

MACOUPIN COUNTY FARMER'S GUIDE

Supplement to FarmWeek for Macoupin County Farm Bureau Members

2026 AG ED FOUNDATION WINNERS FOR FARMER'S GUIDE

The Macoupin County Agriculture Education (MCAE) Foundation is proud to announce that six area students have been selected to receive an agriculture scholarship. The MCAE Foundation was created to encourage, promote, and fund agriculture's future. Students will receive scholarships to be used at the student's college in the field of agriculture. The recipients are as follows:



Luke Andrasko of Staunton. Luke is the son of David and Ali Andrasko and a 2026 graduate of Staunton High School. He will be attending Lincoln Land Community College to study ag business and precision agronomy.



Grant Jarden of Bunker Hill. Grant is the son of Matthew and Jennifer Jarden. He is a 2026 graduate of Abeka Academy Gillespie High School and will be attending Lewis and Calrk Community College to study agriculture.



Saralynn Joiner of Carlinville. Saralynn is the daughter of Gregory and Vicki Joiner. She is a 2024 graduate of Carlinville High School. She is attending Western Illinois University pursuing a degree in animal science and zoology with a goal of working with large and small animals in nutrition and breeding.



Michael Matsea of Staunton. Michael is the son of Chad and Julie Matsea. He is a 2024 graduate of Staunton High School. He is

attending Southern Illinois University at Carbondale pursuing a degree in agribusiness economics.



Michael Prose of Girard. Michael is the son of Mark and Lisa Prose of Girard. Michael is a 2023 graduate of Sacred-Heart Griffin High School. He completed his studies at Lincoln Land Community College where he achieved a degree in agronomy and has been accepted at Illinois State University to continue his education in Agriculture – Agronomy Management.



Karleigh Prose of Girard. Karleigh is the daughter of Jacob Prose and Erika Fenton. Karleigh is a 2024 graduate of North Mac High School and is attending University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign pursuing a degree in agribusiness market and management.



BROADBAND INSTALLATION PROJECTS

Broadband service is a necessity for today's modern farmer. However, if broadband equipment and fiber optic lines are being installed in the area, landowners need to understand their rights.

Contractors installing broadband equipment or fiber optic lines in road rights-of-way must have a permit or approval from the road authority responsible for the road before installation. If the road authority does not own the rightof-way, the contractor must also get an easement from the landowner.

Landowners should determine if they own the road rightof-way. If so, the landowner should demand the contractor or broadband company seek an easement for use of the right-of-way. An easement should be sought whether the installation will occur below or above ground.

Installation of broadband equipment and fiber optic lines below ground can damage property, damage existing

drain tile, and impact the ability to make drainage improvements in the future. Installing the equipment on existing power poles may limit the ability to operate farm equipment in a field.

An easement for installation of broadband equipment or fiber optic lines should address items like repair of compacted soil, repair of damaged drain tile, height of above ground lines, and other property damages. The easement may also include compensation for use of the right-of-way.

These easement items are only the beginning. Landowners should carefully consider all the property rights impacted by the installation of broadband equipment or fiber optic lines.

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding a broadband installation project in your area, your County

Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau are here to help.



CONGRATULATIONS!



to the Recipients of a
2026 Macoupin County Agriculture
Education Foundation Scholarship!

- Luke Andrasko | Staunton
- Grant Jarden | Bunker Hill
- Saralynn Joiner | Carlinville
- Michael Matsea | Staunton
- Karleigh Prose | Girard
- Michael Prose | Girard



WELCOME
...TO THE NEW FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

VOTING
Todd A Carter
Randolph T Walker
M & M Service Company



ROADS, RIVERS & RAILS
TRANSPORTATION CARRIES CROPS,
VACATION MEMORIES

Grandma never questioned butchering Dad would pack the car better than an elite gamer playing Tetris, preparing to start our road trip the next day. Well, barely the next. We'd commonly leave at 2 a.m. for a vacation of sightseeing, tourist stops, hotel swimming pools and almost always an amusement park. Mom disliked air travel, and Dad liked getting up early, so we stayed on the ground and made good time while normal humans slept. For a few hours, the interstate felt like our gravel road: seldom traveled.

We were a classic farm family on a road trip vacation, packing our farmer tans, Dad's sun-deprived legs, emergency tools and a CB radio in the Chevrolet Celebrity (great for traffic reports from truckers). We watched the sunrise, drove through implement dealership parking lots and assessed strangers' crops from the windshield. My brother and I packed the floorboards with games and the seats with pillows. Mom provided doses of grape Dramamine

and, at one time, the luxury of a mini-TV powered by the cigarette lighter.

Route 66 celebrates its 100th anniversary this year with festivities in eight states, including Illinois, home to 300 miles of the Mother Road. The timing feels right to reflect on Illinois' competitive access to roads, rivers and rails that collectively move people, products and services. Illinois' system of interstates ranks third in the nation. Our rail, the second largest. Our rivers are unmatched in a state literally shaped by water, awarding Illinois the largest and most important inland river system in the United States.

Widely underappreciated in our everyday thinking, these modes of transportation influence our daily lives, the hidden link that connects us and the world to vehicle fuel, toilet paper, computers, fresh beef and out-of-season strawberries – a sprawling list of needed and wanted goods and services that fill our homes, schools

and businesses. Illinois' transportation network and central position helps agriculture remain the No. 1 industry in Illinois. Roads, rivers and rails give farms access to domestic end users and export markets for crops and livestock, delivering food, feed, fuel and clothing to places most of us never stop to consider.

Hard wired to farm time, my family woke before the hotel breakfast. On a three-generation family trip to Disney, we were the first in line – every park, every day – theoretically earning what felt like our own FastPass advantage. We started the road trip home slightly less anxious and in the daylight but felt mentally recharged when we crossed back into the Land of Lincoln.

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

MAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Membership as of May 19: 1,093 Voting; 734 Associate; 1,827 Total
- Amy Hauschild is the new Administrative Assistant.
- An ag industry tour to Arkansas with Madison CFB is scheduled for August 7-9.
- Young Farmers will sponsor the county fair peal tractor pull.
- A local discount program is being developed.
- County Fair activities were discussed.
- Discount main gate tickets for Farm Bureau members are available at the Farm Bureau office.
- A report was heard on the May 12 County Board meeting.
- A Congressional Voting Records Effort & Accessibility Evaluation Form for Rep. Budzinski was discussed and completed.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 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			
Bryan Thomson		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Tucker Launer			X	X	X		X		X			
Jay Fairfull		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Dalton Sanson		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Sarah Boente		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Jason Boente			X	X	X	X	X		X			
Tyler Brown		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Molly Rosentreter		X		X	X	X			X			

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



M&M Service Company

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



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FARMLAND ASSESSMENT



as it stands today, assigns value to farmland based on its ability to produce an income.

Login to your member account at www.MyIFB.org for more resources.



FAQ FARMLAND ASSESSMENTS

1. WHY ARE WE CONTINUING TO SEE INCREASES IN FARMLAND ASSESSMENTS?

Landowners are seeing steady increases in farmland assessments because, over time, values have lagged behind their true income earning potential. As a result of this discrepancy, a legislative amendment was put in place. This amendment is now driving the values higher in an attempt to make them more reflective of the true income earning potential.

2. HOW LONG ARE LANDOWNERS GOING TO CONTINUE TO SEE INCREASES IN FARMLAND ASSESSMENTS?

We can expect increases to continue over the next several years. We're unable to narrow down a specific timeline because the answer is dependent on the future of farm economy. The process put in place to correct farmland values is designed to make slow increases over a number of years, rather than a rapid increase in a shorter timeframe. It is fair to say that we expect to see steady increases each year for the next several years.

3. WHO CONTROLS THE ASSESSED VALUES APPLIED TO MY SOILS?

Soil assessments are both state collected and state calculated values. The formula for determining an acre of farmland's income earning potential is done at the state level. Values are not decided at the local level. The Illinois Department of Revenue certifies the values with assistance from the University of Illinois and the state's Farmland Assessment Technical Advisory Board (FATAB). The information used at the state level is actual farm data pulled, largely, from the FBFM database.

4. WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF HOW MY FARMLAND IS CLASSIFIED FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES?

Contact your local county assessment office to get a copy of your land use classifications. Many counties also have the option to search property information on their website. You can use the Property Index Number for each parcel to search for property classifications and other assessment and tax information.

5. CAN I APPEAL THE VALUES APPLIED TO MY SOILS?

Every landowner has the right to appeal property assessments. However, the assessed values tied to soils are determined by a statutory process. There is little authority to change soil values through a local or state level appeal. Farmers have more opportunity to appeal how their farmland is classified.

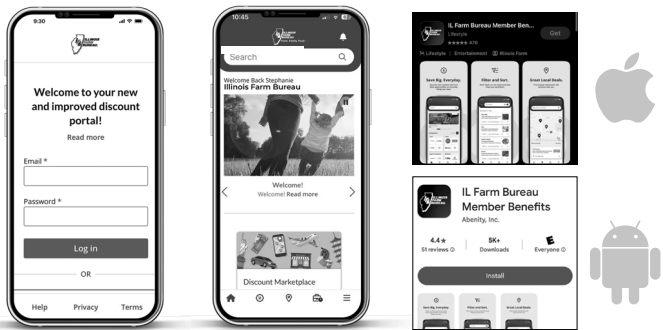
FAQ – PROPERTY TAXES

It's reported that farmers in other states often pay less property taxes on farmland, why are Illinois property taxes often higher, especially on the better-quality soils? Many states use different combinations of revenue sources

to fund their local units of government. In Illinois, our local units of government rely very heavily on property taxes from real property. Many of our neighboring states also have a personal property tax in addition to a real property tax. Real property taxes are applied to land and permanent improvements to the land, like buildings. Personal property tax is applied to movable or tangible items of value owned by a person like farm machinery, electronics, grain, etc. Other states collect a local income tax to help fund local government. The combination of these other revenue sources helps offset property taxes paid on farmland.



ACCESS BENEFITHUB WITH THE MOBILE APP



1. Go to Google Play or App Store and search for **Illinois Farm Bureau Member Benefits**.
2. Start by entering your email to log in or register using your membership number.
3. Find the best deals and start saving!



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.

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HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU

APRIL 2026



- 1 IAA Foundation, the charitable arm of Illinois Farm Bureau, awarded scholarships worth \$303,751 to 127 students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields, strengthening agriculture in Illinois through investment in future leaders.
- 2 More than 750 members responded to an IFB action request to contact legislators and oppose the Wetlands Protection Act, a proposed piece of legislation in Springfield that would have placed costly and overreaching burdens on Illinois farmers and landowners.
- 3 IFB secured statewide black vulture depredation permits, providing farmers with a tool to protect their livestock.
- 4 IFB Young Leaders, Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapters and Illinois FFA Chapters raised more than \$233,000 in 2025 for hunger relief and community assistance, donated a total of 154,000 pounds of food and tallied nearly 15,000 volunteer hours.



Visit myifb.org to see details.



ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Save

CASE IH

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
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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