



September 2026

Stark County Ag in the Classroom: Growing Agricultural Education in Stark County

As we plant the seeds for a new school year, Ag in the Classroom is excited to continue helping students grow their knowledge of agriculture throughout Stark County. This year, our program will reach approximately 30 classrooms, serving students from Pre-K through 12th grade in three schools. We are ready to dig in, get our hands dirty with learning, and cultivate new opportunities for students to discover the many ways agriculture impacts their lives every day. Through engaging, hands-on, and age-appropriate lessons, students will explore agriculture in ways that connect directly to their everyday experiences. Ag in the Classroom provides students with opportunities to learn where their food, clothing, and other everyday products come from while developing a greater appreciation for the farmers, businesses, science, technology, and natural resources that make agriculture possible.

For our youngest students, lessons may focus on topics such as plants, animals, food, and how things grow. As students progress through the grades, they can explore more complex agricultural concepts, including soil and water conservation, food production, natural resources, agricultural technology, sustainability, and the many careers available within the agriculture industry.

For middle and high school students, Ag in the Classroom can provide an opportunity to take a closer look at the science and technology behind modern agriculture and the role agriculture plays in our local, state, and national economy. These experiences can also help students recognize the wide variety of career paths connected to agriculture, from production and animal science to engineering, business, communications, education, technology, and environmental sciences.

Reaching students across three Stark County schools and approximately 30 classrooms allows Ag in the Classroom to build relationships with students and educators while providing consistent agricultural education throughout the school year. By working with students from Pre-K through 12th grade, we have the opportunity to introduce agricultural concepts early and build upon that knowledge as students grow.

Our goal is not only to teach students about agriculture, but also to help them understand its importance in their own community. We want students to recognize the connection between the food on their plates, the products they use, the land and resources around them, and the people who work every day to provide for our communities.

As we look ahead to the new school year, we are excited to keep the learning growing and the ideas blooming. With 30 classrooms, three schools, and students from Pre-K through 12th grade, there are plenty of opportunities to sow some knowledge, reap some understanding, and grow a new generation of agricultural advocates. We are looking forward to another fruitful year of bringing agriculture into the classroom and helping Stark County students see just how deeply agriculture is rooted in their everyday lives!



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 STARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

 STARK COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM

HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU

JULY 2026



- 1 Seventeen member-driven policy proposals moved through Illinois Farm Bureau's grassroots policy process and will be voted upon by delegates at Annual Meeting.
- 2 IFB recently accepted two students into the Illinois Veterinary Student Loan Program, which supports the next generation of veterinarians focusing on caring for food animals.
- 3 IFB hosted an ag industry tour for Young Leaders, helping young farmers expand their understanding of U.S. agriculture through a multistate farm tour in New England.
- 4 Nine county Farm Bureaus partnered with IFB to host Nutrient Stewardship Field Days, providing education, outreach and support to farmers as part of the state's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.



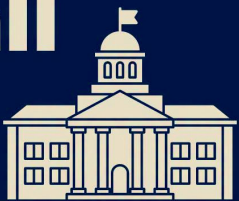
Interested in attending
future Stark County Farm
Bureau Workshops?

Please fill out the info
below to get on our
mailing and emailing list
so you won't miss out!



Stark County Town Hall

in Toulon



**OCTOBER 6
6:00-7:00 pm**

**Stark County
High School**

418 S. Franklin St.
Toulon, Illinois



Rep. Travis
Weaver



Rep. Ryan
Spain



Sen. Neil
Anderson



Sen. Li
Arellano



Sponsored by The Stark Council
For Continuous Improvement

How SCCI's Unprecedented Synergy is Transforming Stark County

Stark Council for Continuous Improvement (SCCI) was formed in 2020 by Superintendent Brett Elliott as a collaborative non-profit leadership conduit grounded in a simple reality: a rural school district is the heart of its community, and long-term economic vitality requires total local alignment. Rather than operating in isolated silos, SCCI acts as an intergovernmental umbrella connecting the school district, the mayors of all three county municipalities (Toulon, Bradford, and Wyoming), the Stark County Board, the local Farm Bureau, area agricultural producers, and civic stakeholders. By uniting these distinct leadership spheres under a shared mission, SCCI has established a rare model of rural collaboration focused on housing expansion, clean energy development, and community resilience.

Join us for a "County Hall" at SCHS hosted by
SCCI: Stark County for Continuous
Improvement



Connecting Leaders; Powering Progress;
Inspiring Generations