



# THE SANGAMON *Farmer*

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023



Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through  
Education and Grassroots Legislation

Phone: (217) 753-5200 • [www.sangamonfb.org](http://www.sangamonfb.org) • [farmbureau@sangamonfb.org](mailto:farmbureau@sangamonfb.org)

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# Upcoming Meetings & Events

## January

- 2nd.....New Year's Day (Observed-Office Closed)
- 9th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 9th.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 12th.....Member & PR Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- 16th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19th.....Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 20th-22nd.....Young Leader Conference, Embassy Suites East Peoria
- 26th.....Farm Succession Planning, Northfield Inn Conference Center, 6:00 p.m.

## February

- 6th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 13th..... Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16th..... Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 20th..... Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 23rd..... Farm Bureau Gathering, Chatham Creek, 6:00 p.m.

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



Our Ag in the Classroom program has a few new team members for this school year. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome back Rachel Frost, who helped before COVID with this fantastic program. We have another new member Kayla Breedwell who is joining us this school year and helping with Logan County as Amy Hyde has retired. Amy Hyde has retired however she has decided to stay with us and volunteer her time to help continue promoting this educational program throughout Logan County. I am excited to have these wonderful ladies on our Ag in the Classroom team and look forward to a fantastic year! We have been busy promoting Apples and Pork to the students in the first couple of months of school. We are off to a fun year of Ag in the Classroom! Stay tuned for what commodities we will be discussing in the new year!



I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and that everyone stays as healthy as possible!

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

### THE SANGAMO FARMER

Published bi-monthly by the <b>Sangamon County Farm Bureau</b> James Birge, Editor Periodical # 481320 <b>SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU</b> 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	Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Sangamo Farmer 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 <b>DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF</b> Manager: James Birge, FBCM Outreach & Communication: Madison Taylor Finance/Membership: Arika Leka Ag in the Classroom: Candice McKown 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.
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**JD Sudeth**

As every new year begins, we all hope for a fresh start and a good year ahead. I wish that for all our members. I'm sure everyone could use a wish like that.

Now that the IFB Annual Meeting is over and the debate regarding new policy resolutions is complete, I'd say we won some and lost some. Unfortunately, regarding solar and wind projects, I'd say we lost some. But as many of you know, this subject will not go away anytime soon. We'll continue to fight to represent the members of Sangamon County both here at home and within the Illinois Farm Bureau.

The Heartland Navigator CO2 pipeline was another contentious debate at the annual meeting. Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau did a fine job of helping the rest of the state understand what the thirteen impacted counties are confronted with and the safety concerns that we continue to investigate. Again, Sangamon CFB will continue to represent our members, especially when it comes to safety concerns. This is another issue that we will continue to fight.

As you can see, a lot is going on. The General Assembly is gearing up for another session, which means the Farm Bureau system will be on high alert for any harmful legislation affecting our members. However, we will also be pushing our policies for legislation that benefits farming and all of agriculture in this state.

-Until next time, your President, JD Sudeth

## Committee Reports

MEMBER & PR



**Janet Edwards**

Greetings!! Here's hoping you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and that you remembered the "reason for the season" at some point during your celebrations.

As I am writing this article for the Sangamo Farmer, we have just returned from the annual meeting in Chicago at the Palmer House. We got to see old friends and relatives from all over the state and missed a few who are no longer actively involved in the policy-making part of the organization.

Our next event will take place on February 23rd; the Farm Bureau Community Gathering will be held at Chatham Creek at 6:00 p.m. We are finalizing plans for the TRIVIA Night at the Sherman Athletic Club on Saturday, March 4th.

You are welcome to bring snacks & food in for the event, but ALL drinks will have to be purchased at the club. Doors will open at 3:00 p.m., with Trivia starting at 4:00 p.m. There is a flier for Trivia Night in this issue. So, get a group of friends together, sponsor a table, and come test your trivia knowledge for a fun evening of fellowship and helping raise money for the Foundation. We also need round sponsors for that evening. If you can't participate by coming, consider sponsoring a round.

Sangamon County Farm Bureau also offers clothing with the SCFB logo on them. An order will soon be going in, so if you were/are thinking about purchasing some items, please go to the website and get your order in.

The committee is working on other projects as well, and we will keep you, the membership, up to date on activities as we get them planned.

Again, as I always ask, please consider getting involved in the Sangamon County Farm Bureau by getting active on a committee. It's a good way to connect with old and new friends!!

Until next time, stay safe and warm!! God Bless!!



**Phil Sidles**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! It's hard to imagine that we are in 2023 already. But a lot has happened since my last report. So let's get caught up.

The elections were interesting. Here in Illinois, I'd say it went nearly the way it was expected to go. As we look ahead, the political mix and climate will look much the same as it has been for several years. Farm Bureau's efforts will likely focus on many familiar legislative issues. They never really go away; they just pop back up in a slightly different form.

One of the items that makes Farm Bureau the grassroots organization it's proud to be is our policy development process. Each year that process ends at the IFB Annual Meeting, where over 350 delegates across the state meet to debate policy proposals. The results of the debates set the policy that will govern Illinois Farm Bureau's actions throughout 2023. A few of the policies that did and did not pass the delegate body include:

- New policy strengthening Farm Bureau's commitment to improving mental health services for farm families. PASSED
- New policy to further address food insecurity needs. PASSED
- Expanded policy to address organic agriculture and specialty crops. PASSED
- Policy to oppose the use of Environmental, Social, and Governance scoring or other subjective scoring methods for federal farm policy debate and any farm programs. PASSED
- Efforts to locate solar energy projects on marginal or underused lands, including brownfield sites, highway right-of-ways, entrance and exit ramps, rest areas, welcome centers, embankments, and on IDNR non-tillable properties, on urban and rural rooftops, vacant lots, farmsteads, and or over parking areas, rather than highly productive, tillable farmland. PASSED
- Requiring telecommunications companies to remove abandoned or obsolete above-ground telecommunications fixtures from right-of-ways or to properly maintain them, if still in use. PASSED

As is usually the case in our delegate debates, a few policy resolutions garnered a lot of solid discussions. As in past years, the contentious debates focused on commercial wind, solar, and pipeline projects. Probably the most controversial debate was the debate on a moratorium on CO2 pipeline projects until improved government safety requirements are completed. This policy did not pass and become IFB policy.

Sangamon County Farm Bureau will continue to add to our existing local policy positions to represent our members. In addition, we will continue the discussion on these matters at the state Farm Bureau level and hope for additional policy.

Until next time, stay safe and warm this winter.

## YOUNG LEADERS



**Stephen Prather**

Hello from the train as I return from the IFB Annual meeting in Chicago.

We had multiple young leaders attend the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago to network with fellow Farm Bureau members and learn new skills on how we might progress forward as an organization in these uncertain times. We were also delighted to have Eddie Montgomery there on Saturday for a night of fun and fellowship.

This winter, we hosted a food drive to collect non-perishable and monetary donations for the Harvest for All state challenge. We appreciate Harvest Market for hosting us once again. If you missed this event, please drop off non-perishables or monetary donations at the office through February to show your support.

We are still preparing for our annual FFA Acquaintance Day this spring with a tour of a local agricultural business in the county, followed by an etiquette dinner for the FFA students.

Please join us for some fun and shared knowledge of the Ag industry. Call the office with any questions about the Young Leader Committee, and feel free to join us for our next meeting on January 9th at 6:00 p.m.

## WOMEN'S



**Cassie Bennett**

Hello SCFB members! I hope you all had a wonderful harvest season and you were all able to rest up! The Women's Committee had a great turnout for the Fall Luncheon. We all made our own candles to take home. It was great to see some familiar faces! The Women's Committee also donated an excellent gift basket for the IFB silent auction in Chicago. The committee was invited to attend our annual Winter Luncheon, which was held at the Village Tea Room. The ladies enjoyed a wonderful lunch and fellowship! Finally, our committee sent a care basket to the Donald McDonald House to assist them with items they most need throughout the year; we hope our basket is able to make a difference this holiday season. Our next committee meeting will be in January; join us!

### **2023 Introduction to Beekeeping!**

Explore the fascinating world of honey bees and the steps to becoming a beekeeper at "Introduction to Beekeeping." This series is designed for someone interested in starting beekeeping or would just like to learn more about honey bees. Topics that will be covered by experienced beekeepers includes life of the bee, common pests and diseases, bee equipment, how to assemble bee equipment, new package installation, how to inspect a hive, and care of the colony.

This year's six-part series will be offered in person and via zoom on Thursdays, February 16 and 23, March 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 6 to 7:30 pm. In addition to the weekly sessions, participants will be encouraged to listen to pre-recorded videos and review reading material. If weather permits, an outdoor hive viewing inspection will be held on the last night.

This program is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension Logan-Menard-Sangamon Unit, Sangamon County Farm Bureau, and Prairie State Beekeepers. Registration fee of \$45 includes copy of First Lessons in Beekeeping book, shipping of book is an additional charge. Advance registration is required and is on-line via the U of I Extension Logan-Menard-Sangamon events webpage. Class size will be limited. Registration is open January 3 to February 10. Questions, call the Extension office at (217) 782-4617.

# THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



**Jim Birge**

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope all the holiday activities and New Year's events have been plentiful and enjoyable for you. Mine was most enjoyable with family and friends.

While many of us are blessed with a variety of abundance, it's getting harder for everyone to absorb high grocery costs, fuel costs, farm input costs, interest expenses, etc. We all must decide how best to use our resources to cover everything. For some, this task is more complicated than for others. For our farmers, the costs to operate their farms are massive, and challenging choices must be made. Can/should I replace a piece of equipment this year (if I can even find one)? What can I do to trim my fertilizer costs? Interest on my operating account is high. All of these thoughts and questions bring a high level of stress. As we begin this new year and growing season, I want each of you to keep something in mind; If you or

someone you know is experiencing mental health difficulties, don't brush it off as just having a rough patch. Choosing not to receive help or not being willing to offer it costs lives. These situations occur all around us every day. Some of them will end tragically. We all need to be more accepting of these matters. It is not the individual's fault or weakness. Mental health is physical help for your brain, just like any other part of your body.

Please write down this number and put it in your wallet or purse. I carry it at all times. You truly never know when you might need it for yourself or someone you love. The phone number is 1-833-FARM-SOS (833-327-6767). Farm families can call or text it to reach the Illinois farmer mental health hotline. Calls are anonymous and private. So even if you're feeling a little down and don't know how to get back up or up to experiencing thoughts of suicide, you can call or text to talk to experts.

The new year holds many fantastic opportunities for each of us. Consciously deciding to see the best in life is a healthy attitude that promotes a healthy mental state. So, as we move forward, I wish you bright, shiny days around you and within you.

## *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 be received by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Office by March 31, 2023. For the scholarship application and more information, please visit [www.sangamonfb.org](http://www.sangamonfb.org).



## 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.

For the Application & more Information Visit:  
[www.sangamonfb.org](http://www.sangamonfb.org) | 2631 Beechler Ct. Springfield, IL 62703  
Phone: 217-753-5200 | Fax: 217-753-5210



# Apply Now

**Scholarship Application Period  
JANUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 15**



# 2022 Farm Women of the Year Marlene Rahe



We are proud to award the 2022 Farm Woman of the Year award to Marlene Rahe! Marlene has dedicated many years to the Sangamon County Farm Bureau. We appreciate her endless dedication to her family, farm, and agriculture! Outside of Farm Bureau, Marlene retired from Memorial Medical Center after working for 40-plus years as a nurse. Currently, she is involved with the Trinity Lutheran Church of Auburn, Lutheran for Life, and the Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield. Not to mention her active involvement as a long-time 4H leader of the Town & Country 4H Club. Marlene is willing to go above and beyond for the family farm by delivering meals, parts, and tackling projects (even the ones she shouldn't be tackling). She also is happy to assist with the cattle operation by vaccinating and feeding bottle calves. Her involvement in agriculture began with collecting chicken eggs at her Aunt & Uncles in Waverly growing up! She later married David, who farmed in 1978. The farm was purchased in 1981 to raise cattle, corn, & soybeans! Over the years, the farm has added chickens and currently has two goats, Maverick & Fran. Recently, Marlene purchased her first Tractor on her own. We are thrilled to offer this award to Marlene, who is so deserving, and we appreciate everything she does for the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Women's Committee!

## *Women's Committee Fall Luncheon*



The Women's Committee gathered on November 9th at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau office to enjoy a meal, fellowship, and candle-making activity by Farm-to-Wick. The ladies made soybean-based candles to take home!



# Up Next at SCFB!

## Farm Succession Planning

Northfield Inn Conference Center

3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL 62702

January 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Passing farm ownership from one family generation to the next can be an overwhelming task. Developing and implementing a business management contingency plan to overcome unexpected changes to the organizational structure and/or management leadership to a family farm is crucial for the continued success of the farming operation for the next younger generation. The process of succession planning often presents many difficult questions as well as challenges to family members wanting to preserve their family farming legacy. Striving to find answers as well as planning solutions is an essential strategy for keeping a farm in the family for future generations. This presentation will identify guidelines and share planning solutions to insure a successful transfer of farm ownership as well as management control to the next young family farming generation. Farm families must be motivated to start planning NOW; never later.



Ron Hanson, PhD



Please contact the Sangamon County Farm Bureau office at 217-753-5200 to RSVP by January 16th.



SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**Sherman Athletic Club**  
300 South First Street | Sherman, IL

**FREE POPCORN!** Drinks available for purchase  
Bring your own snacks & food (no outside drinks)

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT** Sangamon County Farm Bureau® Foundation  
in order to provide scholarships to local students and funding for agricultural education programs

## ENJOY THE NIGHT!

Must be 18+ to Participate

50/50 Raffle • Door Prizes  
Basket Raffle • Mulligans  
**AND MORE...**

## REGISTER TODAY!

go online at [SangamonFB.org/Events](http://SangamonFB.org/Events)

<b>3:00 PM</b> DOORS OPEN	<b>4:00 PM</b> TRIVIA STARTS	<b>\$100</b> for a team of 8-10 players <b>\$15</b> per individual
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# 2022 IAA Annual Meeting



**Sangamon County Farm Bureau attendees at the 2022 IAA Annual Meeting**



**Sangamon County Farm Bureau attendees sit in on District 10 meeting.**



# 2022 IAA Annual Meeting



(Above) Right to Left: JD Sudeth, Kyle Beutke, Mike Borgic, Janet Edwards, & Charles Mayfield. Delegate alternate not pictured is Gary Reavis



(Left) Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Candice McKown, assisting with the kids corner at the IAA Foundation Ice Cream Social.



Sangamon County Farm Bureau Vice President, Gary Reavis's son, Beckman enjoying his first ever IAA Annual Meeting!



# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

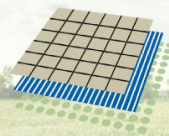
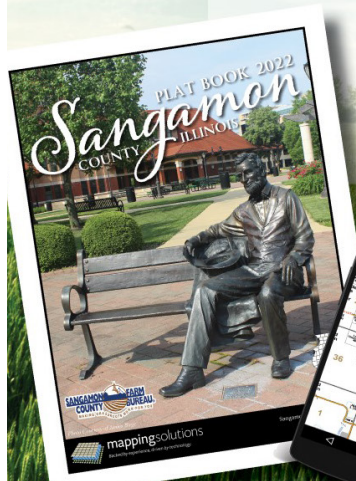
Wishing our members  
all the best this year!



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