



Photos taken by Joan Rabe. Shown L to R: John Mitchell, WBFB President, Brenda and Chuck Kastning, Erin Schwarzbach, Javier Placencia and Janie Jenkins, Midland States Bank; Delaney Olson, Becky Peters and Ann Marie Cain, WBFB & WBFB Foundation Manager.

27TH ANNUAL FARM BREAKFAST



Approximately 1,200 people attended the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Foundation's 27th Annual Farm Breakfast held at Sarah Fitz Holsteins and Jerseys, Belvidere, IL, on Saturday, June 27th. Kids of all ages enjoyed pancakes, whole hog sausage, ice cream, horse-drawn wagon rides, antique tractors, farm animals, kids' games and activities, and a 50/50 raffle. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, sponsors and guests.

Like the @Winnebago-BooneFarmBreakfast Facebook page for more photos and information on future Farm Breakfasts.

Special THANK YOU to Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Foundation's 27th Annual Farm Breakfast sponsors:

Prairie Farms Dairy; Fitzgerald Family Farms, LLC; McCurdy Tool & Machine Company; Midwest Dairy Association; COUNTRY Financial- Northwest Illini Agency; Edwards Apple Orchard, Inc.- Poplar Grove; Sullivan Auctioneers/Big Iron Auctions; Friendly Franseen Acres; Compeer Financial; Complete Feed Service; Conserv FS; Johnson Five Holsteins; Midland States Bank; Parallel Ag; Solutions Bank- Poplar Grove; TIA Transport Inc; Tri-County Dairy Supply, Inc; Turner Farms ; Wesemann Feeds; Wyffels Hybrids; Rush Power Systems; Ag Consulting Team; Cherry Valley Feed and Supplies; Gallano Farms; McGilvra Electric Inc; Hildebrandt Farms, LLC.; James Churchill & Sons Excavating LLC; Autoland Outlets Inc; Eickman's Processing Co.; Ayre Excavating; Feece Oil Co; Jakes Electric LLC; Woodstock Progressive Milk Producers' Association; Farm City Elevator, Inc; Book Cattle and Grain LLC; Claretta Dairy; Rathbun Family; Sweetwater Technologies- Poplar Grove; Central Grain Co; Harp Farms; Town Bank; 5 Star Primitives; Agri-King, Inc; Jeff's Lettering and Signs; Illinois Farm Business Farm Management; Cole Mueller; SheShe Bakery; Joe Gregoire; Hennessey Implement; and Anderson Farms.

Thank you for providing activities and services:

Joey Meyer Family; Redcarpet and Half Baked Highlands; Boone County 4-H Federation; Belvidere FFA; North Boone FFA; Discovery Center Museum; Winnebago-Boone Ag in the Classroom; N IL Regional Groundwater Protection Planning Committee; Northern Illinois Vintage Tractor & Engine Association; Boone County Wagon Teams; Boone County Sheriff's Reserve; and North Boone Fire District #3.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped plan, set up, work, and clean up the Farm Breakfast. We couldn't do this without you. All your hard work helped make the Farm Breakfast a success.

2026 COUNTY FAIRS

Local farmers, their families, and volunteers spent eleven days talking to consumers about agricultural practices, the connection between farmers and pizza, pollinators, bees, and so much more! Over 276,000 attended the Boone County and Winnebago County Fairs and many visited the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau's "Farmers Grow Your Pizza" consumer resource displays and additional activities.

Kids of all ages had the opportunity to test their knowledge on questions regarding how farmers grow their pizza; Ag-Knowledge touch screen game with various questions focusing on different agriculture sectors; and cuts of meat with our beef and pork meat puzzles. Visitors watched baby chicks hatch and searched for the queen in our honeybee observation hive. Handouts covering topics on selecting produce, dairy, and eggs; grilling different types of meat; recipe cards; and food pairings were provided. Visitors also learned about Agriculture in the Classroom, internship and scholarship opportunities, and upcoming Farm Bureau events.



Connecting consumers with farmers is vital to understanding agriculture.

Congratulations to the following winners from the Boone County Fair: Dante Seckinger- tractor drawing, Leslie Wundrow- membership appreciation drawing, and Mike Sternhagen- pizza raffle basket.

Congratulations to the following winners from the Winnebago County Fair: Tammie Bates- toy tractor drawing, Jeff Palmer- membership appreciation drawing, and Angela Litow- pizza raffle basket.

DISTRICT 2 DISCUSSION MEET



(Left to Right) Front Row: Molly Boyd, Ogle CFB; Emily Backeberg, Winnebago-Boone FB; Stacey Bolen, Ogle CFB; Lizzie Taylor, Winnebago-Boone FB. Back Row: Nathan Koester, Jo Daviess CFB; Aaron Mitchell, Winnebago-Boone FB; Hayden Keltner, Stephenson CFB; and Alyssa Nelson, Carroll CFB.

The District 2 Young Leader Discussion Meet was held on Monday, August 24th, at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau. The following topics were discussed: "growth in rural areas straining rural energy infrastructure" and "healthy diets and chronic childhood disease raising questions about modern agriculture and the food system". Congratulations to the 2026 Young Leader Discussion Meet Winners: Hayden Keltner, Stacey Bolen, and Nathan Koester. Emily Backeberg was selected as the alternate.

TEACHER GRANTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom offers project grants up to \$300 and special topic book grants up to \$250 to teachers to promote agricultural literacy in the classroom. To apply for funding; get more information; or register for the Get-a-Grant workshop, visit <https://www.aginthe classroom.org/programs-events/teacher-grants/>.

- Design a project for integrating agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas.
- Each teacher may submit only one grant application. Project grants may be awarded to more than one teacher in the same school.

- High School Ag teachers may apply with an elementary teacher if their students/ FFA members are working with a specific classroom.
- Incomplete grants, or project grants that request consumables, will not be considered. Project grants will not fund consumable items, field trips, plants, or incubators. Priority will be given to grants that contain materials for use over multiple school years.
- Special topic book grants should focus on integrating agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas.
- Classroom teachers and librarians in the state of Illinois are eligible to apply.

- Each educator may submit only one grant application. Book grants may be awarded to more than one educator in the same school.
- For accepted book grants, books will be shipped directly to the teacher at their school.

You may contact Diane Cleland, Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Coordinator for help with this application at wbfbaitc@winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org. Application deadline is October 16, 2026. Teachers selected for project or special topic funding will be notified via email on or before November 13, 2026.

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