



THE SANGAMO *Farmer*

MARCH/APRIL 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 2

Upcoming Meetings & Events

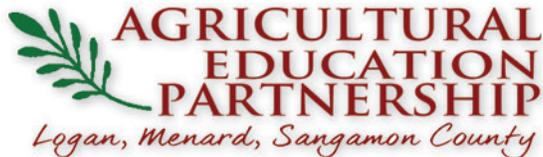
MARCH

- 1st..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:00 p.m
- 4th..... Young Leaders After Hours, 6:30 p.m.
- 8th..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 15th..... Member & PR Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- 15th..... Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m
- 18th..... Women's Committee Spring Fling, 5:30 p.m

APRIL

- 5th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:00 p.m.
- 12th..... Young Leader Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 15th..... Women's Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 19th..... Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

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



March

Lessons and Activities Schedule

Theme: Soil
Subtheme: Specialty Crops

February 24th	March Classroom Challenge: Eggshell Seed Starting
February 25th	Lesson for the week of March 1st: Ode to a Vegetable
March 4th	Virtual Field Trip: United Soils
March 4th	Lesson for the week of March 8th: Say it with Soil
March 5th	Family Engagement Challenge: Soil My Undies
March 11th	Lesson for the week of February 15th: Play-Doh Core Sampling
March 11th	Virtual Author Visit: Darcy Pattison, <i>Erosion</i>
March 12th	April PD in Your PJs; Available Online
March 17th	Family Cooking Challenge: Dirt Pudding
March 18th	Lesson for the week of March 22nd: Tops and Bottoms
March 25th	Lesson for the week of March 29th: Soil Sam

All activities and lessons will be released on the IAITC Facebook and Instagram pages on their release dates.

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2020-21		J	A	S	O	N	D	J/F	M	A
District 1	Brent Johnson	X	X	-	-	X	X	X		
	Michael Kinner (Treasurer)	X	X	X	-	X	-	X		
	Anna Stone	X	-	X	-	X	X	X		
	Jason Pickrell	X	X	-	-	X	-	X		
District 2	Otto Rentschler	X	X	-	-	X	X	X		
	Kevin Foran (Secretary)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		
	Dale Edwards	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		
	Mike Borgic	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		
	Adam Bailey (VP)	X	X	-	-	X	X	X		
	Cathryn Ayers Seifert	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		
District 4	Phil Sidles	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		
	Diana Beaty (President)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		
	Matt Heisinger	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		
	Marty Fairchild	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		
At-Large	Charles Mayfield	X	-	X	-	X	X	X		
	Gary Reavis	X	X	-	-	-	X	X		
	George Sergot	X	-	-	-	X	-	X		
M&PR Chair, Janet Edwards		X	-	X	-	X	X	X		
YL Chair, Stephen Prather		X	X	-	-	X	-	-		
Women's Chair, Cassandra Bennett		-	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 Burreis 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

As I write this report it is a cold winter day in Illinois but before you know it Spring will be upon us. A new year starts for everyone on January 1, for me it seems a new year starts again when you plant that first seed in the spring.

Along with the new year we now have a new administration for our nation along with some new representation for our state in congress. We at Farm Bureau will be anxious and eager to work with both sides of the isle to help educate and seek positive outcomes on ag issues.

Now that COVID restrictions have begun to lighten up, I am having positive hopes of more normalcy within our organization for events in this new year. Plans are being made for some of those events and let us hope that stays on track.

Our Foundation Committee met earlier this month to discuss Foundation Scholarships that will be presented this spring. Due to a success in raising funds for the Foundation last summer with our annual golf outing and our gun raffle, which went on for several months due to the COVID, we were able to increase our scholarships to \$2000.00 for 2021. It is our goal to continue raising funds to be able to increase these scholarships as we move from year to year. This year's fundraisers will include a trivia night, annual golf outing, fundraisers on social media (Facebook), and just recently added for all you members who shop thru Amazon, Amazon Smile. When you make a purchase on Amazon Smile and select Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation as your fundraiser to contribute to, Amazon will donate to our foundation based on your purchase. To all those who have helped in the past for your support of our foundation, THANK YOU, you have helped to make this a success!

It's 2021, time for renewing Farm Bureau Memberships. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, I urge you to please do so. You are what keeps our organization afloat and give us the power to represent you! If you haven't renewed and you have an issue that is keeping you from that, PLEASE, contact myself or our office so we can hear your concerns and work to correct those!

Committees are beginning to meet again, in person, and working on new events and ideas for 2021. One of our goals this year is to get new members involved in our committees. If you are interested in joining us on one of our committees or even just being involved in an event we will be having, please reach out to myself, a committee chairperson, or our staff and we will be more than happy to get you involved in whatever manner works for you. New blood brings new ideas and we are always opened to new ideas!

I'm excited to see what 2021 will bring and anxious to work on issues that will be before us. As I have said in the past, please reach out to us with issues that are on your mind, hopefully we can work together to resolve them.

Good Luck to all as we begin our growing season for 2021!

*Are you interested
in joining one of our
committees?*

*Contact a committee
chair today to get
more information!*



President Beaty

dandlbeatyfarm@springnet1.com

Women's Committee

Cassie Bennett

cnkbennett8330@aol.com

Marketing Committee

Matt Heissinger

mattheissinger@gmail.com

Member & Public Relations

Janet Edwards

edwardsjg55@yahoo.com

Governmental Engagement & Policy

Adam Bailey

adam9530@yahoo.com

Young Leaders

Stephen Prather

prather8914@gmail.com

The Bureau According to Jim



Jim Birge

As I prepared to write this column, I looked back at what I wrote in it one year ago. I spoke about legislation and issues likely to affect agriculture. I made no mention of COVID, or protests/riots, the fragility of our food processing and distribution system, lockdowns, working from home, closed schools, no sports, or any of the other things we were thrust into just after I wrote that column. It's a bit surreal to see the "innocence" of that time. We've all become much stronger and much weaker since then, and things will never again be quite the same.

Now that people are getting the vaccine, it seems that there might be light at the end of that long, dark tunnel. So it's time to rekindle that optimism and enjoy that spark of life again (while social distancing, of course!). As we move into Spring, there's always a sense of renewal and hope. We will need to embrace that like never before, and together as a Farm Bureau family, as a community, and as a nation, we will thrive once again.

So, enough of looking back. Let's look forward! What lies ahead? For one thing, all our staff is back in the office M-F, and we're open to the public. We're beginning to hold in-person board and committee meetings, which allows us to plan upcoming programs and activities that we feel have a good chance of being able to occur. So Farm Bureau seems a bit more like normal.

Speaking of programs, there are a few I'd like to mention. The first one is our annual foundation scholarship program. The foundation board increased our general scholarships to five \$2,000 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship through the William Etherton Scholarship program. The other program I'd draw your attention to is the Sangamon County Farmer Hall of Fame application. If you know of a Farm Bureau member in Sangamon County that you feel should receive this honor, please complete the application on our website or contact us for a paper application. Both the scholarship applications and the Hall of Fame Applications are due on or before March 31st.

As usual, this time of year also begins the busy process in the General Assembly of bill introductions and lots of committee hearings. You can be assured that Farm Bureau will be sifting through every bill to evaluate its effect, if any, on agriculture and our members. We expect some significant issues to arise this session. As I always tell our members, be ready. We'll likely have a big fight on our hands, and you must be prepared to act when asked. And we will be asking.

Until next time, be safe as spring fieldwork gets underway. I wish you the best as we begin a new season.

Committee Reports



Cassie Bennett

Hello Sangamon County Farmers!

I hope your staying warm and healthy! We have good news to share! We will be hosting our annual Spring Fling this year! It will be held March 18th at the Farm Bureau building! It will be smaller capacity this year with

socially distanced seats so be sure to register early! Our speaker this year is This Farm Girl Cooks, I'm pretty excited! Come spend some time with us and eat a great meal! Hope to see you there!

WOMEN'S

RURAL NURSE
PRACTITIONER
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

MAY 1, 2021 DEADLINE



RIMSAP.com

Helping to meet the
needs of primary care
in rural Illinois.

Congratulations to Renea Judd on winning the Foundation Gun Raffle!

Be on the lookout for this year's Foundation Raffle!



Janet Edwards

Greetings!! Spring is getting near and farmers are either thinking about or working on their machinery to make sure they are ready for the field when the weather gets nice enough to plant the 2021 crops. Like the farmers, the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Committees are making plans for 2021 also. We are hoping that we will be able to carry through with the plans made this year.

With that being said, the Member and PR Committee recently met and started plans for some activities.

One of the activities discussed was the TRIVIA Night. With current COVID restrictions, we will not be able to hold it as planned in March, but we are looking at other dates for when it gets nicer outside and will let the membership know as soon as a date is set. Trivia Night is a fundraiser for the Foundation that provides scholarships to high school graduates whose parents are Sangamon County Farm Bureau members.

Another activity discussed was AgStravaganza. Tentative dates have been set, and we will give more details as plans are finalized.

The next meeting of the Member & PR Committee will be held on March 15th – 5:00 pm at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau building. If you are interested in helping on this committee, please come and take part.

As I have said in other issues of the Sangamo Farmer, there are several committees for Farm Bureau members to participate in. If you are reading this column, you are a member. If there is a committee you are interested in, please get involved. We have been isolated from each other for almost a year. NOW is the time to get active again and keep this organization going for US, the membership!

Until the next issue, be safe, and God Bless!!



Stephen Prather

Spring is just around the corner. The grass will be growing tall and green, flowers blooming, and the greatest site in Agriculture will be here “planting season.” We are allowed to look to the future in spring. Start over new and develop new strategies and ideas to improve upon. 2020 can officially be behind us.

However, safety can never be forgotten about. We must do our due diligence to protect ourselves and our family during this time of year. We must continue to dress warm, even though 40 degrees seems warm with the bitter cold negative temperatures we experienced this winter. We have to use bug spray and sunscreen if we are going to be out for prolonged times during the day. We also must ensure we get our rest when we can. You never know when a neighbor will need a helping hand, a run to the planter with one last bag of seed to finish this 40 before the rain really starts to come down, or an opportunity to volunteer in your local community could come at any time.

We are looking to the future with new ideas and ways of doing things for the agriculture community. We are hosting a virtual “Leasing do’s and don’ts meeting via Zoom. We are making safety a priority for 2021 by hosting a Grain Bin safety training for County EMS personal. We know the importance of ensuring that everyone comes home at the end of the day to their families. We will be having our Annual Tractor Drive on June 19th. Check out the flyer in this Sangamo Farmer.

If you know of anyone interested in joining us for any of our activities and some social opportunities with other 18 -35 years old. Please have them join us.

MEMBER & PR

GOVERNMENTAL ENGAGEMENT & POLICY

By: Adam Bailey

It's been a crazy first start to the year so far. Impeachment proceedings were brought against former President Trump, a halt was placed on CFAP payments to farmers that were supposed to come in the spring, and new environmental initiatives appear to be on their way. These are all part of the first few weeks of a new Presidency.

On a positive note, Tom Vilsack is our Secretary of Ag again. I hope he continues with good policy across all the Ag sectors in the US. His previous track record as the Secretary of Ag was one of cooperation and progress for farmers. We look forward to working with the Secretary.

Now more than ever, I feel like we need to stay involved with all the new policy that is going on whether that is local, state, or the national level. There are going to be real challenges this year on both the state and national levels of government. There may also be some opportunities for farmers to participate and be rewarded for environmental stewardship. We'll keep you posted and ask you to be ready to act when needed.

As always, reach out to the Farm Bureau office if you have questions on any specific issues.

Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship

Due March 31, 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
County Farm Bureau®
Foundation**

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



Food brings everyone to the table

On a recent winter evening, my kids announced that we had missed National Blueberry Pancake Day. “Alexa” had told them about it. They continued to chuckle, ask questions and give commands to this internet-connected smart speaker, which responds to the name Alexa. On their cue, the robotic female voice delivers generally unimportant facts and plays exaggerated noises of passing gas. And that, of course, generates more laughter.

For nearly a pandemic year, our household motto rather has provided a lesson in life: Be happy making the best of the situation. Alexa helps with that. And had I known about this special day for fruity flapjacks on January 28, I would have made blueberry pancakes on that Thursday morning. Just for fun.

Most of my life, I passed off “National Day” events with a no-need attitude. For sake of humility, we didn’t need cause holidays. Maybe we do. Besides making the best of things, this pandemic era has taught us the desperate need to listen more and practice empathy.

That said, agriculture deserves its day, too. National Ag Day is March 23, 2021, a date to recognize that modern agriculture sustains life. The food, fiber and fuel this industry provides gives Americans the nutritional energy for the day, the shirt on their backs, the shelter overhead, and the renewable fuel to drive away from home when COVID allows.

Economically, agriculture ranks the No. 1 industry in Illinois. Environmentally, farms grow more with fewer resources, essential in a world where the population grows larger by the day. Emotionally, agriculture remains at the core of our nation’s greatness with an overwhelming majority of farms (97% in Illinois) still owned by families, often generations of them.

A century ago, nearly one-third of the American population farmed, suppressing the need for a National Ag Day. More people held a direct farm connection, largely lost now that fewer than 2% of Americans farm. Modern advancements allow people to pursue careers unrelated to farming and for each farmer to feed more than 166 people, a dramatic increase from 25 in the 1960s, according to the American Agriculture Council of America.

Since Thanksgiving, I have intended to replicate the beloved turkey dinner with classic fixings that we anticipate and enjoy only once a year. Why not savor it more. I decided that National Ag Day will dictate the occasion, a fitting way to celebrate how food brings everyone to the table.

Learn more about National Ag Day at www.agday.org.
About the author: Joanie Stiers’ family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.



NATIONAL AG DAY March 23, 2021

AGRICULTURE: Food for life.

American agriculture is the foundation of our country. It’s the backbone of a healthy and prosperous nation that’s made possible by the hard work of America’s farms and farm families.

Illinois Farm Bureau® is proud to celebrate the nutritious and plentiful contributions of our country’s farms on National Agriculture Day.



**Support the SCFB Foundation
on Facebook during National
Ag Week, March 21-27**



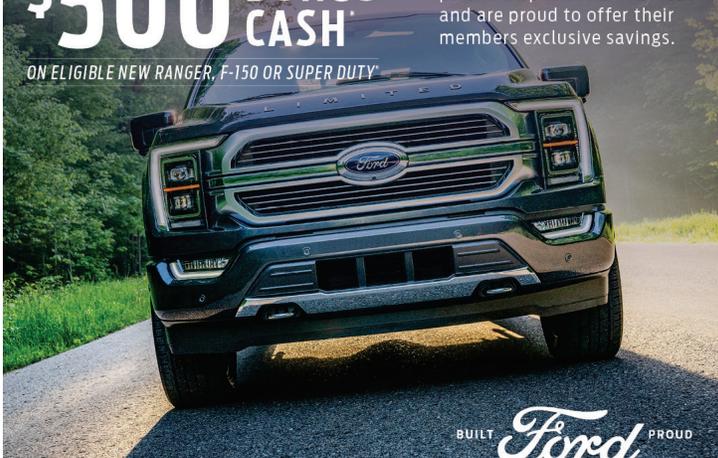
**Sangamon
County Farm Bureau®
Foundation**

Farm Bureau members receive

**\$500 BONUS
CASH***

ON ELIGIBLE NEW RANGER, F-150 OR SUPER DUTY

We value our long-standing partnership with Farm Bureau and are proud to offer their members exclusive savings.



BUILT *Ford* PROUD

***Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com today!**

Leasing Do's and Don'ts

For landowners and tenants

Join us and IFB's Garrett Thalgott via Zoom on
March 4th at 6:30 p.m.

To register, visit

<https://form.jotform.com/210454359903052> or

www.sangamonfb.org



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.

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS SAVE

UP TO 30% Off
Best Available Rate

14 Locations



#MembershipMonday

**Enjoy
Grand Slam
Savings**



...let the
baseball games begin...
open your Farm Bureau Membership
Benefit app and save on
MLB baseball tickets.



Spring Fling

March 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

2631 Beechler Ct
Springfield, IL 62703

Hosted By:

The Sangamon County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

Guest Speaker:

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

Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

The Women's Committee will provide fried chicken with homemade side dishes and desserts

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

RSVP: 217-753-5200 or email lburris@sangamonfb.org by March 12th

Limited socially distanced seats. Zoom option available

FREE!

Sangamon County Farm Bureau Young Leaders **Annual Antique Tractor** Contest & Drive

Saturday, June 19, 2021 · 9:00 AM

Drive:

Unloading begins at 8:00 am at the New Berlin High School
300 W. Ellis St · New Berlin, IL 62670

Drive will begin at 9:00 a.m.

*No trailers at the fairgrounds

Contest:

Tractors will line up at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds for voting at 11:30
316 W Birch St · New Berlin, IL 62670

Voting will conclude at 12:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

Registration:

Due June 7th, \$30- Includes T-Shirt, Fair Entry, and Lunch

Please no steel wheeled tractors

*Raindate June 26th during Sangamon County 4-H Show

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE HARVEST FOR ALL CAMPAIGN!

Registration is Due June 7th to be guaranteed a T-Shirt

Name: _____

Make & Model: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Family Heritage: _____

Email: _____

of Entries: _____

T- Shirt Size: _____

Send Registration Slip and Payment to:

Sangamon County Farm Bureau

2631 Beechler Ct. · Springfield, IL 62703

Sangamon County Farm Bureau

Total Enclosed: _____

SANGAMON COUNTY FARMERS HALL OF FAME

The Sangamon County Farmers Hall of Fame recognizes and honors farmers; the sons and daughters of pioneers, the backbone of our nation, and the pride of our heartland in central Illinois. We strive to build on their dreams and accomplish their goals and plans, thereby creating a legacy for future generations. And we face the future with optimism--with faith in God and the hope they give us, we cannot fail.

NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT

www.sangamonfb.org

Due March 31st

Be sure to check out past recipients and their stories on the website!



**WE ALL NEED
SOMEONE WE
CAN TALK TO**

Area farmers who need someone to talk to about the everyday stresses of farming and pandemic-related challenges now have a new resource. A new helpline (1-833-FARM-SOS) will connect farmers to health professionals and services through the Farm Family Resource Initiative.

1-833-FARM-SOS



Sangamon County Farm Bureau
2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, IL 62703



MyersRice
Auction & Realty

Real Estate Brokerage • Auctions • Farm Management

Paul Rice

Auctioneer/Broker

A Certified Estate Specialist Auctioneer

www.myersrice.com



115 Chatham Rd. • Springfield, IL 62704

Office: (217) 787-3200 • Toll Free: (888) 600-FARM

*Save 15% on advertising in the Sangamo Farmer
when you advertise for a full year!*

Contact the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Office at 217-753-5200 for more details or email
lbarris@sangamonfb.org



**Agronomy | Seed
Crop Protection | Custom Application
AgFinance | Propane | Fuels
Lubricants | Precision Farming
Grain Marketing**

www.prairielandfs.com | 888-978-7637



Take your health
BACK with
Chatham Chiropractic!

Sangamon County Farm Bureau
members receive a complimentary
first visit **and** 15 minute massage.

Chatham Chiropractic Clinic

Dr. Bryan Taylor

351 Williams Lane, Chatham, IL 62629

Phone: (217) 483-1551

Email: chatham.chiropractic@gmail.com

Website: chathamchiropracticclinic.com

