



May 2026 Editor: Richlyn Hoener

FOUNDATION TO HOST FARM TO TABLE DINNER JUNE 13

The Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation will host its annual Farm to Table Dinner on Saturday, June 13, at Smokin' Gun in Hamilton, bringing together community members for an evening that celebrates local agriculture and supports future generations in the industry.

The event will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Guests will enjoy a meal featuring 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.

Beverages will include tea and lemonade, with a cash bar offering

wines from Lake Hill Winery, Baxter's Winery, and Press House Winery. The Hancock County Beef Association will grill the meats for the evening.

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation, supporting Ag in the Classroom programs and providing scholarships to Hancock County students pursuing agricultural careers.

Tickets are \$65 per person, with reserved table seating for eight available for \$550. Tickets may be purchased at the Hancock County Farm Bureau Office, 544 Wabash Ave. in Carthage. For additional information, call 217-357-3141, visit www.hancockcountyfarmbureau.com, or find the event on Facebook under "Hancock County Farm to Table Dinner 2026."

HCFB FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to announce its scholarship winners for 2026. Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to Hancock County students pursuing careers in agriculture: McKenna Huls, Josiah Lionberger, and Lainey Sullivan.



McKenna Huls is the daughter of Sidney and Kristin Huls and a senior at Illini West High School. She plans to attend John Wood Community College and then transfer

to Western Illinois University to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business. Throughout high school, McKenna has been active in FFA, 4-H, the Mississippi Valley Holstein Club, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Hancock County Saddle Club, and the High Honor Society. In her spare time, she enjoys barrel racing, showing horses, showing dairy cattle, and performing her duties as the Tri-State Rodeo Queen.



Josiah Lionberger is the son of Jeff and Natalie Lionberger and a senior at Burlington Notre Dame. He plans to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign,

where he will major in Agricultural Engineering. Throughout high school, Josiah has been active in 4-H, the

Electricity Club, and the High Honor Society. In his spare time, he enjoys building and fixing things, experimenting with computers and 3D printers, and working with equipment in the shop.



Lainey Sullivan is the daughter of Matthew and Karla Sullivan and a senior at Illini West High School. She plans to attend Western Illinois University,

where she will major in Animal Science. Throughout high school, Lainey has been active in FFA, 4-H, 4-H Federation, Future Business Leaders of America, and the High Honor Society. In her spare time, she enjoys showing Simmental cattle, spending time in the barn exercising barrel racing horses, and working with her father on the family farm.

The Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship program was established to assist college-bound students who plan to pursue an agricultural major or have a general interest and background in agriculture. Since 1993, over \$100,000 has been awarded to Hancock County students through the program. For more information about Hancock County Farm Bureau programs or membership, call 217-357-3141 or email hcfbmanager@gmail.com.

CARTHAGE FARMERS MARKET BEGINS MAY 11

Opening day for the Carthage Farmers Market is set for Monday, May 11th. The market will be held from 2:30-5:30 p.m. each Monday from May 11th through October, on the northwest corner of the Hancock County courthouse lawn in Carthage.

Vendor space at the Carthage Farmers Market is based on a first come-first served basis. No items may be purchased until 2:30 p.m. to give the vendors time to set up their booths. Fresh fruits, vegetables, homemade goods, crafts, and other retail items are allowed at the market. Vendors

can contact Richlyn Hoener at 217-357-3141 or hcfbmanager@gmail.com for a vendor packet.

The cost to vendors is \$5 per week, or a \$75 season pass for a reserved space. The market is also ideal for group fundraising.

The Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the market. To learn more about the market, join the Carthage Illinois Farmers Market group on Facebook or contact Richlyn Hoener at the Hancock County Farm Bureau Office at 217-357-3141.



HCFB ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Area youth and adults are invited to submit their photographs for the Hancock County Farm Bureau Women's Committee annual photo contest. Photos must have been taken in the past three years and depict life in rural America. Winning photos will be featured in the Hancock County Farm Bureau's 2027 calendar, on our website www.hancockcountyfarmbureau.com, and highlighted throughout the year on the Hancock County Farm Bureau Facebook page and in other promotional materials. Prizes will be awarded to winners in both Adult & Youth (18 & under) divisions.

Entries may be submitted by emailing photos to hcfboffice@gmail.com or by dropping them off at the Hancock County Farm Bureau Office, 544 Wabash Ave, in Carthage. Entries should include submitter's name, address, phone, email and division (Adult or Youth). No professional photos will be accepted. Previous winning photographs are not eligible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Hancock County Farm Bureau at 217.357.3141 or email hcfbmanager@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS
MAY 25
HCFB Closed for Memorial Day
JUNE 9-8
Summer Ag Institute
JUNE 13
Farm to Table