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Phone: (217) 753-5200 • www.sangamonfb.org • farmbureau@sangamonfb.org Springfield, IL • Volume MMXXIII Number 5

Upcoming Meetings & Events

September

4th	Labor Day (Office Closed)
5th	
14th	
18th	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
25th-29th	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
and	October Covernmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 7:00 n m

2nd......Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 16th......Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

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



THE SANGAMO FARMER

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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: JD Sudeth Vice-President: Gary Reavis Secretary: Kyle Beutke Treasurer: Mike Borgic Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Ethan Krone Periodical Class Postage Paid at Springfield, Illinois

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unty Farm Bureau includes payment of \$2 per
ear for a subscription to the Sangamo Farmer.

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2022-23		D	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	А	S	0	Ν
District 1	Brent Johnson	Х	Х	Х	-	-	Х	Х	Х				
	Michael Kinner	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	Х				
	JD Sudeth (President)	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	Х				
	Travis Stremsterfer	Х	-	-	Х	-	Х	Х	Х				
District 2	David Mendenhall		Х	Х	-	-	Х	Х	Х				
	Kevin Foran	-	Х	Х	Х	-	-	-	Х				
	Janet Edwards	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	-	Х				
	Ethan Krone (Ass't Sec/Treas)	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	Х				
District 3	Katie King	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	-	-	-				
	Mike Borgic (Treasurer)	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	Х				
	Adam Bailey	-	-	Х	-	-	-	-	Х				Γ
	Vacant	n/a											
District 4	Kyle Beutke (Secretary)	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	-	Х				Г
	Kirk Mendenhall	Х	Х	-	-	-	-	Х	Х				Γ
	Mike Brooks	n/a				Γ							
	Marty Fairchild	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	-	Х	-				
At-Large	Charles Mayfield	Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	Х				
	Gary Reavis (VP)	Х	-	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	Х				
	Scott Landrey	n/a											
Committee	Chairs:												
GEP Chair, Phil Sidles		Х	Х	Х	Х	-	Х	Х	-				
Women's Chair, Cassandra Bennett		-	-	Х	-	-	Х	-	Х				

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP Legan, Menard, Sangamon County

Whew, summer again flew on by! The Ag in the Classroom program had another busy summer. We started off the summer with our first Summer Ag Institute for teachers. We had a small group, but we had a great time touring many different agricultural commodities. The teachers learned about potato farming, irrigation, dairy cows, bees, and grain elevators just to name a few. I look forward to next year's institute! We then jumped into the Sangamon County Fair, where kids could stop by and play a duck pond math game along with Spin-to-Win that had agriculture questions on it. If the students answered correctly, they got a farm prize! We certainly had fun at this year's fair! At the end of June, I attended the Summer Bus Trip that the Member & PR,

along with the Women's Committee, put together. I had so much fun learning about Ostriches and Horseradish. In July, I helped with the Sangamon County Youth Expo. I certainly enjoyed my time helping the youth of Sangamon County with their animals while also getting to visit with farm bureau members. The end of July came quickly, and I attended the Ag-Stravaganza event for the public day as well as the daycare day. This year I brought an activity called My IL Ag Charm. Each child received a small bag with different items that Illinois is known for and then got to put a piece of yarn through the hole to make a necklace for them to wear. Each child also received a My IL Ag Charm bookmark to show what each item represented in their bag.

Every summer seems to "fly by" quicker and quicker, and I am ready to get back into the schools! I have some FUN educational activities put together for this upcoming school year for the Ag in the Classroom Program! Here's a hint on how our program starts this year; these take 21 days to hatch and are quite cute when they do!!! I hope each one of you has a safe harvest season!

Sincerely, Candice McKow







Sangamon County Farm Bureau

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



JD Sudeth

In my last column in the July/August issue of the Sangamo Farmer, I spoke about the serious need for rain. I think I can put that request to bed now for most areas of central Illinois. I don't really think that I had much to do with getting rain, but whoever did was really motivated!

I recently attended the Illinois Farm Bureau County Presidents Conference. We received updates on various matters of changes to staffing within the organization, as well as status updates of matters being worked on for our member benefits. Believe me; there's a lot going on in both areas. The one topic that I'd like to focus on the most in this issue of my column is the ongoing opposition to the Navigator CO2 pipeline. This issue is

known to many living or working in rural areas. But it didn't seem to be for those living and working in urban areas until recently. You may have seen media reports of a public hearing hosted by the Zoning and Land Use Committee of the County Board. That meeting brought approximately five hundred concerned people out to voice their concerns and opposition to the pipeline. Although people had individual perspectives regarding the project, the overwhelming concern centered around safety or the lack of it. We put out a request for our members to show up to display their opposition or support for the project. Although we understandably had members on both sides, the vast majority of our members were in opposition, which is the official position of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau. Since that time, the County Board has voted to continue its moratorium on the construction of both the pipeline and storage wells within our county. Thank you to all who attended the hearing. Your voices were heard with thunderous clarity. That's why the moratorium vote within the County Board was unanimously in opposition of the project. Farm Bureau often reminds our members that their collective presence and voices can and do affect change. This was a shining example of that very truth. THANK YOU!

Like our GEP Committee Chair, Phil Sidles said in his column, I'd better wrap up this issue and get to work. Fall is nearly here.

Until next time, have a successful harvest with as few breakdowns or issues as possible, and remember to be safe.

Your President, JD Sudeth

Committee Reports



Charles Mayfield

As summer winds down, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and productive harvest. The Young Leaders Committee had a busy end of summer with many events. We enjoyed our summer outing at the ballpark to see the Springfield Lucky Horseshoes take on the Normal Cornbelters. We saw plenty of action as the Cornbelters secured the win 20-12. It was a fun night for all, and we enjoyed seeing new faces! The committee gathered at a sweet corn patch to help pick corn to donate to the Central Illinois Foodbank. The truck left with its bed nearly overflowing with sweet corn. At delivery, we were thrilled to hear that 1,474 pounds of sweet corn was donated. A new record for our

committee! This goes toward our harvest for all totals but ultimately benefits those in need in our communities. Thank you to those who provided the plot, the donation, and the members who helped pick it.

Lastly, we were seen volunteering at Ag-Stravaganza in Sherman. Our members helped man the Ag in the Classroom, Livestock, Grains, and Equipment Stations. The event was a success and a great way for us to educate the public and youth on agriculture. Thank you to all of our members who spent time volunteering with us this summer!

Committee Reports



Phil Sidles

There never seems to be a lack of issues to monitor or address within the Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee. The constant drumbeat of government never ceases, whether at the federal, state, or local level. They're always working hard to "help" us.

On the federal level, we have a multitude of things happening. First, there's the Farm Bill. Our Farm Bill is set to expire this month, yet Congress is already months behind in their work toward completing a bill. Many in Congress and on the House and Senate Ag Committees have never written a Farm Bill, which could make matters more complicated. Make sure to tell your Congressperson that everyone (farmers and non-farmers) needs certainty for the Farm Bill's benefits. The lack of a Farm Bill or at

least an extension of the current one would devastate all.

Another federal matter causing great angst among farmers is the current process the USEPA is conducting to consider any changes to the labeled use of atrazine. Similar concerns lie ahead for 24-D, glyphosate, and dicamba chemistries. Obviously, these are the staple chemistries that farmers have relied upon for years to protect



crops from competing weeds. Without them, our toolbox would be nearly empty.

There's not as much formally going on at the state level since the General Assembly is not currently in session. That said, many unofficial discussions are happening on issues that could affect agriculture. We'll keep you posted as they officially surface and we have more details.

The local level has been busy as well. Please look to the President's column in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer to learn more from JD Sudeth.

Well, I have to go now. Lots to do as we look toward ramping up harvest. Be safe as you get busy in the field.



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Committee Reports

MEMBER & PR



Janet Edwards

Can you believe summer is almost over? Where did it go? Harvest will soon be upon us, and a lot of you will be out on those big machines gathering the 2023 crop. For a while, some of the committees will not be as busy with Farm Bureau activities as they have been during the summer.

With that being said, I would like to give you a quick recap of what Sangamon County Farm Bureau has been doing during the summer. In June, we started with a Summer Bus Trip that the Women's and Member & PR committees sponsored. We visited an ostrich farm and a horseradish farm in Southern Illinois. The day was warm, but we learned that there are other types of farming in Illinois and that we are very lucky to have the types of soil we do. In July, the Foundation Golf Outing was held at the Edgewood Golf Club in

Auburn. We then went to New Berlin at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds for our

4th Youth Expo. The kids of Sangamon County Farm Bureau were offered the chance to showcase their animals again this year. In addition to the cattle, swine, sheep, and goats, classes were also offered for rabbits and chickens. The exhibitors were treated to lunch from Taft's and an icee treat from Kona Ice of Taylorville. A quick reminder to the exhibitors and their parents, please make sure to say THANK YOU to our sponsors for their help in making this event possible. Without them, we would not be able to hold such a great event for the youth.

The next weekend took us to the park in Sherman for Ag-Stravaganza. We were very happy with the turnout of visitors stopping by the park to see all of the farm equipment and learn about agriculture from our members and volunteers. I would like to thank Mrs. Agans and the Tri-City FFA for taking care of all the animals in the barn and all who helped with this event. (I like to see our future Young Leaders learning how to volunteer for their organizations.) It again was a very warm weekend, and without all of our volunteers on the committees, we could not be the kind of organization we are to put together something like this event to educate the public.

Speaking of volunteers, we just held our second Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds in late August. This was a time when we actually got the chance to say "THANK YOU" to those who work on the committees that keep us going! While I'm on the subject of thank you, when you see the office staff, please be sure to thank them for all they do. They are the ones that keep the committee chairmen going!

As I said at the beginning of this article, harvest will soon be upon us, and summer will be just a memory. Please, pray for a safe and bountiful harvest season! Until the next article, may God Bless you all!!





Cassie Bennett

Hello Farmers!

Hope you all had a great summer and had lots of fun! The Women's Committee took a wonderful bus trip to an ostrich farm and a horseradish farm! It was so interesting, and I learned so many interesting facts! Did you know that you can stand on an ostrich egg without it cracking? I even jumped on

one to test it out! We are gearing up for harvest and getting all our equipment ready, which means women's committee harvest buckets are right around the corner! Be on the lookout for one in your area! As a reminder, we're always looking to add to our women's committee. If you or someone you know is interested, join us at our next meeting on Thursday, September 14th. I hope everyone has a safe and dry harvest!



September / October 2023

THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



Jim Birge

Wow! What a busy summer. As you may have read within the pages of the Sangamo Farmer, Sangamon County Farm Bureau had a ton of events and activities this summer. But all of that is coming to a screeching halt as our members shift gears to prepare for harvest. Internally, our staff will have some time to clean up all the messes in our office resulting from all those events. It's when we get to catch our breath and begin planning for the next round of events. In my case specifically, the fun never ends. Dealing with CO2 pipeline challenges, wind / solar projects, the Farm Bill (or more importantly, the lack of one), regulatory challenges to some of our most effective and trusted crop protection chemicals, and on and on.

When thinking about how fast summer and all its activities went, it brought me to thinking about time itself. September is my birth month, so here comes another year older. That said, I was recently in a meeting at the Brandt Consolidated headquarters and had an always pleasurable chat with Evelyn Brandt Thomas. At that time, she was just two weeks away from celebrating her 100th birthday. So, HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVELYN BRANDT THOMAS! She is an amazing woman. She still goes to the office almost every day and keeps a sharp eye on all that is happening. She's a true example of what farm women are and do.

So, off we go into the busy but magical time of harvest. Like many, I always enjoy seeing all the action and how it changes the landscape almost overnight. It's also time for me to head out into the woods to do some bowhunting and just escape in the quiet of nature.

I'll wrap up with a wish. I wish each of you a safe, enjoyable, and successful fall. It takes a lot of people and a lot of time to get through harvest. Remember to take enough time to rest and keep your mind alert. Accidents can happen in an instant. Safety comes first. Trust me, your family would agree.

13th Annual Jourdation Golf

Friday, July 7, 2023 \$*8,700* Raised for the Scholarship Program



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Transport by Trailer College move-in successful minus the pigs

The gal in the neighboring dorm room rented a U-Haul to transport her belongings to college. Other families had minivans with the back seats removed for their students. We had a pickup truck pulling a livestock trailer that stated the name and location of our farm.

I avoided eye contact with the upper-classmen helpers as my dad removed the pin, lifted the bar lock assembly and swung open the rear gate. With ease, the trailer held my bookshelf, mini-fridge, microwave and television with built-in VCR. I grabbed a lamp and headed to my second-floor room. Perhaps the volunteers didn't realize this rig hauled pigs most other days of the year.

For six consecutive years, livestock trailers hauled my brother or me to college. Later, they moved us to new homes. The trailers were "special-event spotless," or as clean as possible with a pressure washer and relentless focus on the toughest layers of manure. We cleaned the trailers with the same precision for a shining appearance at the county 4-H fair livestock shows.

My college move-in experience merely represented the norm for a farm kid: Farmers maximizing the potential of their farm equipment. As a child, Mom swam in a large, round livestock water tank, which served the cattle when she and her brothers were done with it. Old tractor tires became sandboxes. The hayrack doubled as a float in the homecoming parade. We used the farm shop for our wedding reception.

By my senior year, I appreciated the practicality of our pig-turned-furniture hauler. Now, our kids witness my tolerance of embarrassment. The minivan (my farm car) has mudflaps and rugged, all-terrain tires. I take an insulated delivery bag into the local pizza places. Mistaken for DoorDash, I explain the bag keeps both pizza and field meals warm in transit to rural locations.

So if you see a livestock trailer backing with ease to the neighboring sidewalk, admire the skill. Then, just realize it's likely not a cow moving in next door, but rather someone with some unique resources potentially sharable with friends.

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

Welcome Russel & Billie Miner to the Farmers Hall of Fame!

Russel and Billie Miner dedicated their lives to Faith, Family, and Farming.

In 1933, Russel was born in Waverly, IL, and was raised in rural Nortonville, where his father farmed. He served in the United States Army as a Gun Mechanic during the Korean War. Billie, born Willetta Bachmann, grew up on her family farm in rural Pleasant Plains, IL. She was the 4th generation to farm that land. Russel and Billie married in February of 1955 and resided on Billie's family farm for their

entire 67-year marriage.

After a series of misfortunate events, Russel was left saying, "What next"? Subsequently, they named their farm the What Next Farm. At its peak, their farm was over 1,000 acres. It included both grain and cattle and feeder pigs. Russel spent summers traveling as a hail adjuster for The Hartford while Billie managed the crops, livestock, and raising their three daughters. They also served as seed dealers for PAG seeds.

In their early years, they had a strong passion for tractor pulling, where they became



as well known as the Wards tractor they pulled. They finished at the top of most pulls in both the men's and women's classes. While they had rivals on the track, they made lifelong friends outside the competition. Russel's Wards tractor won the 5,000lb M & W National Tractor Pulling Championship in 1969. In their later years, restoring, collecting, and showing antique tractors was their passion. It took them all over the country and is what most people know them for today. Three of their tractors have been featured in calendars and on Classic Tractor Fever.

Russel was always quick to share a story from a life experience that ideally related to the situation you found yourself in. Billie was much quieter but worked hard behind the scenes to keep the farm and family going. They were incredibly active at Zion Lutheran Church in Pleasant Plains, where Russel served in many roles, including Trustee, Elder, and Church Council. Billie played the organ for church services for over 50 years and was an active member of the Mary Martha Guild.

These few facts and tidbits don't fully encapsulate the magnitude of their influence and commitment to their community and agriculture. They were steadfast in their role of being stewards of the land that they farmed. Even committing to 100% no-till farming in the early 90s and their farms remain in practice today. Russel and Billie's legacy lives on through their family and the countless people they helped while serving the community.

2023 Recipients Russel & Billie Miner Pleasant Plains, IL

Welcome Joseph S. Pickrell to the Farmers Hall of Fame!

Joseph S. Pickrell was born August 4, 1947, to John and Carolyn Pickrell of Buffalo, Illinois. He was raised on the family farm just south of Lanesville. In 1966 he married Marilyn Bice. They have three children Michele (Frank) D'Antonio, Joseph J. (Laura) Pickrell, and Jason (Kelly) Pickrell.

Joe graduated from Illinois State University in 1969 with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education. He went on to teach Vocational Agriculture in Herrick and Cuba, Illinois. In the spring of 1973, he returned to the family farm. During his tenure, the farm grew from 640 acres to over 3900 acres. He raised corn, soybeans, cattle, and sheep.

Joe was very active in agriculture organizations locally as well as on the state and national level. He was the Illinois State Young Farmer Discussion Meet Champion in 1975. He has served on the



Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board, as well as numerous committees. He was very active in the GROWMARK system serving over forty years on the Boards of Sangamon County FS, LincolnLand FS, and Priarieland FS. He resided as President of LLFS and PLFS for twenty years.

Joe retired from farming in 2021 but is still very active in the farm as Manager of the family land holding company, Pickrell Family LLC.

2023 Recipient Joseph Pickrell Buffalo, IL

Thank you to the following Board of Directors for their dedication to the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board!



Above: Cathryn Seifert, of Waverly, served 9 years on the board.

Not pictured: George Sergot, of Pleasant Plains, served 4 years on the board.



Above: Matt Heissinger, of Rochester, served 9 years on the board.

September / October 2023

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The Sangamon County Farm Bureau was thrilled to have 67 exhibitors participate in the 2023 Youth Expo. Thank

you to all our sponsors & volunteers for making this event possible!



Ag-Stravaganza





The 2023 event was a great success, with multiple stations covering various sectors of the Agriculture industry. We had around 200 people attend on Sunday afternoon and close to 300 daycare kids on Monday! Thank you to all our volunteers & sponsors!







Drawing 12/1/23 Need not be present to win



Call the office at 217-753-5200 to purchase tickets

Proceeds benefit the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation in order to provide scholarships to local students and funding for agricultural education programs.



Sangamon County Farm Bureau 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, IL 62703

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