



LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

April Newsletter



LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

Golf Outing

The Livingston County Farm Bureau® Foundation 4th Annual Golf Outing will be held on Friday, June 16 at The Dwight Country Club. Registration is now open; Teams are \$250, Hole Sponsors are \$125. The 4-man team scramble will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30 am. All proceeds will go to the Foundation to provide college scholarships for local students studying Agriculture.

"In addition to contacting the office, participants can use a JotForm link to register their team online. To register online, use your cell phone camera to scan the QR reader in the bottom right corner of the graphic included in this publication," said Chris Bunting, Manager LCFB. "We've had great support the past couple years of local businesses either registering a team or being a hole sponsor. Those generous donations allowed the Foundation to provide over \$29,000 for the '22-'23 school year. Watch for the July LCFB Newspaper for the announcement of this year's Scholarship Recipients," said Bunting.



June 16, 2023
DWIGHT COUNTRY CLUB | DWIGHT, IL

Livingston County Farm Bureau
FOUNDATION

Golf Outing
2023

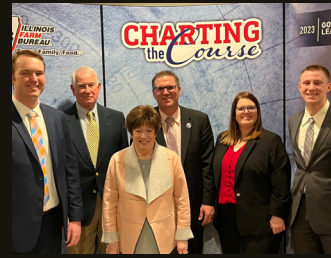
SCAN ME

REGISTER BY MAY 26TH:
Call the office at 815-842-1103 or use the QR code to the right.

The Livingston County Farm Bureau® Foundation was organized in 1991. The Foundation mission is to encourage, promote and fund education and research designed to improve crop and livestock returns for farmers; to provide scholarships to persons studying agriculture and related fields. Since its incorporation the Livingston County Farm Bureau® Foundation has offered over \$450,000 in scholarships to local students. LCFB Foundation is a 501c3 organization.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU **in Action**



LCFB Young Leaders and FB staff volunteer at the Midwest Food Bank in February. Livingston County Farm Bureau leaders meet with Representative Jason Bunting 106th District and Representative Dennis Tipsword - 105th District at the 2023 IFB Governmental Affairs and Leadership Conference. Rick Tucker, President Livingston County Ag Fair presents a check to Brad Schmidgall, President of Livingston County Farm Bureau. Brad replaces Jason Bunting who served as President since 2012 but served on the LCFB Board since 2002. Matt Kilgus, LCFB Vice-President recognizes Don Immke for his years of service on the Livingston County Farm Bureau Board during the LCFB Annual Meeting in January. Don served as Secretary and Treasurer for many years during his 21 year tenure on the board.

Breakfast for \$1 and a morning on the Farm!

The Livingston County Farm Bureau Young Leaders invite the public to attend the Breakfast on the Farm prepared by Young Leader committee members and local farmers.

The breakfast will be held from 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday, June 10 at Kilgus Farmstead located in Fairbury. The menu will include: biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, milk, coffee and orange juice all for a donation of \$1.00 per person. All proceeds will go to Livingston County Food Pantries.

"The dollar represents the approximate amount of money the farmer makes for growing/raising the ingredients," said Kaity Carroll, Chair. of Livingston County Young Leaders.

In addition to the meal, attendees will be able to view agricultural displays, tour the dairy farm and participate in activities for the whole family at no cost.

KILGUS FARMSTEAD • FAIRBURY, IL

Breakfast ON THE Farm

JUNE 10, 2023

Serving from **7-10 A.M.**

The Livingston County Young Leaders is a group of young adults in the county with a tie to agriculture. The group works throughout the year to provide events and programs that promote agriculture in the community. The YL group is always searching for more members who have an interest in agriculture and are looking for opportunities to give back to the community.

Directions to the farmstead: In Fairbury on Rte. 24 at light, turn south onto S. 1st street, go 1 mile, Farmstead is on the right.

Legislative Breakfast

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COVERED AT BREAKFAST

PONTIAC – Various issues at the federal, state and county levels were mentioned Friday during the annual Legislative Breakfast from the Livingston County Farm Bureau, held at the Precision Planting PTI Farm.

U.S. Representative Robin Kelly, of the second district, introduced herself to the group. Her district is much bigger than before – stretching from Chicago all the way down to Danville. There is some farming history in Kelly's family.

"My grandparents owned a tiny farm in New Jersey," she said.

Kelly has introduced a bill which encourages rural changes to satellite policies in order to help precision agriculture. Last year she helped pass a lower food cost bill and Kelly noted the Inflation Reduction Act includes plenty of "wins" for Illinois farmers. She pointed to the allocation of funds for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Illinois agricultural conservation.

"We've tried to do a lot in the rural ag space."

Kelly does an ag tour in the summer holding town hall style meetings listening to the farming community.

"It's an honor to represent you," Kelly added.

The Congresswoman plans to have pop-up offices near Pontiac and Dwight.

"We'll work together to make sure you have what you need."

State Sen. Tom Bennett of the 53rd District spoke of his connection to ag as his brother operates the family farm at Gibson City. The former high school science teacher at Melvin-Sibley High School worked for State Farm and served eight years as a State Representative in Springfield.

"I'm very honored and proud to serve you now as your State Senator," Bennett said.

Bennett admitted the Senate can be quieter than the House but he has enjoyed serving so far in one of the largest Senate districts in Illinois.

"Agriculture is a big part of that," noted Bennett.

According to Bennett, the Senate ag budget was flat along with ag education. Funding for Soil and Water Conservation saw a big drop compared to last year. The Senator expects more conversations to surround the issue.

State Rep. Dennis Tipword of the 105th District is a Woodford County resident. He has been a police officer for several years, currently serving as chief deputy for Woodford County.

"Public safety is very important to me," said Tipword.

Tipword feels the state's business climate is not friendly and pointed to a "mass exodus" from the state. He notes Illinois is high on many lists it should be on the bottom of.

"We are literally hemorrhaging people," Tipword stated.

Though he is a couple of generations removed from the farm, Tipword's family is originally from the Southern Illinois area and he grew up around the industry.

"I fully understand farming. I grew up in the middle of a farming area."

Jason Bunting, 106th district State Representative, shared his experiences so far while serving in Springfield. He counted over 600 bills introduced to the floor of the House with 71 of those Republican bills. He had the chance to vote on a bill recently.

"They will grab something and try to slam it through right away," Bunting explained.

Bunting said the state has to do what is best for constituents and that includes reaching across the aisle and working together.

"Even after 42 days, I still open the wrong door on occasion," Bunting joked.

The experience has been described as a whirlwind and Bunting expects the next several months to be the same way. He is looking for a district director to work out of his Watseka office.

"I am truly excited to represent the folks of this district."

Livingston County Board vice-chair Steven Lovell said the county is well into the construction phase of its new highway and maintenance building which should be completed by June 1. This will provide space for equipment and items for the maintenance department.

The county will also complete a new parking lot at the Health and Education Building.

"In the same area, we are also working on a possible drive-thru for the Health and Education Building," Lovell explained.

Lovell believes the most contentious issue currently is the implementation of Illinois House Bill 4412 which sets statewide renewable energy project siting standards. According to Lovell, the state is trying to tie the county's hands when it comes to wind and solar.

"I'm afraid it's here to stay."

Livingston County signed a resolution to send to Springfield and just passed an ordinance to get in compliance with the state.

In an effort to be more transparent, the county has launched its first social media platform on Facebook. County Board meetings are also being streamed.

"Show up at the meetings," added Lovell. "We welcome input."

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WE SUPPORT
Mental Health Awareness
Contact 1-833-FarmSOS



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