



THE SANGAMON

Farmer

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023



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 6

Upcoming Meetings & Events

November	
6th.....	Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
8th.....	Women's Committee Fall Luncheon, 10:00 a.m.
11th.....	Veterans Day
13th.....	Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
20th.....	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
23rd & 24th.....	Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
December	
1st.....	Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation Gun Raffle Drawing
2nd-5th.....	IAA Annual Meeting, Chicago
11th.....	Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
13th.....	Women's Committee Winter Luncheon, 12:00 p.m. Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery
18th.....	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
24th.....	Christmas Eve
25th.....	Christmas (Office Closed)
31st.....	New Year's Eve

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



Hello all! I hope everyone had a safe and healthy harvest. The Ag in the Classroom program is back in the schools. We jumped into the school year with our AgVenture Barn Tour; we toured five different schools throughout Sangamon County. The AgVenture Barn Tour is one of my favorite ways to jump back into the schools; the students were so excited to learn about animals that live on a farm and what they provide for our bodies. It was so fun to see the pure excitement on their faces when they realized they got to see and feel the animals.

For October, we visited schools throughout Sangamon County, talking with students about Poultry, more specifically chickens. The students learned many different things about chickens, such as the terms for males, females, babies, and a group. They also learned how long it takes a chick to hatch, what they eat, what animals may harm them, parts of a chicken, and a few things about the parts of an egg. We are extremely excited to return to the schools for another FUN year of different agricultural topics. I will say it is wonderful and warms my heart to walk into a school I've been to previously and the students remember you. Also, the teachers are so glad to have you back.

Sincerely,
Candice McKown

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

THE SANGAMO FARMER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



JD Sudeth

As harvest wraps up for most, it seems that all in all everyone got along fairly well. Now we shift our focus to fall tillage and nutrient application. Then comes the never-ending onslaught of paperwork that's been piling up while everyone was in the field.

Thanksgiving, IFB Annual meeting, Christmas, and BOOM we're in 2024! How does it all happen so fast? I guess getting older does make things happen faster.

Speaking of IFB Annual Meeting, there will likely be a LOT of policy debate on CO2 pipelines and all that goes with it. We'll also be electing a new IFB President and Vice-President. A lot of change may be coming this way. Stay tuned for my next report where I'll recap all of this and what it might mean as we look ahead.

I'll keep my comments short this time. Paperwork awaits. By the way, I can't find my desk. If you see it, please let me know.

Until next time, have an enjoyable rest of your fall and holiday season.

Your President, JD Sudeth

Committee Reports

YOUNG LEADERS



Charles Mayfield

Greetings from the field as we push ahead with harvest and fieldwork. Throughout this season, we are reminded how we have a lot to be thankful for: bountiful harvest with better-than-expected yields, great weather to work in, and the safety of those on and around the farm.

The Young Leaders Committee will have an active end of the year with a volunteer opportunity benefiting those in our community and the annual Christmas party with the gift exchange. The

next big event the Young Leaders group will be invited to attend is the 2024 Young Leader Conference. Be sure to save the date for February 2nd & 3rd here in Springfield, IL, at the Bank of Springfield Center and President Abraham Lincoln Hotel! Contact the office if you would like more information or to register for the conference.



If you know of any individuals who would be an asset to our group, please pass the word along, as this time of year will be the best to join with the upcoming opportunities! Stay safe out there as you finish up your fieldwork.

Sincerely,

Charles Mayfield

Committee Reports

MEMBER & PR



Janet Edwards

Greetings from Harvest 2023!! It has been a busy few weeks around the farms of Sangamon County.

By the time you read this issue, harvest should just about or be done for 2023. Praying it was a safe, bountiful harvest for everyone, and all are looking forward to the upcoming holidays!

Plans are being made for the IFB Annual Meeting, which will be held in Chicago the first weekend of December.

The Member and PR committee will soon meet and plan for the upcoming year. One of the first activities we are planning for will be TRIVIA Night. As of this issue, the date has not been set, but you can start planning to get a table of friends together and share your TRIVIA knowledge with others for the good of the Foundation. We also need raffle items for that night!! If you can help with that, please let me or the office know.

Here is where I ask you, the members, if you have any ideas for the committee, PLEASE get ahold of me or the staff and let us know. We will gladly take ideas to the committee and see what happens with them. Also, if you would like to be active on any committee or help with any activity, let the office know, and they will put you on the list to be notified when the committee or event you are interested in meets.

Until the next issue, here's hoping you have a safe and BLESSED holiday season!!
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



WOMEN'S



Cassie Bennett

Hello, fellow farmers!

I hope by the time this article reaches you, your harvest is over, and it was plentiful! The women's committee passed out our annual buckets yet again in September! I always get big smiles when I stop and distribute those buckets! The Adventure Barn also made its rounds in September. The kids sure do love to see all those animals. Join the Women's Committee for our Fall Luncheon in November! It's always a great time and delicious food! RSVP your spot through the office today!



Phil Sidles

As we look at the recent happenings in Congress, there's so much polarization that it's hard to get things done, even within each respective party. Their motto seems to be, "Let's wait until things become a crisis and then try to put the fire out." The funding of the federal government often turns into such a crisis. But after it looked like a shutdown was imminent, the Speaker of the House moved to work with his counterparts across the aisle to make a deal. That action of "conspiring with the enemy" cost him the Speaker's position. How in the world will we ever rid ourselves of this dysfunction? I like to see a problem and try to offer a solution instead of just complaining, but honestly, this one's got me stumped.

Situations like these put us all at risk. The Farm Bill has been stalled even further because of the near shutdown. Remember, the biggest fire must be put out first. And as these things are delayed, it puts uncertainty at a peak, causing all sorts of issues for the people of this nation.

Moving on to state-level issues is the never-ending battle over carbon dioxide pipelines and sequestration.

Several recent events have given our residents hope that the pipeline project will fail and our family's safety will be preserved. In September, the state of South Dakota denied the permit application for the Navigator CO2 pipeline. This is the pipeline planned to be installed through Sangamon County. The denial resulted from a unanimous vote by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission citing a failure by the company to adequately disclose carbon dioxide plume modeling, which are the models showing the likelihood of the size of a CO2 release if a pipeline failure occurs. They also cited the company's failure to provide timely notices to some landowners along the route. Navigator then reacted by suspending its pursuit of approval for the pipeline to travel through Iowa since there was no plan to route the pipeline without going through South Dakota. We'll have to wait until next spring to see what Navigator plans to do about Iowa. If these applications are not awarded, it becomes a domino effect threatening the pipeline's viability in Illinois.

Sometimes, the lengthy battles we must fight to resolve an issue eventually turn in our favor. This is precisely why we must continue to fight. Sangamon County Farm Bureau is doing just that to ensure we represent the best interests of our members and communities. Keep your fingers crossed.



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THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



Jim Birge

While writing this, I've been out most of the week with our AgVenture Barn. Most of you have probably seen it, but it's a 24 foot trailer that looks like a barn. We put livestock in it and travel for a week in the spring and fall to educate elementary students about animal agriculture, what they are used for, what they look, sound, and feel like. I had a kindergarten student yesterday that was so scared to go into the barn that she just stood there with tears flowing down her face. It took time to help her overcome her fear and enjoy the wonders of all the animals. It's a scene that's been repeated hundreds of times over the years. But it got me to thinking, how much different would their lives be if these little souls hadn't been helped to overcome their fear in order to reap the rewards on the other side. It's a life

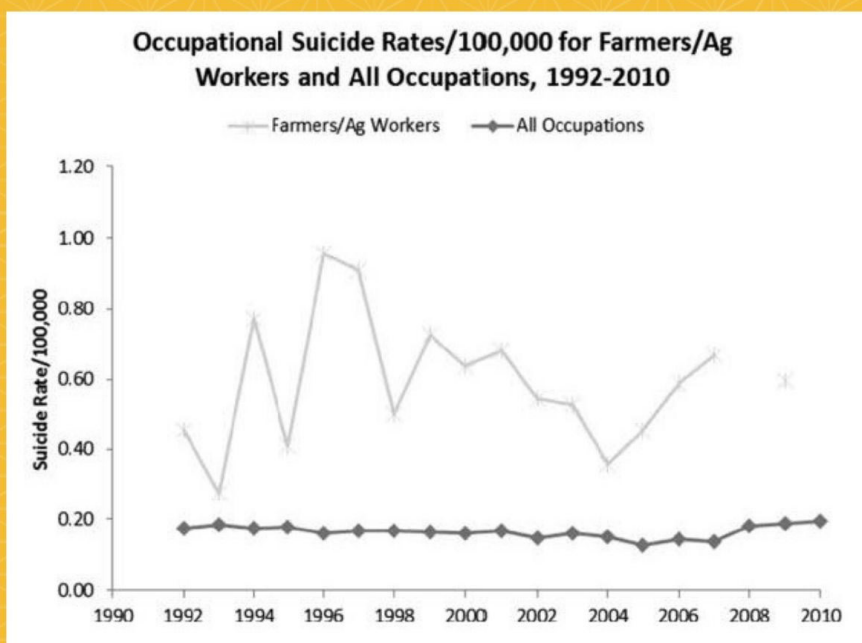
lesson to learn to overcome fear and in doing so be smarter, stronger, and more fully rewarded in life. As adults, we often reflect back on our failures, and in doing so fear that taking that step forward will end in failure all over. So what do we do, we avoid taking a small risk that will likely provide us wonders and rewards if we just take a little leap of faith.

While I'm on my inspirational kick, let me just wrap it up with an excerpt from a quote that hangs on my office wall.

"In the battle of life, it is not the critic who counts; nor the one who points out how the strong person stumbled, or where the doer of a deed could have done better."

"The credit belongs to the person who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat, and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who does actually strive to do deeds; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, spends oneself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at worst, if he or she fails, at least fails daring greatly". -Theodore Roosevelt.

That quote embodies the soul of agriculture, and it just might describe a little girl, full of fear, that took that brave little step that left her with a beaming smile and perhaps a lifelong memory.



Although this information is somewhat dated, it still depicts the very real incidence of suicide among farmers. All other occupations have seen a much lower and steady rate. The rate for farmers, on the other hand, is very erratic. It is likely that much of the volatility can be correlated to economic conditions at the farm level.

This graph is the reason farmers need someone to talk to. Together we can, and are, changing these statistics.

If you need to talk, the Farm Family Resource Helpline is here for you. Call or text 833-FARM-SOS (833-327-6767)

Women's Committee
Fall Luncheon
Join us!

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November 8 | 10 am

\$10 includes a delicious lunch provided by the
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FARM GATE

By Joanie Stiers



In the Bag Pizza project promotes the families in farming

For years, I triggered curious looks from fellow restaurant patrons while holding my commercial-sized pizza delivery bag. Nowadays, I get asked if I'm with DoorDash, a food delivery service.

Until recently, the presence of this red pizza bag felt so unorthodox that my husband and kids were too embarrassed to show it in public. But I had no shame for the sake of hot pizza and took that bag right inside the front doors of Casey's General Store or other pizza places during an era when only delivery drivers carried them. We live 30 minutes from a city with significant grocery shopping and restaurant options. We clock 15 minutes from the nearest Casey's, where we frequently order pizza. I permanently carry a cooler in my van, too.

Appropriately timed, National Pizza Month falls in October during the heart of the harvest season when pizza pickups equally deliver "pick-me-ups" for the harvest crew. Field meals provide a moment to look forward to in a 12-plus-hour harvest day. And this year, Casey's teamed with the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois commodity groups to use pizza to promote the "We are the 96%" Campaign in celebration of the family farmer. Contrary to common belief, families – not corporations – own and operate 96% of Illinois farms. Farm groups and Casey's sought to debunk the corporate myth with images of Illinois farm families like ours in self-stick flyers on 250,000 Casey's pizza boxes statewide in the month of October.

Three generations of our family and employees make up our harvest crew, and the pizza bag performs. It maintains warmth for up to 10 meals in Styrofoam containers and up to five large pizzas, one more than advertised. The bag doubles as an over-sized soft cooler when I throw in some ice packs and certainly makes my list of favorite things. Today, I own pizza bags for two vehicles. My sister-in-law owns one. My mom, three. Collectively, we can handle delivery for the annual 4-H pizza party for 100 people.

"Is Grandma bringing food?" our son often texts from the tractor with grain cart during the 5 o'clock hour. Our now-15-year-old asked the same question at age 4 when he visited the fields during harvest. Now he's working in them. Yes, and by family tradition, expect pizza one night a week.

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.

2023 Fall AgVenture Barn



Thank you to all who volunteered & allowed us to borrow their animals to make the Ag-Venture Barn tour a success!

**Wishing you &
your family a**

*wonderful
holiday
season!*

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