



THE SANGAMON *Farmer*

MAY / JUNE 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 3

Upcoming Meetings & Events

May

- 1st.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 8th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 10th.....Spring Prep-Freeze-Cook Orders Due
- 14th.....Mother's Day
- 15th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 18th.....Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 18th.....Spring Prep-Freeze-Cook Order Pickup, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 29th.....Memorial Day (Office Closed)

June

- 5th.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 7th.....Russel Miner Memorial Antique Tractor Drive Entries Due
- 8th.....Nutrient Stewardship Field Day, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Pickrell Farms*
- 8th-9th.....Summer Ag Institute
- 12th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 12th-13th.....Summer Ag Institute Cont.
- 14th-18th.....Sangamon County Fair
- 17th.....Russel Miner Memorial Antique Tractor Drive, 9:00 a.m. *Start from New Berlin High School*
- 17th.....Youth Pedal Pull, 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. *Sangamon County Fairgrounds*
- 18th.....Father's Day
- 19th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 22nd.....Summer Bus Trip RSVP Due Date
- 24th.....Sangamon County 4-H Show, *Sangamon County Fairgrounds*
- 29th.....Summer Bus Trip, *Location TBA*

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



Hello all!!! I hope everyone has had a great spring so far! The Ag in the Classroom program has finished up their year of teaching young minds about different agricultural topics. In March, students had an exciting time learning about pollinators and the important jobs they do in providing us with new flowers, plants, and food for our bodies. I finished up the school year talking with students about potato farming. For our activity, each student got to plant a piece of potato that had at least one "eye" on it to take home and try to grow a potato plant! I have had an enjoyable second year in the classrooms and look forward to this next school year!



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

THE SANGAMO FARMER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



JD Sudeth

Since our last issue, our committees have been working diligently to plan for this summer's many events designed for our members and many for the public. Much of that work is laid out in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer. So make sure you find an event or two to participate in. You won't be disappointed.

Our board and Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee have engaged our elected officials regarding several issues. Since the General Assembly has just completed the process of getting bills out of committee, we have a better idea of what will likely be considered by one or both chambers.

On the local scene, we've been working with the County Board and its Zoning & Land Use Committee on several matters. It seems there is always something thrown at the County Board that requires our involvement. We appreciate the relationship we have with Chairman Van Meter and members of the board. Working together has provided our members with numerous successful outcomes over the years. Read the Governmental Engagement & Policy report from our chair, Phil Sidles, to learn more about current local, state, and federal issues.

Finally, in preparation for addressing state and federal issues, of which many will affect agriculture, make sure you are or become a member of FBACT. When Farm Bureau requests members to take action on an issue affecting agriculture, FBACT members receive a text message or email to inform members of an issue and provide a mechanism for you to send a message to your legislators, government agencies, or administrative branches. If you are not an FBACT member or are unsure if you are, text "FARM" to 52886, and you will get registered to begin receiving them. When an action request is sent, you generally need to click the link provided in the message. Usually, all you need to do is enter your name and address and click send. Simple!

I hope everyone has a productive spring and a fun-filled summer with family and friends.

Until next time, stay well and stay safe!

Committee Reports

YOUNG LEADERS



Charles Mayfield

I hope our members have had a safe and productive spring planting. Each season presents unique challenges that make us better farmers. Throughout the busy planting season, our committee has stayed active in the community. Our annual Fill-A-Ford event on March 18th was a chilly day but a success, nonetheless. We collected around 400 lbs of food and raised money for the Harvest for All Campaign. Thank you to everyone that donated! The Young Leader Committee will sponsor a Large Animal Rescue Awareness (L.A.R.A.) training through the Illinois Fire Institute. This course will host first responders and farm bureau members to bring awareness about large animal accidents. Watch for more information about this course!

Looking ahead, the Young Leaders Committee is gearing up for the Sangamon County Fair. We will be serving treats again during the livestock shows, hosting a pedal tractor pull, and the Russel Miner Memorial Antique Tractor Drive. The tractor drive will take place the morning of June 17th, starting at New Berlin High School and ending at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds. The photo contest portion of the tractor drive will also be on the 17th, with the option to vote virtually on Facebook or in person before the event. Once the tractor drive is over, the youth have the opportunity to pull the tractors for a prize. Be sure to bring your families out to join in on the fun-filled day.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you soon!

Committee Reports



Phil Sidles

Our committee has been working with our elected officials regarding several issues. And there are more issues to deal with as we look ahead. So let's take a look at the details.

First, we'll aim for the local scene. We've discussed three issues with the Zoning & Land Use Committee, Road and Bridge Committee, or the County Board. Unfortunately, two of these issues just keep on giving. Our favorites are wind/solar siting and the CO2 pipeline. Unfortunately, those discussions never seem to go away; some will likely not anytime soon.

As for wind/solar siting, the state took away local siting of such projects to administer a one size fits all set of standards across Illinois. I don't know about you, but I'd rather trust our county government to decide what's best for Sangamon County residents than the state. We continue working with our county government to solve the state's ongoing war against local governance. And they're not done yet. The state wants to take other local control powers away from county governments.

Our other favorite local issue is the ongoing plans to construct the Navigator CO2 pipeline. Numerous groups and individuals in the county have been vocal in opposing the pipeline. As you have hopefully seen, the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board has taken a formal position in opposition to the pipeline. Our overarching reason is the safety concern of the public. We cannot compromise when it comes to the lives of our members and their families.

Last on the local scene is a resolution passed by the County Board recognizing the importance of agriculture in Sangamon County and pledging to continue support for it. We appreciate their vote of confidence and the strong working relationship we enjoy.

The General Assembly has numerous bills and issues roaming its halls. For ag, we are seeking to increase the state estate tax exemption level to match that of the federal estate tax exemption level. We are also asking for changes in the state wind/solar siting standards, although developers are unwilling to budge much. Need I restate that these negotiations were in better hands when the county addressed them?

On the national scene, we're still waiting to see if farm bill negotiations will be held seriously and result in getting a bill done this year. Both the Senate and House Ag Committee Chairs seem to want to get it done; however, that does not guarantee its success.

One last notable issue "floating around" is the legal challenges to the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule. The U.S. District Court has issued an opinion that the rule has serious constitutional concerns. However, President Biden vetoed a bill to overturn the rule in April. So the saga continues. More on that in future editions of the Sangamo Farmer.

At least it's summer and coming upon fair season. So maybe you can enjoy all they offer and take your mind off some governmental issues that weigh everyone down. We'll keep our eyes on them for you as we always do.

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!



March/April Farm Employee Spotlight

Kenny Crist, an employee of Wayne & Ruth Cross has been awarded the March/April Farm Employee Spotlight! Kenny has been a remarkable employee of the Cross Family for the past 15 years. He is remembered for being a dependable & self-motivated employee. Great work, Kenny!

Committee Reports

MEMBER & PR



Janet Edwards

Greetings to all!! The 2023 farming season is well underway, and the Member & PR Committee and other committees have been meeting and setting dates for several activities this summer.

But, before I list some of the activities coming up, I would like to give a "shout out" to the volunteers who made Trivia Night a success. Without them, Trivia Night would not have ran so smoothly or been such a fun evening. I would also like to thank everyone who donated items for the basket raffle, had a gold or silver table, or just came and had a good time with friends.

Now, on to what's coming up in the next few months that you, the membership, might enjoy participating in.

- If you ordered the Prep-Freeze-Cook meals, please pick up your meals on May 18th from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Office.
- June 14 – 18, the Sangamon County Fair will be held, and Farm Bureau will again have a presence in the HAYLOFT. Also, if you haven't done so in a while or have never entered something in the County Fair, think about doing so this year! The Young Leaders will again sponsor a "Tractor Drive" on June 17th at the Fairgrounds.
- On June 24th, the Sangamon County 4-H Show will be held at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds.
- On June 29th, we will combine the Women's Committee and Membership Committee to have a Bus Trip once again. Watch for more details on this event by visiting www.sangamonfb.org/events or visiting our social media pages.
- On July 7th, the annual SCFB Foundation Golf Outing will be at the Edgewood Golf Course. Shotgun start at 8 a.m.
- On July 16th, Sangamon County Farm Bureau will be hosting the Youth Expo, where the youth of SCFB members will have the opportunity to showcase what they learned in the clinics earlier this spring!
- On July 23rd, Ag-Stravaganza will again be held at the Sherman Village Park. The Ag-Stravaganza is open to the public, and we encourage you and your friends to come out to spend the afternoon with us at the park.

As you can tell, the committees have been busy planning activities, so take time and attend some of the functions the Sangamon County Farm Bureau has for its members. There will be information on the activities in this publication.

As always, if there is an activity listed in the Sangamo Farmer that you would be interested in helping with, please call in and let us know. We can always use help from our members.

Like I said at the beginning of my article, the 2023 farming season is well underway, and farm machinery will be out on the roads. Those are all our family, neighbors, and friends, so please be aware when driving on country roads.

Everyone, stay safe, and GOD BLESS!

WOMEN'S



Cassie Bennett

Hello farmers!!

Hope you all had a great planting season!! The women's committee hosted a beautiful spring fling meal in March.

Thank you so much to Trooper Tracy for coming to speak with us! I truly

enjoyed her! If you ever get the chance to check her out, I highly recommend it! Be sure to join us in May for our monthly meeting. Also, keep your eye open for details about our summer bus trip. Have a great summer!

Women's Committee Spring Fling with Guest Speaker Trooper Tracy!



THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



Jim Birge

Throughout the years, I've witnessed many changes in Farm Bureau membership and Farm Bureau itself. Some of the changes result from technology, which is mostly good. Others result from societal changes, which can be good or bad, depending on your perspective.

When I started my career in Massac County, we had one computer in the office. It didn't do much except transmit membership information to Illinois Farm Bureau via a dial-up modem. Today, I can do hundreds or thousands more things from my iPhone. Talk about change!

Back then, society was a lot different too. Kids could still play unsupervised without worrying about others wanting to cause them harm. Families still had ample time together rather than running in ten different directions hauling the kids to extracurricular activities. Things just moved a bit slower. It was actually very nice.

The way Farm Bureau and its members interact has also changed. For example, informational meetings, training sessions, committee meetings, and events were all held 100% in person. Now we use cell phones, video conferencing, and text messaging daily to discuss business or hold virtual meetings. Granted, we still have many in-person events, but regular communications have changed dramatically. Even technology in tractors has changed the way we do business. Autosteer frees our members from some of the tasks associated with operating the tractor. Idle hands tend to make phone calls. So we continue to interact with members even during busy times.

May is *Mental Health* Awareness Month

STRONGER together

WWW.ILFB.ORG/MENTALHEALTHWELLNESS

FIVE STEPS TO HELP SOMEONE AT RISK

1. Ask
2. Keep them safe
3. Be there
4. Help them connect
5. Follow up

Source: National Institute of Mental Health

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255) and 988

May 29, 2023

Memorial DAY | Remembering All Who Served

With all these life changes, Farm Bureau must also continue to adapt and change to meet the members' needs. That's why Illinois Farm Bureau and the County Farm Bureaus are conducting an extremely in-depth planning process to ensure that we can meet the needs of our members and maintain a financially strong organization well into the future. To be successful in these endeavours, IFB has committed to a full-time position titled Chief Strategy Officer, whose work will be focused solely on strategic planning and execution.

So, the world keeps turning, and even though I'd like to jump off the society and technology train sometimes, I think I'll just hang on for the ride and try to keep up. I guess that's all any of us can do. But remember to take time to enjoy all the blessings in our lives. They also come and go so quickly.

SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION TRIVIA NIGHT

MEET OUR TOP 3 TEAMS!



1ST



2ND



3RD

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS!



The SCFB
Foundation
Brought in \$5,000!



RECENT EVENTS AT SCFB



Hunters Safety Course



397 lbs of food &
\$206 raised for the
Harvest for All
Campaign!

Young Leader
Committee
Fill-A-Ford Food Drive



Youth Clinic



Watch for Future
SCFB Events!

FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers



Agriculture jobs outpace graduates

Good news for the soon-to-be senior in our house: The nation's largest employer is looking for applicants.

The agriculture industry comprises about 11% of the jobs in the United States, employing more citizens than any other industry at 22 million people across more than 250 career areas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Contrary to popular belief, farmers are just a sliver of agriculture's employment pie, and there's plenty of pie available for anyone with the hunger to support the nation's need for food, fiber and fuel. No farm background required.

The demand for agricultural engineers, agronomists, plant breeders, foresters, veterinarians, agriscience teachers, climate specialists and more will outpace the available college graduates in these disciplines. More than 59,000 job openings will be available – per year – in agriculture, food, renewable natural resources and related industries through at least 2025, according to the 2020-2025 Employment Opportunities Report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Purdue University.

Students who enjoy biochemistry perhaps haven't thought to consider a career in agronomy or biofuels. The mechanically minded may like a profession as an agriculture engineer or precision agriculture specialist. Writers may find fitting opportunities as agricultural journalists.

For good reason, the wall in our high school agriculture classroom says, "Your Career Starts Here." In the last 10 years alone, I have watched students at our small school find their passions through agricultural education and the leadership and career-developing experiences of the FFA.

They now serve the agriculture industry as agronomists, farm financial officers, agricultural educators, agricultural engineers, livestock managers and diesel technicians. My husband has hired graduates to work with precision technologies and vehicle autonomy in agriculture. Some prepare for an ag-related career, training to become agricultural accountants, veterinarians and horticulturists.

The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance, of which the Illinois Farm Bureau is a founding member, recently launched AGNITOR, a digital platform to connect agri-food professionals to classrooms for virtual chats about careers. The program intends to generate student awareness about career opportunities spanning agriculture, food and natural resources. The National FFA offers opportunities to digitally explore agricultural careers, too. These tools can help students like our daughter find their ideal fit in this diverse and necessary industry.

SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

SPRING PREP-FREEZE-COOK



Meals made easy! Enjoy meals made with fresh, local ingredients without preservatives to stock your freezer for the busy spring season. Prep-Freeze-Cook will prepare all meals at one of their locations in Central, IL. All proceeds from this fundraiser will assist the Agricultural Education Partnership.

DATE:

THURSDAY,
MAY 18, 2023

Pick up 4 - 6 PM

WHERE:

SANGAMON COUNTY
FARM BUREAU

2631 Beechler Ct.
Springfield, IL 62703

Orders must be submitted by **May 10, 2023**. Place your order at: www.sangamonfb.org

MENU:

Cheddar Bacon BBQ Burger

Brown Sugar Hickory Burgers

Taco Casserole

Cheesy Chicken Sour Cream Enchilada Casserole

Creamy Italian Pork

Chicken Breast with Asian Marinade

Bacon Cheddar Meatloaf

Chicken Pot Pie
Tater Tot Casserole

Parmesan Honey Pork Roast

Ranch Chicken Tacos



2023 **Nutrient Stewardship**
field day

THUR **JUNE 8TH**
9 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
RAIN OR SHINE



Collaborative efforts are an emphasis of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) as an essential venture to meet state and regional nutrient reduction goals. The **Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership** (Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA), National Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), and University of Illinois (U of I) and **Saturated Buffer Partnership** (IFB, ILICA, USDA-NRCS, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) were developed by stakeholders to help meet common goals: implement and monitor conservation best management practices (BMPs), as well as provide education and outreach.

Join us to hear from several ag engineering and BMP construction experts, university researchers, and many others about ongoing edge-of-field practice implementation and monitoring efforts. Attendees will be transported between a saturated buffer and a woodchip bioreactor to see the practices on the ground.

CONDENSED AGENDA:

- 9:00 AM **Check-in and Welcome Presentations**
- 9:30 AM **Bus Loads for Saturated Buffer Site**
Saturated Buffer Program
- 10:45 AM **Bus Loads for Woodchip Bioreactor Site**
Woodchip Bioreactor Program
- 12:15 PM **Bus Loads for Lunch at Pickrell Farms**

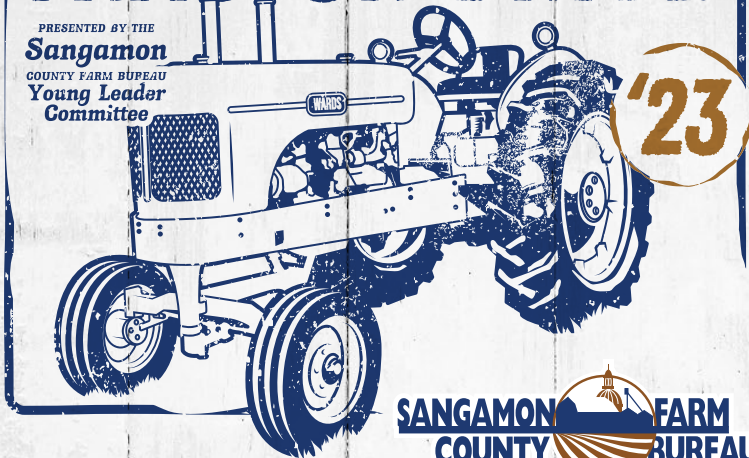
<p>LOCATION: Pickrell Farms 2954 Lanesville Rd. Buffalo, IL</p>	<p>RSVP: by Friday, June 2nd to Sangamon CFB by calling (217) 753-5200 to ensure your free lunch & seat on the bus</p>	<p>DETAILS: Lunch provided</p>
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Brought to you by your local community partners:



RUSSEL MINER MEMORIAL ANTIQUE TRACTOR DRIVE

PRESENTED BY THE
Sangamon
COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Young Leader
Committee



SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
MAKING GRASSROOTS WORK FOR YOU

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2023 - 9:00AM

REGISTRATION: \$35 (INCLUDES T-SHIRT, FAIR ENTRY, AND LUNCH) - DUE JUNE 7TH

Please no steel wheeled tractors • Rain Date is June 18th • Minimum 10 mph speed limit.

Drive:

Unloading begins at 8:00am at:

New Berlin High School
300 W. Ellis St., New Berlin, IL 62670

Drive will begin at 9:00am

**No trailers at the fairgrounds*

Those who do not have a tractor are welcome to participate in the tractor drive by utilizing our people movers. Participants who ride on the people movers are still required to register and the same registration fees will apply.

Contest:

Tractors will line up at the Sangamon County Fair Grounds for awards and lunch at 12:00 p.m. on the Northwest corner of the Livestock Barns (South of Grandstand).

316 W Birch St, New Berlin, IL 62670

Following the awards and lunch, the tractor drive will conclude, and participants may return to their vehicles at the New Berlin High School.

**The 2023 Tractor Contest will utilize both virtual photo votes and in-person votes to be eligible for a top three award. All virtual photo submissions must be submitted by June 9th.*

Youth Pedal Pull:

All youth & their families are welcome to participate in the Youth Pedal Pull provided by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee.

The Youth Pedal Pull will take place by the HAYLOFT building with weigh in starting at 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. and the event from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Youth PEDAL PULL

AT THE SANGAMON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

JUNE 17, 2023

Following the antique tractor drive

12:30 - 1:00 PM

Weigh in/registration

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Tractor pulls near the
HAYLOFT building



SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

YOUNG LEADERS

Hosted by Sangamon County Farm Bureau
Young Leader Committee

Summer Bus Trip

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

Sponsored by the Member & PR Committee and Women's Committee!

Join us to tour various agricultural facilities in Illinois! Enjoy a day of travel, learning opportunities, and lunch!

Final event details will be available at www.sangamonfb.org/events. Please call the SCFB office at 217-753-5200 with further questions.



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ilsheriff.org/membership

Sangamon County Farm Bureau
2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, IL 62703

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



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