

# WOODFORD FARM BUREAU REVIEW



**Autum Jones**  
Farm Bureau Manager

## MEET THE BOARD DENNIS PFANZ



My name is Dennis "Denny" Pfanz, and agriculture has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up just east of Pekin before moving with my family to our farm in Washburn when I was in the 8th grade. I still live on that same farm today.

I married my wife, Cheryl, on March 9, 1968. We were blessed with two children, Dana (Troy) White and Mykin (Tony) Bernardi, and four wonderful grandchildren. Cheryl passed away last year, and I carry her memory with me in everything I do.

I worked at Caterpillar Inc. and retired in 1997, farming alongside my dad while he worked full time until his retirement. Today, I farm with my son-in-law, Troy White, and I'm grateful to continue the family tradition.

I joined the Board of Directors in 2001 after being asked by Stan Grebner. At the time, I didn't know much about Farm Bureau, but I've loved being part of the organization ever since. I served as treasurer from 2011 to 2014, then as president until 2023. After continuing on the board, I was honored to step back into the treasurer role at our December 2025 annual meeting.

One of my favorite parts of serving is attending the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA) Annual Meeting and representing our local farmers at state events. It's important that we have a voice.

When I'm not farming or serving, you'll find me cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals, the Illinois Fighting Illini, and admiring red tractors.

My advice? Get involved. And if you have questions or concerns, share them with the board. That's what we're here for.

## MINUTE WITH THE MANAGER



As I write this, we are in that classic Illinois "fake spring" stretch of 60 degree weather, and I have to admit it is making me itch to

get outside, soak up the sunshine, and start working in my yard. While we all know winter may not be finished yet, the change in season brings fresh energy to all that is happening in our organization.

Over the past several weeks, I have attended the Soil and Water Conservation District Local Working Group and Greater Peoria AgTech Connect meetings, both of which provided valuable conversations around conservation, innovation, and the future of agriculture in our region. I also attended the IFB Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC), which offered important insight as we head into the legislative session in Springfield.

This year, I also joined IFB's Local Government Team training program, Think LINK, and I am looking forward to growing through

that experience. Separately, I have also been meeting with many of our local Country Financial agents to continue strengthening relationships and collaboration within our county.

Our winter workshops have been very successful, too. We had strong attendance at our Dementia Friends workshop and our Ag Business series, and we certified 8 individuals in CPR. In addition, a HUGE Thank You to everyone who donated or participated in our Quarter Auction fundraiser. It was a tremendous success!

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the Women in Ag Conference in Moline at the end of the month and beginning our local high school Rules of the Rural Road program to promote farm equipment safety. We are also planning a Cottage Food workshop and a women's outreach class on herbs and mocktails in partnership with Menu 309 and the University of Illinois Extension office.

Thank you for staying involved and engaged. Spring is just around the corner, and there's so much good work happening here!

## MR FARMER BREAKFAST - YOU'RE INVITED!

We are excited to launch MR Farmer, a monthly informal breakfast created especially for Men Retired and transitioning farmers. Farming isn't just an occupation; it's a way of life. This gathering is meant to provide a consistent place to connect with other men who understand the realities of farm life, while also offering helpful resources and conversation.

The first breakfast will be held **Tuesday, April 7th at 8:00am** at the Farm Bureau building, located at 117 W Center St, Eureka, IL 61530. There is no cost to attend. Coffee will be hot, breakfast will be ready, and the conversation meaningful. *RSVP is preferred to help with planning but is not required.*

## MR FARMER KICK OFF

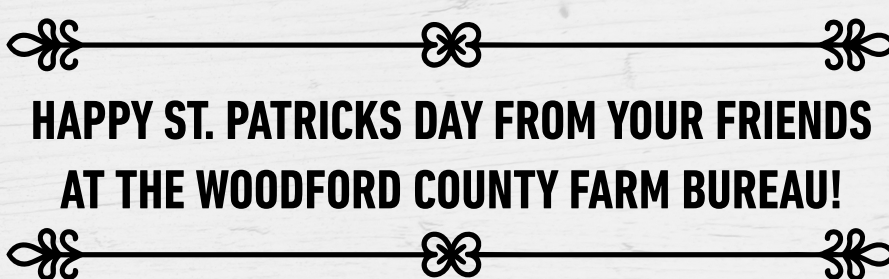
Men's Retired Farmer Breakfast

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am

WCFB Building  
117 W Center St, Eureka

RSVP Preferred | Free to Attend

Going forward, MR Farmer will meet on the first Tuesday of every month at a location to be determined by those who attend. If you are retired, slowing down, or simply considering what the next season looks like, you are welcome to join! We hope you will attend the kickoff breakfast and be a part of the start of this new monthly gathering.



**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY IS**

**MARCH 17, 2026**

**POLLING PLACES OPEN 6 AM - 7 PM**

## 2026 GALC RECAP: THE POWER OF GRASSROOTS

The IFB Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) was held February 17th in Springfield, uniting members from across the state under this year's theme, "The Power of Grassroots." Attendees heard legislative updates and gained tools to strengthen agriculture's voice at every level of government.

Former NH Governor Chris Sununu encouraged disciplined leadership and active civic engagement, reminding members that government manages the people's money and accountability matters.

He emphasized that face time with lawmakers makes a difference and that strong institutions and state-level involvement are key to lasting impact.

Workshops focused on practical engagement strategies, including increasing FB ACT participation, coordinating community outreach efforts, and strengthening involvement in leadership programs. IL Senate President Don Harmon reinforced the message of the day: decisions are made by those who show up.

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, Woodford County has 997 farms.

