Sangamon County Farm Bureau member or child of member (Minimum 1 year)
- Be accepted for enrollment or enrolled in a postsecondary school
- Live in Sangamon County



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The Sangamon County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

## Spring Fling

*March 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.*

2631 Beechler Ct  
Springfield, IL 62703

### *Guest Speaker:*

Deanne Frieders from This Farm Girl Cooks  
"Ways to Get Ahead with Meal Prep"

*Non-perishable food donations will be  
accepted to support the Harvest for All Campaign*

**FREE!**

# AgriComp

## CLASSES

WINTER 2020

### Farm Financial Records & Analysis (includes farm records assistance)

7 Sessions, Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-4p.m.  
January 8-February 19  
Capital City Training Center, Room C111

This course includes the setup of each participants farm records and training using Red Wing's CenterPoint Accounting for Agriculture software. More advanced users will prepare budgets, analyze costs of production and determine enterprise profitability to help make informed management decisions. This course includes one-on-one assistance with farm records.

#### Fees

Each class costs \$300 per farm business (up to two participants may attend)  
*Please register only one person per farm business. Pre-registration is mandatory.*

**To register, call Lincoln Land Community College at 217-786-2292**

Classes will be held at the Capital City Training Center, 130 W. Mason St., Springfield, Illinois in room C111

### Mapping & Managing Crop Data

7 Sessions, Thursdays, 9 a.m.-4p.m.  
January 9-February 20  
Capital City Training Center, Room C111

Participants will learn to record cropping activities and analyze profitability of crop enterprises using various mapping software for crop records. Your instructors will also cover Ag Leader SMS software and other relative applications that are useful in handling farm data. This class will also look at new trends in precision farming, such as the use of drones.

*For more information contact Doug Thompson at 217-871-2285.*

**FAMILY LEGACY FUTURE**

**IAA Foundation Scholarship Program**

More than **\$875,000** in scholarships are awarded annually through the Illinois Farm Bureau and County Farm Bureaus. Visit [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org)

Application Period: **December 1, 2019 - February 1, 2020**

**THE IAA FOUNDATION**  
Charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau®

# DECEMBER 7-10



Left: SCFB President, Phil Sidles and IFB Vice-President, Brian Duncan.  
Right: Young Leader Chairman, Stephen Prather, was named the Top Young Leader Chair in Membership Group 5!

## Highlights

The 2019 IAA Annual Meeting was held on December 7-10th at the Palmer House in Chicago. The weather was perfect and the lights of the city got everyone in the Christmas mood. The meetings were packed full of excellent speakers and talks throughout the conference. The keynote speaker was Keni Thomas, a country singer and former Task Force Ranger involved in the "Black Hawk Down" Mission. USDA Deputy Secretary of Ag, Stephen Censky, also made a visit to the Delegate Session.

We were pleased to have Representatives Mike Murphy and C.D. Davidsmeyer and Senator Steve McClure take the time to visit with us during the District 10 Meeting and inform us on what's going on in the Capitol Building.

On stage, Sangamon County had a very successful meeting. Stephen Prather, Young Leader Chairman, was named the Top Young Leader Chair in Membership Group 5 and SCFB Manager, Jim Birge was named a Friend of the Young Leaders in Membership Group 5. Our summer event, Ag-Stravaganza, was named the Most Outstanding Project for the Young Leaders and the Policy Research Sessions was named the Most Outstanding Project for the Policy Development Committee.

In the Delegate Session, Illinois Farm Bureau members set policy, and re-elected President Richard Guebert, Jr. of Randolph County and Vice President Brian Duncan of Ogle County to serve our organization for another two years.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2020 IAA Annual Meeting, December 5-8th.

## Introduction to Beekeeping

Explore the fascinating world of honey bees and the steps to becoming a beekeeper at "Introduction to Beekeeping". This six part series will cover all aspects of beginning beekeeping, whether you think you might like to become a beekeeper or would just like to learn more about honey bees. This program is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension Logan-Menard-Sangamon Unit, Sangamon County Farm Bureau and Prairie State Beekeepers.

Session dates are on Thursdays, February 20, 27, March 5, 12, 19, 26 from 6 to 9 pm. Sessions will be held at the University of Illinois Extension Building, 700 S. Airport Drive, Springfield, IL.

Registration fee of \$35 (includes copy of First Lessons in Beekeeping book). Pre-registration opens on January 2. Advance registration is required and is on-line via the Logan-Menard-Sangamon website, <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lms/>. Class size will be limited. Questions, call the Extension office at (217) 782-4617.

## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE AGE 10 AND UP THAT IS INTERESTED IN BEEKEEPING?

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- AN EXPERIENCED BEEKEEPER TO HELP THRU THE PROCESS

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AT 217-415-0650

## PRAIRIE STATE BEEKEEPERS

Sangamon County Farm Bureau Young Leaders

## Annual Antique Tractor Contest & Drive

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> DURING THE SANGAMON  
COUNTY FAIR**

**RAINDATE IS JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> DURING THE  
SANGAMON COUNTY 4-H SHOW**

**THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE WILL  
NOT BE HOSTING A SPRING  
MARKET THIS YEAR. CHECK BACK  
FOR THE DATE OF A HOLIDAY  
MARKET THIS FALL!**



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*Proceeds benefit the Sangamon County  
Farm Bureau Foundation in order to  
provide scholarships to local students  
and funding for agricultural education  
programs.*

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**BUNKERS RECEPTION HALL  
220 OLD RT 36, ILLIOPOLIS, IL 62539**

**DOORS OPEN AT 3:00 PM  
TRIVIA BEGINS AT 4:00 PM**

PLAYERS

**\$100 PER TABLE (8-10 PLAYERS)**

**\$15/EACH FOR INDIVIDUALS**

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**GOLD SPONSOR: \$300 (8-10 PLAYERS,  
ROUND SPONSORSHIP, THEMED TABLE,  
GIFT BAG FOR EACH PLAYER)**

**SILVER SPONSOR: \$150 (8-10 PLAYERS  
& ROUND SPONSORSHIP)**

**ROUND SPONSOR: \$100**



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Questions? Call the Sangamon County Farm Bureau (217) 753-5200  
or email [aleka@sangamonfb.org](mailto:aleka@sangamonfb.org)

## Please reserve a table for us!

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of players: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of tables (\$100 each)  
\_\_\_\_\_ # of individuals (\$15 each)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Sponsor (\$300)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Sponsor (\$150)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Round Sponsor(\$100)  
\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

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**If you would like to pay by credit card, please call the office at 217-753-5200.**