WOODFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.

DIGITAL INSIGHT *Brief*

April 2026

Welcome! We are excited to introduce this new update format alongside our Woodford County Review newsletter. Through Digital Insight Brief, members, community partners, and local leaders can stay informed on important updates, programs, and initiatives impacting agriculture and rural life in Woodford County.

Manager Minute

As spring arrives, it's been a busy and rewarding time for Woodford County Farm Bureau. In March, we once again hosted our Rules of the Rural Road program for student drivers, helping them better understand how to safely share the road with farm equipment. Programs like this continue to be an important way we connect agriculture with our community and promote safety during the busy planting season.

I also had the opportunity to serve as one of county managers to help host the Women in Agriculture Conference in Rock Island. The event was a tremendous success, bringing together women from across Illinois and Iowa to learn, network, and celebrate their roles in agriculture.

Behind the scenes, we continue working closely with our local municipalities and elected officials to advocate for agriculture in our rural communities. And with warmer weather on the horizon, we're looking forward to opening the Farm Bureau Park for the season and welcoming everyone back outdoors. If you're interested in renting the park for a future gathering, please call our office for more information!

Upcoming Events

May 5	*MR Farmer Breakfast 8:00am*
May 5	*Cottage Food Workshop 6:00pm*
June 25	*Women's Outreach: Herbs & Mocktails @ Farm Bureau Park 6:00pm*

**Register for workshops by calling 309-467-2347 or by email woodfordcfb@gmail.com*

**All workshops are held at the FB Building, 117 W Center St, Eureka, IL 61530 unless otherwise noted*

**Unless otherwise noted, events are open to both Farm Bureau members and community partners.*

Government Affairs

Local

State Senator Chris Balkema, along with guest speaker Woodford Co Supervisor of Assessments, Janet Gibbs, will host a Property Tax Seminar on Monday, May 4 from 7:00–8:00 p.m. at Roanoke United Methodist Church. The seminar will cover key topics including available property tax exemptions, how to file an assessment appeal, and will include a live Q&A session for attendees to ask questions and get answers directly from local experts.

State

The Illinois Farm Bureau remains focused on protecting property rights and supporting farm families as legislative activity continues in Springfield. Key priorities include advancing estate tax reform through the Family Farm Preservation Act and monitoring proposals that could impact land use, environmental regulations, and agricultural practices.

National

Passing a full, five-year farm bill remains a top priority for the Illinois Farm Bureau. We are currently watching what's happening in Congress this week regarding this bill, which includes key provisions on year-round E15, reforms to the Renewable Fuel Standard, expanding rural broadband access, and improvements to standing disaster programs, including support for specialty crops.

Ag in the Classroom

Thank you to our incredible Ag in the Classroom volunteers: Sandy Knack, Bev Woodward, Janet Noe, Eureka FFA, Metamora FFA, and Roanoke FFA. Their time, energy, and passion make a lasting impact on students across our community. Because of them, young learners are gaining a deeper understanding of agriculture, where their food comes from, and the important role it plays in their everyday lives. Whether they're leading activities, reading in classrooms, or supporting events, we are truly grateful for their commitment to ag education and for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with students. If you're interested in volunteering with our AITC program, please contact Leslie Beal at the Woodford County Farm Bureau office at 309-467-2347.

Women's Committee

The Women's Committee continues to bring members and the community together while showcasing agriculture and building connections among women in ag. In April, we hosted a Floral American Flag painting workshop with 12 participants. Looking ahead, we're partnering with the University of Illinois Extension and Menu 309 to host an Herbs and Mocktails class at Farm Bureau Park on Thursday, June 25th. Interested in helping plan future events? Contact the office or Women's Committee Chair Jenna Nicholson to get involved.

Young Leaders

The Young Leaders group focuses on developing leadership skills, building professional networks, and connecting young adults in agriculture ages 18 to 35. The group plans to host a cookout during planting season and will join the Board of Directors at their June meeting. If you're interested in joining the Young Leaders group or getting involved, please contact our office for more information.

A monthly snapshot of Farm Bureau activity, advocacy, and community engagement in Woodford County.

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