

MACOUPIN COUNTY FARMER'S GUIDE

Supplement to FarmWeek for Macoupin County Farm Bureau Members

NEW STUDY FINDS WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE READY TO LEAD, MORE SUPPORT NEEDED



photo credit: Getty Images

The American Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Leadership Committee, with support from JBS and CoBank, is unveiling the results of a new national study intended to guide programming dedicated to women in agriculture for the next five years.

Conducted via online survey and focus groups, the study provides a comprehensive look at women in agriculture in the United States. It also identifies the essential roles women currently play in building a sustainable future for agriculture as well as opportunities for growth, improvement and additional support.

"Agriculture around the world has flourished with the full support of women — oftentimes behind the scenes — but increasingly in leadership roles,"

said AFBF Women's Leadership Chair Isabella Chism. "As we celebrate the International Year of the Woman Farmer along with the 250th anniversary of the United States, this is the perfect time to make sure everyone has a seat at the table in agriculture. This study allows us to take a closer look at the role women play in raising crops and tending livestock but also balancing off-farm jobs, caring for children, volunteering in their community, and so much more. This study provides a comprehensive look at the many hats worn by women in agriculture as well as opportunities to better support them."

A key finding from the study is that women in agriculture have strong confidence in their ability to balance farm work and family responsibilities. Most respondents also have a high

level of confidence in their ability to represent agriculture in public or professional settings. In fact, 9 out of 10 women report feeling confident speaking at community meetings about agriculture, and an impressive number — nearly 90% — of women surveyed are interested in taking on leadership roles now or in the future.

Conversely, the study also identifies five key areas where the agriculture sector could increase support: time and caregiving; skill development; leadership involvement; financial future; and overall wellbeing.

For example, almost half (44%) of women surveyed reported interest in gaining equipment or technical skills training, while nearly 6 in 10 respondents (56%) expressed interest in business and financial management training.

"As a grassroots organization and committee, we have long built our programming based on feedback from members," Chism said. "For example, we doubled the number of communications boot camps we host. This survey gives us contemporary data that will help us develop future workshops, online engagements and peer-support networks for women."

Encouragingly, several data points reinforce existing Farm Bureau programming. For example, 45% of respondents expressed interest in policy or civic engagement training, and 42% expressed interest in community

involvement or advocacy training. This aligns with the focus of Farm Bureau's Women's Communications Boot Camp, which has trained more than 350 women in agriculture in communications and advocacy.

Furthermore, the Women's Leadership Committee has continually focused on the importance of mentorship among women in agriculture, an interest identified by 45% of survey respondents. Programs such as AgConnectHER serve to inspire and equip women in agriculture to succeed in leadership, not just in the agricultural industry but well beyond.

More than half (52%) of all respondents reported interest in training related to farm succession or ownership transition. Farm Bureau has featured workshops on succession planning at eight of the last 10 most recent Farm Bureau Conventions and nine of the 10 most recent Young Farmers & Ranchers or FUSION conferences.

More than 4,300 women in agriculture from all 50 states and Puerto Rico responded to the survey. A strong majority (61%) described their operation as a family farm, and more than 25 different crops and commodities were represented. AFBF and its research partners will continue analyzing the study results to gain additional insights.

Farm Bureau is appreciative of CoBank and JBS for their support of this study in order to recognize the essential roles women play in agriculture.



2026 YOUNG LEADER

DISCUSSION MEET

Topics for District Discussion Meets:
Growth in rural areas can strain rural energy infrastructure. How can Farm Bureau work with stakeholders to advocate for proactive planning at the local, state and national levels that safeguards affordable, reliable energy access for farmers and ranchers as well as their rural neighbors while protecting farmland from unnecessary eminent domain?

Increased public concern over healthy diets and chronic childhood disease has raised questions, as well as criticism, about modern agriculture and the food system. How can Farm Bureau effectively engage in this discussion and advocate for the critical science-based tools and research farmers need to fulfill their commitment to grow healthy, sustainable food, fiber and fuel?

Contact your county Farm Bureau for eligibility and contest information. For more information, visit ilfb.org/yldiscussionmeet

Districts	Date	Location	Orientation Time	Contest Starting Time
1	Thurs. July 30	DeKalb County FB, Sycamore	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
2	Mon. Aug. 24	Stephenson County FB, Freeport	6:00 PM	6:15 PM
3	Wed. Aug 12	Henry County FB, Cambridge	5:00 PM	6:30 PM
4	Wed. July 22	LaSalle County FB, Ottawa	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
5 & 6	Tues. July 28	Kankakee County Extension Office	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
7 & 8	Wed. July 22	Tazewell County FB, Pekin	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
9	Wed. Aug. 12	Brown County FB, Mount Sterling	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
10	Wed. July 29	Cass-Morgan FB, Jacksonville	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
11	Thurs. Aug. 6	Macon County FB, Decatur	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
12	Wed. July 29	Champaign County FB, Champaign	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
13 & 17	Wed. Aug 5	Edwards County FB, Albion	5:00 PM	5:45 PM
14	Wed. July 22	Fayette County FB, Vandalia	7:00 PM	7:30 PM
15 & 16	Tues. Aug. 18	St. Clair County FB, Belleville	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
18	Tues. July 21	Massac County FB, Metropolis	6:00 PM	6:30 PM

WELCOME

...TO THE NEW FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

NEW MEMBER VOTING

Matthew Alepra
Lacey Chism
Kyle Reid
Nicholas Strohbeck

ASSOCIATE

Amy L Hauschild
Jerel D Loveless
David L Shelton



RAISED ON FLAGS, FIELDS & FREEDOM

The patriotic-wrapped tractor combined two of our son’s favorite things: The Magnum-model CaseIH tractor and the U.S. flag.

America’s 250th anniversary gave me one of those Mom moments where delight comes from anticipating your child’s joy. I snapped photos and videos of our son solo and with Grandpa by the showstopper at the 2026 National Farm Machinery Show in Kentucky. Afterword, I worked obsessively from my phone to order the replica flag-wrapped toy, which had sold out the previous day.

Our son’s admiration for the American flag first became evident when he picked out t-shirts with the symbol as a child. Then, it was hats with flags. Patriotic swim trunks. American flag decorations for his room, and a flag image on his first credit card. For a 4-H project, he made wooden U.S. flags out of 13, 1-by-2-inch strips of wood, a butane torch and red- and blue-colored wood stain.

The flag stood as something bigger than the cloth (and wood) itself even if he didn’t yet fully understand the feeling of home, pride, identity, safety, belonging and history. I can only credit rural patriotism, as rural Americans proudly display flags on front porches, fire stations, county fairgrounds and farm bins. We associate the feeling it delivers with church potlucks, sweet corn stands, small-town Friday night football and a slice of pie filled with homegrown cherries.

I gifted my husband a flagpole in the front landscaping for his 40th birthday. Our daughter was “stationed by the flag” as the FFA state reporter, so we put her jacket in a shadow box with a flag retired from the state capitol and folded by local veterans. As much as we love the flag, we also know loving America means acknowledging we haven’t got everything right. In the end, America is something we steward, like farmland itself and our freedom to improve it.

At the farm, we own a roll of patriotic net wrap for making flag-wrapped round hay bales for decoration at our community ag festival. The bales, flipped on end with flag poles in them, emulate the festival’s feeling of Americana – home, tradition, pride and simple joys like homemade pie, tractors, apple peeling and free family fun.

As a birthday surprise six weeks after the farm show, our son received a three-pack of flag-wrapped toy tractors – a second of which also appeared at the show: a 1976 Case 1570 from America’s 200th anniversary. I hope he can tell his grandkids he witnessed a full century of history when the 300th anniversary edition makes its debut.

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

JUNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Membership as of June 16: 1,095 Voting; 754 Associate; 1,848 Total
- David Wright gave the M & M Service Company report.
- Farley Cole updated the Board on Grain Belt Express.
- President Heusing reported Country Financial is seeking a new CEO.
- An ag industry tour to Arkansas with Madison CFB is scheduled for August 7-9.
- IFB Annual meeting will be held Dec. 12-15 in Chicago.
- Young Farmers sponsored the county fair peal tractor pull.
- IFB Leaders to Washington trip is scheduled for September 15-17.
- A local discount program is being developed.
- County Fair activities were discussed. Sponsored 1000 wristbands, sold 144 discount tickets, distributed over 500 t-shirts.
- A report was heard on the June 9 County Board meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 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	CANCELED	X	X	X	X	X	X	CANCELED	X	X		
Bryan Thomson		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Tucker Launer			X	X	X		X		X	X		
Jay Fairfull		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Dalton Sanson		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Sarah Boente		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Jason Boente			X	X	X	X	X		X			
Tyler Brown		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Molly Rosentreter		X		X	X	X			X			

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

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
Amy Hauschild 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 Bureau217-854-2571
Country Financial 217-854-2043
Central Macoupin County
Rural Water District217-854-6154

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR AG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation (IALF) is accepting applications for its Illinois Ag Leadership Program 2028 class. More information and application materials are available online at agleadership.org/application. Applications must be completed by July 20. (Photo courtesy of IALF).

Applications are open for the next class of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program (IALP), an advanced leadership development experience designed to cultivate leaders who shape the future of Illinois agriculture.

Led by the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation (IALF), the IALP brings together professionals from across production agriculture, agribusiness, education, policy and rural community development. The program is designed for individuals who demonstrate leadership potential, a commitment to service and a desire to expand their personal and professional impact within Illinois agriculture.

“The Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program continues to build strong momentum, and we are seeing tremendous engagement from leaders who want to better understand the issues shaping agriculture, food systems and communities,” said Amanda Martin, IALF president and CEO. “Each class brings together people from different sectors, geographies and perspectives, and that mix is one of the most powerful parts of the experience.”

The immersive program blends leadership development, communication, civic engagement, global awareness and systems thinking to prepare participants to address complex challenges facing agriculture. Through seminars, experiential learning and facilitated dialogue, fellows build skills aligned with the IALF Competency Model, including strategic and systems thinking, communication and influence, relationship building and collaboration, civic and global engagement and food systems sustainability.

“IALP helps those ascending in agricultural leadership move beyond their individual roles and see agriculture as a larger, connected system,” Martin said.

Participants attend approximately 42 seminar days,

typically meeting every four to six weeks for two to three days per session.

Sessions are held across Illinois and include travel to Washington, D.C., as well as an international capstone seminar exploring global agricultural systems, policy and trade.

Each class can include up to 25 participants, creating a highly selective and engaging cohort experience.

Fellows emerge from the program with enhanced leadership capacity, broader professional networks and deeper insight into the issues shaping agriculture at the local, state, national and global levels.

The IALP is open to individuals ages 25-55 who are actively engaged in agriculture or a related field and who live in Illinois or an adjoining county. There is no fee to apply.

“For emerging and established leaders, the program provides the network, confidence and perspective needed to lead through complexity,” Martin said. “We work with leaders connected to agriculture across rural and urban communities and IALP helps them collaborate across differences, ask better questions and serve the future of Illinois agriculture with greater purpose.”

More information and application materials are available at agleadership.org/application. Applications must be completed by July 20. Interviews will be scheduled in August. The next cohort will formally begin in November 2026.



Wishing our members
a **HAPPY & SAFE**
4th of July



The Macoupin County Farm Bureau office will be closed
July 2 & 3 in observance of
Independence Day

FOR SALE

Four tandem crypts at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield. Bottom row. Last 4 available on bottom row. \$13,000 per crypt.

Call 217-502-6620 for more information.



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



Randy Beuttel
Bunker Hill
618-585-3666



Ben Myette
Brighton
618-372-8845



Tina Olroyd
Gillespie
217-839-4385



Jeff Thompson
Staunton
618-635-8249



Jason Ford
Palmyra
217-436-2406



Steve O'Dell
Virden
217-965-5888



Ty Unger
Carlinville
217-854-2575



Joey Boente
Carlinville
217-854-6722

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. 29153426





BENEFITHUB: ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU'S NEW MEMBER BENEFIT PLATFORM

Illinois Farm Bureau members now have a simpler, smarter way to access and maximize their member benefits. **BenefitHub** is the new, easy to use platform where you can explore all your favorite discounts—and discover new ones—across dozens of everyday categories including travel, tickets, auto, electronics, and more. Many of the top brands in the U.S. are featured, giving members meaningful savings on the things they buy most

Follow these four quick steps to get the best value and maximize savings:

- 1. Start in the BenefitHub portal to compare deals across retailers.
- 2. Buy a discounted gift card when one is available.
- 3. Complete your purchase through the merchant link in BenefitHub, using your gift card.
- 4. Enjoy both the retailer discount and cash back.

Getting Started:

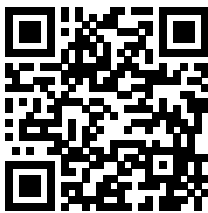
If you previously had an Abenity account, you can sign in to BenefitHub using your existing email and password. New to the platform? Create an account and start saving today.

Visit: <https://ilfb.benefithub.com>

Need Help?

For account questions, contact BenefitHub Customer Care at 1 813 675 2210 or customercare@benefithub.com

BenefitHub members save an average of \$2,500—so why wait? Start exploring your savings at <https://ilfb.benefithub.com>.



ilfb.benefithub.com

2026
YOUNG
LEADER

DISCUSSION MEET

Districts 15 & 16

DATE: Tuesday, August 18, 2026
LOCATION: St. Clair County Farm Bureau
ORIENTATION TIME: 6:00 PM
CONTEST STARTING TIME: 6:30 PM



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.



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.wsmiradtio.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
Ben Myette, 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

CLAIMS HOTLINE
800-846-0100

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