



April 2026 Editor: Richlyn Hoener



FFA CHAPTERS PARTICIPATE IN ACQUAINTANCE DAY



AG WEEK BOOK DONATIONS

The Hancock County Farm Bureau celebrated National Agriculture Week by donating books to second-grade classrooms across Hancock County. Richlyn Hoener, Manager of the Hancock County Farm Bureau, visited classrooms to read the 2026 featured book, *Seasons on the Farm*, with students.

The story follows life on a farm throughout the year, showing how farmers' work changes with each season; from planting crops in the spring and caring for animals in the summer, to harvesting in the fall and preparing for the colder winter months. The book helps students learn how farmers work year-round to produce food and care for the land.

After the reading, students enjoyed a fun snack of "Dirt Pudding," made with pudding, Oreos, and gummy worms. They also participated in a hands-on activity where they became "season detectives," writing down clues from the story that showed which season the farmer was in and creating a to-do list of farm tasks for each season.

Each second-grade classroom also received a copy of *Seasons on the Farm* to add to their classroom library, along with a supplemental activity book to continue learning about agriculture and the changing seasons.

FARM TO TABLE DINNER SET FOR JUNE 13

The Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation will host Farm to Table Dinner on Saturday, June 13, at Smokin' Gun in Hamilton. The evening features great food, conversation, and community, beginning with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Each meal will feature a 5 oz. Kansas City strip filet and a 5 oz. grilled pork loin, along with a garden salad, fresh roasted vegetables, and homemade bread served with freshly churned honey butter and jam.

Dessert will include Texas sheet cake and ice cream. Tea and lemonade are included with the meal, and a cash bar will offer wines from Lake Hill Winery, Baxter's Winery, and Press House Winery. Meats will be grilled by the Hancock County Beef Association.

This one-of-a-kind event serves as a fundraiser for the Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation, with proceeds supporting local Ag in the Classroom programs and college scholarships for Hancock County

FFA members and advisors from Hamilton, Illini West, Southeastern, and Warsaw FFA Chapters participated in the Hancock County Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day program on Monday, March 23. First, students toured Western Smokehouse Partners, in Burlington, where they learned about the meat processing, smoking, and packaging process. Big River Resources, also in Burlington, was the second tour of the day, where they learned how ethanol and distillers grains are produced.

West Central FS and the Hancock County

Farm Bureau provided lunch and fun activities for students at Fun City. During lunch, students heard from Eric Krekel and Jennifer Sparrow of West Central FS about the GROWMARK system, as well as available scholarships and career opportunities. Richlyn Hoener, Hancock County Farm Bureau manager, also shared information about Farm Bureau programs, events, and scholarships available through the Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation. Twenty-five students attended the 2026 FFA Acquaintance Day program.

students pursuing an interest in agriculture. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available at the Hancock County Farm Bureau Office, 544 Wabash Ave. in Carthage. A limited number of tickets will be sold. For more information, call 217-357-3141, visit www.hancockcountyfarmbureau.com, or find the "Hancock County Farm to Table Dinner 2026" event on Facebook.