WOODFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.

DIGITAL INSIGHT *Brief*

May 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 May comes to a close, I've appreciated several opportunities for professional development and collaboration through the Illinois Farm Bureau network.

I recently attended Foundations training focused on scholarships, fundraising, and grant writing, all important tools as we continue supporting students, local programs, and community initiatives across Woodford County. I also participated in new manager training centered on compliance and financial processes, which are essential to maintaining a strong and responsible organization.

I also had the opportunity to connect with fellow Farm Bureau managers in Lake Geneva to share ideas and discuss emerging topics impacting our organizations and communities, including the opportunities and challenges surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Illinois Farm Bureau also recently welcomed Rebecca Barnett as Director of National Legislation and Jill Frueh as the new Region 1 Manager. We appreciate Brian Puetz for his years of leadership and support to our county and region.

I look forward to continuing to build partnerships and serve our members and communities throughout Woodford County.

Upcoming Events

June 2	*MR Farmer Breakfast 8:00am*
June 18	*Legislative Roundtable (Members Only) 8:30am*
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

The Woodford County Board continued discussions this month on infrastructure and public safety projects, including county road and bridge improvements, emergency management coordination with local municipalities, and ongoing progress related to the county's new Animal Control facility.

State

As the Illinois General Assembly approaches the end of session, Illinois Farm Bureau continues advocating for policies that support family farms, including reforms to the state's estate tax structure. Protecting the long-term viability of family-owned farms remains a top priority.

National

The U.S. House recently passed legislation allowing year-round E15, a long-standing priority for corn growers and the biofuels industry. The bill now moves to the Senate.

Ag in the Classroom

Summer Ag in the Classroom programs are officially underway, with June activities centered around dairy education through a fun Dr. Seuss-themed "Ice Cream in a Bag" series at local libraries. We are also currently seeking volunteers interested in helping teach Ag in the Classroom lessons during the 2026-2027 school year. 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. We're excited to partner with University of Illinois Extension and Menu 309 to host an Herbs and Mocktails class at Farm Bureau Park on Thursday, June 25th. 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 is invited to join the Board of Directors at their June meeting on June 11th at 7:00pm. 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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