



THE SANGAMON

Farmer

MARCH / APRIL 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 2

Upcoming Meetings & Events

March

- 7th.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 10th.....Member & Public Relations Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 12th.....Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation Trivia Night, 4:00 p.m.
- 16th.....Women's Committee Spring Fling, 5:30 p.m.
- 17th.....Young Leader Committee Activity; The Back 9, 6:00 p.m.
- 19th.....Young Leader Committee Fill-A-Ford Food Drive, Harvest Market; 12:00 p.m.
- 21st.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 25th- 26th.....Hunter Safety Course, 6:00 p.m.

April

- 4th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 11th..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 18th..... Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21st..... Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 25th - 29th.....Agventure Barn Tour, TBD.

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



I hope everyone has had an excellent start to the year! In news of the Ag In The Classroom Program, the K-5th grade students started off the year learning about sheep! They learned how sheep were sheered in the 1700 & 1800 hundreds and how items were weaved.



In February, the K-2nd grade students are learning about sugar and getting to make a "gumdrop," while the 3rd-5th grade students are learning about chocolate and creating their own candy bar. We are ready for Spring and warmer weather!

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2021-22		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
District 1	Brent Johnson	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	X				
	Michael Kinner	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X				
	JD Sudeth	n/a	X	X	-	X	X	-	X				
	Jason Pickrell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
District 2	Otto Rentschler	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
	Kevin Foran (Secretary)	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	X				
	Janet Edwards	n/a	-	-	-	X	X	-	X				
	Ethan Krone (Ass't Sec/Treas)	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X				
District 3	Katie King	n/a	X	X	-	X	X	-	X				
	Mike Borgic (Treasurer)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-				
	Adam Bailey (President)	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X				
	Cathryn Ayers Seifert	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X				
District 4	Kyle Beutke	n/a	X	X	-	X	X	X	X				
	Kirk Mendenhall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	X				
	Matt Heissingner	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 (VP)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X				
	George Sergot	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X				
Committee Chairs:													
	GEP Chair , Phil Sidles	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	-				
	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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Committee Reports



Janet Edwards

Are you thinking of Spring yet? As I am writing this article for the Sangamo Farmer, we have just been through a snowstorm that dumped 12 inches of snow around central Illinois. Lanes have been plowed, and everyone is now able to get out and around again. The chemical and seed dealers are all coming around the farms to finish up the planning for the planting of the 2022 crop. Farm families are finishing up bookwork for the year, and everyone is thinking about it getting warmer outside and the grass greening up. Ahhhh Spring!!

During the winter, the Member & PR committee was able to meet and work on some ideas for the upcoming year.

The first, which is coming up in a few days, is TRIVIA Night. It will be held on March 12th at Bunkers Reception Hall in Illiopolis. Please see the flier in this issue on page 6 for the prices and time. We are really looking forward to getting together as a group and enjoying an afternoon/evening of fellowship with those who can make it on March 12th. (As I said in the January issue 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 team/table and would like one or would like to sponsor a round of trivia, please get a hold of Arika or Madison at the office and get signed up. The proceeds from Trivia Night go to the foundation for Scholarships!!

If you see or hear of any activity, Sangamon County Farm Bureau is doing that you would like to lend a hand with, please call the office and let us know you would be willing to help. Thank you, and until the next issue, God Bless and be safe!



Stephen Prather

Spring is on its way! I hope. Young leaders have been busy. We hosted an Ag after Hrs discussion on grain marketing. Brittany Twidwell from ADM in Curran, Illinois, did a great job presenting to the group in a way that they could understand. We were excited to welcome some new faces to our last meeting and hope one is interested in joining us to check our Facebook page.

We had 12 people attend the annual Young Leader Conference in East Peoria at the end of January. We learned about cover crops, livestock management, tax decisions, and the carbon sequestration market; and heard some great points on thinking differently from Dr.

Temple Grandin.

We hosted our Grain Bin entrapment training on February 19th at a bin site in Buffalo, Illinois. We thank Austin Etherton and Kyle Beutke for hosting us and helping train everyone on what our first responders might encounter in that situation. Please remember to take the extra time to be careful when unloading a grain bin. Always have help; never enter a bin that is currently unloading. Please be careful as you are an important part of the Ag community and your family.

We are hosting a Fill-A-Ford food drive at Harvest Market in Springfield, IL, in March. This will be held on March 19th, so please stop by and donate to this great cause if you are in the area. We will be having a fun get-together at the golf simulator Back 9 in Rochester on March 17th. If interested in joining us, please contact the office by March 7th.



Phil Sidles

Where to even start:

This Spring, the GEP committee is hitting the ground running. From local involvement, commercial solar and wind projects, a proposed CO2

sequestration pipeline, county ordinance changes, private property rights, etc. It seems that there is a solar or wind project looking for a place to land everywhere you turn. So we've been writing proposed language to update the county solar ordinance to provide greater protection for landowners and clarity to developers. The new language has been voted out of committee and is expected to be approved by the County Board in March. While we didn't get everything we wanted in the ordinance, we did get some improvements, and we'll continue to work to refine the ordinance further.

On the national front, we worked with Illinois Farm Bureau on a call to action. The purpose was to have members provide comments for the Waters of the US ruling. Now we're waiting to engage in the next step of the process and determine a path forward to remedy its many irresponsible and burdensome regulations.

With all the hustle and bustle of issues surrounding us, it's been great to be meeting in person again and getting everyone involved. To ensure that our committee members are getting the most out of their involvement, we asked each of them to complete a survey of

WOMEN'S



Cassie Bennett

Hello Farmers! Is it planting season yet?! I'm over this snow!! The Women's Committee is gearing up for a great Spring Fling Event on March

16th; see flyer on page 6 for more details! Be sure to call the office and sign up asap! If you can't make that, join us in April for a meeting. Stay warm and think of Spring!

Committee Reports

issues that are important to them. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. It will be beneficial in shaping the direction of the committee.

Finally, with redistricting and the 2022 midterm elections, there will be a lot of changes in Sangamon County. So hold on tight and look for new information coming out soon. The road ahead is long, but we look forward to the challenges and conversations along the way.

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The Bureau According to Jim



Jim Birge

While recently listening to a comedian from years past, I was reminded of just how it could apply to the people of agriculture and the message that could be unearthed from it. The joke, as told by Jerry Clower, went like this.

Two men were hunting in the woods when they came across a large and very deep hole. Neither man, each of who had hunted in those woods frequently, had ever seen the hole. As they looked into it, one pondered to the other about how deep it was. So the other hunter threw a stone in the hole to hear when it hit bottom, but there was no sound. Well, they decided to try something bigger, surely it would make a racket when it hit bottom. They found an 8' section of railroad track and thought that'd really make noise when it made the sudden stop at the bottom of the deep hole. Both heaved and threw the rail in the hole. Nothing. Shortly after, a goat crashed through the weeds heading right towards them in an apparent charge. The crazed goat leapt towards them and right down the hole it went. Not surprisingly the men scratched their heads trying to figure out why that goat charged them and then just jumped down the hole. After wasting all that time, they decided to give up hunting for the day and head home. While exiting the woods, they came across a farmer who asked them if they'd seen his goat. They explained that the goat charged them and then jumped into a deep hole. The farmer couldn't believe what he'd heard. He said, "that's impossible, I tied that goat to an 8' section of railroad track!"

A couple of lessons to be sifted out of this joke give us some valuable perspective. First, being an unintended follower, such as the goat, doesn't always have a successful or happy ending. It's better to think for oneself and take the appropriate path for you, rather than follow the herd and end up somewhere you shouldn't be.

Second, never throw things in a deep hole. The goat you save may be your own.

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SCFB Update

SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

TRIVIA NIGHT

ENJOY THE NIGHT!
Must be 18+ to Participate
 50/50 Raffle • Door Prizes
 Basket Raffle • Mulligans
AND MORE...

\$100 for a team of 8-10 players
\$15 per individual

REGISTER TODAY!
 go online at SangamonFB.org/Events

MARCH 12TH, 2022

3:00 PM DOORS OPEN | **4:00 PM** TRIVIA STARTS

Bunkers Reception Hall
 220 Old Route 36,
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QUESTIONS? Call 217-753-5200 or email Aleka@Sangamonfb.org

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Spring Fling

March 16th at 5:30 p.m.

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 & desserts.

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

FILL-A-FORD FOOD DRIVE

Join the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Young Leaders in the fight against food insecurity in our community!

MARCH 19, 2022
12-4PM

HARVEST MARKET.
 3001 Veterans Parkway
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2022 Scholarships

Sangamon County Farm Bureau 2022 Foundation Scholarship

Application Criteria:

- Be a high school senior graduating in 2022 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.



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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 Airborne 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, a 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 be received by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Office by March 31, 2022. For the [scholarship application and more information, please visit www.sangamonfb.org.](http://www.sangamonfb.org)

Adding Mental Preparedness to Your Farm's Safety Plan

By: Adrienne DeSutter

Grain bin entrapment. Tractor rollovers. Combine fires. Farming can be a really dangerous profession.

What makes us better equipped to handle these frightening situations is simply having a plan. We learn about a potential problem, we know what to do to prevent it, and we put procedures in place to help us if the situation arises.

As an industry, we do a great job advocating for caution in our farm practices and embracing the importance of ag safety. We care about our farm families, and we want to do everything we can to keep our farmers healthy and working.

But what about our mental health? What about our cognitive safety? Guess which occupation is statistically one of the most stressful, has one of the highest rates of depression, and unfortunately sees astronomical rates of stress-related fatalities (like heart disease, ulcers, and suicide): it's farming.

And guess what can happen when we work under stress? We make mistakes. We act impulsively. Our relationships suffer. We get careless. We have a hard time making decisions.

Next time you sit down with your farm team to map out safety procedures, consider adding these mental crisis preparedness steps to your farm's safety plan:

Identify your "go-to." You've got your go-to mechanic, your go-to equipment parts department, and your go-to agronomist or nutritionist. Who is your go-to when YOU break down, or when YOU need help thriving? Maybe it's a spouse or friend, or maybe it's your family doctor. Find someone who knows how to listen, and consider adding a therapist or crisis line (like the Iowa Concern Line for farm and rural stress) to your list of resources.

Stay away from danger: You know that keeping your combine clear and greased up prevents a problem, but do you know how to avoid a mental crisis? Don't wait for a disaster, be preventative! Know what stresses you out, know what your stress looks like (do you get irritable, fatigued, unmotivated?), and figure out what stresses can be avoided. Busy harvest season? Ask a neighbor to feed the cows or help out with home chores, like laundry or cooking. Tax season coming up? Try a different way to manage your books so paperwork doesn't pile up.



Focus on what you can control BEFORE things start drifting out of control. And remember, some stress is ok. You get to feel nervous or angry or bummed when things aren't going right. Embracing stressful feelings can actually help you process the situation better than bottling them up.

Take safety seriously: If your combine caught fire, you'd get out. So when you're facing hard stress, quit telling yourself to "get over it." Working hard is important, and pushing yourself can be exceptionally motivating...but know your limits. Your farm, your community, and your family need you around.



FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers



No time to chill: Winter a season of evaluation

On the six-hour drive home, we jotted down action items to improve the family farm. The list added to the workload that had accumulated while away from the farm office for the better part of three days. But nothing seemed unattainable. We had just left a farm conference packed with a lineup of brilliant speakers and creative thinkers, the type who can re-ignite the motivation that the pandemic and its policies had temporarily siphoned from us.

Farm conferences and annual meetings return this winter at hotels and conference centers across the nation after a two-year hiatus. The face-to-face networking, the sharing of knowledge and the trips south to warmer locations rejuvenate souls in the agriculture industry this winter season, traditionally a time for self-evaluation on the farm. Farmers, perhaps, evaluate more this year than in recent ones. The pandemic has been the annoying rock in our boot and record-high costs a rockslide challenging our path to profitability.



Fertilizer prices have more than doubled in a year. Roundup prices are up 300%. And while anyone who drives can relate to the pain at the pump, imagine filling up a 300-gallon tank in a combine. Supply shortages and soaring input costs challenge farm families like ours everywhere this winter, prompting us to store herbicide like toilet paper in case of a shortage. Our breakeven spreadsheets evolve and include approximate costs on products that retailers can't even price yet.

Thankfully, crop values are strong, and we take comfort in surrounding ourselves at these conferences with people who understand and possess the faith to persevere. The recent conference offered perspective on the future of food and farming and the anticipated disrupters in the marketplace. Expert panelists discussed biofuels, global protein demand, soil microbials and carbon. They shared dialogue on commodity and financial markets, supply chain issues, cryptocurrency, farmland values and consumer mindset about food. Between sessions we met with vendors of innovative farm products and further quizzed experts on the topics most impacting our family farm.



For decades, farm meetings and conferences have sparked the adoption of innovation on the farm, helping operations of all sizes attain the ideal of continuous improvement. At these places, we discover new solutions to complex problems and make choices to advance methods for growing crops and raising animals. That said, the winter season provides limited time to chill.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and a crop of farm kids.

Committee Update



Women's Committee
Winter Luncheon

Young Leader Conference



Trivia Night
Competitors

HELPFUL REMINDERS



ANHYDROUS AMMONIA Certified Grower Training WINTER 2022 DATES

FREE In-person Training

TRAINING STARTS AT 1:00 PM AT ALL LOCATIONS

FEB. 21ST
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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

Who needs to be certified?

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.

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