



**THE SANGAMON**

*Farmer*

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022



Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through  
Education and Grassroots Legislation

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# Upcoming Meetings & Events

## November

- 7th.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 9th.....Women's Committee Fall Luncheon, 10:00 a.m.
- 11th.....Veterans Day
- 14th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 17th.....Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 17th.....Member & PR Farm Bureau Gathering, 6:00 p.m. (Pizza Ranch)
- 21st.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 24th & 25th.....Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

## December

- 3rd-6th.....IFB Annual Meeting, Palmer House Chicago
- 12th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 15th.....Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- 19th.....Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 23rd-27th.....Christmas Eve & Christmas (Office Closed)
- 30th-2nd.....New Year's Eve & New Year's (Office Closed)

\* 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 am looking 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!**



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

### THE SANGAMO FARMER

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**JD Sudeth**

Greetings! As I write this report, the harvest season is well underway. Whether you might be busy working on or around the farm, remember to take your time and use caution this harvest season. When traveling the roads this busy season, your caution could save lives. We are just days away from the election; please take the time to study the current issues and make sure to visit the polls. Your vote matters! The election date is Tuesday, November 8th, 2022. Finally, as the holiday season approaches, I wish all our members a safe & enjoyable time spent with family & friends.

-Until next time, your President, JD Sudeth.



## Committee Reports

### YOUNG LEADERS



**Stephen Prather**

The reward of all our hard work is upon us as we reap the benefits of a well-deserved harvest. We hope your harvest was successful and safe. Remember to count the blessings you have as we roll into this coming holiday season, and be sure to give back when you can. Young leaders have always had a desire to make better for others, especially the next generation. This winter, we plan to host a couple of food drives to collect non-perishable and monetary donations. Be sure to see where we will be and come show your support. We will also host some Ag-after-hours events to provide a way to develop ourselves as young agriculturalists. Be sure to call the office or follow us on Facebook to find out more about these events.

We will have multiple young leaders in attendance to go to the IL Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago to network with fellow farm bureau members and learn how we can progress forward as an organization in these uncertain times.

We have multiple events that we are preparing for this spring. One event is 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.

Now more than ever, we need to come together as an organization to better the future for our families. Young Leaders want to be the change in how we are perceived in the world by the consumer, the government, and the world. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, follow us on Facebook, call the office, or join us the 2nd Monday of the month for our monthly meeting.



**Phil Sidles**

Harvest is in full swing here on the farm. Early mornings and late nights, but after a brief rain delay, I had the joy of spending a little time with my 9-year-old Peyton. She was working on her student council poster for the 3rd grade. I asked her why she wanted to get into “politics,” looking a little confused, not truly understanding the satire of the question; she said, “because I want to do the right thing and leave the 3rd grade better than I found it.” WOW!! What a truly noble idea. As you read this, you will be close to heading to the polls to cast your vote on some very important issues and candidates surrounding our community. Could you imagine if today’s politics and politicians still had that same attitude as the 3rd grader running for student council? Elections are more important than ever, so please think about your vote. Ask yourself, is this the right thing, and will this candidate leave our community, state, and country better than they found it?

### **Sangamon County Farm Bureau Resolutions:**

#### **We Support:**

Legislation requiring telecommunications companies to remove abandoned or obsolete above-ground communications fixtures from right-of-ways or to properly maintain them if still in use.

A rational and orderly transition from conventional baseload energy such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear to renewable energy sources while ensuring that conventional baseload energy sources remain online until an equal amount of renewable energy generation is online to replace them.

#### **Wind/Solar:**

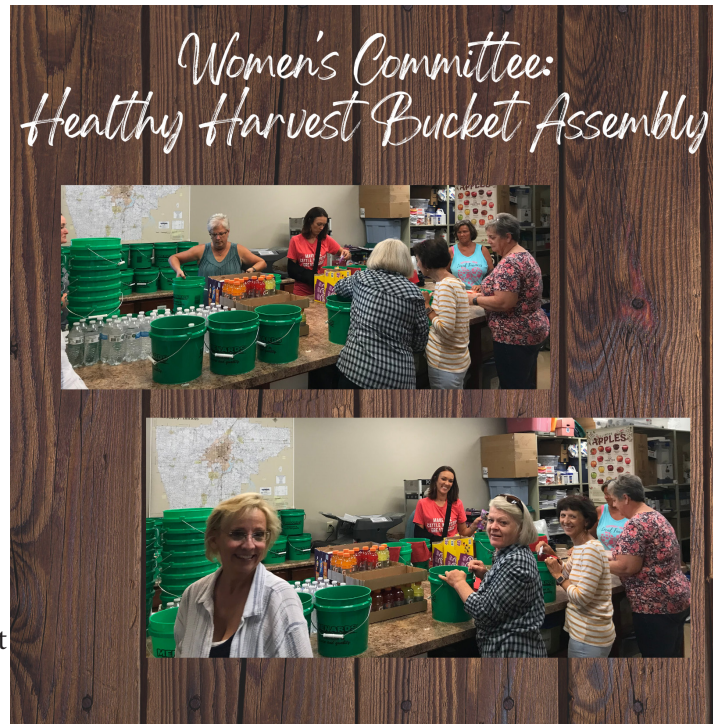
The ability of local government to govern the sighting of wind (solar) energy system projects in such a manner that reflects the best interests of its residents.

If you have input or questions regarding the above resolutions, please contact me, Phil Sidles, at 217-306-4111. Your comments are valuable to us.



**Cassie Bennett**

Hello Farmers!  
I hope your harvest is going well! The women's committee assembled our annual harvest buckets and distributed them throughout the county. There were also several of us who helped out at the barn tour. The barn visited nine different schools in the area. It's always so fun to see how the kids react to different animals! If you have not called the office yet to RSVP for the fall luncheon, do so now! This year we will be making candles and, as always, enjoying delicious food! We also held our farm crawl in October, and I just want to thank all those different area businesses who participated! Have a great and safe finish to harvest!



## Committee Reports



**Janet Edwards**

Greetings from Harvest 2022!! It has been a busy few weeks around the farms of Sangamon County. We luckily had a short break as we were having a few days of showers, but I am sure everyone in the field was ready for a little rest. Plus, this gives me time to write this issue's article!! By the time you are reading this issue, harvest should just about or be done for 2022. Praying it was a safe, bountiful harvest for everyone, and all are looking forward to the upcoming holidays! Also, if you enjoyed the member appreciation dinner or would just like the chance to get together with fellow SCF members, we have made reservations at Pizza Ranch on Thursday, November 17th, at 6 p.m. (Dutch Treat). If you plan on going, please let the office know so we can get a head count for the restaurant.

Plans are being made for the IFB Annual Meeting, which will be held in Chicago the first weekend of December. They are trying something new this year with a concert along with the other activities usually held during the annual meeting.

The Member and PR committee has been meeting and planning for the upcoming year. One of the first activities we are planning is TRIVIA Night. As of this issue, the date is almost set, so save the first weekend in March 2023! 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. We also need raffle items for that night!! If you would be able to help with that, please let me or the office know.

Now, here is where I ask you, the members, if you have any ideas for the committee, PLEASE get ahold of the staff or me 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 or any of the committees, let the office know, and they will put you on the list to be notified when the committee 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!!

## Director Spotlight



**Ethan Krone**

Hello, my name is Ethan Krone. I am serving my fourth year as a director of District two, which is made up of Williams, Clear Lake, Buffalo Heart, Mechanicsburg, Lanesville, and Illiopolis Townships. Currently, I serve as the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. I have been involved with the Young Leader Committee since the age of 18 and sit on various committees for the Sangamon County Farm Bureau. A little bit about myself, I received a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Industry Management with an emphasis in animal science and agronomy at Illinois State University. Currently, I reside in Riverton near our family farm. I enjoyed growing up on the family farm and having the opportunity to spend my spare time working alongside my father and grandfather. I am currently serving as the President of the Sangamon County Fair Board and enjoy assisting with 4-H & FFA Alumni activities. In my free time, I like to hunt, fish, and golf.

After completing the A LOT Program a few years ago, I knew that becoming a Farm Bureau Director was the next step for me. To me, the Farm Bureau offers a family; the organization offers events like the Young Leaders Conference to meet new people and the opportunity to reconnect with those you have met at past events. If I could give any words of wisdom, I would say, "For the younger member, GET INVOLVED! Joining the Young Leader Committee is a good way to get your feet wet with FB."

## THE BUREAU ACCORDING TO JIM



**Jim Birge**

As fall melds into winter and people tend to stay indoors for longer, I also spend more time indoors at the Farm Bureau office. With the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting details being taken care of, preparing for winter meetings and events, following up on requests for information from our awesome members, and generally keeping the organization in good financial order, there's plenty to stay inside for. But when an opportunity arises, I enjoy continually learning about Farm Bureau and agriculture history by looking through our archive of Sangamo Farmer issues dating back to 1919. In these publications, I get a real sense of what the Farm Bureau has done to help the farmers of Sangamon County over its 100+ years of existence. M.W. Summers, the first President of Sangamon County Farm Bureau, appeared to have many grand visions for the newly founded organization. But I'm sure he could never have imagined all that the organization has done and become to its members.

While I'm on the subject of names in our history, I'd like to take a moment to show my respect by naming and acknowledging the people of the first board of directors. These names will undoubtedly be recognizable family names to those in your community today. I'm sure you know the children, grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren of these members. The Executive Council was comprised of M.W. Summers (President), W.L. Beatty (Vice-President), Harry Pickrell (Secretary), John P. Stout (Treasurer), John W. Vorhes, F.F. Ide, J. Garrett Tolan, George P. Ferry, and George Washburn. The Agricultural Council (similar to our board of directors today) was comprised of E.H. Burtle (Auburn), Charles W. Matthew (Ball), Charles M. Raynolds (Buffalo Hart), Charles F. Council (Capital), M.M. Campbell (Cartwright), George Pereboom (Chatham), O.B. Wheeland (Clear Lake), John W. Ross (Cooper), N.A. Smith (Cotton Hill), Felix McQuitty (Curran), George Brown (Divernon), A.E. Petefish (Fancy Creek), Harry Happer (Gardner), Charles D. Correll (Illioapolis), Leigh Maxcy (Island Grove), James Herrin (Lanesville), Arther Washburn (Loami), George W. Dunseth (Maxwell), Lewis Bird (Mechanicsburg), F.M. Taylor (New Berlin), W. Hamilton (Pawnee), J.D. Hunter (Rochester), A.F. Rhodes (Salisbury), Reed Perkins (Springfield), W.B. Curtiss (Talkington), James E. Caldwell (Williams), and J.A. Leland (Woodside). These courageous men stepped up to form a voice for all of agriculture and asked their fellow farmers to put their hard-earned money into this new organization. Without them and many like them, I wouldn't even be writing this column to all you wonderful people.

The readings of the first Sangamo Farmer highlight the call for farmers to organize. These reasons remain fundamentally unchanged today. Page 4 of the January 1919 issue of the Sangamo Farmers states, "Every Farmer in Sangamon County should become a member of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau. Sixty Four of the one hundred-two counties now have Farm Bureaus. These Farm Bureaus are members of the Illinois Agricultural Association, which is a farmers' organization free from the control of any political or commercial interests. There are one-fifth as many members of labor unions in the United States as there are farmers. Labor unions make their influence felt in every department of the State and Federal Governments. Farmers properly organized could demand and receive a square deal in both state and national affairs."

As members of this great organization, we have come to understand these powerful statements. Even though the fight is often an uphill battle, we're better off from having engaged government and won numerous battles than have not organized and lost them all.

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# 2022 Fall Ag-Venture Barn



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED &  
ALLOWED US TO BORROW THEIR ANIMALS TO  
MAKE THE AG-VENTURE BARN TOUR A SUCCESS!**





# FARM GATE

*By Joanie Stiers*

## ***'Til Death Do Us Part***

***Farmers share profound commitment to the Land***

Grandpa expressed concern about three things when he left the hospital: Getting home to the farm. Making sure the yard was mowed. And checking that the crops were planted.

He died on May 21 in a makeshift bedroom in the farmhouse living room on the farm where he had raised crops, hogs, cattle and a family. The grass had been mowed, and we finished planting corn and soybeans 48 hours before his death.

This fall, we harvest the first crop without our “S-1,” his call sign on our two-way radios. Rather, our family and employees remember him across the terraces at Ostroms, the timber-lined fields of the Hurlbutt farm, and the rich and flat black soils of the Billtown 80 field. We sense him in the calm, pre-dawn air as early as 4:30 a.m., when he witnessed the earth wake around him. And we see him in our pastures, where his cows’ genetics live on in our farm’s herd today.

I cannot adequately express the powerful connection farmers have to the land – to take care of it until death do them part. The land intertwined with each of Grandpa’s dying wishes. And while his body shut down, we determinedly fulfilled one wish while planting the same fields he had cared for during his career the previous half century.

Throughout Grandpa’s lifetime, he witnessed some of the most incredible advancements in agriculture. U.S. farm production tripled with innovations in animal and crop genetics, chemicals and equipment that reduced environmental impact while improving productivity. As a youngster, Grandpa’s family used horses to plow, plant and cultivate. By age 80, he operated a 500-horsepower tractor hands-free, guided by satellites. Until 85, Grandpa and I worked together during fall harvest, operating grain auger carts that took turns collecting grain from the combines and then filling the grain trucks. After school, the kids called dibs for a ride in the tractor with “Gramps” to enjoy both his company and the red licorice that Granny packed in his lunch box.

The week of Grandpa’s death, my brother and I stopped to see him one morning before heading to the field. We talked about crops, cattle, the weather and my new roles with equipment operation on the farm. I choked to silence when his hands clenched mine at my departure. His palm, fingers and knuckles were as thick, stout and strong as any working hand could come.

“One thing I never got to do was ride with you in the tractor,” he said.  
He rides in my heart.

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, backyard chickens and farmkids.



# A Look at What's Next at SCFB!

Women's Committee  
**Fall Luncheon**  
 Join us!  
 Wednesday, November 9th at 10:00 a.m.  
 Sangamon County Farm Bureau office;  
 2631 Beechler Ct. Springfield, IL

\$15 includes a delicious lunch provided by the Women's Committee & Farm-to-Wick Candle Making Class



*Hat & Glove Donation Accepted*

Please RSVP by November 1st  
 Email [mtaylor@sangamonfb.org](mailto:mtaylor@sangamonfb.org) or call SCFB at 217-753-5200




*The Painted Ladies Illinois*

## Paint for Ag in the Classroom

NOVEMBER 10TH 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.  
 SANGAMO SURF CLUB  
 405 E LAKE SHORE DR SPRINGFIELD, IL 62712

The Agriculture Education Partnership/Agriculture in the Classroom Program, is hosting a wooden door hanger Paint Party Fundraiser ! You won't want to miss the fun! Register today! This event is for all skill levels! Come paint a beautiful door hanger to display just in time for all your holiday guests to see! All supplies included.

*The Agricultural Education Partnership/Agriculture in the Classroom program provides important general agricultural knowledge to students throughout Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Counties. Your support of this program will ensure that we can continue to provide high-quality agricultural education. All proceeds will benefit the program.*

Visit [www.sangamonfb.org](http://www.sangamonfb.org) or use the provided QR code to RSVP by November 4th



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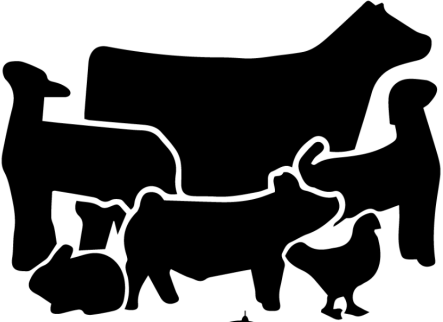
Choose from these two shapes!

Pre-Pay for your seat on the SCFB website!



## Youth Expo Informational Clinic

Watch for more information in the next Sangamo Farmer Issue!



**SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
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# A Year in Review



2022  
Foundation  
Trivia Night



Russel Miner Memorial  
Antique Tractor Drive  
hosted by the Young  
Leader Committee.



(Right) A group  
learns about farm  
machinery from  
Young Leader  
Committee Chair,  
Stephen Prather.



(Above) Candice McKown, AITC Coordinator, teaches students about Sunflowers at the 2022 Ag-Stravaganza Event.



2022 Foundation Golf Outing



Exhibitors of the 2022 Youth Expo



(Left) Children of  
SCFB Members at  
play during the  
Volunteer  
Appreciation.



Volunteers  
enjoyed a  
relaxing  
evening at the  
first Volunteer  
Appreciation  
Event.

Happy  
Thanksgiving!

Best wishes, to you and your family.



Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

-SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU-

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