



THE SANGAMON *Farmer*

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022



Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through
Education and Grassroots Legislation

Phone: (217) 753-5200 • www.sangamonfb.org • farmbureau@sangamonfb.org

Springfield, IL • Volume MMXXII Number 1

Upcoming Meetings & Events

January

- 1st.....Office Closed, New Year's Day
- 3rd.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 6th.....Member & Public Relations Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 10th.....Young Leaders Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 17th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20th.....Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m

February

- 7th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16th..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 17th..... Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 21st..... Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

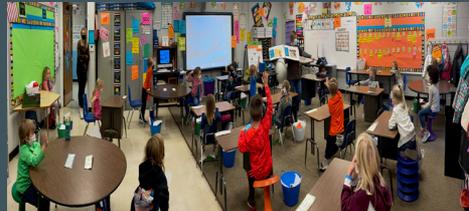
* All events occur at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau unless otherwise noted



**AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP**
Logan, Menard, Sangamon County



In the news of Ag in the Classroom, we've had a gobbling good time! In November, students learned about Turkeys! The K-2nd grades did an educational turkey activity with facts on the turkey feathers. The 3rd-5th grades created their own My Turkey Lapbook.



Jumping into December the students learned about Christmas trees. The K-2nd grades are creating their own Christmas trees, while 3rd-5th grades are getting to play Christmas Tree Bingo! We hope everyone has a safe and Happy Holiday season!



DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2020-21		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
District 1	Brent Johnson	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	X
	Michael Kinner	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
	JD Sudeth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	-	X
	Jason Pickrell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District 2	Otto Rentschler	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
	Kevin Foran (Secretary)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
	Janet Edwards	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	X
	Ethan Krone (Ass't Sec/Treas)	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	X
District 3	Katie King	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	-	X
	Mike Borgic (Treasurer)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
	Adam Bailey (President)	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X
	Cathryn Ayers Seifert	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
District 4	Kyle Beutke	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	-	X
	Vacant	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
	Matt Heissinger	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	X
	Marty Fairchild	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
At-Large	Charles Mayfield	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
	Gary Reavis (VP)	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
	George Sergot	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Committee Chairs:										
YL Chair, Stephen Prather		X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	X
Women's Chair, Cassandra Bennett		X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X

THE SANGAMO FARMER

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**SANGAMON COUNTY
FARM BUREAU**
Office: 2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, Illinois 62703
President: Adam Bailey
Vice-President: Gary Reavis
Secretary: Kevin Foran
Treasurer: Mike Borgic
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Ethan Krone
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Postmaster:
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DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF
Manager: James Birge, FBCM
Outreach & Communication: Madison Taylor
Finance/Membership: Arika Leka
Ag in the Classroom: Candice McKown
Farm Bureau Tel. 217-753-5200
E-mail farmbureau@sangamonfb.org
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President's Report



Adam Bailey

Hello Sangamon County Farm Bureau. I'm Adam Bailey, your new President. I would like to start off by saying thank you to the Board of Directors for trusting me to hold this position. When you read this, we will be back from IAA annual meeting. We had a great group of board members and past presidents who were able to make the travel north to Chicago. We continued discussion with other counties around the solar and wind issues that have our members concerned. We have worked extensively with Sangamon County officials on these issues, and we look forward to the continuing that collaboration. What makes these issues challenging, is that two of the core values of Farm Bureau are going head to head; property owners rights and farmland preservation. I would like to hear from our members about concerns they might have going forward. While in Chicago, we also had great legislative updates from Congressman Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood, Senator Steve McClure, and Representative C.D Davidsmyer. Feel free to reach out to the office to get my contact if you ever have any questions. I'm looking forward to another great year.

Committee Reports

MEMBER & PR



Janet Edwards

Greetings!! Here's hoping you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and that you remembered the "reason for the season" at some point during your celebrations.

As I am writing this article for the Sangamo Farmer, we have just returned from annual meeting in Chicago at the Palmer House. This year was different than in the past but at least we got to meet in person as one body to do the business of the Illinois Farm Bureau. We got to see old friends and relatives from all over the state and missed a few who are no longer actively involved in the policy making part of the organization.

Here in Sangamon County, the Member and PR committee is busy finalizing some plans for activities for the members. The next meeting of the committee will be Thursday, January 6th at 5:30 p.m. Supper will be served!!

We are finalizing plans for the TRIVIA Night at Bunker's in Illiopolis on Saturday, March 12th . If you had a table from the one we had to cancel and did not receive your money back, you still have a table! If you did not have a table and would like one, please get a hold of Arika or Madison to get signed up.

The committee is working on other projects, and we will keep you, the membership, up to date on activities as we get them planned. Again, as I always ask, please consider getting involved in the Sangamon County Farm Bureau by getting active on a committee. It's a good way to connect with old and new friends!!

Until next time, stay safe and warm!! God Bless!!

WOMEN'S



Cassie Bennett

Hello SCFB members! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! It's crazy to think we are already talking about ordering seed for planting! Didn't we just finish harvest? The WC had a wonderful fall luncheon in November, with a great turn out and fellowship! We made blankets to donate to DCFS to give to children in need. Join us in January for our next meeting! Stay warm and healthy!

Committee Reports



Stephen Prather

Christmas season has come and gone and a new year is upon us. The Young Leaders committee hosted our annual Christmas get together in December. We were able to escape our way out of an escape room challenge in two equal groups. We worked together to overcome the puzzles inside. We finished the night with dinner and a white elephant gift exchange, with a surprise visit from our annual reindeer. Fun was had by all and we truly enjoy connecting on a more social level. I was voted to continue as Chair of the committee and I am excited to announce our new Co-Chair is Charles Mayfield. We also had 8 of our committee members attend the annual meeting in Chicago. Our very own Rachel Brown competed in the Discussion meet and represented us very well. She was able to make it through to the second round of the meet and is excited for next year's competition. Great job Rachel and good luck next year!

January started out busy with the new year. We will be hosting a Ag after Hrs. event this January 12th at 6PM at Brickhouse Grill and Pub, be sure to check our Facebook page regularly for updates to this and all our events. We have 12 Young Leaders planning to attend the annual Young Leader conference in Peoria Jan. 21st-23rd. It is always a great time to learn from other Young Leaders in the state and discuss current topics related to Agriculture. This year there will be a Food themed Trivia night, which we are excited about; and a great Keynote speaker, Temple Grandin will be there.

February brings more activity as we get out into the community that we live in. We will be hosting a "Stuff the Truck" event from 9AM - 2PM on Feb. 12th @ Hyvee on South MacArthur Blvd in Springfield. We will be collecting donations for an area food pantry in the county. If you're in the area or need a few items for your big super bowl bash stop by and donate to the cause. We have finally been able to host our Grain bin safety training for EMS Personnel in the county in Feb. 19th. We have secured a grain tube to donate to 1 county Fire Dept., through a drawing for the departments in attendance. We hope to help teach many personnel about what steps to take in this situation and how to help rescue our friend who may be stuck in a bin or this situation.

The main theme of one of the discussion meet topics was recruiting new Young Leader members. Rachel did a wonderful job discussing this topic with the other contestants. Her focus was on the ASK of us as members to step up and reach out to other individuals. Agriculture is always changing, especially the demographics, the average age of the farmer is increasing everyday; but at the same time the agriculture industry is growing at a rapid pace. So, my ASK to you is if you know anyone interested in agriculture or is in production farming, give us their name and we will be happy to reach out to them about our activities and meetings.

THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



Jim Birge

With the holidays over, it's time to get down to the business of a new year and a new set of objectives to accomplish. Even though I'm not a particular fan of winter, it is a great time to drop the baggage of last year and set forth on fresh footing. And with the multitude of new and exciting endeavors being planned by our committees, I'd say we're in for a great year.

Madison told me to keep my column short due to space constraints in this issue. So, under protest, I'll wrap up with the fact that it may seem like winter's here to stay for a while, but tractors will soon fire up again, newborn livestock will be brought into this world, and the farmer's work goes on. Thank you, Farm Bureau members, for doing the hard work day in and day out to feed and fuel our nation.

GOVERNMENTAL ENGAGEMENT & POLICY



Adam Bailey

November was a busy month for the GEP committee. We put together talking points to take to the county board about some solar ordinance changes we would like to see made. With that letter and some ordinance language put forth by a County Board Members, we accomplished getting the Zoning and Land Use Committee to table discussion of new projects until March 1st, 2022. I encourage members to make these meetings. Our voices are really heard when we show up. I hope we continue to have great discussion with county officials on issues that affect the ag community in Sangamon County in the future. I want to encourage members to come to GEP meetings that we have each month. There is going to be a new chairman and that is Phil Sidles. He did an awesome job as President and will continue that with the GEP committee.

2022 Scholarships

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 a Sangamon County Student who is pursuing a degree in Agriculture with 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 Airborn Division as a paratrooper and served in Japan for two years. Upon his return, he and Peggy started raising corn, beans, 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, 2022. For the scholarship application and more information, please visit www.sangamonfb.org.

Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship

Application Criteria:

- Be a high school senior graduating in 2021 or a first year student in a postsecondary school.
- Be a Sangamon County Farm Bureau member, spouse of a member or child of a member. (Minimum 1 year)
- Be accepted for enrollment or be enrolled at a post-secondary school.
- Exhibit potential for successful completion of course studies.
- Be a resident of Sangamon County, Illinois.

For the Application & more Information Visit:
www.sangamonfb.org | 2631 Beecher Ct. Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: 217-753-5200 | Fax: 217-753-5210

Apply Now

Application Period

JANUARY 1- FEBRUARY 15

IAA Foundation Scholarship Program | IAAFoundation.org

2021 Farm Women of the Year Cassandra Bennett



The 2021 Farm Woman of the Year Award was awarded to Cassandra Bennett. She has served the Sangamon County Farm Bureau as the Women's Committee Chair since 2019. She supports the woman's committee activities, helping to ensure the women and their families are able to enjoy a little time off the farm and remain true to their roots with educational opportunities.

Cassie comes from farming roots in our local small town of Rochester where her great grandfather and grandfather farmed and sold farm equipment. In 2010, Cassie married the love of her life, Kenny Bennett and together their family grew. They have been blessed with 3 children – Gunner (9), Collins (7), and Sloan (4). Cassie and Kenny work hard and are proud to continue the success of their sesquicentennial recognized farm of more than 150 years and still counting. It's this family farm ground where you will find Cassie operating a tractor, driving a 4-wheeler, pulling an auger cart, running to get parts or delivering food to the team. As if raising kids was not enough, they also raise cattle and a wide range of family pets. Cassie plays an integral role in caring for their cattle as she feeds them rain or shine helping to round up and drive them to the butcher. This is where you can also find Cassie helping to encourage or “beef up” the children's involvement in the farming operation and involvement in the community. She has been spotted in the “pig pen” with the kids - helping to get pigs ready to show at the Sangamon County Fair where each of the kids have ribboned. Whoever would have thought this gal that worked at Abercrombie & Fitch and stressed over what outfit to wear could be found up to her knees in mud. Whether she is sporting a crown as 2020's Mrs. Agriculture or sporting some pink arrows in a deer stand, she is willing to tackle whatever comes her way. She and Kenny had 4-H come their way by Gunner's involvement in his next step as a 7th generation farmer and we cannot wait to see what comes next. In all that she does, Cassie is helping to ensure that the next generation of Bennett Farms will surpass the Bicentennial goal of 200 years of family farming.

Cassie displays a passion for agriculture and enjoys serving on the Sangamon County Board. She truly cares for the future success of the Agricultural community. We are honored to recognize her as the 2021 Farm Woman of the Year.

HELPFUL REMINDERS

Illinois growers and grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, are now required by state regulation (8 IAC 215) to complete certified grower training. Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022 to be initially certified and must participate in refresher training every three years.



ANHYDROUS AMMONIA Certified Grower Training WINTER 2022 DATES

FREE In-Person Training

Free certified grower training sessions will be offered on nine dates ahead of spring 2022 application season. Attendance is limited, so register at the link below to guarantee your seat.

Training starts at 1:00 PM at all locations

FEB. 21ST ASMARK INSTITUTE AGRICENTER, BLOOMINGTON	FEB. 25TH EFFINGHAM EVENTS CENTER, EFFINGHAM	MARCH 3RD HOLIDAY INN, QUINCY
FEB. 22ND UNIQUE SUITES, CHARLESTON	MARCH 1ST MENDOTA CIVIC CENTER, MENDOTA	MARCH 4TH POE'S CATERING, SPRINGFIELD
FEB. 23RD THE PAVILION, MARION	MARCH 2ND KNOX AGRI CENTER, GALESBURG	MARCH 14TH ASMARK INSTITUTE AGRICENTER, BLOOMINGTON

All growers or grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, shall be certified to understand:

- Properties of ammonia
- Competent in safe operating practices
- How to take appropriate actions in the event of a leak or emergency
- Personal protective equipment & first aid
- Transportation safety

Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022 to be initially certified, and must participate in refresher training every three years.



Who needs to be certified?

"GROWER"
Any individual who produces an agricultural commodity on property he or she owns or controls

"GROWER FARM OPERATOR"
An individual employed by or otherwise authorized by a grower to transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or to otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment. These individuals include grower family members, full-time and part-time hired help, and others providing anhydrous ammonia services at no fee.

**This new requirement is found in the IDOA regulations regarding anhydrous ammonia at 8 Illinois Administrative Code 215.*

**Register at
ILFB.ORG/NH3**

Please contact Jenny Eisenbeis at 309-557-3207 with any questions.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
Spring Fling
SCFB Office
2631 Beechler Ct Springfield, IL 62703
Guest Speaker:
Deanne Frieders from This Farm Girl Cooks
Presents:
Instapot 101 & Fridge and Pantry Organization
Please Join us for this free event:
The Women's Committee will provide fried chicken with homemade side dishes & deserts.
Non-perishable food donations will be accepted to support the Harvest for All Campaign!

Limited seats available, call today!
RSVP: call 217-753-5200 or email mtaylor@sangamonfb.org

TRIVIA NIGHT
Saturday, March 12th
Bunkers Reception Hall
Illioopolis, IL

Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation

2021 IAA Annual Meeting Highlights



Sangamon County Farm Bureau attendees at the 2021 IAA Annual Meeting



Young Leaders Discussion Meet Representative: Rachel Brown



December 4th to 6th



Left to Right: Mike Borgic, Kevin Foran, Kyle Beutke, Adam Bailey, & Katie King. Delegate alternate not pictured is Gary Reavis.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The 2021 IAA Annual Meeting was held on December 4-10th at the Palmer House in Chicago, IL. After the 2020 absence in Chicago, due to the pandemic, Chicago welcomed Illinois Farm Bureau back for the annual conference. The meetings were filled with outstanding speakers that discussed powerful messages close to the Farm Bureau's heart. The keynote speaker demonstrated our ongoing commitment to bringing the issue of farmer mental health to the forefront so that we can help our families and neighbors deal with the challenges of life. Cheryl Mitchell, focused on the reality that each of us is the most important commodity we have, and it's up to all of us to protect it.

We were pleased to have Representative C.D. Davismeyer and Senator Steve McClure take the time to visit with us during the District 10 meeting and help to inform us of the upcoming events. On Stage, Sangamon County Farm Bureau was recognized in Membership Group 5 for the Farm Income & Development award for holding the Nutrient Loss Reduction event. The early spring event educated farmers in the Lake Springfield Watershed about the importance of cover crops to keep crop nutrients in the field and out of our water. Also, Sangamon County was represented by Rachel Brown as our 2021 Young Leader Discussion Meet Competitor.

Illinois Farm Bureau members set policy regarding some significant issues in the Delegate Session. Illinois renewable energy policies, the 2023 Farm Bill, bridging the rural-urban divide, carbon emissions, and more were on the floor for debate. And President Richard Guebert, Jr. of Randolph County, and Vice President Brian Duncan of Ogle County were re-elected to serve our organization for another two years.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2022 IAA Annual Meeting, December 3rd - 6th!



SCFB Update

Women's Committee Fall Luncheon



A time of fellowship & giving back to the community!

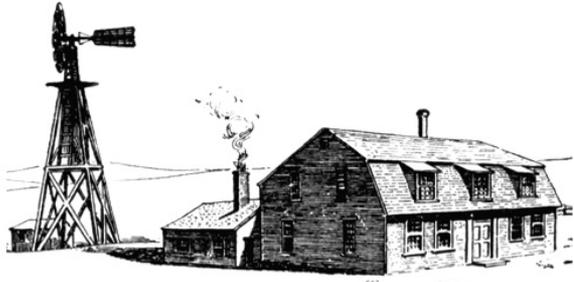


Antique Tractor Drive Photo Contest Winners



Young Leader Committee Tackles the Escape Room!





Cupboard^{to} COMBINE

Recipe:

MEATLOAF

BY: CAROL FLECK

Directions:

Ingredients:

1 lb. ground of beef
1 lb. ground of pork
1 sleeve of saltines
2 eggs
1 stick of butter
1 medium or large onion
1/4 cup of ketchup
2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. garlic
Parsley

1. Crumble together the meats and crackers.
2. Saute' the onion in butter and add to the meat & crackers.
3. Add eggs, ketchup, salt, pepper, & garlic.
4. Mix thoroughly and place in two loaf pans.
5. Bake for one hour at 350 degrees covered with foil.
6. The last 15 minutes uncover, drain grease, and return to bake until browned.

WISHING OUR MEMBERS A

HAPPY

New Year

Sangamon County Farm Bureau wishes
you a safe & happy coming year!

Sangamon County Farm Bureau
2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, IL 62703

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