



THE SANGAMON

Farmer

MARCH / APRIL 2023



Photo credit: Catrina Rawson, Illinois Farm Bureau

Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through
Education and Grassroots Legislation

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

Springfield, IL • Volume MMXXIII Number 2

Upcoming Meetings & Events

March

- 4th.....Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation Trivia Night; Sherman Athletic Club
- 6th.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 10th-11th.....Hunters Safety Course
- 13th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16th.....Women's Committee Spring Fling, 5:30 p.m.
- 18th.....Fill-A-Ford Food Drive; Harvest Market, 12-4 p.m.
- 20th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 25th.....Youth Clinic; Sangamon County Fairgrounds, 8:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

April

- 3rd..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 7th.....Good Friday (Office Closed)
- 9th.....Easter Sunday
- 10th..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 15th.....Large Animal Rescue Awareness Course
- 17th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20th.....Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 24th-28th.....Spring Ag-Venture Barn Tour, Locations TBD

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



Hello all! Hopefully, spring is right around the corner, and we will soon see tractors in the field! I am ready for some warm sunny weather! We have been busy starting the new year with some awesome, fun agricultural topics. We started off the year talking about where our ingredients come from to make a pizza! We discussed how everything that goes into making a pizza starts on a farm! In February, we spoke with students about Beef. We discussed many things; here are just a few things we talked about: some beef vocabulary terms, what beef cattle eat, what meat they provide our bodies and other by-products we get from them.



DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2022-23		D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
District 1	Brent Johnson	X	X										
	Michael Kinner	X	X										
	JD Sudeth (President)	X	X										
	Travis Stremsterfer	X	-										
District 2	David Mendenhall	X	X										
	Kevin Foran	-	X										
	Janet Edwards	X	X										
	Ethan Krone (Ass't Sec/Treas)	X	X										
District 3	Katie King	X	X										
	Mike Borgic (Treasurer)	X	X										
	Adam Bailey	-	-										
	Cathryn Ayers Seifert	X	X										
District 4	Kyle Beutke (Secretary)	X	X										
	Kirk Mendenhall	X	X										
	Matt Heissinger	-	X										
	Marty Fairchild	X	X										
At-Large	Charles Mayfield	X	X										
	Gary Reavis (VP)	X	-										
	George Sergot	-	-										
Committee Chairs:													
GEP Chair , Phil Sidles		X	X										
YL Chair , Charles Mayfield		n/a	X										
Women's Chair , Cassandra Bennett		-	-										

THE SANGAMO FARMER

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SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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 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



JD Sudeth

It's been a fairly mild winter and that's made windshield time in the semi a bit easier as we get our crops to market. That said, when not in the semi, there's never a dull moment because of so many meetings to attend.

The stage is set for a busy spring and summer in Congress. Farm Bill debate is cranking up for the inevitable showdown at the OK corral. The Farm Bill is always a massive and contentious bill, though many of the battles are not even farm related issues. One issue that has the ability to heavily affect farmers has been the potential for placing unreasonable burdens on farms is ESG. Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) is an evaluation of your business' performance with respect to these three subjects. Tying your eligibility for access to farm programs to a subjective scoring metric will harm farm businesses. During Illinois Farm Bureau policy discussions, Sangamon County Farm Bureau put together a policy proposal to eliminate the use of ESG scoring when it relates to Farm Bill debates or the farm programs that come from them. We were successful in getting the policy passed at the state Farm Bureau level. Then our own director on the IFB Board, Mark Reichert, carried the language to the American Farm Bureau Federation and was successful at getting it in their policy as well. Our organization's position will be clear to the members of Congress and the White House; we will fight to keep ESG out of the Farm Bill.

On the local and state level the hot topics are CO2 pipelines, wind and solar projects. During the Lame Duck session, the state legislature was successful in removing local control on some of these projects, undoing over 10 years of work by Sangamon County Farm Bureau in conjunction with Sangamon County government to place strict standards on the development and operation of wind and solar projects. Finally, I want to offer my congratulations to Katie King, who sits on our board, for organizing and spearheading the recent Farm Succession Planning event. It was a definite a success with a ton of valuable information. Attendees gave it very high marks. Thanks, Katie!

-Until next time, your President, JD Sudeth

Committee Reports

YOUNG LEADERS



Charles Mayfield

First off, I'd like to thank Stephen Prather for his many years serving as the Chair of the Young Leaders Committee. His leadership has been a true asset to our committee, and I am excited to follow in his footsteps for the year ahead.

Six of our members were able to attend the 2023 Young Leader Conference in East Peoria. Host of the U.S. Farm Report, Tyne Morgan, delivered a memorable keynote address. This conference is full of learning and networking opportunities for young leader members across the state. We welcomed many new faces at our February recruitment meeting/bowling night at Strike n' Spare Lanes. If you know of anyone that may be interested in joining, please reach out.

Looking ahead on March 14th, the FFA Acquaintance Day will be hosted at RCM Co-op's Riverton Elevator, followed by a tour of the LLCC Kreher Agriculture Center and an etiquette lunch. This event is a unique experience for the next generation of agriculture leaders. The Committee is hosting a Fill-A-Ford food drive on March 18th, benefiting Harvest for All and Central Illinois Food Bank. We will be stationed from 12-4 p.m. at Harvest Market. Stop by if you're in the area!



Phil Sidles

As I prepare this report, we are closing in on the deadline for new bills for the 103rd General Assembly. A typical year will have 4,000-5,000 bills submitted. That makes for a lot of work for legislative staff to review. As a prelude to this session of the General Assembly, the recent lame duck session immediately before this session provided a significant amount of poor and disappointing bills being passed.

This is also the time of year when many Farm Bureau leaders across the state travel to Springfield for the Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference. This is a great opportunity for us to get up to speed on upcoming matters we'll likely have to deal with within local, state, and federal levels of government. The conference wraps up with a legislative reception that allows us an opportunity to nurture relationships with our state and federal legislators.

In the middle of everything, we've been working through an onslaught of solar and wind project proposals. Most of the rights for county government to establish common sense ordinances were stripped away by the General Assembly during the dark hours of the lame duck session. Regardless of the weak new law, we will continue to work with our county government to find ways to guide the development of these projects in a manner that best represents our communities.

And did I mention that we still have a CO2 pipeline that can't seem to figure out quite what it wants to do. The plan is changing to include additional ethanol plants pumping into the pipeline and ever-changing storage requirements and locations. We will continue to follow the CO2 pipeline and the effects that it will have on our members. We will do everything we can to keep our members safe and protect the value of their property.

As we roll into spring, we are planning to hold an on-farm event with our county board and local officials. The purpose is to continue to build and solidify relationships while demonstrating the importance of agriculture in Sangamon County.

Finally, there's this little piece of federal legislation that we will need to be involved in this year. It's called the Farm Bill. As usual, you can plan for it to be a real dogfight. That's why our involvement is so important.

With all of this and more going on, it would be an understatement to say we have been busy.

Thanks for reading and remember this, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'"

Nominate Your Farm Employee!

Do you have a farm employee that goes the extra mile? Use the attached QR code to tell us about your outstanding Farm Employee. Each Sangamo Farmer will spotlight a new nominee and during the summer of 2023 one employee will be awarded the Farm Employee of the Year award!



Committee Reports

MEMBER & PR



Janet Edwards

Greetings!! As I look out the window, it is a bright sunny day in February. By the time this issue reaches you, hopefully, you will all have seen your fertilizer and seed representatives to make all the final plans for the 2023 crop year. Soon we will be back in the fields with the hope of another good year!

As for the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Member and PR committee, we are busy making plans for spring and summer activities.

The first of the activities we are hosting will be the Annual Trivia Night for the Foundation. This year it will be held at the Sherman Athletic Club on Saturday, March 4th. Doors open at 3:00 p.m., and Trivia will start at 4:00 p.m. If you are reading this and don't have plans yet for that night, get a group together and come enjoy an evening of Trivia and fellowship. (You can bring food in, but drinks must be purchased from the Athletic Club.)

In February, we held the first of two clinics for the Youth Expo. The second clinic will be held on Saturday, March 25th, at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds in New Berlin. The Youth Expo will be held on Saturday, July 15th, at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds. I will have more information on this in the next issue.

Another activity that the dates are already set for is the Ag-Stravaganza. Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 23rd, for this annual event.

The Spring Ag-Venture Barn Tour will be held the week of April 24-28. If you have never been able to help with this event in the spring or fall but would have a morning or afternoon available during this week to help school kids see the barn, I would strongly encourage you to volunteer. It makes you feel good to know that you get to give a "hands-on" experience to children who do not get the advantage of the farm life we have known and love! As always, if you see a committee you would like to do some volunteer work for, please get a hold of the office and let them know. We would love to have you on any of them!! Until the next issue, remember to SPRING forward on March 12th and have a Blessed Easter season!! Be Safe, and God Bless!

WOMEN'S



Cassie Bennett

Hello Farmers!

Hard to believe it's time to think about planting already! But I will take those warmer temps! The Women's Committee is gearing up for our annual Spring Fling on March 16th. Be sure and reserve your seat today;

we will be hosting Trooper Tracey as our guest speaker, and she is sure to be a great time! As always, feel free to join us at our monthly meeting as well! Have a safe (hopefully dry) planting season!

RULES FOR THE ROAD - 2023

Learn more about trucking regulations to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road.

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY

22 ND AT 10 AM	RANDOLPH CFB	23 RD AT 10 AM	WILLIAMSON CFB
22 ND AT 6 PM	CLAY CFB	27 TH AT 10 AM	CASS-MORGAN CFB

MARCH

1 ST AT 6 PM	MACON CFB*	9 TH AT 6 PM	LASALLE CFB
2 ND AT 9 AM	MONTGOMERY CFB	14 TH AT 6 PM	KANE CFB
7 TH AT 9 AM	FORD-IROQUOIS CFB	15 TH AT 6 PM	KNOX CFB
7 TH AT 6 PM	WOODFORD CFB	15 TH AT 10 AM	JO DAVIESS CFB

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members

REGISTRATION OPENS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.

*Virtual option available

THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



Jim Birge

I'm always excited to see Spring bring us out of the winter slump and begin the newness and birth of life again. It's time to get back outdoors on a regular basis and get everything ready to work ground and get a new crop planted. Those with cattle hopefully have a full herd of newborn calves to raise. What an exciting and refreshing time to experience!

Invariably, this also brings about the activities of advancing legislation through the state and federal committee process in both the House and Senate. As each bill makes its way through the process, we occasionally send out action requests to affect their outcome. You can bet the bills will rise to be voted on when our members are busiest in the fields and tending to their livestock. Farm Bureau can't pick when the issues occur, we can only ask our members for their participation when things happen.

This year has already brought our country lots of surprises, some good, some not. And we may have some real challenges in the Statehouse. So, my plea to every one of our members is to watch out for action requests and then follow the simple steps to take the appropriate action. It's not hard, it literally takes only a minute to do. And most importantly, every member taking action is the only way we'll be successful in protecting the way you farm and the very ability for you to farm at all.

The opposition to our policies and beliefs are growing in both number and funding. Believe me when I say they will win most of the battles to hinder your farm or put you out of business altogether, that is unless you lend your voice and action to the efforts of Farm Bureau to protect your farm. Without your voice, **WE WILL LOSE** and ultimately your farm will lose.

I strongly encourage each of you to sign up for the FB ACT program. It'll alert you when issues need your input and provide you a simple ability to act quickly and easily. All you need to do to sign up is text "FARM" to 52886 or go to www.sangamonfb.org and scroll down to the FB ACT logo. Click on the logo and complete the short sign-up form.

Thank you to all those members who take the minute every time we need their voice. Each of you have and do make a difference. It only takes a few calls to a legislator to bring an issue to the top of their priorities.



Saturday, March 11th, 5:30 p.m.

Prairie View Reception Center | 8865 State Route 4 , Chatham

Dinner Silent Auction 50/50 Raffle

Entertainment by Terry Blome bringing some *Hypnotic Humor*

All are welcome! The event is open to the public.

Event tickets are \$20 each & available PRE-EVENT ONLY ending 3/1/2023 | Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Ticket request forms are available at <https://go.illinois.edu/SangamonFundraiser>

Payment accepted via PayPal to @sangco4hfoundation or

Checks payable to Sangamon County 4-H Foundation and mailed to 700 S. Airport Drive, Springfield, IL 62707

If you have questions, Please call Katie Mendenhall Wilson at 217-685-1740

Scholarship Applications!

Sangamon County Farm Bureau 2023 Foundation Scholarship

Application Criteria:

- Be a high school senior graduating in 2023 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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For the Application & more Information Visit:
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Phone: 217-753-5200 | Fax: 217-753-5210

The Foundation
Scholarship &
William N Etherton
Scholarship are due
on March 31, 2023.

To submit an
application please
visit:

[www.sangamonfb.org/
scholarships](http://www.sangamonfb.org/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 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, 2023. For the scholarship application and more information, please visit www.sangamonfb.org.



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SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

TRIVIA NIGHT

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Must be 18+ to Participate

50/50 Raffle • Door Prizes
Basket Raffle • Mulligans

AND MORE...

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go online at SangamonFB.org/Events

MARCH 4TH, 2023

3:00 PM
DOORS OPEN

4:00 PM
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\$100 for a team of
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\$15 per individual



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8-10 Players, Round Sponsorship

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BENEFIT**



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Foundation

in order to provide scholarships to local students and
funding for agricultural education programs

QUESTIONS?

Call 217-753-5200 or email
Aleka@Sangamonfb.org

HOSTED BY:



HUNTERS SAFETY COURSE

March 10th & March 11th
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

2631 Beechler Court, Springfield

*Open to our members first,
then non-members if there is remaining space.*

**RSVP: call 217-753-5200 or
email mtaylor@sangamonfb.org by March 7**



**FILL-A-FORD
FOOD
DRIVE**

HARVEST FOR ALL

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

**MARCH 18, 2023
12-4PM**

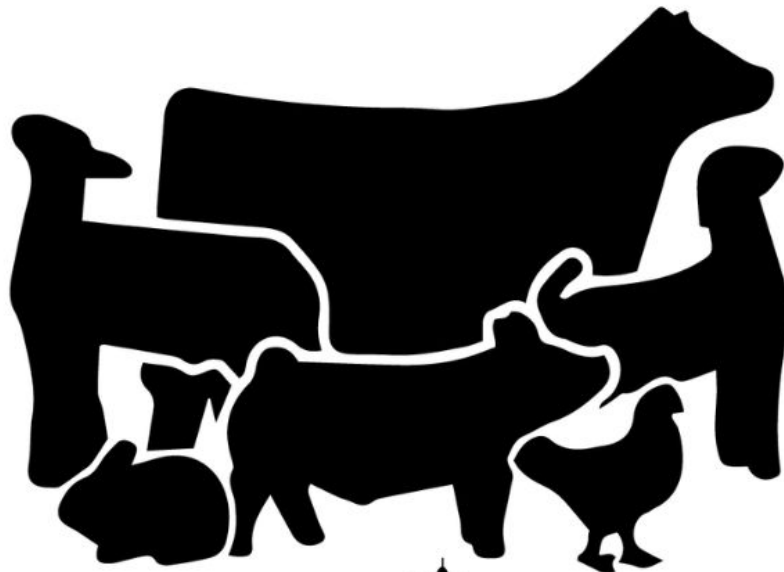
HARVEST MARKET.
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Springfield, IL

Proceeds Benefit: Truck Supplied by: **Go Further**

SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
MAKING GRASSROOTS WORK FOR YOU

Youth Clinic

Sangamon County Fairgrounds - Saturday, March 25th



RSVP Here!





Let us help you with your Easter Egg Hunt or Basket-filling. Purchase Pre-filled Easter Eggs from us!

We'll fill eggs with non-hard candy suitable for all ages. (We can NOT guarantee allergen-free)

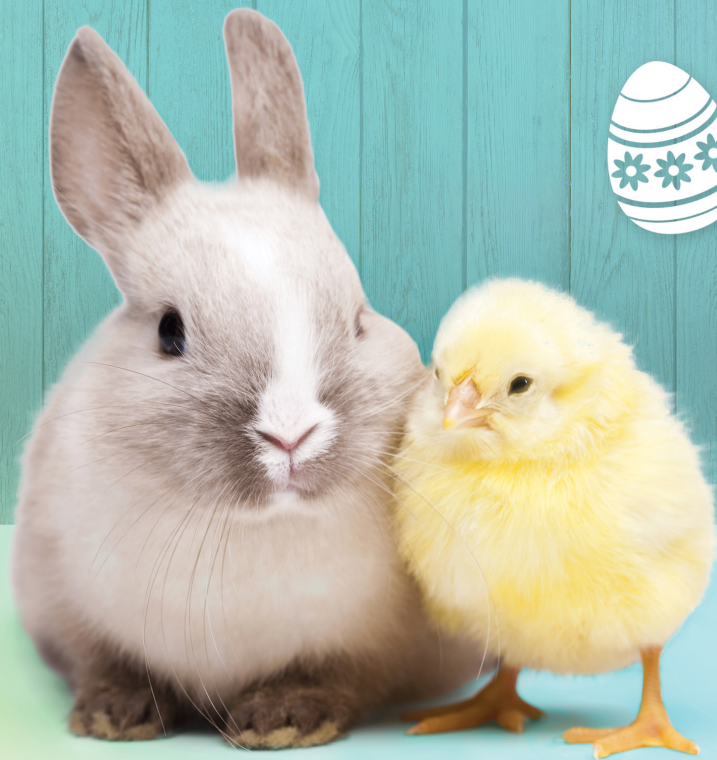
100% of the proceeds will go to the Agricultural Education Partnership Ag in the Classroom Program.

Pick-up dates will be Wednesday, April 5th, and Thursday, April 6th at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau office from 8 AM-5 PM.

Please visit the Sangamon County Farm Bureau website to place and pay for your order. Orders must be received by March 31st. If you have any questions, please call our office at 217-753-5200.

20 EGGS	\$20.00
40 EGGS	\$30.00
60 EGGS	\$40.00
80 EGGS	\$50.00
100 EGGS	\$60.00





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Sangamon County Farm Bureau
2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, IL 62703

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