



# THE SANGAMON *Farmer*

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020



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NO Progressive Tax - Illinois Farm Bureau



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# Upcoming Meetings & Events

## NOVEMBER

2nd.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
 9th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:30 p.m.  
 11th .....Women's Committee Fall Luncheon 10:00 a.m.  
 16th.....Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 26th.....Thanksgiving, Office Closed  
 27th.....Office Closed

## DECEMBER

5th.....IAA Annual Meeting Delegate Session  
 7th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
 14th..... Young Leader Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:30 p.m.  
 17th.....Women's Committee Winter Luncheon  
 21st.....Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 24th.....Christmas Eve, Office Closed  
 25th.....Christmas, Office Closed  
 28th.....Office Closed  
 31st.....New Year's Eve, Office Closed



DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2020		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>District 1</b>	Brent Johnson	X	-	X	X	X	X	-			
	Michael Kinner (Treasurer)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
	Anna Stone	X	-	X	X	X	-	X			
	Jason Pickrell	X	-	X	X	X	X	-			
<b>District 2</b>	Otto Rentschler	X	-	X	-	X	X	-			
	Kevin Foran (Secretary)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
	Dale Edwards	X	-	X	X	X	-	X			
	Ethan Krone (Asst Sec/Treas)	X	-	-	X	X	X	X			
<b>District 3</b>	Ben Ladage	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
	Mike Borgic	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
	Adam Bailey (VP)	X	-	X	X	X	X	-			
	Cathryn Ayers Seifert	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>District 4</b>	Phil Sidles	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
	Diana Beaty (President)	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
	Matt Heissingner	X	-	X	X	X	X	X			
	Marty Fairchild	X	-	X	-	X	X	X			
<b>At-Large</b>	Charles Mayfield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	-	X			
	Gary Reavis	X	-	X	X	X	X	-			
	George Sergot	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	-	-			
<b>M&amp;PR Chair</b> , Janet Edwards	X	-	X	X	X	-	X				
<b>YL Chair</b> , Stephen Prather	X	-	X	-	X	X	-				
<b>Women's Chair</b> , Cassandra Bennett	X	-	X	X	-	X	-				

THE SANGAMO FARMER	
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<b>SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU</b> Office: 2631 Beechler Court Springfield, Illinois 62703 President: Diana Beaty Vice-President: Adam Bailey Secretary: Kevin Foran Treasurer: Michael Kinner Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Ethan Krone	<b>DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF</b> Manager: James Birge, FBCM Outreach & Communication: Lauren Burris Finance/Membership: Arika Leka Farm Bureau Tel. 217-753-5200 E-mail farmbureau@sangamonfb.org
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Diana Beaty

As I write this article it is September 25th and we are just beginning harvest. Hopefully by the time you are reading this article, harvest is wrapping up.

Here are just a few of the things we have worked on this past month at Farm Bureau.

The Foundation Committee has formed a new fund raiser of 'Grain Gifting', you will find this information at your local elevator. This is being added to our fundraisers to help raise money in the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Foundation for scholarships that are awarded each year to high school students. Hopefully with this new fundraiser we will be able to either give more money in scholarships or give to more students.

On September 3rd I presented the 'Friend of Agriculture' Award to Congressman Rodney Davis. He truly is a friend to Ag and he has received this award for the past 4 years.

Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee met in September and interviewed County Board Candidates. We at Farm Bureau need to work on getting more rural people involved in the County Board, our representation for Ag is becoming less and less!

On September 21st, Larry and I once again hosted U.S. Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue and Congressman Rodney Davis to our farm. The Congressman's office organized the event for a farm talk with Secretary Perdue and several officials from different Ag organizations. It was a great day and always good to visit with Secretary Perdue!

As you receive this issue it's about time to 'Get Out and Vote'. November 3rd is just around the corner. Please remember to 'Vote No' on the Progressive Tax increase, but most importantly PLEASE VOTE!

We will be preparing for the IAA Annual Meeting which would normally take place in Chicago. This year due to the Pandemic we are doing a virtual Annual Meeting and it will take place on December 5th. It will consist of the President's address, Delegate Session and any elections that need to take place. I don't know about you, but I do believe virtual meetings are here to stay, even after the Pandemic is over. We have all come to realize how convenient they are. I personally still like in person meetings!

I know I have touched briefly on just a few things we have been working on. If you have questions or concerns about any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact the Farm Bureau Office at 753-5200 and they can always give my contact information if you need to reach me.

"PLEASE VOTE"

"VOTE NO ON THE PROGRESSIVE TAX"

"ENJOY WHAT IS LEFT IN 2020"

-Diana Beaty

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MEMBER ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU VISA



Stephen Prather

Harvest is here, finally the end of 2020 is near. End of crazy markets, crazy politics, and different ways of doing things. Luckily farmers have stood tuff during these times, showing their true versatile nature. Many of us want to forget 2020, but 2020 has allowed agriculture to show its worth to the world and the nation in feeding world. Young leaders have been watching this resilience, and are finding new way to expand our horizons and our farming community. Many young farmers and finding ways to add niche markets, such as; non-gmo's, hog confinement's, and even AG tourism destination with pumpkin patches and activities for families. 2020 is the year of adaptation to overcome any obstacle in our way.

Sangamon County Young Leaders have adapted our way of thinking and working with the farming community. We have had to cancel many of our events this year, but this has allowed us to improve activities we already do and expand our footprint to other areas in the county. We will be hosting a market discussion for the young farmer this late fall. Jay Siegrist from Scoular Company will talk with us about maximizing our profit in the markets. Look for more info on this on our Facebook page. We are planning a social media campaign to showcase the positives of agriculture and the influence we have on the world. Be sure to check out our Facebook page in the future for these exciting things coming.

Please have a safe harvest and remember to pace yourself, drink plenty of fluids, and get some rest (when you can).

YOUNG LEADERS

## Pumpkin Roll Cake

By: This Farm Girl Cooks, Deanne Freiders



To Make the Cake:

- 3 large eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 3/4 c. all purpose flour
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2/3 c. canned pumpkin
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. lemon juice

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees
2. Beat eggs and sugar. Add dry ingredients. Stir just to blend. Add pumpkin, spices, vanilla and lemon juice.
3. Prepare a 10"x15" jelly roll pan. Use cooking spray and a layer of parchment paper or wax paper, also sprayed with cooking spray.
4. Pour batter into prepared pan. Make sure to spread to the corners, otherwise they'll be done first and be "crispy".
5. Bake for 20-25 minutes until the cake springs back when touched.
6. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Turn out onto a towel sprinkled generously with powdered sugar.
7. Roll cake in towel, jelly roll style. Let cool completely.
8. To make the icing, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar and vanilla.
9. Unroll cake and spread onto the inside of cake. Reroll cake without the towel.
10. Refrigerate until chilled. Cut into slices to serve.

To Make the Icing:

- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla



## GOVERNMENTAL ENGAGEMENT & POLICY

By: Adam Bailey

The finish line is near for harvest and the general election. First things first, for many of us who haven't already voted by mail or absentee, GET OUT AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD! No matter your politics or which candidates you choose to support, the only choice that's the most important is your choice to vote. Please don't waste it.

And while we're on the subject of voting, make sure you VOTE NO on the constitutional amendment to change our income tax system from a flat tax to a progressive tax. Suppose you haven't seen or heard the information about why this is a harmful and even dangerous change in our Illinois constitution. There are several articles and commentary in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer to help you understand. If you still desire a better understanding, call our office at 217-753-5200, and they will be glad to help answer your questions.

Regarding candidates on this year's ballot, our Political Involvement Committee, with consultation from our Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee, endorsed some candidates for the Sangamon County government. Nearly all candidates for contested races for county board seats were interviewed to hear their views regarding issues important to agriculture and rural Sangamon County. The candidates that were chosen to be endorsed by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Political Involvement Committee are listed on page 10 of this issue of the Sangamo Farmer. Our organization believes that these candidates represent the best interests of our members and their way of life. We ask you to consider them strongly when placing your vote.

As I wrap up this final report for 2020, I want to offer hope that we have a clearly decided election when I write again in January. With so much politics in play on both sides, we need a clear and fair decision for whoever is our next President. Even as important, or more so, I want to offer hope that we have a vaccine for COVID that quickly becomes readily available to everyone. 2021 would never be more welcome than if it showed up with those gifts in hand. Be safe, have a happy holiday season, and I'll see you in January.

## MEMBER & PR



Janet Edwards

**G**reetings!! As I write this, we are in "full swing" of harvest and looking forward to the holidays. I am going to ask you all to do something I feel is very important for us all to do. Make sure you VOTE in this year's election. This election is so important on both the National and State level and we as Americans need to voice our opinion at the polls on Election Day!!

The next is for us to take care of our health. With Covid 19 still around we are all hopefully taking care of ourselves to stay healthy but I am going to go one step further. Have you had your yearly check-up with the doctor? Have you had your eyes examined? Are you up to date on your shots? Have you been to the dentist lately? Most of you can probably say "yes" to all of these but some of you can't. So I am asking you, the members, please take the time to take care of yourself - YOU

ARE WORTH IT!!

SAVE THE DATE!! As of now, the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Trivia Night is set for Saturday, March 6th at Bunkers in Illiopolis!! We will have more information as the date comes closer but think about getting a team together for a night of fun with friends!!

Remember, GO VOTE and TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF and FAMILY!!

I will stop here and Wish you all A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY Season. It will be different but we still need to celebrate and remember the Reason for the SEASON!! Till the new year, stay safe and GOD BLESS!!



Cassie Bennett

**H**ello SCFB members! Its once again that time of the year when everything seems to be go go go. That's no exception with the womens committee! We assembled our healthy harvest buckets in September and headed out to the fields! I always love seeing the farmers reactions. We hosted our Fall Farm Crawl back in October and it was fun to go around to different pumpkin patches in the county and support local. Our annual Fall Luncheon is coming up on November 11th. That event is always a good time so be sure and sign up for that! We will be making evergreen Christmas Swags and enjoying a great lunch and time spent with friends. Until next time stay safe and have a great harvest!

## The Bureau According to Jim



Jim Birge

As I write this, the combines are hard at work getting this year's crop out. I feel like this is one more step toward putting 2020 behind us. So, for me, it feels pretty good. It also happens to be one of my favorite times of the year. While harvest is long, tiring, and sometimes a bit stressful, it's still a time of blessings and bounty.

While harvest is part of a farmer's way of generating income, our governor is in the middle of looking for a harvest of his own, the progressive income tax. Except his income comes from YOUR hard work. There are so many reasons why a progressive income tax is bad for you and every Illinoisan.

If you listen to the proponents of a progressive tax, they tell you that they're only going to increase the income tax on the ultra-rich and not us "regular" people. Under a progressive income tax, lawmakers will be able to pick and choose whose taxes they raise. While the legislature has always had the ability to set the income tax rate, this Constitutional Amendment would provide them additional political cover. No longer will lawmakers have to worry about statewide opposition to their tax votes from all voters. Instead, legislators can hike up the tax rate on only a limited group of Illinoisans, thereby limiting voter backlash. If only a few people see their taxes going up at a time, it will be nearly impossible to make their opposition heard.

Proponents will also tell you that the tax revenue will fix our State's financial problems. The progressive tax initially would shift the taxing burden on the highest earners in the State, but raising taxes on the highest earners may – in the long run – only lead to higher taxes for all of us. The revenue estimates from the proposed progressive tax structure will not meet Springfield's projected spending in the years to come. This means the middle-class income will be next on the chopping block for a tax increase.

Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you that it's extremely likely that any retirement benefits you may have will probably be taxed if the progressive tax passes. As it stands, Illinoisans don't pay state income taxes on retirement income. They only pay federal income taxes on that money. Just look at every other state that has a progressive income tax. They tax retirement income.

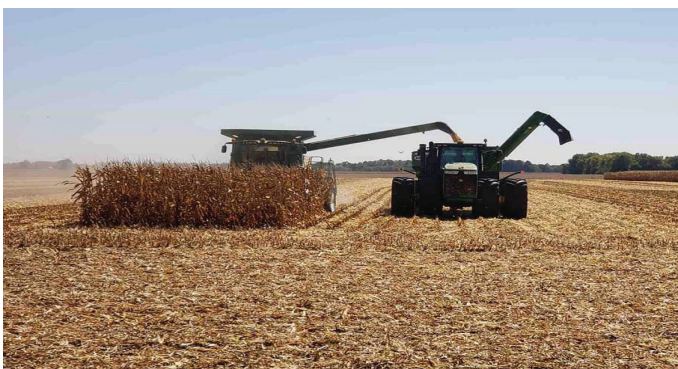
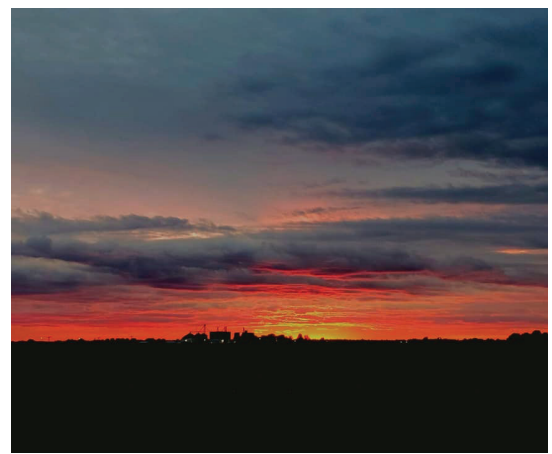
Tuesday, November 3rd is election day. But that day only matters if YOU have voted early or vote in-person on the 3rd. If you don't vote, we all lose. Do your part, Vote NO on the progressive income tax question on your ballot. I look forward to the hope for some version of normalcy as we turn the calendar to 2021. I hope you and all our members and their families have a positive and rewarding 2021. I'll talk to you again then!





# Harvest 2020

Pictures provided by Cathryn Ayers  
Seifert, Diana Beaty, Cassie Bennett &  
Emily Prather





# Fall Luncheon

WITH A HINT OF CHRISTMAS

**November 11th · 10:00 am**  
**SCFB Office**

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## Vote NO Progressive Tax

As we approach the upcoming election on November 3, first and foremost, please exercise your right to vote. When you enter the voting booth with your ballot, there will be a constitutional question about changing from a flat-rate income tax rate to a progressive income tax rate. I would strongly urge you to vote "NO" on that question.

The 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention implemented the flat-rate income tax, which holds the state legislature accountable to ALL taxpayers to raise taxes. The Illinois legislature has had the ability to set a state income tax rate for over 50 years, and they have currently set that rate at 4.95%. The progressive tax is being dubbed as the "fair tax," but the flat tax is the "fairest" in the fact that everyone pays equally at the same percentage rate. The more income earned, the more taxes paid.

The proposed progressive income tax rate begins at 4.75% and increases to a maximum of 7.99%. It is estimated that if approved, it will bring in approximately \$2.5 billion to the Illinois treasury, which is hardly a drop in the bucket of the billions required for the underfunded pensions and backlog of unpaid bills in the state. The passage of the tax will accelerate the exodus of residents leaving this state, creating more of a tax burden on those of us who remain. I believe the progressive tax should be categorized as just another tax hike. Illinois has one of the highest overall tax burdens in the country, and this will add to that dubious descriptor.

If voters allow passage to change the Illinois Constitution, policymakers in Springfield will have the mechanism to increase taxes with little political impact. They will be able to target income levels to lessen the fall out of a tax increase. We, as taxpayers, need to have greater accountability for our states' tax policies, not less. The only way to get that accountability is to vote NO on this Constitutional Amendment.

Passing the progressive tax would also empower state lawmakers to go after seniors' retirement income, which currently is nearly all tax-exempt. With a flat tax, lawmakers would be forced to tax retirement at the same rate. Passage would allow state lawmakers to tax a percentage of retirement income. Currently, there are 32 states with a progressive tax, and ALL 32 tax some sort of retirement income.

Over the years, our state leaders, regardless of party affiliations, have shown a pathetic record of fiscal responsibility. Proponents of this Constitutional Amendment argue that this must be passed because of lower revenues resulting from COVID-19. However, this has been an initiative long before the pandemic. Please don't get sucked in.

Illinois Farm Bureau policy states that a flat-rate state income tax is preferred, supporting deductions and credits benefiting agriculture and agricultural processes, as well as an exemption at some realistic level. Illinois is the heir to some of the highest property and sales taxes in the country, leaving no room for this damaging tax policy.

Please don't vote to lessen the accountability we have as taxpayers over the policymakers in Springfield. Vote "NO" on the progressive income tax constitutional amendment.

Mark Reichert  
IAA District 10 Director

**VOTE NO**  
**ON THE PROGRESSIVE TAX**

# Get out and Vote on November 3rd!



Jason Ratts  
County Board  
District 10



Drew Burnett  
County Board  
District 17



Ernesto Johnson  
County Board  
District 19



George Preckwinkle  
County Board  
District 25



Ryan Melchin  
County Board  
District 28



Dan Wright  
States Attorney  
Sangamon County



CD Davidsmeyer  
State Representative  
District 100



Mike Murphy  
State Representative  
District 99



Tim Butler  
State Representative  
District 87

**Please consider voting for these candidates who have been endorsed by the SCFB Political Involvement Committee**



*Wishing you and  
your family a  
wonderful  
holiday season!*

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**Be sure to like us on Facebook to stay  
up to date on our 2021 events!**





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