WOODFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.

DIGITAL INSIGHT *Brief*

March 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 I write this, we are in that classic Illinois "fake spring" stretch of 60 degree weather, and I have to admit it is making me itch to get outside, soak up the sunshine, and start working in my yard. While we all know winter may not be finished yet, the change in season brings fresh energy to all that is happening in our organization.

Over the past several weeks, I have attended the Soil and Water Conservation District Local Working Group and Greater Peoria AgTech Connect meetings, both of which provided valuable conversations around conservation, innovation, and the future of agriculture in our region. I also attended the IFB Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC), which offered important insight as we head into the legislative session in Springfield.

This year, I also joined IFB's Local Government Team training program, Think LINK, and I am looking forward to growing through that experience. Separately, I have also been meeting with many of our local Country Financial agents to continue strengthening relationships and collaboration within our county.

Our winter workshops have been very successful, too. We had strong attendance at our Dementia Friends workshop and our Ag Business series, and we certified 8 individuals in CPR. In addition, a HUGE Thank You to everyone who donated or participated in our Quarter Auction fundraiser. It was a tremendous success!

Looking ahead, we are planning a Cottage Food workshop and a women's outreach class on herbs and mocktails in partnership with Menu 309 and the University of Illinois Extension office.

Thank you for staying involved and engaged. Spring is just around the corner, and there's so much good work happening here!

Upcoming Events

April 1	*Farm Bureau Park Opens*
April 16	*Cottage Food Workshop*
April 16	*Women's Outreach: Floral American Flag Painting*

**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 Village of Roanoke was recently awarded a $5,000 Rural Development grant, selected from a competitive pool of 139 applicants, to support its new “pocket park” project. This planned green space will provide a welcoming area for the community, with features including accessible garden plots, gathering spaces, and areas for food trucks and vendors. The park is also expected to host events such as farmers’ markets and art fairs.

State

The Illinois Farm Bureau is actively working to protect property rights in Springfield. They are monitoring legislation that would allow broadband companies to access private property with limited notice and requiring landowners to file suit to claim compensation. The team is also following proposals related to wetlands regulations and public access to waterways that could affect private property rights.

National

Passing a full, five-year farm bill remains a top priority for the Illinois Farm Bureau. “Farm Bill 2.0” has advanced out of the House Agriculture Committee, and the next step is securing floor debate time. While leadership considers it a high priority, other issues may affect the timeline. IFB also welcomed Rebecca Barnett as its new National Legislative Director on March 9. She previously served as Deputy Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries.

Ag in the Classroom

Ag in the Classroom currently serves 11 classrooms, K-5, and over 650 students throughout Woodford County. Quarter 4 lessons will kick off next month and will discuss Soybeans. Their projects include the Beanie Baby activity for 4th grade and My Little Seed House for 1st grade.

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. Looking ahead, we’re excited to host a Floral American Flag painting workshop on April 23rd. RSVPs are required, and more information can be found on our Facebook page. 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 activities and events in the coming months. 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.

117 W. Center St. Eureka, IL 61530 ; PO Box 225

(309) 467-4327 | woodfordcfb@gmail.com