

MACOUPIN COUNTY FARMER'S GUIDE

Supplement to *FarmWeek* for Macoupin County Farm Bureau Members

LAWS NEW TO ILLINOIS THIS YEAR

By HANNAH SPANGLER FARMWEEK

As the calendar flipped to 2026, more than 250 new laws went into effect in Illinois.

Included in the Jan. 1 updates are changes to the wildlife code aimed at addressing deer nuisance issues faced by farmers and landowners across the state.

While some parts of the legislation won't be implemented until 2027, several elements begin this year. Among them, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources now has greater authority to issue deer removal permits based on the percentage of deer harvested under previous permits, giving farmers and landowners more flexibility in managing nuisance wildlife.

This year also brings the elimination of the state-administered 1% grocery tax, aimed at reducing costs for shoppers. However, local governments and municipalities can adopt their own 1% sales tax on groceries. Illinois Municipal League data shows 656 municipalities, just over half of the municipalities in the state, have adopted ordinances establishing a local grocery tax.

Other law and policy changes include:

Transportation

Farmers and agricultural businesses can now use a restricted Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for up to 210 days each year, an increase from the previous 180-day limit. The extended seasonal license allows drivers to operate semis and other large farm vehicles during the entirety of planting and harvest without obtaining a Class A CDL.

Illinois' Move Over Law — also known as Scott's Law — requires drivers to yield to authorized emergency vehicles such as police, fire and ambulances. New language strengthens the rule by requiring drivers to slow down and yield to emergency vehicles "obviously and actually engaged in work upon a highway," whether moving or stopped, as well as to emergency workers and pedestrians directly involved in an incident on the roadway.

Local and county emergency management agencies can use traffic signal preemption devices on their vehicles when responding to

emergencies, as long as the vehicles display red flashing lights. These devices allow responders to change traffic light timing, creating safer and more efficient routes.

Environmental and conservation

Landowners must be compensated for any property damage caused during pipeline construction. The law requires full restoration of the land, including soil conservation features, such as terraces and grass waterways, as well as repairs to surface and subsurface drainage systems.

Any sole-source aquifer that provides at least half of an area's drinking water, such as the Mahomet Aquifer in east-central Illinois, is off-limits for carbon sequestration projects located above, beneath or crossing the aquifer.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is to create a provisional wastewater operator certification program for individuals without a high school diploma. The new law also establishes operator-in-training programs for wastewater and community water-supply operators, replacing previous provisional certification programs.

Education

Illinois Department of Education continues to recognize valid and comparable out-of-state professional educator licenses (PEL). But starting this year, those educators must pass Illinois content-area tests for their specific subjects, including agriculture education, to obtain an Illinois PEL.

Under the new Historical Cost of Attendance Disclosure Act, every public and private college and university must post its cost of attendance on its website. Schools will display data for the past 10 academic years and continue to update costs each year.

Other

Food handlers are now required to complete specialized training focused on celiac disease and safe preparation of gluten-free foods. The program teaches symptoms of the disease, how to prevent cross-contamination and how to properly clean surfaces to remove gluten residues.

The soybean is now the official state bean, recognizing Illinois as a top soybean-producing state.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Illinois Farm Bureau

It starts with **YOU**

Step 1: **YOU** have an idea, need or problem. Share it with **YOUR** county Farm Bureau (CFB) staff.

Step 2: After **YOU** share **YOUR** idea with CFB staff and it's deemed appropriate for statewide policy, work with CFB staff to research the topic, develop a policy resolution, and gather support from county leadership.

Step 3: Submit **YOUR** policy resolution through **YOUR** CFB office for review by the state Resolutions Committee.

If approved

Step 4: Farmer delegates from across the state will debate and vote on **YOUR** policy resolution at the IAA Annual Meeting.

If approved

Step 5: **YOUR** policy resolution becomes Illinois Farm Bureau policy.

Step 6: **POLICY IN ACTION!** Illinois Farm Bureau works on **YOUR** behalf to accomplish policy at the county level, in Springfield and Washington, D.C.





EGGS AREN'T DAIRY AND OTHER FARM TERMS TO KNOW

The veterinarian suggested her patient avoid dairy. The owners read through food and treat labels, making plans to eliminate eggs from their dog's diet.

Milk, cheese, butter ... eggs. The grocery store's layout had taught these consumers that cold case means dairy. Re-categorizing eggs as dairy wasn't a commonplace farm mix-up I had heard of or even considered before, but I personally have witnessed a dairy cow give milk and a hen lay an egg. The reality is fewer than 1% of us likely have according to the Census, so here's a quick guide to avoid the "not-from-around-here" vibe – something I need when visiting Chicago.

Hay and straw are not interchangeable. Animals eat one and sleep on the other. Hay is made from grasses or legumes that are cut, dried and stored to feed animals. Straw is the leftover stalk from grains like wheat or oats. It's great for bedding, insulation or fall décor, but if you offer it as dinner to our cows, they'll stare you down. Literally. Cows are honest like that.

Silo is the catchier term, but most cylindrical farm structures in Illinois are actually bins. A grain bin is round, wide and made of corrugated shiny steel. It stores dried grains like corn, soybeans and wheat. Silos are skinny, tall

and narrow structures often made of brown-gray concrete or blue smooth steel. They hold moist animal feeds like silage. Both store farm products but avoid misspeaking in conversation with a farmer.

Not every piece of equipment with big tires is a tractor. Some are. Some are combines. Some are sprayers. Some pull things. Some do things. I get it. I still can't name all the tillage tools correctly. Likewise, not every cow is a cow unless you know it's a momma. But to avoid studying anatomy and adding bull, steer and heifer to the vocabulary, "cattle" safely sums up the herd in the plural.

Please know that not every egg can produce a chick. Field corn and sweet corn look similar until you eat them. Generally, barns hold animals and sheds store equipment and tools. The exception is barndominiums, the new hybrid. And avoid saying dirt, especially in front of our FFA soils coach.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her brother and parents in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans and hay, raise beef cattle and operate side businesses related to the family operation.

MACOUPIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

220 North Road, P.O. Box 77

Carlinville, IL 62626

PH:217/854-2571

8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. - Monday–Thursday
Afternoon by appointment or by chance

Farm Bureau Staff:

Mark Dugger Manager
Casey Cervi Administrative Assistant

Officers:

David Heusing President
Bryan Thomson Vice President
Sarah Boente Secretary
Molly Rosentreter Treasurer

Directors:

Dalton Sanson, Tucker Launer, Sarah Boente,
Randy Darr, Tyler Brown, & Jay Fairfull

Farm Bureau Building Telephone Directory:

Macoupin County Farm Bureau 217/854-2571
Country Financial 217/854-2043
Central Macoupin County
Rural Water District217/854-6154

JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Membership as of January 20: 1,182 Voting; 1,508 Associate; 2,690 Total
- Bill Bodine discussed Illinois solar law, solar ordinances, zoning and how it impacts county ordinances.
- Young Farmer committee members will be attending the IFB Young Leader Conference in Peoria on February 6-7.
- The AFBF Annual Convention was held January 9-14, 2026, in Anaheim, CA. David Heusing, Molly Rosentreter and Mark Dugger attended.
- The IFB GALC will be held on February 17 in Springfield.
- Discussed potential member benefits including bus tours, estate planning seminars and a Delta Farm tour.
- Racoon Roundup was held on January 20. 1,202 tails collected and \$4,808 distributed. Next collection will be February 16. Same guidelines as 2025.
- Discussed a summer intern program.
- Donated to the North Mac Barn to Barn Classic.
- Received thank you notes from CCPO and Kendal Cole for donation.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 16, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Farm Bureau Building.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE RECORD

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
David Heusing		X	X	X	X							
Bryan Thomson		X	X	X	X							
Tucker Launer			X	X	X							
Jay Fairfull		X	X	X	X							
Dalton Sanson		X	X	X	X							
Sarah Boente		X	X	X	X							
Jason Boente			X	X	X							
Tyler Brown		X	X	X	X							
Molly Rosentreter		X		X	X							

FARM BROADCASTS

5:30AM RFD Illinois-Rita Frazier
6:05 WSMI Farm Report
7:18 Auction Time
9:30 Grain & Commodities
10:30 Grain & Commodities
11:30 Grain & Commodities
12:08PM Livestock Markets
12:40 Grain & Commodities
12:45 WSMI Farm Report
1:30 Grain & Commodities
6:05 Cash Grain & Livestock Market Summary

Radar Weather @ :15 & :45
www.wsmiradio.com

WSMI

AM 1540 FM 106.1

"The Stations You Can Count On"



Prose
Bulldozing & Excavating

31464 Prose Road,
Girard, IL
627-3783

Mobil 725-5619

Bulldozer - Scraper -
Backhoe

All types construction work,
terraces, ponds, dry ponds,
clearing, ditch cleaning,
waterways



COUNTRY Financial

Tina Olroyd, Gillespie 217-839-4385
Ty Unger, Carlinville 217-854-2575
Dan Metz, Brighton 618-372-8845
Randy Beuttel, Bunker Hill 618-585-3666
Jeff Thompson, Staunton 618-635-8249
Jason Ford, Palmyra 217-436-2406
Joey Boente, Carlinville 217-854-6722
Steve O'Dell, Virden 217-965-5888
or

AGENCY OFFICE, CARLINVILLE
PHONE (217) 854-2043

J.R. Earley, Agency Manager
Goldie Roberts, Agency Office Asst.

CLAIMS HOTLINE
800-846-0100

O'Reilly Auto Parts

in Carlinville, IL

401 West Main Street

Carlinville, IL 62626

(217) 854-9004

Store Hours:

- Mon: 7:30AM - 8:00PM
- Tue: 7:30AM - 8:00PM
- Wed: 7:30AM - 8:00PM
- Thu: 7:30AM - 8:00PM
- Fri: 7:30AM - 8:00PM
- Sat: 7:30AM - 8:00PM
- Sun: 9:00AM - 8:00PM

Services

- Battery Testing
- Fluid Recycling
- Wiper Blade Install
- Loaner Tools

10% Discount for Macoupin County
Farm Bureau members



M&M Service Company

130 N Chiles Street

Carlinville, IL 62626

217-854-4516

OFFICERS

Dan White - President Adam Gwillim - Secretary
Brian Michael - Vice President Jeff Thornton - Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Todd Armour; Mike Driscoll; Heather Hampton-Knodle;
Ross Heepke, David Schluckebier; Daniel Weder;
Taylor Hays and Mike Polo.

STAFF

David Wright - General Manager
Brennan Jensen - EHS Manager
Bryan Fairfull - Agronomy Marketing Manager
Lisa Furlow - Credit Manager
Tony Haberer - Energy Marketing Manager
Dwayne Krager - Agronomy/Grain Operations Mgr.
Kevin Moore - Grain Division Manager
Russ Waldhoff - CFO/Controller

WELCOME
...TO THE NEW FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Voting
SNL Legacy North
Gates Estates LLC
Dennis J. Weller

Non-Voting
Matt Hampton
Joshua Merz



FOLLOW US

USDA RELEASES BRIDGE PAYMENT RATES

By TAMMIE SLOUP FARMWEEK

The Ag Department released commodity rates for farmer bridge payments, with funds to be dispersed in February.

The Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program announced earlier in December allocates \$11 billion for farmers, who have faced high input costs, trade challenges and low commodity prices.

An additional \$1 billion is reserved for specialty crops and sugar.

Eligible row crop commodities and per-acre payment rates include: corn, \$44.36; soybeans, \$30.88; wheat, \$39.35; sorghum, \$48.11; barley, \$20.51; canola, \$23.57; chickpeas (large), \$26.46; chickpeas (small), \$33.36; cotton, \$117.35; flax, \$8.05; lentils, \$23.98; mustard, \$23.21; oats, \$81.75; peanuts, \$55.65; peas, \$19.60; rice, \$132.89; safflower, \$24.86; sesame, \$13.68; and sunflower, \$17.32.

“President Trump committed to increase certainty in the farm economy, and farmers can count on these payment rate calculations when going to the bank as they plan for the spring planting season. Putting farmers first means delivering real relief when it matters,” Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins said.

Eligible farmers will receive pre-filled program applications and can expect payments in their bank accounts by Feb. 28.

“USDA is making this process as simple and seamless as possible so producers can focus on what they do best — feeding and fueling our nation,” Rollins said.

The FBA payments are based on 2025 planted acres, Economic Research Service cost of production and the world agriculture supply and demand estimate report. Double crop acres, including all

initial and subsequently planted crops, are eligible. Prevent plant acres are not eligible. The payment limit will be \$155,000 per entity or individual.

The rate methodology largely mirrors how USDA calculated dispersing a \$10 billion economic aid package Congress passed in December 2024.

All intended row crop uses are eligible for FBA except grazing, volunteer stands, experimental, green manure, crops left standing and abandoned or cover crops.

Crop insurance linkage is not required, however, USDA “strongly urges” producers to take advantage of the new risk management tools provided for in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to best protect against future price risk and volatility. The federal crop insurance improvements include expanding benefits for beginning farmers and ranchers,

increasing coverage options and making crop insurance more affordable.

The \$12 billion being provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act includes \$1 billion for specialty crops and sugar, with timelines for those payments still under development. These crops require additional understanding of market impacts and economic needs, USDA said.

For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov/fba, contact your local Farm Service Agency office or email farmerbridge@usda.gov.



Your farm is your legacy.
We can help you protect it.



Randy Beuttel
Bunker Hill
618-585-3666



Dan Metz
Brighton
618-372-8845



Tina Olroyd
Gillespie
217-839-4385



Jeff Thompson
Staunton
618-635-8249



Jason Ford
Palmyra
217-436-2406



Joey Boente
Carlville
217-854-6722



Steve O'Dell
Viriden
217-965-5888



Ty Unger
Carlville
217-854-2575

Policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

*COUNTRY Financial™ is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois. 25319235



FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Did you know that February is American Heart Month? It's a time dedicated to raising awareness about heart health and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, so it's important to take care of our hearts. Let's join hands and spread the word about American Heart Month to encourage everyone to prioritize their heart health!



Due to the out-of-control population levels of local raccoons, the Macoupin County Farm Bureau is continuing our Raccoon Roundup program for the 2026 raccoon trapping season.

The Macoupin County Farm Bureau is offering a \$4.00 cash reward for each raccoon tail brought in!

There will be two separate collection dates during the 2026 season running from 5pm – 7pm

January 20 | February 16

You MUST be a Macoupin County Farm Bureau Member.
Limit 50 tails per turn in date. Even will continue while funds last.
Limit of \$200 in winnings per person / per turn-in date.



Since 1925 ...

Our Farm Certified Representatives bring 100 years of experience to the table. Find a Rep today.

COUNTRYFinancial.com/Farm

Farm policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.



1124-087CP

Does your livelihood depend on food, farms, or agriculture?

Whether you are a seed salesman, greenhouse owner, truck driver, or ag teacher, you need agriculture.

Show your support by becoming a Farm Bureau Professional Members (PM) member and help:

- Advocate for Area Farms/Farmers
- Promote Local Foods & Global Trade
- Support Farmland Protection
- Champion Hunger Relief & Awareness
- Protect Natural Resources
- Defend Property Rights

And receive

- 302,000 Member Discounts
- Networking
- Professional Development
- FarmWeek Publication

Join Today!
www.MylFB.org

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Farm Bureau members may run classified ads free in the Macoupin County Farm Section of FarmWeek

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Ad: _____

Macoupin County Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 77, Carlinville, IL 62626
Ph. 217-854-2571

MACOUPIN COUNTY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2026

The Macoupin County Agriculture Education (MCAE) Foundation is offering 6 - \$1,000 scholarships for the upcoming 2026-27 school year to students wishing to pursue agriculture majors.

The MCAE Foundation offers scholarships to provide encouragement and financial assistance to Macoupin County residents and/or students of Macoupin County schools who display well-balanced attributes of good citizenship, commitment to activities and scholastic ability.

The applicant must be a graduating high school senior or a current college student who plans to attend or is attending an Illinois junior college, college, university or Career Technical Education (CTE) program, and majoring in agriculture.

Applications are available through your high school guidance counselor, high school agriculture instructor or the Macoupin County Farm Bureau® (MCFB®). An electronic copy of the application can be requested by contacting the MCFB® office by telephone or by email at: mcfb@gomadison.com Or by visiting the county Farm Bureau website at www.macoupinfb.com All applications must be submitted to the MCFB® office by March 27, 2026. Any questions can be directed to the MCFB® office at 217/854-2571.

THE POWER of Grassroots

SAVE the DATE

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 20
17 26
Springfield, IL



HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN DECEMBER

- 1 More than 2,000 members attended the IAA Annual Meeting, and Collegiate Farm Bureau attendance doubled year-over-year. Through Illinois Farm Bureau's grassroots policy process, delegates approved changes to five bylaws and 34 IFB policies, including sections focused on eminent domain, ag education, renewable fuels and more. Adopted resolutions were submitted by 23 county Farm Bureaus.
- 2 Four IFB policies were advanced by the American Farm Bureau Federation Resolutions Committee and will be voted on at the AFBF Convention in January. Illinois' policy proposals include changes to the H2A temporary visa program, supporting science-backed conservation evaluation tools and more.
- 3 IAA Foundation raised \$75,000 at Annual Meeting to support Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom and the foundation's mission to prepare the next generation of agricultural leaders.

