

MACOUPIN COUNTY FARMER'S GUIDE

Supplement to FarmWeek for Macoupin County Farm Bureau Members

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A MACOUPIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU® DIRECTOR?

Your board of directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the eight directors is elected for a four-year term and may be re-elected for up to two total terms. Majority vote at the annual meeting decides who is elected. Terms are staggered; two directors are elected each year from their respective districts on a rotating basis. This year, Directors from District 2 (North Otter, Virden, Girard, South Otter, Nilwood, Carlinville and Shaw's Point) and District 4 (Brushy Mound, Honey Point, Gillespie, Cahokia, Dorchester, Mt. Olive and Staunton) will be elected.

Before each annual meeting of members, a nominating committee is appointed. The committee consists of four members from each Board district where a vacancy on the board of directors is to be filled. This committee meets and prepares a list of nominees to be submitted to the overall nominating committee that is chaired by the Vice-President. This committee meets and prepares a list of nominees before the annual meeting. Nominations for a district candidate may also be made in person at the county annual meeting. This year that meeting falls on November 17.

- Following is a list of minimum requirements:**
- Directors must be a voting member in good standing from the district in which he or she is elected.
 - Your board of Directors meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month at the Farm Bureau® office in Carlinville. Directors must attend regular monthly board meetings, usually beginning at 7:00 pm.
 - Directors must attend all special Board meetings, committee meetings and the Macoupin County Farm Bureau's® annual meeting. Directors should also attempt to attend the Illinois Farm Bureau® annual meeting held in December of each year.
 - Directors should be willing to give support to Farm Bureau® and its affiliates.
 - Directors should be willing to defend policy as adopted by the majority.
 - Directors should believe in the philosophy and purpose of the organization.
 - Directors receive a \$50 per diem per Board meeting attended. They also receive expenses when attending the Illinois Farm Bureau® annual meeting.

- Directors spend 15-30 days each year representing Macoupin County Farm Bureau®.
- A director is expected to read and be familiar with information and financial reports from the county, state, and national Farm Bureaus®.
- A director should not have a conflict of interest with Farm Bureau® and its affiliates.
- A director represents all members of Macoupin County Farm Bureau®, not a geographic region.
- A director should work in harmony with the whole board. A director must also have the communication skills to express their opinion or disagreement with other directors.
- Directors are encouraged to participate in Illinois Farm Bureau ACTIVATOR® and Illinois Agricultural Association ACTIVATOR® political involvement funds.
- Directors are encouraged to participate in IFB ACT (Illinois

- Farm Bureau® Agricultural Contact Team) to help further Farm Bureau® policy in the Illinois General Assembly and United States Congress.
- Directors are encouraged to achieve Certified County Farm Bureau Director status within the first year of becoming a Director.
 - This Board establishes the basic business policies, the same as the board of directors of any other organization. The board employs a Manager who is responsible for all the operational details.
 - Additional details are provided in Macoupin County Farm Bureau's® bylaws.
- If you, or someone you know, would make a good Director contact the Farm Bureau office at **217-854-2571** and we can answer your questions and forward the candidate information to the Nominating Committee.



AGRICULTURAL LEADERS OF TOMORROW



APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOV 2 2026

APPLY TODAY!

ALOT was started in 1979 as an extensive leadership development program. It has offered more than 1,200 participants an opportunity to learn a broad range of processes and content skills to enrich their leadership abilities and enhance agriculture's voice in Illinois.

2027 PROGRAM DATES
FEB 2-3 | Mt. Vernon, IL
FEB 9 | Fairfield, IL
FEB 16-17 | Springfield, IL
FEB 23 | Carbondale, IL
MAR 2-3 | Edwardsville, IL
MAR 9 | Virtual
MAR 17-18 | Bloomington, IL

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS: NOV 17 2026 (ZOOM)





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GRATEFUL FOR THE GARDEN MEMORIES, LESSONS BETWEEN THE ROWS

“What’s your favorite food?”

It was a simple question from a preschool teacher hoping to get to know her students one-on-one. My son, then age 4, confidently told her, “Bruschetta.”

Fully expecting chicken nuggets, she stammered a second, then turned to me: “How do you spell that?!”

My kids were in full-on tomato season at home, where garden tomatoes lined flat boxes that covered the back counter. Our son didn’t love tomatoes solo, but he enjoyed the harvest and all the foods we made from them, namely spaghetti sauce, pizza sauce and bruschetta with our fresh-grown basil. He preferred bruschetta served atop a slice of French bread – minus the crust, which is the most unsurprising part of this story for a 4-year-old.

The gardens were grand when the kids were growing up. As an at-home mom, the garden plots were the summer classroom: a

healthy activity we could accomplish together with lessons in self-sufficiency, fruit and vegetable production, the definition of good food, and the work and care that goes into producing and preserving it.

In those spring and summer days, they grew to despise weeds, identify destructive insects, and learn potatoes mature underground. They developed a sense of the garden’s rhythm: the pace to till, the depth to plant and the frequency to harvest. Every summer, we cured and stored onions, snapped and canned green beans, and ate meals entirely from our own fresh produce and freezer beef.

I literally followed Mom’s footsteps into my gardening hobby. As a youngster, I walked behind my mom while she guided the tiller across the garden. When her heel lifted from the freshly tilled soil, I stretched to put mine down onto her footprint that formed in that soft black medium for vegetable seeds

and transplants. By Memorial Day, we sat at night in front of the TV and shelled pea pods that filled five-gallon buckets.

Today, our garden plots primarily host our daughter’s business of fresh-cut sunflowers. Now that I have assumed the responsibility of planting our farm’s soybeans, “my garden” is measured in acres and planted at the same time as a traditional vegetable garden. But the kids took it upon themselves to plant some vegetables before they both headed to college. My daughter and I canned zucchini relish, a favorite sweet relish recipe and a nod to my late aunt who made it by the gallons for gifts and home use.

All memories. All lessons. And each one planted perspective and gratitude that lasted.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her brother and parents in Knox County, where they grow corn, soybeans and hay; raise beef cattle and farmkids; and operate side businesses related to the family operation.

AUGUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Membership as of August 18: 1,104 Voting; 697 Associate; 1,798 Total
- A written M & M Service Company report was reviewed.
- President Heusing reported on the IFB CFB Presidents Conference.
- Manager Dugger reported on the 2026 AFBF Staff Institute.
- A proposed 2026-2027 budget was presented and approved with amendments.
- An ag industry tour to Arkansas with Madison CFB was held August 7-9.
- IFB Annual meeting will be held Dec. 12-15 in Chicago.
- State Senator Steve McClure and State Representative Wayne Rosenthal have been named ACTIVATOR Friends of Agriculture.
- IFB Leaders to Washington trip is scheduled for September 15-17.
- A report was heard on the August 11 County Board meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 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	X	X
Bryan Thomson		X	X	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	X	X
Dalton Sanson		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Sarah Boente		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Jason Boente			X	X	X	X	X		X			X
Tyler Brown		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Molly Rosentreter		X		X	X	X			X		X	X



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MACOUPIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

220 North Road, P.O. Box 77
Carlinsville, 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

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 Bureau 217-854-2571
Country Financial 217-854-2043
Central Macoupin County
Rural Water District 217-854-6154



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INCREASED BEEF IMPORTS COULD CREATE LONG-TERM DAMAGE

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on President Trump's plan to import an additional 300,000 metric tons of beef in addition to already record-high beef imports.

"Farmers and ranchers are extremely disappointed to learn that President Trump plans to flood the American market with hundreds of millions of pounds of foreign-raised beef. The U.S. is already importing beef at record levels. This decision would be an unprecedented move and would translate to nearly an additional 60% increase in imports over the next 90 days.

"For almost a year now, we've been advising the administration that America's ranchers are working to rebuild beef herds that had to be sold off due to drought. Despite high beef prices in grocery stores, prices paid to farmers and ranchers for their cattle have fallen sharply over the past two months, and beef packing plants are shutting down across the U.S. Further undercutting a fragile recovery by swamping markets with foreign products and attempting to manipulate prices threatens to wipe out any progress that has been made.

"We appreciate the president's goal of reducing grocery costs, but short-term measures could have long-term negative effects for consumers and for ranchers who are making decisions on whether to retain or expand their herd. Growing dependence on foreign-grown food could ultimately lead to even higher grocery costs and reliance on other nations for our food security. We urge the president to strongly reconsider his plan."



HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU

JULY 2026



- 1 Seventeen member-driven policy proposals moved through Illinois Farm Bureau's grassroots policy process and will be voted upon by delegates at Annual Meeting.
- 2 IFB recently accepted two students into the Illinois Veterinary Student Loan Program, which supports the next generation of veterinarians focusing on caring for food animals.
- 3 IFB hosted an ag industry tour for Young Leaders, helping young farmers expand their understanding of U.S. agriculture through a multistate farm tour in New England.
- 4 Nine county Farm Bureaus partnered with IFB to host Nutrient Stewardship Field Days, providing education, outreach and support to farmers as part of the state's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.



MEMBERS SAVE IN THE FIELD



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APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2027 AGRICULTURE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Are you, or someone you know, ready to take the next step in their leadership development? The Illinois Farm Bureau has a program to help with that. The Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) provides participants with the tools they need to reach their full potential and emerge as leaders in agriculture. Whether you serve on your county Farm Bureau board, county Farm Bureau committee, or are a leader in agribusiness or

your local community, you'll benefit from ALOT just as the over 1,200 previous graduates have.

Classroom studies cover leadership, communication & professional skills, political process, agricultural economics, and global issues, and are taught by experts in a variety of fields. Classes will be conducted over a seven-week period in a different region of the state each year, so there's sure to be one near you.

In 2027, there will be seven weekly sessions held across Southern Illinois, Springfield, Mt. Vernon, Carbondale, Edwardsville and Bloomington, Illinois. The seven-week program includes four overnight sessions, two single-day sessions, and one virtual session.

The ALOT program is limited to 25 participants, who are chosen following interviews conducted on November 17th via Zoom by the ALOT advisory committee. There is

an \$800 tuition fee, which includes meals, lodging, and instructional materials.

Applications are available online at <https://explore.ilfb.org/alot> and are due by November 2nd. For more information about the program visit <https://explore.ilfb.org/alot> or contact Macoupin County Farm Bureau at 217-854-2571 or the IFB Training and Development Department at 309-557-2038.

STATEWIDE FARMER MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM REBRANDS AS FARM SOS

New name and website build on seven years of confidential support for Illinois farm families

What began as a pilot program serving six Illinois counties has grown into a trusted program providing confidential mental health support to agricultural communities across all 102 counties. Now, seven years later, the Farm Family Resource Initiative (FFRI) announces its new name: FARM SOS.

The rebranding reflects the program's evolution and creates a simpler, more recognizable identity that immediately communicates its purpose: connecting farmers and their families with support when they need it most. Along with the new name, FARM SOS is introducing a new logo and launching a new website at ILFARMSOS.COM.

Since its debut in 2019, the partnership among SIU School of Medicine, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and Illinois Department of Human Services has expanded its reach, strengthened

partnerships and helped farm families navigate challenges ranging from financial and operational stress to personal hardship.

"While our name is changing, our commitment to farm families remains the same," said Karen Stallman, FARM SOS Program Coordinator. "FARM SOS clearly communicates that we're here to provide support, connect people with resources and ensure no farm family has to face a crisis alone. Our hope is that this new identity not only makes it easier for farm families to find us but also encourages more conversations about mental health in agriculture across Illinois."

"Farmers are 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than the average person, and in the agricultural community, stigma surrounding mental health treatment often prevents those in need from seeking help," said Jerry Costello II, Director of

the Illinois Department of Agriculture. "With FFRI, now FARM SOS, no one has to suffer in silence."

FARM SOS is a completely confidential service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to all Illinois farm families at no cost. The helpline, **1-833-FARM-SOS (1-833-327-6767)**, offers those

in the agriculture sector easy access to trained professionals who can provide emotional support and connect callers with tailored assistance.

In addition to the helpline, FARM SOS provides telehealth counseling services, offering up to six no-cost sessions for individuals, couples, or

groups. To learn more, visit ILFARMSOS.COM.

Media interested in learning how FARM SOS is supporting farm families in their communities or speaking with program leaders about agricultural mental health are encouraged to contact **Karen Stallman@siu.edu**



130 N Chiles Street
Carlinville, IL 62626
217-854-4516

OFFICERS
Dan White - *President*
Adam Gwillim - *Secretary*
Brian Michael - *Vice President*
Jeff Thornton - *Treasurer*

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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

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

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