



**THE SANGAMON**

*Farmer*  
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021



Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through  
Education and Grassroots Legislation

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Springfield, IL • Volume MMXXI Number 6

# Upcoming Meetings & Events

## NOVEMBER

1st.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Policy Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
 8th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
 10th.....Womens's Committee Fall Luncheon, 10:00 a.m.  
 15th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 25th & 26th.....Office Closed, Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER

4th-6th..... IAA Annual Meeting - Chicago  
 13th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
 13th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:00 p.m.  
 15th.....Women's Committee Winter Luncheon, 12:00 p.m.  
 20th.....Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 24th & 27th.....Office Closed, Christmas  
 31st.....Office Closed, New Years

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

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE - 2020-21		D	J/F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
<b>District 1</b>	Brent Johnson	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-
	Michael Kinner	-	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
	JD Sudeth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	X	X
	Jason Pickrell	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>District 2</b>	Otto Rentschler	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-
	Kevin Foran (Secretary)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
	Janet Edwards	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	-	-
	Ethan Krone (Ass't Sec/Treas)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X
<b>District 3</b>	Katie King	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	X
	Mike Borgic (Treasurer)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
	Adam Bailey (VP)	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-
	Cathryn Ayers Seifert	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X
<b>District 4</b>	Kyle Beutke	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	X	X
	Diana Beaty (President)	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X
	Matt Heissingner	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X
	Marty Fairchild	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
<b>At-Large</b>	Charles Mayfield	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
	Gary Reavis	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
	George Sergot	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-
	Committee Chairs:									
	<b>YL Chair, Stephen Prather</b>	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	-
	<b>Women's Chair, Cassandra Bennett</b>	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-



**Candice McKown**

Hi! My name is Candice McKown, and I am the new Ag in the Classroom Coordinator for Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Counties. I grew up in small farming community in a small town called Atlanta IL. I currently reside in Taylorville, IL with my Australian Shepherd/ Red Heeler dog named Moe who is 13 years old. I graduated from Olympia High School and went on to Bradley University. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in science.

While growing up, my family ran and operated Hoblit Seed Company which eventually changed its name to Heartland Seed Production and closed their door a few years ago. Not only did my family run a seed business, but my grandparents also raised Polled Hereford cattle where I developed a passion for the beef industry. I have many memories of going out to the Seed Company and helping with field day along with many memories of showing Polled Hereford cattle all of which have driven my passion for the Agriculture Industry.

### THE SANGAMO FARMER

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As I write this report, it is the first weekend of October. We have had a small rain shower and put fieldwork and harvest work to a halt for a bit. Whew, I hate to pray for rain during harvest, but I was indeed ready for a short break. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, harvest will be complete, if not close, and we will all be ready for winter and preparations for next year's crop.

Here is just a short report on some of the activities that I, as your President, have done in the past couple of months or preparing for in the next couple of months. I attended a two-day Presidents Conference in Normal at the end of July for all the Presidents in the state. I found it very informative, and for me, the best part is visiting with those around the state to see what is going on in their counties and how they are handling different situations that arise.



**Diana Beaty**

One of the topics on the agenda was Strategic Planning for your County. Sangamon County Farm Bureau has not done a Strategic Plan for several years, and I have put this on my agenda for this winter's project. There's a need to plan for the next 3-5 years and determine what steps will be required to get there. I encourage volunteers to participate in this committee to help draft a framework for our future. Ultimately, the committee will present a plan to the Board of Directors for approval. I am also open to your suggestions or ideas, so please do not hesitate to pass them on to me or contact the office. After all, this is your County Farm Bureau, and we are here to help and provide for our members!

At the end of August, I attended a meeting with the Special Election Committee for the Sangamon County Board. This meeting was open to the public to voice their thoughts and recommendations on the Re-districting of the County Board. In addition, I gave comments regarding the need for rural constituents to have an equal representation in Sangamon County. We encouraged the Re-districting Committee to create the districts so that each district has a significant mix of both urban and rural areas. Such a mix would ensure that all County Board Members share a stake in the broader scope of the county's interest.

Our Executive Committee met at the end of August and hired a new Outreach and Communications Specialist. Unfortunately, Lauren Whitcomb, who had the position, left us to pursue new opportunities closer to her hometown at the end of August. We will undoubtedly miss Lauren and all the many talents she brought to our county, but we wish her the best in all she pursues in her future. We welcome Madison Taylor, who is our new Outreach & Communication Specialist, following Lauren Whitcomb. We also welcome Candice McKown, our new Ag in the Classroom Coordinator to our county. I am excited to have them as part of our Farm Bureau Family and look forward to working with them. Please stop in and meet our new team members at the office when you are in the area! August also brought a Farm Bill Discussion Meeting with Adam Nielsen from Illinois Farm Bureau. Adam traveled the state to meet with members and take notes of suggestions and ideas our members would like to see in the upcoming Farm Bill. There were several members together that evening from our county and the surrounding counties to give their thoughts.

In early September, Jim and I had the opportunity to host Sherriff Campbell and several police chiefs from surrounding villages and towns. We had a chance to visit with them about who we are and what Farm Bureau does. We were able to ask them questions about a few issues brought to our attention by some of our members and listen to some suggestions they had for farmers in the rural areas. One idea they passed to us was to install security cameras or game tracking cameras on equipment and farmsteads. Some chiefs have investigated incidents and described how helpful these are when there is a problem where they need to be involved. Lastly, we ventured out to do yield checks in early September. Soon we'll see how accurate those results were.

Plans are underway for the IAA Annual Meeting to take place this year in Chicago. We hope to be there December 4-7th. Sorry, I said this was going to be short and became a little long. As I close this article, I wish you all a Blessed Holiday Season and look forward to working for you in 2022!

## Committee Reports

Hello Farmers! I hope your harvest is going smooth! The women's committee assembled buckets for the area farmers and passed those out in different areas of the county in September. The goal of this project is to promote essential health and safety reminders during one of farmers busiest seasons. A few of the items these healthy harvest buckets contained were physical health reminders, mental health awareness items, Farm Bureau membership information, and snacks. My son personally loves going with me to distribute buckets because it means he gets to see other tractors and combines. The women's committee is having their fall luncheon on November 10th and will be doing something different, making blankets to donate to DCFS. If you've ever been interested to join us now is the time! Call the office to RSVP or come to one of our meetings they're always a good time!



**Cassie Bennett**



**Janet Edwards**

Greetings!! By now, harvest should just about or be done for 2021. Hopefully, it was a safe harvest for everyone and all are looking forward to the upcoming holidays!

It's been a little quiet around the Farm Bureau building as far as meetings go but that is all about to change. The winter meetings will soon be starting and all of the committees will be getting back to full activities again. Plans are being made for the IFB Annual Meeting which will be held in Chicago the first part of December. It is finally seeming like life is returning to a little bit of normalcy.

The Member and PR committee will be meeting to start planning for the upcoming year. One of the first activities we will be planning will be TRIVIA Night. This was postponed due to COVID 19 restrictions but hopefully, we will be able to hold this event again in 2022. This is a fun time to get a table of friends together and share your TRIVIA knowledge with others for the good of the Foundation. At our meeting we will also be planning other activities for the year. 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 feel you would like to be active on this committee, let the office know and they will put you on the list to be notified when the committee meets.

Until next issue, here's hoping you have a safe and BLESSED holiday season!!

## GOVERNMENTAL ENGAGEMENT & POLICY

Suppose you pay attention to the happenings at the statehouse. In that case, you already know about the passage and signing into law of a vast and complex law formerly known as the Illinois Renewable Energy Bill. The bill had something for everyone to love and something for everyone to hate. Illinois Farm Bureau was opposed to the bill because of the affordability and reliability of base electrical generation rates as coal and natural gas burning electric generation plants are taken offline. The other reason for opposition to the bill was the inclusion of the Grain Belt transmission line and its impact on private property rights by acquiring eminent domain status.

Legislative action in Congress continues to move at a slow pace related to both the Real Infrastructure bill and the Human Infrastructure bill. These pieces of legislation come with very high price tags. Some Democrat members have sided with Republicans regarding their concern for the cost of the bills. Some good news that has come from negotiations is that the stepped-up basis is not being eliminated. It is also expected that the 1031 exchange provision will stay intact as well.

At the county level, we continue to monitor local wind and solar projects that are or may be coming before the county board for zoning relief. Sangamon County Farm Bureau has been supportive of the zoning ordinances that govern such projects. Along the way, changes or otherwise improvements to the ordinances will be researched for their benefit and reasonableness. Zoning is a challenging exercise. It restricts the rights of the few to protect the rights of the many. And that's no easy task.

Enjoy the holidays and be watching for another update in early 2022.



Harvest ended as quick as it started. I hope the yields were bountiful and the price was higher than you expected, but enough dreaming. Young Leaders will be hosting an Ag After Hours event this Nov to discuss grain marketing. Please check our Facebook page for location and timing of this event. We will be having grain bin safety awareness training for our county EMS personnel in late November or early December.



**Stephen Prather**

The young leaders are always looking for fun activities to do. This winter we will be doing an escape room as a group. We will be hosting a food drive at one of our local community businesses. We hope to plan a trip to meet up with another Young Leader group this early spring. We will also be attending the FB annual meeting held in person in Chicago, where we will rooting on our own Rachel Brown as she competes in Young Leader discussion meet. Good luck Rachel! Many of us will also be attending the Young Leader conference Jan. 22nd -23rd. This event is one many of us look forward to every year (except last year) as a way to catch up and learn from our fellow Young Leaders thought the state.

We are always looking for new people to join us in these events or anything else throughout the year. Please consider joining us for one of our meetings, held the second Monday of every month or one of our events. Be sure to check out our Facebook page for more details.

## THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



**Jim Birge**

In this day and age, it seems like all I ever do anymore is work with lawyers, lawmakers, and accountants in my daily duties as your Farm Bureau manager. The good ole days when I could sit down and develop an excellent program that interests and benefits our members are fewer and farther between. Thank goodness we are blessed to have several other staff members that can focus on these things. That brings me to the pleasure of introducing two new staff members who are gearing up to offer you all the programs and educational opportunities you need and hopefully want. Our first new employee is our Ag-In-The-Classroom Coordinator, Candice McKown. She's charging forward to educate our elementary students all about agriculture. She's doing a great job. Next, we have our second new employee, Madison Taylor, our new Outreach and Communications

Specialist. She, too, is learning all the duties of the position and putting her skills to work. We're in good hands. Look for their introductions elsewhere in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer.

Having great staff frees me up to run the organization and keep our members out of harm's way of the law and over-regulation from our government. From organizational bylaws, legal documentation, and political hoops, to protecting our members from the damaging arm of the USEPA, the maze of trucking regulations, or the biased wrath of the national media, my duties are far different than in years past.

When reflecting on my 28 years in this business and the changes I've seen, I begin to see the bigger picture. I realize that we're changing to reflect the needs of our members. I, and all of us, should appreciate that the duties of my staff and I change over time. That's how the organization has remained relative and beneficial to our members over the past 103 years.

Until next time, I wish everyone continued safety as many continue to complete harvest and conduct fall fieldwork. I also want to wish everyone joy and personal reflection as we enter into the holiday season. Be sure the thank the Lord for all we're blessed with and remember those who serve us to protect our way of life and our freedoms. See you next year.

# FARM GATE

*By Joanie Stiers*



## Farmers know more, do more about soil health

My kids quickly mastered the abbreviations N, P and K during study sessions on the periodic table for middle school science. I couldn't explain why K stood for potassium other than phosphorous already used the letter P. Regardless, the kids memorized the elements knowing they impacted their lives as much as course grade.

Every fall, our farm samples the soil in our fields for levels of nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K), organic matter, pH, sulfur and various micro-nutrients. We review the collected data to identify deficiencies that need treatment. Like humans, the soil needs certain nutrients for its best health and performance. Where doctors order blood tests, farmers order soil tests for a health assessment that helps determine nutrient availability to crops and the soil's ability to support swift crop emergence and quality root development.

Armed with the know-how and technology, today's farmers can do more than ever to improve soil health. While N, P and K remain the industry standard macro-nutrients of the soil, we're now reviewing more components of the periodic table than previous generations. Micro-nutrients like boron (B), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn) and copper (Cu) have their place in soil performance. We also assess organic matter, soil tilth and porosity and determine ways to improve them.

Minimal to no mechanical tillage reduces soil disturbance. Water management structures in fields prevent topsoil erosion. Cover crops serve as a groundcover to hold soil in place, keep the soil active, store nutrients, retain moisture and improve the soil structure between cash crops. Like routine human exercise, we're learning the soil's health improves with year-round activity.

This fall, we're using an additional tool on the combine to level and break up crop residue, making the residual plant material smaller for microorganisms to decompose. The primary goals: More organic matter and nutrients for the soil. Crushed stalks also prove gentler on tires.

After harvest, we order soil tests with site-specific coordinates using global-positioning technology. Our agronomist then writes prescriptions for machines to variably apply the rate needed across specific areas of a field, making the most efficient, productive and environmentally conscious use of elements from the periodic table.

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



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



# SCFB Update



## Membership Recruitment Cooler Winner

*Phil Sidles*



## 2022 SCFB Foundation Scholarship Applications

*Available after January 1st on the SCFB website!*



## Outreach & Communication Specialist



**Madison Taylor**

Hi! I'm Madison Taylor and I am the newest team member here at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau office. Currently, I am the Outreach & Communication Specialist here in Sangamon County! I grew up in the rural community of Taylorville, IL where I found a passion for Agriculture. Although I did not grow up on a farm, I was able to become involved in our local FFA chapter and competitively showed Quarter Horses. After continued involvement in FFA it became clear how important to me it was to continue my agricultural involvement, so I decided to major in AgriBusiness.

Following my graduation from Taylorville Sr. High School, I moved up North to a Community College named Black Hawk College East Campus, where I received an associate degree. While at Black Hawk College

I had the opportunity to be involved in various clubs, organizations, and participate on the Equine Judging team. After my BHE graduation, I transferred into Illinois State University where I received my bachelor's degree in AgriBusiness. In May of 2021, I graduated from ISU and returned to my roots in Taylorville where I hope to give back to my community. I am so excited about my new role and can't wait to grow with this organization!





# Cupboard to COMBINE

Recipe:

## POPCORN CAKE

BY: TONI KRONE

### Directions:

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup popped popcorn
- 1 lb. small gumdrops
- 1/2 lb. of mixed salted nuts
- 1/2 cup of butter
- 1/2 cup of oil
- 1 lb. marshmallows

1. Grease angel food cake pan
2. Mix in large roaster pan:
  - Popcorn (popped)
  - Gumdrops
  - Salted nuts
4. Melt:
  - Butter
  - Oil
  - Marshmallows
5. Mix in the melted butter, oil, marshmallows into other ingredience
6. Pack ingredience into the angel food cake pan that has been greased
7. Let stand overnight
8. Cut with bread knife
9. Enjoy!

# Back in the Classroom!




Ag in the Classroom is back in schools! On October 5th, we had our first Ag in the Classroom presentation. Our first visit was to a few third-grade classes and October's topic was pumpkins. The third-grade students got to learn how a pumpkin grows, about different types of pumpkins, and some other interesting facts. They then got to create a 3-D pumpkin to take home. We are so excited to be back in the schools' teaching students about different agricultural topics!

- Candice McKown, AITC



## Introduction TO BEEKEEPING



2022's Six Part Series  
Thursdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

**Pre-registration open  
January 4th!**

Cost: \$45

**Dates:**

February 17th  
February 24th  
March 3rd  
March 10th  
March 17th  
March 24th

**Interested?**

Call the  
Extension  
Office at  
(217)782-4617

# Member Spotlight

## *Dr. Shelby Norville*



Sangamon County Farm Bureau introduces Dr. Shelby Norville from the Ball – Chatham Veterinary Services! Dr. Norville originated from Taylorville, IL where she attended Taylorville Sr. High School and was a member of their local FFA Chapter. While in FFA, she showed boer goats and raised angus – cross feeder calves. She started her college journey at Lincoln Land Community College and then transferred to UIS to receive a bachelor's degree in Biology. Dr. Norville completed her veterinary degree in Columbia, Missouri where she was a Spring of 2021 graduate.

This past spring, Dr. Norville began practicing veterinary medicine at Ball – Chatham Veterinary Services which opened in 2015. She along with Dr. Jessica Ostermeier, offer veterinary services for animals from big- to - small. Dr. Norville provides services to their client's small animals, pocket pets, ruminant animals, and llamas & alpacas. Need on-farm visits? Dr. Norville typically covers the Sangamon and surrounding county area on Wednesdays and Saturdays for large animal farm visits, also she offers after hours emergency farm calls. She also spends four days a week in the clinic to assist with small animals!

When asked, why veterinary medicine, Dr. Norville said it all relates back to an experience she had with a veterinarian willing to come to her farm and care for a goat that was in need. After that experience Dr. Norville knew she wanted to do the same for other animals and their owners. Currently Shelby lives in Rochester, IL with her husband, herd of goats, chickens, turkeys, and a few dogs.

We are so excited to welcome a new veterinarian to this area and look forward to seeing her assist customers in this area. Watch for future veterinary clinics hosted by Sangamon County Farm Bureau featuring Dr. Shelby Norville!







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