



THE SANGAMON *Farmer*

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020



Advocating the Voice of Agriculture through
Education

Phone: (217) 753-5200 • www.sangamonfb.org • farmbureau@sangamonfb.org

Springfield, IL • Volume MMXX Number 5

Upcoming Meetings & Events

SEPTEMBER

3rd.....Labor Day, Office Closed
 14th.....Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
 14th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:30 p.m.
 17th.....Women's Committee (Tentative), 12:00 p.m.
 21st.....Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5th..... Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
 10th..... Women's Committee Fall Farm Crawl
 12th.....Young Leader Committee Meeting (Tentative), 6:30 p.m.
 15th..... Women's Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
 19th.....Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

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



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

THE SANGAMO FARMER	
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SANGAMON COUNTY FARM BUREAU 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 Periodical Class Postage Paid at Springfield, Illinois	DIRECTORY FARM BUREAU STAFF Manager: James Birge, FBCM Outreach & Communication: Lauren Burris Finance/Membership: Arika Leka Farm Bureau Tel. 217-753-5200 E-mail farmbureau@sangamonfb.org Individual membership fee of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau includes payment of \$2 per year for a subscription to the Sangamo Farmer.



Diana Beaty

Greetings to you all! For those of you who do not know me I am Diana Beaty your new Sangamon County Farm Bureau President. I am excited to have climb the ladder in Sangamon County from Office Staff for 26 years, Member & Public Relations Committee Chair for about 8 years, 100th Anniversary Committee Chair, Board Member, Secretary on the Executive Committee to current President. I figure I have been involved in Sangamon County Farm Bureau for about 43 years now. Many years ago, when I was hired to work in the office by Jack Oakley, we used to have a saying, "Farm Bureau is our life", and it has indeed been a big part of my life! Why do I stay involved, I believe in Farm Bureau and we as landowners/producers should be grateful to have this organization in our corner!

As I embark on this journey of my 'Farm Bureau Life', I hope to be able to fulfill all the duties bestowed upon me to the best of my ability and for the best of the organization!

Most of our events this year have been cancelled or postponed due to the Pandemic. But on the 1st of August we held our first Youth Expo. What a great day it turned out to be. 40 kids that finally got to show their animals that they have spent many hours working with for summer 4-H shows, county fairs and state fairs that all have been cancelled! I was impressed by all of them at their abilities to control the animals and what great little showman they all were! My congratulations to all on a job well done! For the show we had several sponsors that made donations for the show and the donations all went to the kids. Without these sponsors this show would not have taken place! I send out a HUGE, HUGE, THANK YOU TO THEM ALL! By the time this article is published the kids should have all received their checks and I'm sure they will all have smiles on their faces! This is how it should be! (A list of all the sponsors will appear elsewhere in this issue). If you know any of these sponsors, I would encourage you to extend your thanks particularly if you had kids in this show!

By the time you receive this issue we will all be preparing to start our fall harvest. This has been another (different) year for of us again! But once again we all push forward to accomplish the task before us and now that will be harvest. Along with the fall season we have Election Day coming upon us. I urge you all to "GET OUT AND VOTE"! One critical topic on our ballots will be the 'Progressive Income Tax.' The ballot will ask whether you support changing Illinois' Income Tax Structure. **VOTE NO** on this question. The amendment would end the state's flat-rate income tax, and it will not solve our state's fiscal problems. If enacted, the constitutional amendment would no longer require Illinois to have a flat tax, which is currently set at 4.95% for all Illinoisans. Instead, it would allow the state to enact a progressive tax. These rates would initially vary between 4.75% and 7.99% based on a household's income level. I would urge you to educate yourself about this before you head to the polls. We at Sangamon County Farm Bureau are embarking on our own campaign to "VOTE NO FOR THE PROGRESSIVE TAX."

GREEN ICE, not sure that we are all familiar with the fact that there is a State of Illinois Statue that states we are responsible for clearing the grass off the roads when we mow our roadsides. In a presentation from Sheriff Campbell at one of our board meetings about a year ago I became aware of this statue, one that I really did not know existed and you may not know either. When mowing our roadsides or yards during the mowing season the grass clippings on the road need to be removed it is indeed against the law for the green grass to be left on any roadway. Sheriff Campbell has asked that we work to together to help make people more aware of this law.

In closing I look forward to my new duties and responsibilities as your President. Please contact me if you have questions or issues that Farm Bureau can help you with or you feel I should be pursuing. The office has all my contact information.

I wish you all a safe and bountiful harvest!





Stephen Prather

How is it fall time already? We were finally able to meet back in August and it was good to see everyone and get some new ideas rolling. We also picked our sweet corn that was donated to Salvation Army and Central IL Food Bank for the Harvest for All Campaign. We have another Ag After Hours event in the works for this winter. Jay Siegrist with The Scoular Company will be speaking on how to market grain for young farms. More details to come on that event. In the mean time, we are working to improve our events for next year and make them the best that they can be. Continue to stay safe and be healthy through harvest.

YOUNG LEADERS



Cassie Bennett

Hello SCFB members! Summer sure did fly by. I cannot believe that we are gearing up for harvest and fall is just around the corner. Fall time is so much fun for our committee. We will be distributing our Healthy Harvest goodies before too long. We are have added a new program to our agenda! The Fall Farm Crawl will be taking place on October 10th. We will be mapping out the pumpkin patches in the county and select participating patches will be giving SCFB member discounts on the day of the Farm Crawl! Be sure to check out the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Facebook for more details on that or call the office. Moving into November, our Annual Fall Luncheon will be taking place on November 11th at the office. Look for more details on that in the next issue of the Sangamo Farmer. Until next time, have a safe harvest!

WOMEN'S

Fall Farm Crawl
October 10, 2020

Participating Pumpkin Patches in the county will be mapped out and select patches will be offering discounts for SCFB Members!

Check out us out on Facebook or sangamonfb.org/events for more details.

GOVERNMENTAL ENGAGEMENT & POLICY

By: Adam Bailey

It's getting to be that time of the year again when elections and ballot initiatives are coming into full bloom. Since this is a presidential election year, it's all the more crazy. The Governmental Engagement & Policy Committee strongly encourages our members to GET OUT AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD! No matter your politics or which candidates you choose to support, the only choice that is important is your choice to go vote. As free Americans, we've been given this awesome power to elect those that represent us. Do not waste it.

In the realm of elections, there is yet another matter of great importance for you to weigh in on. That matter is the constitutional amendment to change our state's income tax system from a flat tax to a progressive tax. We are embarking on a campaign to inform our members and the public of the power, and ultimately money, that taxpayers will be giving up. You must check the NO box on the ballot where it asks you if you want to switch to a progressive income tax. If it passes, our state government can vote to at any time to change the rates paid by any and all income levels. Looking back at income tax hikes of recent years, you should take note that the additional revenue you and I pay in income taxes already has only been squandered. They want more money to spend frivolously, and they won't stop until they can get their hands on as much of your money as they can. Learn more about the "VOTE NO PROGRESSIVE TAX" in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer.

Our committee's duties don't end with governmental engagement, it also includes working to craft policy for our organization to administer. These policies set the stage for what Farm Bureau is tasked with focusing on throughout 2021. One policy we submitted recently is aimed at seeking that the USEPA EPA policy that allows the expeditious use of existing stocks of the pesticide products where registration have been amended, cancelled, or suspended. This language was submitted to address future issues resulting from court actions to immediately halt the use of approved pesticides when retailers and producers have already purchased the seed and crop protection products for the upcoming crop year. This is in reaction to the Ninth Circuit Federal Court decision to immediately strip farmers from using Dicamba products.

We're hear to be your voice. If you have a topic that think needs to be addressed, please let our office know and we'll put it on our agenda to discuss. Have a safe harvest!

Save the Date!

Sangamon County Farm
Bureau Women's Committee
invites you to the

Fall Luncheon

November 11th @ 10:00 am
at the SCFB Office.

Look for more information
in next issue of the
Sangamo Farmer



Matt Heissinger

The Marketing Committee finally had the opportunity to hold an event and do so in a safe, socially distanced manner during the recent Market Outlook Steakfry. There was at least a momentary sense of normalcy as members gathered for a great meal and to hear one of their favorite market analysts speak. Brian Burke of John Stewart and Associates in St. Louis gave a presentation to reflect the fall NASS crop report's impact, the market's status, and what farmers may look toward throughout harvest and the marketing year. While not all of the news was good, it did give farmers a realistic roadmap to follow in order to make the best marketing decisions possible.

As we move into November or December, the committee is still considering holding a farm book-keeping class on QuickBooks. Those who use QuickBooks or are interested in considering it should plan to attend this session. Experts from Kerber, Eck, and Braeckel (KEB) Accountants will provide a walk-through of what the software can do for your farm and how it can simplify tax time. Stay tuned for a possible date and time. We hope you will plan to attend.

Until next time, I wish you well as we enter into harvest.

MARKETING

The Bureau According to Jim



Jim Birge

Happy September! It seems as though time has flown once we were back in regular office hours in June. Based upon all the things we hadn't been able to do, we knew there was going to be a lot of catch up when we were allowed to have some limited meetings.

One event that came directly out of the COVID crisis was our Youth Livestock Show. While I've never shown livestock and was a little bit out of my element, one of my team members was just the one to put together and execute such an incredible show. Lauren Burris, our Outreach and Communications Specialist, did a FABULOUS job of putting it on. I, on the other hand, let her be the one to bark orders at me for a change. I think she liked it a little too much, but that's just me! Sponsors that helped donate money to make it all work came out of the woodwork. People wanted to support our youth, especially since this the only, or one of the very few, opportunities for them to show the animals they raised and worked so hard on. Thanks

to everyone who contributed. We awarded approximately \$13,000 to the exhibitors! There were some reasonably big checks sent to kids. It was, personally, gratifying to sign each one of them.

For every fun and successful event, it seems there's always more of the grave, hard-hitting issues to tackle. One of those is Farm Bureau's campaign to stop the Illinois Progressive Tax from becoming a reality this November. See more on the Illinois Progressive Vote NO campaign in this issue of the Sangamo Farmer.

Then there's this thing called green ice. Some of you may have heard of it, but far too many of you have not. It's not as pretty as one might envision, and if you cause it, you might regret it. Read more about your liability elsewhere in this issue.

As we move closer and closer to harvest, please be safe, whether traveling on the roadways or in the fields. Dangers are everywhere, and they don't just happen to other people. Be safe and look out for the safety of those around you as you go about your harvesting activities. You may not be required to wear a mask in your combine, grain cart, or semi, but that doesn't mean you should be lax on safety of all kinds. Happy Harvest!!



Welcome Sam Snell to the Farmer Hall of Fame!

Through the decades, Sam has led a life of leadership, entrepreneurship, and community service. As a young boy, he could be found riding the tractor on the farm in Auburn, attending the Church of the Brethren with his parents and sister, playing sports, and making friends in the community. Nothing has changed over time.

Sam would attend Manchester college in Indiana before making his way back to the family farm in Auburn where he and his father, Philip Snell, went into business together in 1970.

The start of Snell Farms launched him into the agricultural community, where he held many leadership positions, starting with the State Young Farmers' Committee. He went on to serve on the State Board of Directors for Illinois Pork Producers from 1982-1989 and was the Sangamon County Farm Bureau President from 1984-1986. That, along with running a hog and cattle operation, corn and soybean farming, serving on the church board, and raising two daughters kept him on his toes.

His entrepreneurial spirit and desire to innovate led to the creation of a solar company named Sunduit in the 80s, and a construction company, Sam Snell Construction, in the 90s. The subdivision he built, Auburn Hills, is conveniently adjacent to the Auburn football field, where he has fond memories of playing, and still enjoys supporting the kids who play today. His natural ability to encourage and develop others was especially evident during his coaching days at Auburn High School where he helped groom the girls' basketball team while his daughter played.

Since 2003, Sam has served on Sangamon County Board, where he has worked hard for the constituents he represents in District 6. He has chaired and served on many committees and was instrumental in the creation of the Sangamon County Drug Task Force through the Sheriff's Department to help stop drug trafficking.

Since his retirement from farming, he and his wife Patty have enjoyed traveling to see their 8 grandchildren, 4 daughters, and maintaining lifelong friendships they've made along the way.

Legislative Voting Records

To the right are the voting records for each individual legislator in the 2020 final session with the weightings on the bills the IAA Board has approved. The “final percent” listed down the right side of the page indicates the percentage of support given by the legislator to Farm Bureau’s position on the bills of which they voted. Across the top of the report are the points per bill indicating the weighting by points given each legislative bill based upon the bill’s importance in the Farm Bureau legislative program. The weightings vary from 5 to 25 points.

The "S" and "O" does not relate to the support or opposition of a legislator to a specific piece of legislation, but rather support or opposition of IFB's position on that bill.

2020 General Assembly Bills

- HB1438: Recreational Use of Marijuana (IFB Opposes)
- HB2425: Endangered Species Duplicate Permits (IFB Supports)
- HB2505: Local Food, Farms, Jobs Act (IFB Supports)
- HB2669: Farm Wagon Registration (IFB Supports)
- HB3677: Uniform Partition of Heirs Property (IFB Supports)
- SB1: State Minimum Wage Increase (IFB Opposes)
- SB1379: Income Producing Property (IFB Opposes)
- SB1407: Ethanol Plant Prevailing Wage (IFB Opposes)
- SB1498: Agriculture Education Teacher Grant (IFB Supports)
- SB1966: FOID Card Fingerprinting Requirement (IFB Opposes)
- SJRCA1: Progressive State Income Tax (IFB Opposes)

Senate 2019-2020

POINTS PER BILL	19		19		19		19		19		19		CURRENT SESSION
	15	5	5	15	20	10	10	5	25	110	110		
DISTRICT	HB	HB	HB	HB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SIRCA	BILL	POINTS	CURRENT SESSION	
NO.	1438	2505	2669	3677	1	1379	1407	1498	1	110	30	100.00%	
44	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	30	27.27%	
19	O	S	S	S	O	?	O	S	O	O	30	27.27%	
48	O	S	S	S	O	O	O	S	O	O	95	86.36%	
50	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			

House of Representatives 2019-2020

POINTS PER BILL	19		19		19		19		19		19		CURRENT SESSION
	15	5	5	15	20	5	10	25	115	115	70		
DISTRICT	HB	HB	HB	HB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SIRCA	BILL	POINTS	CURRENT SESSION	
NO.	1438	2425	2505	2669	1	1498	1966	1	1	115	115	100.00%	
87	S	S	?	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	110	95.65%	
100	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	115	100.00%	
99	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	115	100.00%	
96	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	O	70		60.87%	

10th Annual Golf Outing

Friday, July 10, 2020



The Dowson Brothers Golf Team took home 1st Place at this years Golf Outing out of the 18 teams present! Pictured right is the winning team, members Jim Dowson, Kady Koen, Chuck Silveus, and Guido Didonato.

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

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Sangamo Farmer 2020 Statement of Ownership

NO Your Facts about the Progressive Income Tax

- If approved, the individual progressive income tax rate on the highest earners could be increased to 7.99% an increase in taxes of 60% from the current level
- Illinois already has 2nd highest property tax in the nation, highest sales tax rate in the Midwest, and highest wireless tax in the nation.
- Tax rates can easily be changed each legislative session on innumerable number of arbitrary set tax brackets.

The Constitutional Amendment question on the ballot will simply read:

YES / NO For the proposed amendment of Section 3 of Article IX of the Illinois Constitution.

A "yes" vote supports repealing the state's constitutional requirement that the state personal income tax be a flat rate and instead allow the state to enact legislation for a graduated income tax.

A "no" vote opposes this constitutional amendment, thus continuing to require that the state personal income tax be a flat rate and prohibit a graduated income tax.

“This Constitutional Amendment, or the so-called “Fair Tax”, is bad news for us, the taxpayers. The proponents may claim that most Illinoisans’ taxes will not be changed. But we know better. Until our State’s politicians get their fiscal house in order, costs will continue to grow, and all our taxes will continue to increase. Rather than spend time on policies that raise taxes, Illinois’ politicians should focus on enacting policies that force our government to live within its means, just like all households across the State. They should focus on making life better - not worse - for working people by reducing income taxes, reducing property taxes, adding jobs, and growing our economy.” Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert
“The state legislature is asking you to vote on an open-ended question allowing them free reign to modify the tax rates of smaller classes of individuals. Our members, through Illinois Farm Bureau policy, have purposefully stated that higher marginal income tax rates are inconsistent with economic growth on the federal level and the same reasoning can be applied on the state level.” Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President Richard Duncan

“You may have heard this Constitutional Amendment being dubbed the “Fair Tax”. I would argue that treating people differently based on an arbitrary standard, determined by the government, is the opposite of fair. Fair means treating everyone equally. Period.” Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert

“This Constitutional Amendment would change the political calculations legislators make when it comes to decisions about your taxes. While the legislature has always had the ability to set the income tax rate, this amendment would provide them additional political cover. The new structure means lawmakers can pick and choose whose taxes they raise. No longer will they 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 that normally follows a tax increase. If only a few people see their taxes going up at a time, it will be nearly impossible to make their opposition heard.” Illinois Farm Bureau Illinois Government Committee Chair Dennis Green.

VOTE NO
ON THE PROGRESSIVE TAX

SANGAMON COUNTY YOUTH EXPO



The Sangamon County Youth Expo was held on August 1st at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds. We had 41 exhibitors and BEAUTIFUL weather! Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and exhibitors for making this such a great event.

Show Results

- Champion Heifer · Colbie Stremsterfer
- Reserve Heifer · Sam Schaadt
- Champion Steer · Colt Stremsterfer
- Reserve Steer · Sam Schaadt
- Champion Gilt · Klayton Komnick
- Reserve Gilt · Colbie Stremsterfer
- Champion Market Hog · Noah Stremsterfer
- Reserve Market Hog · Colt Stremsterfer
- Champion Ewe · Isla Steckel
- Reserve Ewe · Carly Edwards
- Champion Market Lamb · Olivia Krispinsky
- Champion Doe · Kallen Beutke
- Reserve Doe · Ena Earles
- Champion Market Goat · Kolton Buckles
- Reserve Market Goat · Devan Buckles
- Champion Pullet · Charlie Morrison
- Reserve Pullet · Eli Cook
- Champion Cockerel · Daniel Kloppe
- Reserve Cockerel · Eli Cook



GREEN ICE

Green ice is a newly crafted phrase to describe grass clippings that are blown onto public roads during mowing activities. Many people go back and blow the grass clippings back onto the grass where it came from, but for those who do not take this step, it can cost you big. If someone traveling down the road comes into contact with the clippings and loses control of their vehicle. As a result, you may be held liable and issued a citation, especially if it causes property damage or injuries. The term green ice is generally intended to describe the hazard associated with motorcycle and bicycle traffic, although other vehicles could be impacted as well. We've already had one such lawsuit in Sangamon County. Please do yourself and others a favor, blow the grass off the road as soon as you reasonably can.

So when and where did this green ice business become an issue? The state statute has actually been around for quite a few years, dating back to 2002. It falls under Chapter 415. Environmental Safety and specifically under Act 105. Litter Control Act. The definition of litter under this act is defined as any discarded, used, or unconsumed substance or waste. Litter may include, but is not limited to, any garbage, trash, refuse, cigarettes, debris, rubbish, grass clippings or any other lawn or garden waste, newspaper, magazines, glass, metal, plastic or paper containers or other packaging construction material, abandoned vehicle, motor vehicle parts, furniture, oil, carcass of a dead animal, any nauseous or offensive matter of any kind, any object likely to injure any person or create a traffic hazard, potentially infectious medical waste, or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature, which has been discarded, abandoned or otherwise disposed of improperly.

The violation states that no person shall dump, deposit, drop, throw, discard, leave, cause or permit the dumping, depositing, dropping, throwing, discarding or leaving litter upon any public or private property in this State, or upon or into any river, lake, pond, or other stream or body of water in this State.

Farm Bureau is working to define the act further to include a definition of "reasonable remedy," which will assist anyone impacted to have a period of time to clear the litter off of a road. As it reads currently, there is no defined allowance to provide a reasonable opportunity to remove the grass clippings from the road. The current language could be interpreted to mean that as you are mowing, any grass clippings placed upon the roadway could lead to immediate citation and liability. While the Sangamon County Sheriff's office has no intention of issuing citations for this violation, they may be forced to, if there is an incident resulting from the litter being on the roadway.

To sum it up, please protect yourself and others using the roadway by removing any litter you cause to enter the road surface as quickly as is reasonable.



Date	Description
June 16	Vote by mail applications now accepted
September 24	Early voting begins, vote by mail ballots mailed
October 6	Regular voter registration ends
October 7	Grace period voter registration and voting begins
October 18	Online voter registration ends
October 29	Last day for vote by mail applications through mail
November 2	Early voting ends
November 2	Last day for vote by mail applications in person
November 3	Election Day

3 WAYS TO VOTE:

1

VOTE BY MAIL: SEPTEMBER 24 - NOVEMBER 3

Step 1: Apply June through October to receive your ballot by mail

Step 2: Receive your ballot in the mail and cast your vote

Step 3: Send ballot back to local election authority in well-sealed envelope

Vote by Mail applications can be found online at:

<https://elections.il.gov/VotingAndRegistrationSystems/VotingByMailMove.aspx>

2

VOTE EARLY: SEPTEMBER 24 - NOVEMBER 2

Weekdays: 8:30 am - 7:00 pm

Weekends & Holidays: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Permanent branch polling locations only. Check with your local election authority for specific times/locations for your area.*

3

ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3

6:00 am - 7:00 pm

Sangamon County Farm Bureau
2631 Beechler Court
Springfield, IL 62703



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