WOODFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.

DIGITAL INSIGHT Brief

February 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

In my last article in January, I had mentioned that at the time of writing the article, I didn't know what my "word of the year" was going to be. After much reflection, I'm happy to have landed on the word **chosen**.

I have been in my role as WCFB Manager for two years now, which still feels surprising at times. If you've met me, you know now that I wasn't raised on the farm, and there are still moments when I question how I ended up here. What I have learned though is that you do not have to know everything to be effective. You just have to put the right people in the right places, listen, and be willing to learn. And boy, have I learned a lot! That's how Farm Bureau works best too, by relying on members, leaders and staff who each bring different strengths to the table. I may be biased, but I believe Woodford County has the best members, board directors, and staff that a county could have.

In January, I attended the AFBF Convention in Anaheim, CA. I was able to hear from many great speakers, including Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins and the House and Senate Ag Committee leaders. The keynote speaker was Tim Tebow. Using some football analogies, he talked about leadership, teamwork, and a vision in ways that really apply to organizations like ours. One point that stood out was the importance of "going to away games." We need to show up in places where they may be uncomfortable, interact with people who see things differently, and take the time to understand where they are coming from. That perspective strengthens our advocacy and helps us better represent agriculture at every level.

He also spoke about the difference between putting on the same jersey and truly being on a team. Wearing the Farm Bureau name is important, but being a team means sharing a vision and being willing to work for it. That happens when we treat people with excellence, invest in one another, and trust each other to do our part. Have you seen the upcoming programs and opportunities that our office is hosting lately? Be sure to keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more events.

Upcoming Events

Mar 3 *Business Series Session 3: Agronomy 101 8:30am*

Mar 27 *Women in Ag Conference @ Bally's, Rock Island, IL*

Looking Ahead:

- *Women's Outreach: American Floral Flag Paint Workshop (April)*
- *Cottage Food Workshop for Farm Stands (April)*

**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

The Woodford County FSA Office has announced that enrollment for the Conservation Reserve Program is now open. Continuous CRP applications will be accepted from February 12 through March 20, 2026, and General CRP enrollment will run from March 9 through April 17, 2026. Eligible producers and landowners are encouraged to contact the local office at (309) 467-2308 to apply and learn more about available conservation opportunities.

State

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, March 17. The IFB Local Government team dedicated the most recent LINK newsletter to the upcoming election and what voters can expect to see on their ballot. We're categorizing this under "State News" since the gubernatorial race and other statewide offices will be decided in this election year. To read the latest LINK newsletter, visit: https://www.ilfb.org/resources/farmer-rural-resources/media-and-publications/link/.

National

The House Agriculture Committee's farm bill markup set for Monday, February 23rd was postponed to the week of March 3. Please continue to contact legislators to support the Farm Bill. Have you signed up the the FB Act program? The FB Act program was designed to be our grass-roots advocacy program, and make advocating for agriculture easier than ever. You'll be asked to contact your elected officials or submit a comment into a federal docket on key ag issues. Join Now: https://www.ilfb.org/get-involved/fb-act/join/

Ag in the Classroom

Ag in the Classroom currently serves 11 classrooms, K-5, and over 650 students throughout Woodford County. This program helps students better understand the role agriculture plays in their daily lives and local community. Quarter 4 lessons will kick off next month and will discuss Soybeans. Did you know?

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. We had a great turnout of 18 attendees at our recent tallow class, and we are so grateful to everyone who joined us. 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. Members had a great time attending the Young Leader Conference earlier this month, and planning is currently underway for additional upcoming activities. 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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