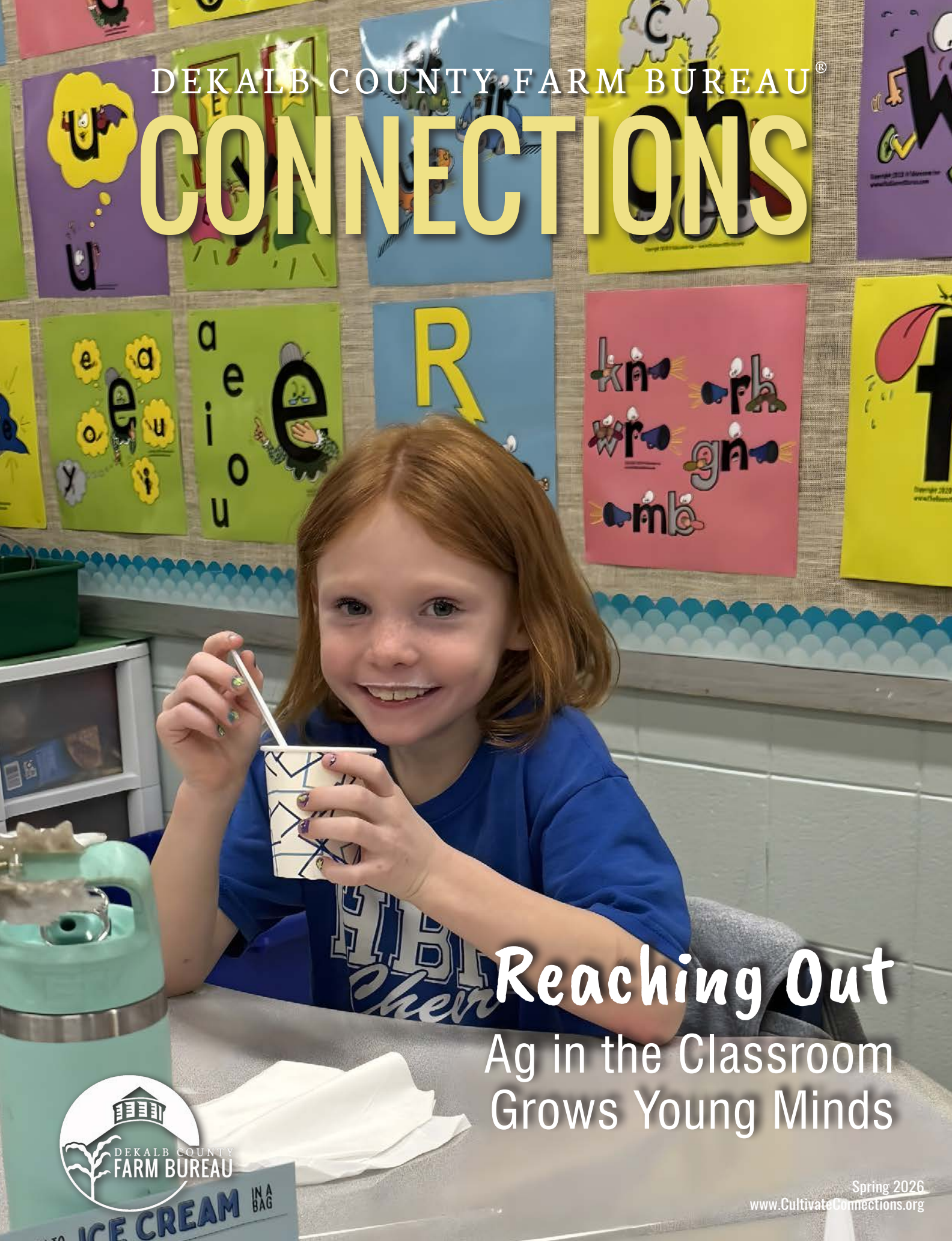
DEKALB COUNTY FARM BUREAU®

CONNECTIONS

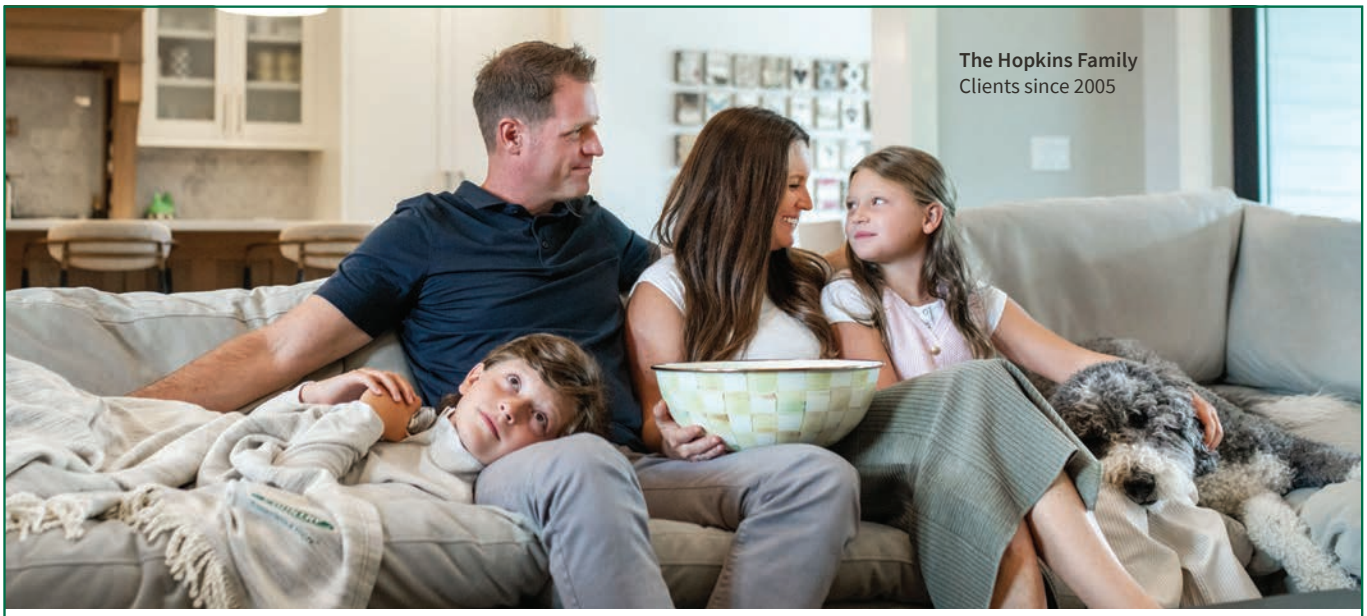


Reaching Out

Ag in the Classroom Grows Young Minds

DEKALB COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Spring 2026
www.CultivateConnections.org



The Hopkins Family
Clients since 2005

Helping you protect what matters most

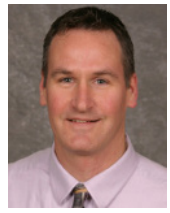
Angie Hayden
District Leader
866-268-6879

David Gingerich
Genoa
815-784-6688

Dan Howes
Sycamore
815-756-9536

Steve Klopfenstein
Shabbona
815-824-2920

Kathleen Martin
Sandwich
815-786-6584



Dean Miller
DeKalb
815-748-7064

Chris Patterson
Genoa
815-758-4540

Mike Shipley
Sycamore
815-756-9536

Karolina Skinner
Sandwich
815-786-2209

Gavin Wilson
DeKalb
815-748-7064

COUNTRY Financial® is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, COUNTRY), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois. 26856704

COUNTRY FINANCIAL®

Connecting to You

Berkeley Boehne, DeKalb County Farm Bureau President

Welcome the New Year!

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe Spring is around the corner. We all survived the cold but let's be honest it could have been a lot worse. The cold temperatures we experienced, along with lack of snow cover, gives opportunities for some much-needed frost in the ground. It sounds like most areas got between one to two feet of frost. This provides soil compaction to be broken up and some unwanted disease and pest to be eliminated, giving a great start to the spring growing season.

With the start of the new year, I ask you -- What does Farm Bureau mean to you? What does Farm Bureau do for you?

It has been over a year now that COUNTRY Financial doesn't require a Farm Bureau membership for non-farm individuals to insure their house or automobile. What does that mean for DeKalb County Farm Bureau?

I'm not going to hide from the truth. We LOST close to half of our membership just in DeKalb County alone. We expected this to happen but now more than ever I'm going to ask all members to help promote DeKalb County Farm Bureau. It doesn't matter what classification of membership you have. YOU are important! And we want you to remain a lifelong member.

I want to personally thank you for your continued support. If you're reading this, you are a group of 3000 individuals that can spread the word. Our strongest connection is word of mouth. We want to grow and remain the strongest County Farm Bureau in the state. So, please take the time to tell family, friends and neighbors.

DeKalb County isn't just about planting corn and soybeans. Our county has gotten so diverse with agriculture in the last 10 plus years. We have so many opportunities to tell OUR story and support ALL Agriculture while leaving a legacy for our children. Please share your story with others and encourage membership with your DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

DeKalb County Farm Bureau is known for "The Voice of Agriculture." and with your support we will continue to be that voice! ■

Find the kernel and win!

Find the corn kernel (resembling this one) in our magazine and be eligible to win a prize.

Email your answer to connections@dekalbfarmbureau.org or call us, 815-756-6361, by May 1 for your chance to win. When responding, please include the page number and exact location of the kernel on that page, your name, address, and phone number.

Correct answers will be put into a drawing and one winner will be drawn to receive a $30 gift card.

Last issue's winner of the kernel contest was Tom Starks of Sycamore. The kernel was hidden on the yellow sweatshirt on page 8 in the Winter issue of CONNECTIONS magazine. ■

On the cover: Second grader, Leni Assell, at Hinckley-Big Rock Elementary is all smiles during the "From Moo to You" Ag in the Classroom presentation.

Follow us!

facebook.com/dekalbcountyfarmbureau

instagram.com/dekalbcountyfarmbureau

x.com/DCFBureau

DeKalb County Farm Bureau Websites

CONNECTIONS Magazine
www.CultivateConnections.org

Farm Bureau Main Site
www.DeKalbFarmBureau.org

Foundation for Agriculture
www.PlantALegacy.org

Ag Literacy
www.GrowYoungMinds.org

Send magazine comments to:
connections@dekalbfarmbureau.org

Calendar

MARCH

March 2 Hometown Renaissance Band Farewell
Prime Timers Program/Lunch

March 25 Farm Bureau Blood Drive
Center for Agriculture, Sycamore, IL

March 27 Senior Scholarships Due
bit.ly/FarmBureauScholarshipsHS2026

APRIL

April 3 Good Friday Holiday
Farm Bureau Office Closed

April 6 College Scholarships Open
bit.ly/FarmBureauScholarships2026

April 6 Death-Defying Acts
The History of the Circus
By William Pack
Prime Timers Program/Lunch

April 15 Father of the Bride
Drury Lane Theatre

MAY

May 4 Mrs. Lincoln Performance
By Lynn Rymarz
Prime Timers Program/Lunch

May 7 Give DeKalb County
Visit GiveDeKalbCounty.org

May 8 Hairspray the Musical
Fireside Theatre, Fort Atkinson, WI

May 25 Memorial Day Holiday
Farm Bureau Office Closed

Farm Bureau Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Call 815-756-6361.

CONNECTIONS

Spring 2026 - Vol. 13, No. 1

Connections (Print) ISSN 2374-0108, Connections (Online) ISSN 2374-0299 is published quarterly by the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, 1350 W. Prairie Drive, Sycamore, IL 60178. Periodical postage paid rates Sycamore, IL 60178. $2 per year paid with DeKalb County Farm Bureau membership dues. Postmaster: Send address changes to Connections, DeKalb County Farm Bureau, 1350 W. Prairie Dr., Sycamore, IL 60178.

© 2024 DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

DeKalb County Farm Bureau Staff

Greg Millburg – Manager

Kelcee Miller– Assistant Manager/Foundation Administrator

Rhodora Collins – Ag Literacy Coordinator

Dava Wayman – Administrative Assistant/Accounting

Lisa Govig – Administrative Assistant/Membership

Cliff Benson – Building Maintenance

Farm Bureau Hosting Local Blood Drive - Sign Up Today!

DeKalb County Farm Bureau will host a community blood drive through Versiti Blood Center of Illinois.

Donate on March 25, 2026 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture, 1350 W. Prairie Dr., Sycamore.

Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

To schedule, go to **bit.ly/DeKalb26** or call the Farm Bureau office at 815-756-6361.

Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating. Photo identification is required.

The event is co-sponsored by DeKalb Implement and Conserv FS.

Please call the DeKalb County Farm Bureau with any questions. ■

versiti™

FBFM Annual Cooperator Outreach Meeting this March

FBFM will present annual updates at the Farm Business Farm Management (FBFM) Annual Cooperator Outreach Meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

FBFM specialists will offer analysis of 2025 farm data for FBFM cooperators, including corn and soybean yields and farm earnings.

There will also be a session focused on interpreting FBFM Financial Reports, a segment on managing difficult economic times presented by Dr. Gary Schnitkey, a market outlook with Dan Hueber. and a weather update from Gilbert Sebenste.

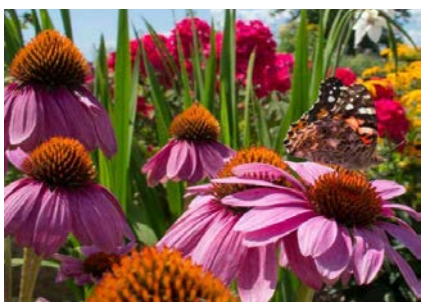
The FBFM meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the Farm Bureau Theater. Lunch will be provided after the meeting. There is no cost to attend.

Please register before March 20 by calling 217-712-2131. The FBFM meeting is open to all. ■

DCFB Awarded Pollinator Conservation Grant

DeKalb County Farm Bureau has received funding through the Illinois Farm Bureau's Pollinator Conservation Grant Program to develop a new pollinator and education space on FB property. The grant will support the design and construction of a pollinator plot and educational pathway on a vacant 2.5-acre site. The space will be used for Agriculture in the Classroom programming and will be accessible to the public, encouraging community engagement.

This project reflects Illinois Farm Bureau's continued investment in farmer-led conservation efforts across the state. By creating pollinator habitat and educational opportunities, DCFB is strengthening its commitment to environmental stewardship and connecting members and the public to the importance of pollinators in agriculture. ■



Corn Growers Plot

The DeKalb County Corn and Soybean growers are accepting entries to the 2026 Corn and Soybean plots. The plots are randomized, replicated plots, done by a professional third party. Plots will be sprayed with a Non-GMO herbicide program, both conventional Hybrids and Varieties will be accepted. **Entry deadline is March 27.** Please contact Josh Faivre at 815-901-4055 or email dekalbcornsoy@gmail.com for more information. ■

DeKalb County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Business Meeting of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau will be held on Monday, March 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Building, Sycamore, IL to receive reports of the tellers of election for directors for the past year; and if approved, confirm the reports of the officers for the year ending Dec. 31, 2025 and any other business that may properly come before the meeting. ■

Grant Bend, Secretary

Rooted in Leadership

Local Young Leaders Participate in Discussion Meet in Chicago

This past December, three members of the DCFB Young Leader program represented DeKalb County at the Annual Illinois Farm Bureau State Young Leader Discussion Meet.

Ethan Pote, Katie Arndt, and Christian Thurwanger participated in the statewide Young Leader discussion meet in Chicago.

Contestants participated in round-robin discussions on topics including urban sprawl, technology in consumer and legislative outreach, environmental stewardship, sustainability, and Farm Bureau membership benefits.

The Final Four focused on improving sustainability both environmentally and financially. State winner Kade Hill went on to represent Illinois at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Anaheim, California, where he placed third nationally.

Our DCFB Young Leaders encourage members ages 18-35 years old to get involved, learn, and grow. Ethan Plote, who has competed four times said, "It is a great way to learn about the challenges facing the agriculture industry by focusing on solutions rather than roadblocks."

Young farmers interested in networking and professional growth are welcome to call us a call at 815-756-6361 or better yet stop by the office to become a member and join the fun today! ■

Katie Arndt, Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation Class of 2027

DCFB Young Leader, Katie Arndt of Malta is one of 19 individuals selected through a highly competitive process and will now embark on a 19-month journey of leadership development, policy immersion, and global agricultural exploration.

In January, the class of 2027 attended the Kim Morton National Agricultural Policy Seminar focused on bridging foundational theory with real-world application. Day 1 emphasized "big-picture thinking," covering the Farm Bill, land-grant university history, and supply chain logistics through expert sessions and high-pressure leadership simulations. Day 2 shifted toward "policy in practice," examining global trade, Washington D.C. politics, and advocacy strategies. The experience concluded with a site visit to the iFAB Tech Hub, showcasing how innovation and biomanufacturing are shaping the future of the industry. ■

The IALF Class of 2027 pose for a photo during the Kim Morton National Agricultural Policy Seminar at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Hello DeKalb County!

My name is Kelcee Miller, and I am excited to serve as the new Assistant Manager and Foundation Administrator!

I am a graduate of Illinois State University, where I earned my bachelor's degree in 2018 and my master's degree in 2020. My professional background includes parks and recreation, college athletics, event management, and hospitality.

I grew up on a farm here in Sycamore and was actively involved in 4-H and FFA, experiences that shaped my appreciation for agriculture and the importance of youth leadership.

I am originally from Sycamore and currently reside in DeKalb.

For the past five years, I worked with the Kane County Farm Bureau as the Development and Ag Literacy Coordinator.

I am grateful for the opportunity to return to my home county and build on the strong foundation already in place. I look forward to bringing new ideas to DeKalb County, working alongside our DCFB team, directors, members and volunteers, as well as growing the DCBF Young Leader program.

Happy Spring and I look forward to meeting you soon! ■

Farm Bureau Celebrates 70 Years of Scholarships!

High School Seniors may apply for college scholarships now

High school seniors can apply now for the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Foundation Senior Scholarships.

The Foundation will grant five scholarships to deserving high school seniors pursuing a college education in any field of study.

High school seniors who will be attending a two or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2026 are eligible to apply.

To be eligible, a student's immediate family must be a member in good standing of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

Senior Scholarship selection is based on academics, leadership, and community service.

Seniors selected will be awarded $1,200 scholarships.

The scholarship application form is available at:**https://bit.ly/FarmBureauScholarshipsHS2026**

Students will need to complete the application and submit online. A high school transcript and academic information is also required from high school counselors.

The complete application is due by Friday, March 27. ■

Apply for The DeKalb County Farm Bureau Foundation's Senior Scholarships at:

bit.ly/FarmBureauScholarshipsHS2026

Applications due:

Friday, March 27

Barshinger Ag Scholarship Offered for Indian Creek Students

Applications for the Joe Barshinger Ag Scholarship are now available.

This scholarship was established in 2020 by the Barshinger family in memory of the late Joe Barshinger, a lifelong grain and livestock farmer who farmed in Shabbona and Waterman and supported youth education.

The Joe Barshinger Memorial Scholarship is for graduating seniors from Indian Creek High School. Applicant must also be a member of the FFA Chapter or a 4-H Club.

This year – **This scholarship has recently increased to $2,000!** One scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student who plans to attend a community college, university or trade school. Applicant must also be majoring in a field of agriculture.

Indian Creek students may apply online at: **https://bit.ly/FarmBureauScholarshipsHS2026**

Scholarship deadline is Friday, March 27. ■

Joe Barshinger

Ag Scholarship Honors James M. Johnson

Applications for the new James M. Johnson Ag Scholarship are now available.

This scholarship was established in 2024 by the Johnson family in memory of the late James M. Johnson, a faithful farmer and family man.

This scholarship is for a graduating high school senior within DeKalb County who is also a member of FFA or 4-H.

One, $1,000 scholarship is available to seniors planning to study agriculture or the trades.

Students may apply online at: **https://bit.ly/FarmBureauScholarshipsHS2026**

Scholarship deadline is Friday, March 27. ■

James M. Johnson

Scholarships for college students available soon!

Current college students may apply for college scholarships April 6

Do your kids need some cash for college? Get them to apply for DeKalb County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarships.

A variety of college scholarships are offered to students of Farm Bureau families through the Farm Bureau Foundation.

These scholarships are available for sophomores, juniors, and seniors in college in fields such as agriculture, science, medical, or any field of study.

Students who are already in college can begin applying for college scholarships on **April 6**. **The deadline for the college scholarships is Friday, June 5**.

Scholarship applications are available online at: **https://bit.ly/FarmBureauScholarships2026**

For college sophomores, juniors & seniors

James E. Montgomery Ag Scholarship – One, $2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a sophomore, junior, senior, or trade school student in an ag-related field of study.

Russell & Berni Schelkopf Ag Scholarship – One, $2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a sophomore, junior, or senior majoring in an ag-related field of study.

Ag Discipline Scholarship – Up to three, $2,000 scholarships will be awarded to sophomores, juniors, and seniors in college pursuig a field of study related to agriculture.

Arden & Dorothy Baie Scholarship – One $2,400 scholarship will be awarded to a college sophomore, junior or senior pursuing any field of study.

DeKalb Ag Scholarship – One, $1,200 scholarship will be awarded for college students in their sophomore, junior, or senior year with an agriculture-related degree and eventually a career in agriculture.

George W. "Bill" & Ann Marie Stanley Scholarship – One, $2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving college sophomore, junior or senior student in any field of study.

Raymond & Frances Katz Ag Scholarship – One, $2,000 scholarship will be given annually to a sophomore, junior, or senior at the University of Illinois, majoring in Agricultural and Consumer Economics (specifically in accounting, agribusiness, farm management, finance, consumer economics, environmental economics, or policy).

Leonard & Vivian Nelson Ag Scholarship – One, $2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a sophomore, junior or senior at any college with an agricultural major.

Bob & Norma Wildenradt Ag Scholarship – One, $2,000 scholarship will be awarded to an agricultural student in their sophomore, junior, or senior year at a college within the state of Illinois.

For college juniors & seniors

Orville A. Olson Ag Scholarship – One, $1,200 ag scholarship will be awarded to a college junior or senior majoring in an ag-related degree and seeking a career in agriculture.

Robert Morley Science Scholarship – Up to seven, $2,000 scholarships will be given annually to juniors and seniors in college majoring in any field of science.

For medical students

Medical Scholarship – The Medical Scholarship program provides assistance for students pursuing medical degrees. The scholarship is available to students studying to become medical professionals. To be eligible a student must currently be in medical school, accepted to medical school or in a four-year nursing program. Two, $2,000 scholarships will be awarded annually. ■

(Right) Ava Splear was the 2024 recipient of the Leonard & Vivian Nelson Ag Scholarship. Seen here alongside the Nelson's daughter, Juanita Milton and her husband Lance.

Calling for Cover Designs!

Now including kindergarten!

Every year, DeKalb County Farm Bureau invites elementary students to illustrate what they know about agriculture via a design contest. The Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program and other ag-related experiences provide inspiration for students' designs.

Contest themes correspond with the AITC lesson for each grade. First, second, and third place winners are selected from each grade. Then, the grand prize-winning design from all grades becomes the front cover of the next issue of CONNECTIONS magazine.

Teachers may visit www.GrowYoungMinds.org or scan the QR code for rules and entry forms.

Grand prize winner Zoey Nelson and her teacher, Julie Headley pose with her 2025 design.

Objectives

1. Promote classroom exploration of farm and food topics via ag literacy resources and Ag in the Classroom lessons.
2. Increase understanding of how our daily lives depend on agriculture.
3. Foster appreciation of the role of farms and farmers in our community.

Eligibility

The contest is open to K-5th grade classrooms in DeKalb County.

Entry Deadline

Entries must be received at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau office no later than **Friday, April 10.**

Prizes

All entrants will receive a participation ribbon. Gift cards of $25, $15, and $10 are awarded to first, second, and third place winners respectively at each grade level. Up to three honorable mentions are chosen from each grade, with those entrants receiving special certificates.

Visit www.GrowYoungMinds.org for rules and entry forms. ■

Reaching Out

Kindergarten added to Annual AITC Program

DeKalb County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom (AITC) outreach expanded this year. Kindergarten teachers can now request a lesson titled "All Kinds of Farms" to introduce their students to farming and different kinds of farms.

As of mid-February, 20 kindergarten teachers were signed up for this year's program. 136 more had requested lessons for their 1st-5th graders.

Teachers may request a volunteer to visit their classroom or ask for supplies to teach their AITC lesson.

That's where area farmers, agribusiness people, high school FFA members, and others involved in ag come into play. These volunteers contact teachers, obtain supplies (and training if needed), review lessons, and deliver presentations in classrooms across the county.

"I love sharing my passion for agriculture," says AITC volunteer Lindsay Boehne. "It's important to show students the different ways they are connected to agriculture every day."

"Agriculture plays an important role in everything we do every day!"

Learn more about our Ag in the Classroom program by visiting **www.GrowYoungMinds.org.** ■

(Above) Volunteer Volunteer Brittany Richey guides a 3rd grader on how to dissect a corn kernel. Richey teamed up with her sister, Lindsay Boehne, to present the "It's an Earful" AITC lesson.

Drones, Robots, and AI, Oh My!

What does the word "agriculture" make you think of? If you imagine fields, cattle, and crops, your images are accurate, but incomplete. The 2026 Summer Ag Institute (SAI) will open educators' eyes to how today's ag technology helps ensure tomorrow's food security. Teachers will gain tools to broaden student knowledge of local farming, the larger ag industry, and how both impact our lives.

"Drones, Robots, and AI, Oh My!" is open to K-12 teachers.

Sponsored by DeKalb County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy, DeKalb Regional Office of Education, and Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom. ■

- Earn 30 PDCs or 2 hours of graduate credit.
- Cost is $100 (plus ~$200 tuition if enrolling for graduate credit).
- Register & apply for a $100 SAI Scholarship at **https://bit.ly/SAI2026Reg.**

PROGRAMS

Enjoy the Soundtracks of our Lives this March

Join the Hometown Renaissance Band on March 2 at the Farm Bureau.

The Hometown Renaissance Band is a musical quartet that performs songs from the 60's and 70's. Inspired by a genre called "Baroque Pop" that combines pop and rock with elements of classical music. Together these musicians offer a unique selection of songs that were part of the soundtrack of our lives.

The musical program on March 2 beings at 1 p.m. in the Farm Bureau theater.

Lunch will be served prior to the program at 12-noon in the Farm Bureau auditorium.

The lunch fee is $10, payable by February 25. Call or stop by the Farm Bureau office, 815-756-6361. ■

Experience the History of the Circus from William Pack this April

Barnum may be the biggest name, but he was only a small part of the story of the circus. William Pack takes you on a fantastical journey through the history of the Circus, from Phil Astley's creation of the modern circus in 1768 to Dan Rice, "the most famous man you've never heard of" to the incredible feud between Barnum and the Ringling Brothers.

Learn about the History of the Circus on April 6 at Farm Bureau.

You'll hear stories of triumph, disaster, and the grand adventure of the travelling circus. Experience the story of those who gave their lives to show and became legends in the process.

Come meet William Pack as he tells the story of The History of the Circus and their Death-defying acts.

The program on April 6 beings at 1 p.m. in the Farm Bureau theater.

Lunch will be served prior to the Prime Timers program at 12-noon in the Farm Bureau auditorium.

The lunch fee is $10, payable by March 25. Call or stop by the Farm Bureau office, 815-756-6361. ■

Experience Lynn Rymarz as Mary Lincoln on May 4 at the Farm Bureau

Join author and storyteller Lynn Rymarz as she follows Mary's journey, which takes her from her days in Springfield, Illinois, where she meets and marries Abraham Lincoln to the White House where she becomes the nation's First Lady. Hear of her joys and the trials she experiences along the way, including her stay in a insane asylum in Batavia, Illinois.

Lynn has entertained audiences with her portrayals of historical women since 2005. As a children's author and storyteller, she enjoys sharing little-known historical stories.

The performance on May 4 begins at 1 p.m. in the Farm Bureau theater.

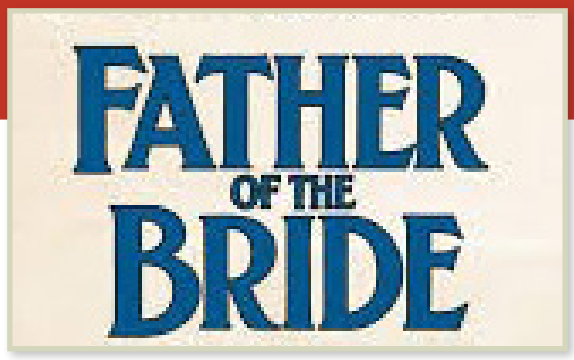
Lunch will be served prior to the musical program at 12-noon in the Farm Bureau auditorium

The lunch fee is $10, payable by April 29. Call or stop by the Farm Bureau office, 815-756-6361. ■

Lynn Rymarz as Mary Lincoln to the Farm Bureau on May 4.

TRIPS

Travel to Drury Lane Theatre in April to see "Father of the Bride"



Enjoy this show and lunch at the Drury Lane Theatre, on Wednesday, April 15.

In *Father of the Bride*, Stanley Banks grapples with the financial and emotional chaos of his daughter, Kay's upcoming wedding. As his wife and daughter embrace the excitement, Stanley humorously navigates feelings of nostalgia and displacement, ultimately facing the poignant reality of a father saying goodbye his little girl.

The motorcoach will depart from the Farm Bureau at 10:00 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m.

The cost is $135 for members and $145 for non-members. This includes motorcoach transportation, bus driver tip, lunch, gratuity, and the show.

The trip is now open. Members may call or visit the office (opens at 8 a.m.) and pay by check, cash, or with credit card.

Contact the Farm Bureau office for more information at 815-756-6361. ■

See "Hairspray" this May at The Fireside in Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin

Travel to the Fireside in Ft. Atkinson, WI on Friday, May 8 to see the awarding winning musical, "Hairspray."

Set in 1962 Baltimore, the show follows Tracy Turnblad, a big-hearted teen whose love of dance propels her from overlooked outsider to television star. Along the way, she challenges the reigning teen queen, finds romance, and helps push for integration on the popular dance show.

Winner of eight Tony Awards, Hairspray is a high-energy celebration of acceptance, inclusion, and unforgettable '60s rock and roll.

Lunch includes a spring salad and choice of 3-entree options.

The cost of the trip will be $135 for members and $145 for non-members. The price includes motorcoach transportation, bus driver tip, lunch, gratuity, and musical entertainment.

The motorcoach will depart the Farm Bureau at 8:45 a.m. and will return around 6:00 p.m.

Registration for this trip opens Wednesday, March 4 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau office. Members may call or visit the office (opens at 8 a.m.) and pay by check, cash, or with credit card.

For more information, please call the Farm Bureau office at 815-756-6361. ■

Cubs vs. Brewers on June 28 at Milwaukee, WI

Go Cubs, Go! Farm Bureau has purchased a limited number of Cubs tickets for the Sunday, June 28 game at American Family Field in Milwaukee, WI. The Chicago Cubs play the Milwaukee Brewers in a 1:10 p.m. game.

Seats are located along the first baseline in the loge level, Section 210. Cost of tickets is $85 each for members *(max 4 tickets per family)* and includes the game ticket and motor coach transportation and the driver's tip. The Motor coach departs DeKalb County Farm Bureau at 9:30 a.m. and returns following the game.

Tickets will be sold beginning April 8. For more information, please call the Farm Bureau office at 815-756-6361. ■

Things are Heating Up at the Farm Bureau!

Fay's Finest Foods will be providing drive-thru BBQ meals twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays from May - October at the Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture. Part of the money raised will go to the Foundation for Agriculture to support local scholarships, grants, and educational iniatives.

Meal options include: 2 porkchop meal; 2 chicken quarter meal; or 1 porkchop with 1 chicken quarter combo meal. All meals include apple sauce, baked beans, coleslaw, a roll and butter.

All sales will benefit the Foundation for Agriculture. Each meal costs $19 if paid in advance. Meals will be $20 for same-day drive-up orders.

To reserve your meals and pre-pay, call the Farm Bureau office at 815-756-6361. ■

Save the Date
Farm Safety Camp

July 1st, 2026
9a.m.-3p.m.
Jonamac Apple Orchard, Malta

It's that time again! Children will learn how to "play it safe in the country" at the countywide Farm Safety Camp held at Jonamac Orchard in Malta this July. Open to ages 8–12, youth will explore 12 farm safety topics through hands-on, interactive sessions led by experts, helping them identify hazards and learn practical skills to prevent accidents and injuries. More info coming soon!■

Give DeKalb County scheduled for May 7, 2026

Today, children are several generations removed from the farm. Their only connection to farming may be through the food they consume.

The DeKalb County Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture connects children and adults to farming with accurate, up-to-date information about food production and agriculture.

Give DeKalb County is an opportunity to support the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Foundation through a 24-hour fundraising event with local nonprofits. Your donation can go towards Ag in the Classroom supplies, teacher resources, student farm field trips, scholarships for college students and other local ag-related programs.

On May 7, consider a donation to the Farm Bureau Foundation. Visit **www.GiveDeKalbCounty.org** to donate online.

Donors can mail-in donations to the DeKalb County Community Foundation April 23 to May 7.

Your support helps the community connect to agriculture! ■

GIVE DeKalb County
MAY 7, 2026

Support the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture during Give DeKalb County!

DEKALB COUNTY FARM BUREAU

SPRING SAVINGS AS A MEMBER

SONESTA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

SAVE UP TO 15% OFF
"Best Available Rate" with
SONESTA Hotels
Advance reservations required
1-800-766-3782
Corporate ID #AFBIL

WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS

SAVE UP TO 20% OFF
***"Best Available Rate"* with**
Wyndham Hotel Group
Advance reservations required
1-877-670-7088
IFB #8000002027

CHOICE HOTELS™

ENJOY
UP TO 20% OFF
with Choice Hotels®
Advance reservations required
1-800-258-2847
IFB #00800614

Travel Discounts Powered By
Travel Sherlock™

SAVE UP TO 30% OFF ON THOUSANDS OF HOTELS
ILFB.Travelsherlock.com
Corporate Code: Member

DRURY HOTELS.

SAVE 15%
at Drury Hotels®
Advance reservations required
1-800-378-7946
Corporate ID #333189

Use YOUR Membership for Spring Savings

Download the app and start browsing at **ilfb.abenity.com** or scan the qr code to start saving on gifts, flowers, movie tickets, food and dining, attractions, tours, concerts, and events.

Need assistance?
Contact Stephanie at sknittel@ilfb.org

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU

Around the FARM

Spring: A Quiet Kind of Progress

After a long Midwest winter, it's easy to think of spring as something that suddenly arrives: a rush of green, a burst of activity, a return to productivity. But when your co-worker is Mother Nature, you learn quickly that progress doesn't happen on demand. It happens when conditions are right.

Working with Nature

On our regenerative farm, we talk a lot about working with nature instead of trying to control it. That means paying close attention and making decisions that support the natural systems already at work. Winter, for example, isn't a pause in productivity, it's a period of necessary rest and restoration. Beneath the frozen surface, microbes are still working and the soil is quietly rebuilding itself for the season ahead.

Slow and Steady Waves of Progress

In the spring, you can observe a slow unfolding rather than a rush back into productivity. The soil warms gradually. New plant growth slowly emerges. Birds return, not all at once, but in waves.

Growth Happens in Time

Every piece of nature responds to surrounding conditions, not a calendar or clock. There's a quiet confidence to that process; an important reminder that real growth happens in its own time, not just because the calendar says it should.

(Above) My kids, Calvin and Violet, enjoying the first spring dandelions.
(Right) Crimson clover blooming in the pastures.

Rosie (Sanderson) Trump farms with her family in Clare where they raise grain and livestock. She also has a career in ag marketing/communications. Rosie and her husband Corey have two children, Violet and Calvin.

Give Yourself Grace

We don't always give ourselves that same grace. We expect constant motion, constant output, constant growth. But just like pastures need time to recover after grazing, people need seasons of rest before renewal. Pushing productivity beyond what our resources can support doesn't lead to healthy results on the farm OR in life.

Quiet Progress All Around

This spring, whether you're walking through a pasture, tending a garden, or simply watching the trees bud outside your window, I invite you to slow down and notice the quiet kind of progress happening all around you. Growth doesn't have to be loud to be meaningful. Sometimes the most powerful change happens one small green leaf at a time. ■

Rosie Trump

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR FAVORITE COLOR IS –

FS HAS YOU COVERED

WHETHER YOU HAVE ALL ONE COLOR OR A MULTI-COLORED FLEET,

Power Fluid™

YOU ONLY HAVE ONE TRACTOR HYDRAULIC FLUID TO USE.

- Meets or exceeds all OEM requirements
- Will not void warranty
- Avoid multiple trips to dealers
- Reduce Clutter
- Buy a 55 and save
- Buy in bulk and save even more!
- Tanks available

Contact your local FS Energy salesman or Chuck Anderson at 847-815-5669 for more information.

conservfs.com

CONSERV FS

DeKalb County Farm Bureau
1350 W. Prairie Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178

HBR FFA member, helps 2nd grader, Daisy Seitz, a student at Hinckley-Big Rock Elementary make ice cream in a bag during Ag in the Classroom.