



April 2026 | Editor Jill Frueh



BUREAU COUNTY AG FAIR HELD MARCH 19, 2026

To demonstrate to all the fourth graders in Bureau County the importance of agriculture in their lives, the Bureau County Farm Bureau Women's Committee held its 30th Annual Ag Fair on March 10, 2026. The Ag Fair is a daylong event at the Bureau County Fair Grounds in which students make timed stops (9 minutes at each station) to 14 different learning centers. These stations range from dairy, embryology, safety, pork, corn, seed science, conservation, beef, soybeans, pollinators, ag technology, drones, large animals, and small animals.

Following the Ag Fair, each student was given a bag of goodies that the committee put together which

contained items donated by each of the presenters, from coloring books to balloons and pencils. The teachers were given an evaluation that will assist not only the committee, but also the presenters next year. As a follow up, the committee is sponsoring a thank-you card drive for all the volunteers for the event. Students are encouraged to draw about their favorite part of the educational event.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with this year's Ag Fair!! A teacher attending a past Ag Fair best sums up the event, "Ag Fair is the best-kept secret in Bureau County." This year approximately 50 from 20 classrooms attended the Ag Fair.

LEARN THE SKILLS TO SHINE IN THE SHOWRING!

Join us for a free, entry-level educational Fitting and Showmanship clinic designed for youth ages 8-18 to build confidence and learn the essentials of preparing animals for show. Attendees will learn practical skills for fitting and discover tips and techniques to improve showmanship skills.

Whether you're new to showing or looking to sharpen your skills, this is a great opportunity to learn from skilled mentors. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend with their children. All animals will be provided. No personal livestock will be needed. And best of all, this clinic is free!

After the livestock clinic, YQCA training will be available for those who pre-register at www.yqcaprogram.org. This certification is an important, required step for youth involved in many livestock projects. Please note, there is an additional \$3 fee for this portion- payable online to YQCA when you register.

Clinic registration on and after May 1 may not receive a T-Shirt. Make sure you register soon!

Agenda:

8:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 10:45	Breakout Sessions: Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits (Choose up to 3)
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:00	Annual Required YQCA Training if you are showing livestock (Separate Registration) https://yqcaprogram.org/

Contact us to register for the event:

Bureau County Farm Bureau (815) 875-6468
 Bureau County Extension (815) 875-2878
 Marshall-Putnam Extension (309) 364-2356



A NEW CHAPTER, STILL ROOTED IN BUREAU COUNTY

After 23 incredible years serving as your County Manager, I am writing to share that I will be transitioning into a new role as the Region 1 Manager for the Illinois Farm Bureau.

While I am eager to begin this new chapter—where I will have the privilege of mentoring managers across the region, my heart remains full of the memories we've made here. Over the last two decades, many of you have become more than just members or colleagues; you have become like family. While I will certainly miss the day-to-day collaboration with our local farmers, please know that I am not 'leaving' the community we love.

Jared and I are still raising our two children right here in Bureau County, and I fully intend to remain an active and involved neighbor. Thank you for 23 years of partnership, friendship, and support. I look forward to seeing you around and continuing to support agriculture in this new capacity.

AG TECH



Summer Ag Institute

JUNE 16-17

Scan code to register online by May 15.



hosted by Bureau, Lee, and Whiteside Ag in the Classrooms & Farm Bureaus



SUMMER AG INSTITUTE: AG TECHNOLOGY- SPARKING YOUR FUTURE

Focusing on ag technology as it relates to commodity and specialty crops, the two-day workshop (June 16-17) is built for pre-K - high school educators who want to expand their current curriculum to include real-world, agriculture related topics.

The workshop convenes June 16 in Rock Falls where participants will hear from Illinois Ag in the Classroom and walk through activities and new resource material available. The group will spend the rest of the day touring Whiteside County farms and agricultural businesses.

On June 17 the workshop will move to Lee Co. for more tours of farms, raising commodity and specialty products like lavender and goat soap. Additionally, participants will learn about technology and its role in agriculture, food and natural resource management.

Participants can earn PDs from the ROE or one graduate credit from Lindenwood University once the class has been successfully completed. Grad credit hours cost an additional \$80.00.

Cost: \$30 for Farm Bureau members | \$40 for non-members.

Enrollment is limited to 30 teachers.

Register online at: <https://forms.gle/VCS5CWQWb3WGAHdv7>

OR call Bureau County Farm Bureau at 815-875-6468

OR talk to your local Ag Literacy Coordinator.

Registration due May 15.