

WOODFORD FARM BUREAU REVIEW



Autum Jones
Farm Bureau Manager

MEET THE BOARD



William (Bill) Christ has spent a majority of his life connected to agriculture. He began farming as a senior in high school and continues to farm today, raising

corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and a small herd of Hereford and Black Baldy cattle.

Bill graduated from Lowpoint-Washburn High School before earning a degree in Ag Production from Illinois State University. He and his wife, Sandy, have been married for 44 years and have two adult children, Thomas and Laurel. Earlier this year, they welcomed their first grandson, who was born on Valentine's Day!

Like many farmers, Bill experienced the challenges of the farm economy in the early 1980s. The combination of high interest rates and the drought of 1983 led him to begin a career with Country Companies, now COUNTRY Financial, in 1984. He spent the next 40

years serving clients throughout the Metamora area before retiring in 2024.

A Farm Bureau member since he was 18 years old, Bill joined the Woodford County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in December 2025. He enjoys the opportunity to stay involved in issues affecting agriculture and appreciates Farm Bureau's work on behalf of farmers, such as the Farm Bill and improvements to crop insurance programs.

Bill believes Farm Bureau plays an important role in representing agriculture and helping farmers navigate the challenges facing the industry. He values the organization's efforts to advocate and improve the farming experience for future generations.

His advice to younger farmers is simple: get involved. Whether through Farm Bureau, Illinois Corn, Illinois Soybean, or livestock organizations, Bill believes participation is one of the best ways to support the industry and ensure farmers continue to have a voice in the decisions that affect their operations.

FOLLOW THE FIELD: A NEW CROP YEAR BEGINS



The soybean crop continues to progress well. Since planting, the field has received 8.7 inches of timely rainfall.

Weed control remains good, and a post-emergence herbicide application will be applied if needed. No disease issues have been observed at this time. The plants are approximately 14 inches tall, and the rows are beginning to close.

We'll continue monitoring the field and provide another update next month.

FARM AID NETWORK: HELPING NEIGHBORS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When the unexpected happens, you are not alone.

The Woodford County Farm Bureau Farm Aid Network was created with one simple purpose: to connect members with the help they need during difficult times. Whether it's an illness, injury, family emergency, natural disaster, or another unforeseen challenge, our Farm Aid Network is designed to bring neighbors together to support one another.

Here's how it works. If a Woodford County Farm Bureau member experiences a situation where they need assistance, they simply contact the Farm Bureau office. Our team will work to identify the specific need and activate our volunteer network to coordinate support in a streamlined and timely manner. Rather than making dozens of phone calls or trying to organize help on your own, one call to Farm Bureau can connect you with a community ready to step in.

The Farm Aid Network may provide assistance in a variety of ways, including meal delivery, transportation, farm or household support, childcare assistance, errands, and other volunteer services depending on the situation and available resources.

This member benefit is only possible because of volunteers who are willing to answer the call when help is needed. By joining the Farm Aid Network, you'll become part of a community that shows up when it matters most. Whether you have a few hours to give each year or are available to help more frequently, every volunteer makes a difference.

We invite all members to consider becoming part of this network of support. Together, we can ensure that no member has to face life's unexpected challenges alone.



Scan the QR code to sign up as a volunteer or learn more about the program at woodfordcountyfarmbureau.org/farmaidnetwork.

MINUTE WITH THE MANAGER



As we move through the heart of summer, it's one of my favorite times of the year to reflect on the many ways Farm Bureau is connecting with our members and community.

While the fields are growing, so are the opportunities to learn, engage, and build relationships. Our monthly MR Farmers Breakfast continues to bring members together on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss timely topics affecting agriculture. We have also enjoyed another successful season of Summer Ag in the Classroom programming at local libraries, helping young people learn more about agriculture through hands-on activities and stories. Our recent Herbs & Mocktails workshop brought women together for an evening of learning and fellowship, and we're already looking forward to planning another workshop this fall.

July also means fair season is here. We look forward to welcoming exhibitors,

volunteers, and families to the Woodford County 4-H Show. Be sure to stop by the Park to enjoy activities including the Kiddie Tractor Pull, Master Showmanship, and a visit from Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck.

Looking ahead, don't forget to RSVP for our Annual Member Appreciation Picnic on August 18. This event is our opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Farm Bureau. We'll have activities for all ages, including Ag in the Classroom exhibits, the Evergreen FS Kiddie Tractor Pull, a Fire Safety Simulation provided by Getz Fire Equipment, yield estimate results, awards presentations, and giveaways throughout the evening.

Whether you're attending an event, volunteering your time, participating in one of our programs, or simply supporting agriculture through your membership, thank you for being part of Woodford County Farm Bureau. We hope to see you throughout the summer and especially at the Appreciation Picnic as we celebrate another successful year together.

GOOD LUCK, WOODFORD COUNTY 4-H EXHIBITORS

TRAVELIN' TOM'S COFFEE

Tuesday/Wednesday 8:00a-11:00a

KIDDIE TRACTOR PULL

Tuesday 2:30pm

MASTER SHOWMANSHIP AWARDS

Thursday after Beef Show

Be sure to sign up for master showmanship through the extension office