



THE SANGAMO *Farmer*

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021



Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through
Education and Grassroots Legislation

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

Springfield, IL • Volume MMXXI Number 1

Upcoming Meetings & Events

JANUARY

1st.....New Year's Day, Office Closed
 4th.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:00 p.m.
 11th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 18th.....Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 21st.....Women's Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

1st.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:00 p.m.
 8th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.
 15th.....Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 18th.....Women's Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

All meetings are held at the SCFB Office unless otherwise noted and subject to change per COVID mitigations.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
Logan, Menard, Sangamon County

We would like to thank Carrie Winklemann for her 17 1/2 years of service as the Ag Literacy Coordinator and wish her luck in her future endeavors!

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2020		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
District 1	Brent Johnson	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	
	Michael Kinner (Treasurer)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Anna Stone	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	
	Jason Pickrell	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	
District 2	Otto Rentschler	X	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	
	Kevin Foran (Secretary)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Dale Edwards	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	
	Ethan Krone (Ass't Sec/Treas)	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	
District 3	Ben Ladage	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Mike Borgic	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Adam Bailey (VP)	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	
	Cathryn Ayers Seifert	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
District 4	Phil Sidles	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Diana Beaty (President)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Matt Heisinger	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	
	Marty Fairchild	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	
At-Large	Charles Mayfield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	-	X	-	X	
	Gary Reavis	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	
	George Sergot	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	-	-	-	X	
M&PR Chair , Janet Edwards	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	X		
YL Chair , Stephen Prather	X	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	X		
Women's Chair , Cassandra Bennett	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	X		

THE SANGAMO FARMER	
Published bi-monthly by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau James Birge, Editor Periodical # 481320 SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU Office: 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 President: Diana Beaty Vice-President: Adam Bailey Secretary: Kevin Foran Treasurer: Michael Kinner Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Ethan Krone Periodical Class Postage Paid at Springfield, Illinois	Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Sangamo Farmer 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF Manager: James Birge, FBCM Outreach & Communication: 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



Diana Beaty

Happy New Year to All!

As I write this article, it is early December, a bright sunshine day with temps in the 40s. We have certainly been blessed with some wonderful weather to finish out our fall season and begin the winter. We are also preparing for our first Virtual IAA Annual Meeting. This meeting is certainly quite different from years past and not how I would have wished to spend my first IAA Annual Meeting as President, but I have high hopes that next year will be back to normal, and if possible, I can represent our County at that event. Resolutions this year were sent out to county delegates to review on Zoom with IFB President and Vice President prior to our business meeting. Submittals were sent following the Zoom meeting, and then voting on Resolutions took place online. Quite a bit different than in the past as I'm sure many of you that have participated in years past will agree. Our Business meeting on December 5th, which consisted of President Guebert's address, approval of past minutes, treasurers report, consideration of Resolutions and election of Directors, all done and over in 1.5 hours! Covid has certainly changed how many things took place this past year, but we are hopeful for a somewhat normal to begin soon!

As we begin 2021, we are aware that the Governmental Affairs Conference that is normally held in February has already been canceled and will become a virtual conference with more details to follow as they become finalized.

IFB is working with IDOA on the New Anhydrous Ammonia safety training requirements for growers, and that deadline has now been extended to April 1, 2022.

Sangamon County will be working on our schedule of activities for the upcoming year and making those plans as the Governor lifts restrictions.

Be watching for a new Nomination Form coming out for our Annual Farmer Hall of Fame Recipient. Staff has put together a form for members to fill out if you know of someone you would like to see nominated for this award. All applications will be reviewed by our Farmer Hall of Fame Committee and the recipient selected. If you haven't visited our website recently, sangamonfb.org I would urge you to do so. All these recipients have been added to our website and it is being updated continuously to keep our members aware of what is happening in the county.

As we begin this New Year, I am eager to work with the committees and all our volunteers to work to accomplish our Mission: Advocating the Voice of Agriculture Through Education and Grassroots Legislation.

I will close my article unfortunately on a sad note: Jack Oakley, who hired me 43 years ago to work at the Farm Bureau Office past today, December 2, 2020. Jack was my boss for 22 years but he never really seemed like a boss, he was more like a Step-Dad. We shared a lot of good times together and supported each other in a lot of sad times, not to mention all the life lessons he bestowed upon me. I'm sure many of you will remember Jack's stories from down on Beaver creek. He always had some interesting articles for 'The Sangamo Farmer'. Jack came to Sangamon County in the early 70's and retired in 1999. Jack never met a stranger! He could remember people and stories better than anyone I know. I got to share my news with Jack after being elected President and his comment was "I've been expecting that to happen, you know Farm Bureau is our life!" Jack will certainly be missed by many, but I know today he is rejoicing with his beloved Margaret and my heart is Happy for that! May he rest in Peace!

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 Airborn 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, 2021. For the scholarship application and more information, please visit www.sangamonfb.org.

Committee Reports



Janet Edwards

Greetings!! Here's to hoping everyone had a safe and happy holiday season! It was different for sure. Since the holidays are over, it is now time to start thinking about the coming spring. Hopefully, we will all be able to get together for the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Annual Trivia Night.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 6th, for the Annual Trivia Night

to be held at Bunker's (Illioopolis). (Bunker's will offer a limited menu and a full "cash" bar for the evening.) 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 to the Foundation for scholarships. Also, consider getting a team together or even sponsor a round of trivia that night. If you had a table reserved and paid for last year, you still have it for that night. Everyone who has come in the past has 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.

Another thought, since it is the beginning of a New Year and we might soon be able to have "in person" meetings again, now would be a good time to sign up for one of the committees in Sangamon County Farm Bureau. If there is a certain interest you have, call the office and get on a committee.

The Member and PR committee is always looking for members that are willing to help promote the County Farm Bureau. We are planning on starting meetings up again in January or February, depending on the Covid 19 mitigations, but you can always get on the committee, and when we do have a meeting, you will be notified. If you have an idea that you would like for the committee to look at, let us know that too. We are always looking for good ideas.



Stephen Prather

Ihope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As I write this in Mid December, we haven't had any meetings in the past few months due to the COVID restrictions, but we did have the pleasure of designing a tree for the 2020 Memorial Virtual Festival of

Trees back in November. We have another great Ag After Hours program planned, and a date for that will be released when we can meet again. Our Annual Tractor Drive will be on June 19th during the Sangamon County Fair. We have some other exciting events in the works, be sure to check out our Facebook page to stay up to date on those. Until next time, have a great and safe winter!

By: Adam Bailey

A great big thank you to everyone who joined our campaign to defeat the progressive income tax question on the November ballot. It was a big accomplishment and one that had our members unified more than ever. In addition to having a successful outcome, it's extremely rewarding to have our members engaged on important pocket book issues like this.

The reality looking forward is that the state will be looking for new fees and taxes or the removal of key exemptions from across our entire state economy. That means we'll almost assuredly need your engagement again to protect your livelihood from efforts to drain your finances in order to shore up the state's fiscal mess. We won't let our guard down, please don't let yours down either. We'll need the help of our members to address these issues.

On a positive note, President elect Joe Biden has announced the nomination of Tom Vilsack as the new Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Vilsack served in that role during the Obama Presidency and has a proven track record of being a champion for agriculture. He has been especially proactive in relation to issues that affect Midwest farmers. His support of biofuels and a strong emphasis on trade will make his appointment good for farmers in Sangamon County.

I wish everyone a great start to the New Year and a productive year on your farms. Hopefully, we've turned the corner on all we have had to deal with in 2020.

MEMBER & PR

YOUNG LEADERS



MEMBERS SAVE \$500



GOVERNMENTAL ENGAGEMENT & POLICY

The Bureau According to Jim



Jim Birge

Let me start my column with a great big thank you to everyone who got out in November and voted NO to defeat the state progressive income tax question on the ballot. You sent a strong message that the people of Illinois need a government that is accountable to them and to find better ways of dealing with the state's woeful financial situation. That said, there will likely be attempts to increase other fees and taxes along with budget cuts to find a path toward repairing the state's finances. We'll be there every step of the way to ensure that agriculture and rural Illinois is treated fairly. Be prepared to engage in our efforts to accomplish this.

Well, now that we've finally drudged through 2020, let's hope for a brighter 2021. One that has a vaccination for everyone who desires to be vaccinated. One that allows family and friends to be together again. And one that brings our small businesses and economy back to full capacity.

Many of you, including me, wanted to see 2019 in our rearview mirror from all the difficult farming conditions. What we got out of 2020 became so many times worse. Therefore, I'm reluctant to dive right into 2021, but that's a reality we all must face. Hopefully, this year will be far better than we can imagine.

I want to say a few words to honor my predecessor, Jack Oakley. Jack served as the Manager of Sangamon County Farm Bureau for many years until his retirement in 1999. His leadership and encouragement led me to have the opportunity and humbleness to accept the reigns of the organization when Jack handed them to me. Jack passed away in December. His love of Farm Bureau always shined. Many of you probably have some wonderful memories of working with him. He will be missed by so many people. Godspeed, Jack. You can read more about Jack elsewhere in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer.

It may seem like winter's here to stay for a while, but tractors will soon fire up again soon, calves will be brought into this world, and the work of the farmer goes on. Here's to you Farm Bureau members, for doing the hard work day in and day out to feed and fuel our nation.



January/February 2020

Committee Reports



Matt Heissinger

Under the current circumstances, as I write this in December, we haven't been able to do much with meetings or planning events for the upcoming months. Understandably we don't want to put anyone in a position to get sick. We are continuing to work on ideas for events to keep everyone informed and up to date on what's happening in the Ag world, whether that's through zoom webinars or waiting until we get past the restrictions on gatherings. I do want to mention that Country Financial has set dates for their VIRTUAL Crop Insurance Ag seminars for January and February, and those dates include:

Tuesday, January 19th, 8:30 AM

Wednesday, January 27th, 11:00 AM

Tuesday, February 9th, 4:00 PM

Thursday, February 25th, 12:00 PM

As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to call the office. Take care!



Cassie Bennett

Hello SCFB members! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I can't believe it's the new year already! The Women's Committee had a wonderful fall luncheon in November where we made beautiful door arrangements and awarded Cyd Ayers as our Farm Woman of the Year! Due to the COVID restrictions we were under, our annual Winter Luncheon was canceled in December. As of right now, our Spring Fling with This Farm Girl Cooks is scheduled for March 18th, beginning at 5:30 pm at the office. We will have fried chicken and tons of amazing side dishes prepared by our ladies. You won't want to miss this event! "See" you next time!



sangamonfb.org

MARKETING

WOMEN'S

Highlights of Jack Oakley as SCFB Manager



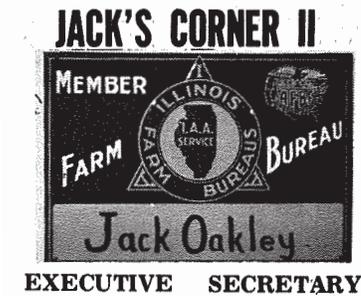
Your new Executive Secretary, Jack Oakley, and his lovely wife, are shown as they attended your annual meeting. Jack assumes his new duties on March 1 and will move his family to Springfield in the near future.



This holiday season will be somewhat different for me, the first Christmas without Pop. How he did love the house full of chaos that Christmas Eve brought. He was the happiest when everyone was home, all eighteen kids, wives, husbands, grandkids and great grandkids. We will miss him but the chaos will continue.

I must convey a sincere "Best Wishes" to each and everyone of you, our loyal members. May the holidays be a happy occasion for all of you. I do appreciate you allowing me to be a part of your organization. The association with this fine group of people and the personal friends that are mine from this community is a very vital part of my life, "Thanks."

"Merry Christmas"



Jack's Corner will be a monthly collection of nonsense and trivia away from the complicated, detailed, and confusing world we live in daily. We hope to share with you a few memories, ideas, and laughs.

We invite your comments and suggestions and hope you will bear with us because sometimes this copy will have to be streaked through as the press deadline approaches.

Speaking of streaking, this seems to be getting more popular as the days go by. What most of the present day streakers don't know is that some of us were streaking a number of years back. Streaking was a necessity then, not a choice.

You didn't always have time to get dressed when someone came to the back door on Saturday night and you were in the washtub behind the kitchen stove. You streaked for upstairs hoping they had their head turned when you went past the back door.

Down on Beaver Creek, where I grew up, a balanced budget meant if you don't have the money you can't spend it. Seems like that philosophy would still work if government didn't have the power to raise taxes and print money.

Gate keeping was an important task, "Down on Beaver Creek" where I grew up. If you were designated to watch the gate you had better take your duties seriously. If by some chance you were caught day dreaming or left your post unguarded and the livestock got out, "Get ready, cause trouble was immediately at hand." If you have ever tried to get the cows out of a corn field when they didn't want to go, you can understand what I mean. Gates were meant to be closed, if you ever left one open, in error or on purpose, you had better be ready to take the consequences.



Jack's Corner, over the past 25 years, has been a medium through which I have tried to share, with those of you who cared, a little trivia of my memories, dreams and thoughts. Needless to say some of those thoughts and memories produced some smiles and some produced tears. As I reflect upon the various persons and incidents, that crossed my path, it still produces a range of emotions.

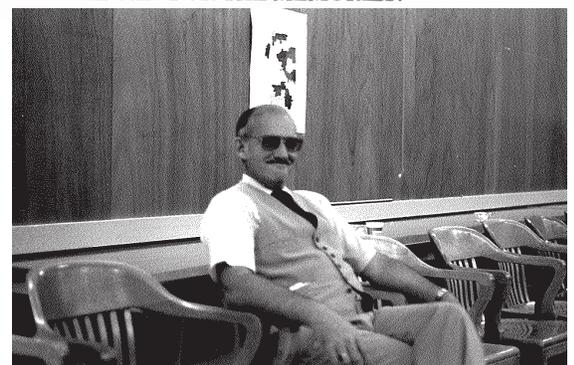
So with this rendering I will draw the curtain on my corner for the last time. There has been more than 300 of "JACK'S CORNERS" in the past 25 years. Needless to say this column will be the hardest one for me to compile. Now before I get melancholy I want to say "Thanks" for allowing me to express those ramblings. I enjoyed visiting with you in my corner each month. I appreciate the compliments that many of you expressed. It only proves that your path and mine must have crossed somewhere in an era of time.

Jim Birge will be my replacement. He begins his duties on June 15. He inherits a quality staff of Farm Bureau veterans who go above and beyond their duties to serve the agriculture profession in Sangamon County. He also inherits a quality Board of Directors who represents the industry with dedication. With a combination like that, this organization and Jim will flourish.

Margaret and I plan to stay in the Springfield area. This is where most of those that we know and love live. There is not much of the clan left "Down on Beaver Creek." We will spend some time in warmer climate during a part of the winter, but mostly we will be here. A little golf, a little fishing and some travel will occupy our time.

Now for the adieu, I cannot begin to express the mixed emotions that I have at this point. Farm Bureau has been a major part of my life for the past 29 years. It has provided me with a daily challenge and a meaningful purpose to pursue. It supplied the necessities of life that my family and I needed to keep the wolf from the door. I know many people, mostly through this organization. I cannot begin to list all of the names. Those Farm Bureau people form the nucleus of my circle of friends.

"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!"



Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship 2021

The Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation is a charitable organization recognized by the IRS as a public charity. The focus of the foundation is to advance educational opportunities and understanding of the agricultural industry, support research opportunities for the betterment of agriculture, and offer general promotion of the industry. A key goal of the foundation is to fund awards and scholarships for the benefit of education programs.



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.



**Sangamon
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Foundation**

For the Application and more information Visit:
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sangamonfb.org

The Sangamon County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

Spring Fling

March 18, 2021 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!

2020 Farm Woman of the Year

Cyd Ayers has been a Sangamon County Farm Bureau Member for 25 years. In that time she has been active in the Women's Committee activities and a strong supporter of county wide events such as Ag-Stravaganza and Trivia Nights. She loves talking to people about life on the farm and where their food comes from. Cyd has the biggest heart for her family, the farm, and her community. She resides on the farm in Rochester, Illinois where she farms with her husband Jimmy Ayers, son Cameron Ayers and daughter Cathryn Seifert. Together they farm corn, soybeans and care for a few cattle. On any given day Cyd can be found running the combine, making meals, running for parts, doing the bookwork, feeding or checking the cows and anything in between. As a farm woman she is not only outstanding in her fields but also in her home. Her family says she makes the best strawberry jam, pumpkin bars, and has the best meals from the garden. In addition, she continues to make great contributions to her community. She is the founder and co-chairwoman of her local rural neighborhood watch program; regularly organizing informational gatherings and keeping the rural community informed of how to keep their families and their homes safe. She makes time to serve Cotton Hill Township as both an elected official and an election judge.



While also being a charter and active member of Sugar Creek United Methodist Church, she served on the trustees committee while the church was being built. In addition to the Sangamon County Farm Bureau these are just a few ways, among many that Cyd gives of herself to her neighbors, friends and the community. Above all Cyd is the glue of her family, a listening ear, and the heart of the farm.

SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

Trivia

Night

hosted by:



- Enjoy the Night
- ✓ 50/50 RAFFLE
- ✓ DOOR PRIZES
- ✓ BASKET RAFFLE
- ✓ MULLIGANS
- ✓ AND MORE...



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TRIVIA STARTS AT 4PM 220 OLD RT 36, ILLIOPOLIS

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- \$300 GOLD SPONSOR: 8-10 PLAYERS, ROUND SPONSORSHIP, THEMED TABLE, GIFT BAG FOR EACH PLAYER
- \$200 SILVER SPONSOR: 8-10 PLAYERS, ROUND SPONSORSHIP
- \$100 ROUND SPONSORSHIP

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
FREE POPCORN

**FOR A TEAM OF 8-10
PLAYERS
(OR \$15/INDIVIDUAL)**

\$100

18+

MUST BE 18+ OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE.
**CALL 217-753-5200 OR EMAIL ALEKA@SANGAMONFB.ORG FOR
QUESTIONS OR VISIT SANGAMONFB.ORG/EVENTS TO REGISTER**



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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.* sangamonfb.org **9**

Sangamon County Farm Bureau 2020 Accomplishments



Raised \$13,100 to be distributed to the exhibitors of our Sangamon County Youth Expo Livestock Show.

Held our 10th Annual Foundation Golf Outing and raised funds for scholarships.

The Women's Committee delivered their healthy harvest buckets with snacks to farmers in the field.

Provided \$6,250 in college scholarships to students from Sangamon County.

The Young Leader Committee picked and donated 3,740 pounds of sweet corn for the local food banks.

Hosted the FFA Chapters of Sangamon County for an FFA Acquaintance Day with a tour of Springfield Plastics, Scoular Company and LLCC

The Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee distributed 140 Vote No yard signs and banners to help defeat the Progressive Income Tax Constitutional Tax Amendment.

Marketing Committee hosted their Annual Corn Yield Survey and shared the results with the county and our members.

Supported many local charities with Christmas hams, hat & glove donations, and volunteer time.

Inducted Sam Snell into the Farmer Hall of Farm and named Cyd Ayers the Farm Woman of the Year.



www.sangamonfb.org



Through the pandemic, farming continued, and so did Illinois Farm Bureau's efforts to support its members.

Defeated the Progressive Income Tax Constitutional Amendment with a **strong statewide grassroots campaign.**

Participated in the Pritzker administration's renewable energy working groups to **advocate for renewable energy** policy that benefits agriculture and implements IFB policies.

Responded to additional stress caused by the pandemic by partnering with experts nationwide to **advocate and educate** on farmer **mental health and wellness.**

Strengthened bipartisan Congressional relationships to advance **Farm Bureau's voice** during hearings on trade, Commodity Credit Corporation replenishment and renewable fuel waivers.

Lobbied for state and federal **financial assistance for farmers** from the CARES program, resulting in the Payment Protection Program (PPP), Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and Livestock Management Facilities Act Business Interruption Grant Program.

The Young Leader Committee **raised over \$21,000** through Harvest for All to **aid the eight Feeding Illinois food banks** at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Filed a "Friend of the Court" brief defending the constitutionality of the Farm Nuisance Suit Act (FNSA), opening the door for the 4th District Appellate Court's decision to **preserve a farmer's ability to fight these legal battles.**

County Farm Bureaus donated over **\$75,000 worth of milk** and meat to local food pantries **across the state.**

Helped ensure agriculture was considered an **essential business.**



www.ilfb.org



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2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, IL 62703



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