



ABOUT 200 ATTEND “NATIONAL AG WEEK” BREAKFAST

What an incredible morning at the Marion CFB’s Annual “Ag Week” Breakfast!

We were thrilled to welcome 200 community members who came out to enjoy a free breakfast and celebrate the vital role agriculture and farmers play in our everyday lives. Not only were we celebrating agriculture and the hardworking farmers who sustain us, but we were also celebrating America’s 250th birthday this year.

To tie into the 250th celebrations, we featured \$250 worth of prizes in three categories that agriculture provides—Food, Fuel, and Fiber. Attendees had the

chance to enter to win from a variety of prizes in each category, with fifteen (15) winners drawn from over 85 entries at our March Board meeting.

To help celebrate America’s 250th birthday, Isaac Hull Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) representative Sharon Claybaugh and Bryan-Bennett Library Board Trustee Mark Decker dressed for the occasion and helped welcome attendees. Both are part of the Marion County Celebrates America 250 organization committee and shared information about their upcoming celebration this summer.

A huge THANK YOU to our amazing community members who came out despite the chilly weather and generously supported our AITC program. Because of you, we had another successful breakfast and raised over \$600 to continue agricultural education efforts!

And another big thank you goes to Salem FFA, the Marion CFB Board of Directors, and our Young Leader Committee for braving the cold and early hours to serve our community!

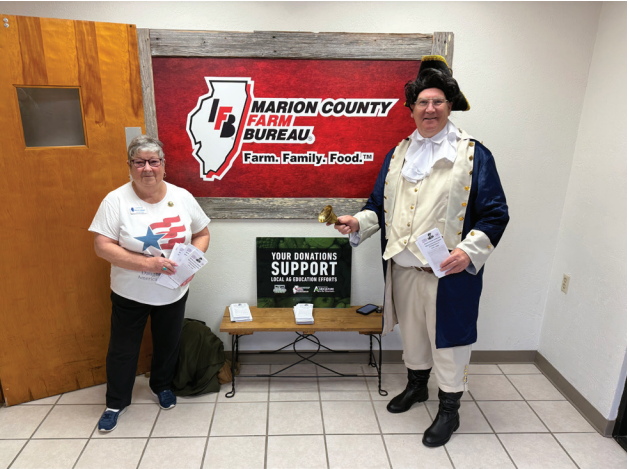
We are so grateful for the support and proud to celebrate agriculture together.



Salem FFA volunteered to help with Marion CFB’s “Ag Week” Breakfast.



Marion CFB Directors and volunteers served breakfast for 200 people during their annual “Ag Week” Breakfast on March 17th. Pictured (L to R) Director of Engagement Makayla Karrick, YL Chair Brad Hayes, and Director Leon Hilmes.



DAR Representative Sharon Claybaugh and Bryan-Bennet Library Board of Trustee Mark Decker dressed for the occasion and welcomed attendees.

2026 GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE



Marion CFB President Steven Brummel and Vice-President Brad Hester met with Senator Jason Plummer and Rep. Blaine Wilhour during the evening legislative reception portion of the 2026 Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) in Springfield on February 17th.

Centered on the theme “The Power of Grassroots,” this year’s conference highlighted the impact of member voices shaping policy at every level. Attendees also heard from numerous lawmakers, including Illinois House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch and Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, as well as U.S. House Ag Committee Chair Glenn “GT” Thompson, outgoing Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood.

MARION CFB YOUNG LEADERS HOST ANNUAL FFA QUIZ BOWL

Local students put their agricultural knowledge to the test on March 17th as the Marion CFB Young Leaders partnered with the county’s FFA chapters to host their annual “FFA Quiz Bowl” competition.

Participants competed in a fast-paced series of rounds, answering questions across a wide range of topics, including agricultural mechanics, farm management, animal science, crop production, and FFA knowledge. The event brought together students from across the county for a little friendly competition and collaboration.

2026 IFB YOUNG LEADER CONFERENCE



Professor Aaron Heinzmann and members of the Kaskaskia College Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter attended the 2026 IFB Young Leader Conference in East Peoria on February 6th-7th. More than 444 attendees participated in the conference, which featured 20 breakout sessions across five tracks designed to give Young Leaders practical tools they can apply in their operations, careers, and communities. This annual conference continues to serve as a key development opportunity for the next generation of agricultural leaders, equipping them with knowledge, connections, and confidence to strengthen their operations and advocate for agriculture.

Between rounds, attendees enjoyed pizza, ice cream, and a few games of cornhole, creating a relaxed and social atmosphere alongside the academic challenge.

At the end of the evening, all participants received Marion CFB shirts, while the top three teams earned cash prizes. Centralia claimed first place, followed by Salem #1 in second, and Salem #2 in third.



Students from Centralia, Salem, and South Central compete in the annual FFA Quiz Bowl.