**AG LITERACY**

**\*Lawrence, "Ag Jeopardy" -** As a review for of this year's Ag in the Classroom programs third grade students played "Ag Jeopardy". With our coordinator serving as "Alex Trebek" and the classroom teachers serving as judges for who buzzed in first. Teams of 4-5 went head-to-head to determine which team remembered the most from their monthly visits with our Agriculture Literacy Coordinator during Ag in the Classroom. Students tested their knowledge in areas including popcorn, pumpkins, pigs, cheese, soybeans, and trees. This presentation took 3-5 hours of preparation and planning and utilized an online customized Jeopardy game program. This is also a helpful way for our coordinator to gauge how much information students were retaining and which topics needed more information in years to come.

**Massac, "Farming at the Library" -** In an effort to keep agriculture in the minds of our community, the CFB and the Public Library joined forces to create a "Farm Frenzy" for a fun-filled day of agriculture activities. Volunteers read AITC books and provided numerous hands-on activities where kids and families gained knowledge about soybeans, corn, dairy cows, horses, and many other facets of the industry. The kids had the opportunity to wear "moo masks", compete in a honey bee challenge, and interact with a horse activity. Giveaways were done throughout the day to all attendees to further remind them the importance of agriculture. A grand prize was drawn for at the end of the day that included a Basket full of Ag Literacy books and activities donated by the CFB. The Women's Committee and the Young Farmers group had to put in lots of planning and organization to make sure that there was plenty of help, supplies, and activities to ensure the kids had a fun, action-packed, educational experience. Overall, the kids and families enjoyed the opportunity and were able to experience agriculture from a new, fun perspective.

**Schuyler, "Ag in the Classroom" -** Each month through the school year over 500 Pre-K through 4th graders and teachers participated in our Ag in the Classroom monthly lessons that focused on a different Ag topic each month from September - May. Lessons consisted of a book, activity and snack that all reinforced the Ag theme of the month. The first theme of the school year was Farmers--We read the books, A Day in the Life of a Farmer to PreK - 2nd grade and the book, Heartland, was read to 3rd & 4th graders. Activities included explaining the different kind of farms and then decorating a farmer hat. For the older students charts were used to show the different growing seasons--students were given fruits and vegetables and they had to show which season they would grow in Illinois. The project ended with a string cheese snack. In October we did a Plant Lesson where we read the books, Growing Vegetable Soup for the PreK - 1st grades and Seed Soil & Sun to the 2nd - 4th grades. The lower grades had to match vegetables with definitions and then put the vegetable in our soup pot to make soup. Older students had to decide if the fruits & vegetables were monocots or dicots. We also showed the students monocot & dicot plants that we had grown. The Plant lesson ended with a snack of Carrots with ranch dip for the lower grades and a monocot banana for the older grades. For November we did a lesson on the Tootsie Roll. The students were told the story of how the Tootsie Roll was invented and its simple ingredients that derive from agriculture. Each student participated in making Tootsie Rolls and eating them. In December we had a lesson on Cookies an agriculture. The book Christmas Cookies was read to the students and then they helped see where each ingredient comes from that was in a Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe. The lesson ended with each child decorating his own sugar cookie. In January we did a Wheat lesson with the students. The books Celebrate Wheat and Wheat to Pasta were read. The students were shown how wheat is planted and harvested and then each student had a chance to grind their own wheat into flour. Each child received wheat thin crackers for their snack. In February are lesson was on Illinois. The books Little Illinois and L is for Lincoln were read to the students, PreK - 2nd played an I spy game to represent all of the symbols for Illinois from the state fish to the state snack. Third & 4th grades went over the different crops that come from Illinois. Each child received popcorn for their snack. In March we had the Maple Syrup Lesson. We had a local person show how they tap trees and then turned the liquid from the tree into Maple syrup and what time of year this can be done. Students were shown how Maple tree leaves look so they can spot a Maple tree. Each student ended the lesson with a taste of the Maple syrup on a waffle. In April we did a lesson on Potatoes. The books One Potato, Two Potato and the Great Depression were read to the students. PreK through 2nd grade played the game Hot Potato with Potato facts and 3rd & 4th used Potatoes to paint a picture and learn all of the different colors, kinds and nutritional value. We ended the school year with a lesson on Pizza an agriculture. The book the Little Red Hen was read to the Prek-2nd grades and used to talk about wheat, that is used for pizza crust. Students made puppets with the characters from the story and also learned how the wheat is then turned into the flour that makes pizza crust. Third & 4th grades decorated their own pizza slice with our Pizza Model. All grades were shown how the Little Red Hen was a lot like a farmer, who has to have teamwork and work with other businesses so they can plant their grain, harvest it and get it to the elevators so it can then be processed and moved on to the grocery store where we can buy it to make our pizza. Lesson ended with students using Ritz crackers, pizza sauce, pepperoni and shredded cheese to make their own pizza for their snack. Each lesson was 30 minutes and the teachers appreciated being able to include the lessons in with their Science, Language, Math and/or reading curriculum.

**Brown, "Amazing Agriculture in our Schools" -** Ag Literacy and Women's Committee present different program throughout the school year to our local public and private schools. This year we were fortunate enough to be able to present several different topics. This is done once a month and we are able to cover many different agricultural topics. We started out with a pumpkin program. The program covered topics such as the life cycle of a pumpkin and the many different varieties, we cut open a pumpkin and explored the insides by looking and touching, made the "3-D pumpkin" and tasted pumpkins seeds. Also, each child received a Pumpkin Ag Mag and discussed it. Urban versus Rural was our next topic. The book "Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation" was read, we completed a Ven diagram comparing the differences and similarities of rural and urban areas. Each child received an Urban Ag Mag to take home and enjoyed a snack of bell peppers with dip. To celebrate the upcoming holiday season, our December program was "Santa is Coming to Illinois". We read the book and broke up into small groups, using Illinois maps and highlighters to navigate to the areas discussed in the book. We made "table-top evergreens" and enjoyed a snack. To ring in the new year and help out with healthy New Year's resolutions, our January program focused on Nutrition. We discussed guidelines, different foods and their role in nutrition, and healthy habits. We played a food pyramid game and each child received a Nutrition Ag Mag and enjoyed a healthy snack of carrots, celery and ranch dressing. February's program focused on Renewable Energy. We discussed the different types of energy, where it comes from and how it works. We also learned about ways we can help conserve energy and made a "solar oven" from a pizza box. Each child received a Renewable Energy Ag mag. With planting season around the corner in March, we talked about planting and machinery. We discussed the different crops in our area, as well as the machinery that farmers utilize to get their crops planted. The beanie baby was made by all and we distributed and discussed the Soybean Ag Mag. After planting, we learned about a not-so-typical type of agriculture in April. Aquaculture was the topic and the children seemed especially eager to learn about fish farming. We discussed the different types of fish farms and how they operate, as well as viewing a poster the had pictures of different types of aquapods and fisheries. The children also colored pictures of different types of fish that may be seen at these farms. Our last lesson was gardening, in which we read "The Surprise Garden", observed different stages of growth in tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, lettuce, and radishes. Each child got to make their very own "Garden In A Glove" to take home and watch as the seeds sprouted and grew. A Horticulture Ag Mag was also handed out and discussed. This was a small, consistent group of children with a varying range of agricultural knowledge. They were always ready and excited to learn and feel they took a lot of information with them. We hope to be able to do this program in years to come. These programs are a great way to bring agriculture into our local classrooms and the children really seem to enjoy them.

**Moultrie, "Adopt a Classroom Presentations" -** Our CFB this year had a great relationship with our Adopt a Classroom school. Throughout the year, our CFB farm writers and the school exchanged letters 6 times. The CFB farm writer and students would both write individual letters to each other which allowed for a great way to get to know the students much better and answer their individual questions. Our CFB also visited the school 3 different times and gave multiple presentations to not only the students, but the school administration as well. The first visit was included a PowerPoint presentation titled "Life on a Farm". This presentation opened the eyes of the classroom to actually see equipment and livestock from a working farm from the county. The students were also given ears of corn at the end of the day to have something tangible to take home. The second presentation was on UAV's and how they are impacting agriculture. The students really took to this and were amazed how this technology is being integrated into agriculture. The third trip involved our CFB participating in the schools career day by going to different classrooms throughout the day and explaining agriculture to not only our regular classroom, but 6 other classes in the school. We look to continue this relationship with the school and class going into this year and hope to expand on projects or topics into the future.

**Stark, "Ag in the Classroom" -** Each month, every Kindergarten, First and Second grade classroom in the county is visited and receives an AITC lesson. Nearly 250 students were educated throughout each month of the school year about how important and awesome agriculture is. Students gained better understanding of commodities grown in our state, and in turn, took the information home to their families. Topics covered are on a seasonal basis and were synced to work seamlessly into the curriculum so that the students can better grasp content across the curriculum. For instance in January the pig lessons focus heavily on nutrition which is also being discussed at that time in their classroom. Lessons cover commodities including: - Apples - Pumpkins - Turkeys - Pigs - Beef cattle - Plant germination - Agricultural safety - Dairy. Activities are specialized to be age appropriate, engaging and educational. To better support and build awareness with Ag in the Classroom, pictures are run monthly in the local county paper, it is discussed on the CFB's radio segment, it is included in CFB social media and in CFB publications. Additionally because our AITC coordinator is our manager and therefore is a substantial component of our CFB's operations, the manager had pictures submitted to FarmWeek - of which 7 were printed. Moving forward, we are in discussions of adding a small private school into our program.

**\*Clark, "Agriculture is Cool" -** Both counties have active Ag in the Classroom programs to help educate students and teachers on the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. More and more children are losing touch with agriculture. Both counties have paid staff to provide lessons to students throughout the school year reaching approximately 20,000 students during the school year with over 2000 projects. These programs are designed to bring agriculture back into their lives. The multiple goals of this project were: 1) Schools, Teachers, and Children – To help fund both counties Ag in the Classroom (AITC) programs to educate students about agriculture through a variety of learning styles and to provide free classroom resources to teachers to expand and enhance their existing curriculum with agriculture. 2) Consumers – To provide a cool treat at a low cost to consumers at events. 3) Community – To bring awareness to the counties AITC program and to promote awareness of agriculture, ag safety, and animal care. 4) Volunteer involvement - Allow volunteers an opportunity to talk to consumers in the community and gain publicity. The idea for the ‘Agriculture is Cool’ project originated with one county but soon became a two county project due to the scope and size of the project. The counties met and developed a plan of action, and together located and purchased the necessary trailer and equipment. A used ice cream unit was located in a neighboring state and a volunteer drove to pick it up. The milkshake unit was located in a local high school. A work week to assemble everything was set up between the two counties. Also, each county developed a list of events they wanted to participate in and coordinated them into a master calendar. Before the work week, the local health department was contacted and brought in to inspect the purchased trailer and make sure that health, food, and safety requirements were to be met. Also, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry needs to handle the load from the soft serve ice cream and milkshake units were laid out. During the work week, volunteers from both counties worked to carry out their plans and transform the trailer into the ‘Agriculture is Cool’ concession trailer. As part of the transformation, the old graphics and flooring were removed from the trailer. Once the trailer was rebuilt, both county boards came together to do a test run which proved successful. The trailer was then taken to a farm bureau member who volunteered to design and apply the graphics to the trailer. The two Farm Service Co-ops who service the counties were contacted by volunteers about donating a truck to pull the trailer to events. Both agreed to work together and generously donated a truck for the project. Volunteers researched events that could possibly be attended to sell ice cream and milkshakes. All events had to be coordinated onto a master calendar so no events conflicted each other. Once the two counties events were placed on the calendar, other County Farm Bureau®’s were notified of the trailer and its availability to be rented out at a reduced cost. The trailer was also made available to the community for special events such as weddings, reunions, and sporting events. Progress of its construction was posted on multiple websites and on Facebook. Volunteers signed up to man the trailer at events. While at events, the graphics on the trailer along with websites on it and who the money was benefitting struck up questions about the program allowing the volunteers to talk to consumers about agriculture and the ag in the classroom program. Since the two counties built the ‘Agriculture is Cool’ ice cream and milkshake trailer, the trailer has been seen by over 80,000 people throughout the events. Traveling around the State and meeting a wide variety of people, many of whom are non-farming and urban, has served as an excellent public relations and ag education tool (for the program). The trailer has utilized over 140 volunteers and has generated over $20,000.00 in the past year for the two counties’ Ag in the Classroom programs and will help to sustain the program well into the future. The counties have allowed the local FFA chapters to use it for free for fund raising events at their local football games, and both counties do special events for schools, providing free ice cream to approximately 1200+ students. The trailer has been rented out for weddings, community events, concerts, church events, and county wide picnics. The communities and surrounding county Farm Bureaus® know the trailer is available to them as long as it doesn’t conflict with a county fund raising event. It helps to fund the Counties’ Ag in the Classroom programs which reaches 20,000 students and 1286 teachers. Also, with the trailer being used by other County Farm Bureau’s, there are countless other students and teachers who are being reached. This trailer provides benefits for not only the farm community, but also the urban non-farm community as well by helping to fund a program that benefits thousands of children every year. This program also provides training to teachers and supplements their classrooms and stretched budgets with free materials and ag education. Whenever it is set up, there are always people asking what our program is about, and many teachers and children’s parents come by and thanks us for doing the program in schools. Through these two counties working together to build and run this trailer, thousands of children, teachers, and community members have been reached with an accurate, clear, and honest agriculture message, engaging a large number of volunteers and allowing them to share with others how agriculture affects their everyday lives and the importance of the counties AITC programs.

**Mason, "Ag-Ceptionally Creative Shirt Contest" -** Each 4th grader in the county has the chance to showcase their creativity in this annual event. The 2015-2016 theme was "Celebrating 100 Years." Students were asked to design a t-shirt that represents 100 years of agriculture and Farm Bureau in the county. A winner is picked at each school. Each 4th grader receives a shirt with the winning design from their school, and the winner is presented with their framed artwork. Because we were celebrating 100 years, each winner and their family were invited to attend our 100th Anniversary Banquet. The winners wore their shirts to the banquet, were recognized on stage, and paraded through the guests. 198 students submitted designs this year and the teachers look forward to this event each year!

**Franklin, "Innovation Grant through IAA Foundation" -** This grant provided 3 of the county FFA Chapters with soil and gardening equipment. The grant was written for seeds, but a local feed store donated all seed to this project. The FFA Chapters and their advisors worked with Elementary and junior high teachers and students to plant several different vegetables and fruits. More than 250 plants were raised and passed out to community members at the local food pantry. The AITC Coordinator provided a garden to finish out the rest of the plants and so far more than 50 pounds of produce has been distributed to the food pantry. The purpose of the Innovation Grant was to utilize FFA students to mentor younger students, teach them how to grow their own food, provide food for their community and educate the community on how to grow their own food. This project required 3-6 months of planning and implementation. The process began by meeting with FFA Advisors and teachers in 3 different schools in 3 school systems. The travel between the schools was time consuming do to the FFA Chapters not being located on the same campuses. Volunteers included 57 FFA members and 148 students.

**Edgar, "A Taste of the County" -** The Farm Bureau sought a need for a new fundraising avenue that would involve entity members in the community. The Taste of the County is now an annual Farm Bureau event that takes place in Spring of each year with this program being the first. The Taste of the County made personal visits to local businesses and food vendors and offered the opportunity to market their products and services. Many of those vendors offered a portion of their sales to the Foundation & Ag in the Classroom Program. The event was made possible by an entity member paying for the cost of space which was an old high school gym and recreation area. Registration costs and entrance fees help raise over $2000 dollars in one evening event with little to no expenses. An Ag Education & Fun Center was held during the event so that kids could be entertained while parents shopped. Volunteers were essential to help set up tables, the ag ed fun center, welcome booths, foundation booths, chaperoning kids in the fun center, and cleaning up at the conclusion of the event. Because of the generous support of the community and a few entity members, the expenses for the event were only a few hours of one paid staff member and printing signs for the event. The Farm Bureau and foundation were successfully able to provide a boost to local vendors and businesses, raise funds for foundation, and promote the Ag in the Classroom program.

**Perry, "Shooting for Agriculture Education" -** Our CFB partnered with a neighboring FB for a multi-faceted shooting event that raised funds for both AITC programs. Approximately thirty (30) total volunteers were utilized to plan, recruit sponsors and prize donors, develop and administer event registration and scoring, advertise for shooters, and negotiate contracts with the IDNR to pull off one of the best 1-day shooting events in the Midwest. Numerous shooting games also provided different opportunities for the avid outdoorsmen to compete and have fun. In total, the event drew 93 shooters (91 last year), 13 four-person teams, 3 husband/wife teams, and 2 three-person youth teams Shooters were divided into numerous classes for each event and over $4,000 in cash and prizes were distributed during the event. Two optional games and a revamped gun raffle were also available to all participants. A final feature of our event included a $500 adult shootout and a $350 Youth Shootout, Overall we raised over $6,500 for our local AITC programs --- down about $1,800 from last year's record profit!

**Union, "Sharing the Ag Word" -** During 3 nights of the county fair, commodities information, AITC information and consumer communication information was shared with fair goers. The CFB has a premium exhibit location in front of the fair's exhibit hall and a high traffic area entering the main fair area. Education activities were conducted for fair goers at the CFB tent. First night featured a focus on local & regional food and specialty crops. Member/ orchard owner donated 1 bu. apples to give away at CFB tent, and another member/specialty grower donated apple butter and applesauce for sampling. Apple AgMags were distributed. Second night, 2 local high school ag programs were present with displays of their FFA SAE - ag communications and horticulture. Apples was donated to hand out again, also AITC calenders were given away. For kids, AgBAGS were available - this included a collection of 4 AgMags, farming coloring book, soy crayons, veggie seeds to plant, all in a IL AITC bag. On the third evening, the focus was on corn and pigs. Local FFA members were present to talk about the many uses of corn, differences between sweet corn and field corn, and discussing pigs, feed and food and non-food uses of pigs. The exhibit space included banners from IL Farm Families and a large safety banner. 2 members donated large pumpkins and hard squash to decorate and start conversations about the counties diverse agriculture and consumer related questions regarding growing safe food. A Young Leader donated field corn to display,too. Volunteers from the local FS Plant helped too drive posts, hang banners. Other members volunteers to haul the tent and set up tables. Three nights of programming were staffed by FFA student volunteers, Ag teachers and a Young Leader. 125 AgMags were distributed at the fair, 30 AITC calendars, Farm-to-Fork cookbooks, and 100 IL Farm Families "Fact" brochures.

**\*Marshall-Putnam, "Imagination Acres" -** In its fourth year of providing activities for children, ImAGination Acres continues to delight both the young and the old with agriculture themed stations. This year the Barnyard Challenge was a new addition to the fun. Children completed the obstacle course made up of hoops, straw bales, a bridge and a culvert. Parents encouraged their children and timed their progress. Near the excavating sand box was a popular new water table where children could measure, pour, and watch water travel through funnels and pipes, only to spill out into their waiting buckets. Wiley the Worm didn't show his face too often at the Worm Condominium, but children could see how he made tunnels through the soil and mixed up the layers. Photo ops were fun to take when little ones posed behind the baby chick, caterpillar and Monarch butterfly cutouts. The Farmer's Market, Pagano's Pizzeria, Dr. Spager's Vet Clinic and Farmer Nenne's Barnyard Theatre continue to be popular spots to play. Sir Charles the Chicken, whose body is made of straw bales, was back this year for children to climb. Ag Fun Things to Do took place on Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Children decorated piggy banks and made candy tractors. Friday night was busy with the visit of two baby goats and twenty-seven newly hatched chicks. A egg hunt for ages 1 to 10 drew quite a few participants to find the 1,000 eggs that were scattered over the ground. Three lucky participants found a coupon for $5.00 in one of their eggs. Additional activities were scheduled throughout fair time. Making moon sand and creating new colors with colored water drew many participants.

**Jo Daviess, "Farm Fun Day" -** Worked with two local owners association recreation coordinators to hold two "Farm Fun Days" that would educate this group of predominately urban people from Chicago who own land in the count about the presence and importance of agriculture. 22 volunteers operated seven rotating stations: Circle of Earth bracelets, petting zoo, milk a cow, a lesson on machinery, animals and making ice cream and butter. More than 1000 kids and parents were reached through this event. The recreation coordinators were very impressed with our volunteers and activities and are looking forward to doing more events with us in the future. This was the fifteenth year at one location and the tenth at the second location.

**Hancock, "Farm to Table Dinner" -** Our Ag Literacy Advisory Committee wanted to come up with a unique fundraiser for our AITC program, so the idea of hosting a Farm to Table Dinner was suggested. The committee also felt that this would be a great community event to feature and support our local growers. A planning committee of 15 volunteers met 7 times prior to the event, which was held on August 13, 2016. We sought permission to close the south side of our historic courthouse square and set up for the dinner in the actual street to give it a nostalgic feeling. Tickets were sold for $50 each. The meal consisted of a Kansas City strip filet, grilled pork loin, country style green beans, sliced garden tomatoes, farm fresh cole slaw, made from scratch corn muffin, roasted baby potatoes, homemade peach crisp and frozen yogurt from a locally owned yogurt shop. Meats were purchased from our locally owned market and were grilled by our county beef association and pork producers. Cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, garlic, potatoes, green beans, eggs, peaches, honey, strawberry jam were purchased from local farmer's market vendors. The corn meal for the corn muffins was also fresh ground, and the butter was homemade by committee members. The two wineries in our county also provided cash bars, featuring local wines. They opened an hour prior to the meal, which served as a social hour. Contact information for all growers was listed on each placemat so attendees knew exactly where their meal came from. Committee members, WC members, YLs and community volunteers worked for two days prior to the event to help prepare the food for the dinner. The meal was served by 14 local FFA members, all wearing official dress, which made quite an impression in itself. A locally owned home decor store designed a logo for the dinner, produced t-shirts for committee members, and provided table decorations for the event. This store, and one additional retail business on the square, extended their hours to be open during the event and were very pleased with the amount of business conducted during the dinner. In addition to the meal, a Farm Art Auction was held as another way to raise funds for our Foundation. Six local artists donated pieces to be auctioned. Items ranged from a photo canvas, to paintings, to a custom made barn quilt. The auction brought in nearly $2,000 for Foundation. Overall, our first annual Farm to Table Dinner was an overwhelming success! We were able to raise over $4,000 for our CFB Foundation. Planning has already begun for next year, and we have had 2 new people volunteer to be on the planning committee. It has quickly become an event that people in our community don't want to miss!

**Knox, "Ag Day for Kids" -** The CFB in cooperation with the CFB Foundation hosts an annual Ag Day for Kids at a local college campus. All fourth grade classrooms in the county are invited to participate. The full-day event allows participants to rotate through eight, 10-minute sessions and are provided lunch. The following sessions were taught by 21 local farmers: Livestock, Soil & Water, Agricultural Technology, Pork, Soybeans, Dairy, Corn, & Cattle. In order to offer a well-rounded and successful event, collaboration with local organizations was key. Of the 36 FFA Volunteers, four provided animals and discussed the responsibilities associated with raising livestock, and the other 32 volunteers were each assigned a classroom to help chaperone and answer any questions participants and teachers may have. An additional 14 volunteers helped set up for the event, monitor the hallways, and assemble and deliver participant and teacher resources. The event was a success as 18 classrooms and 456 fourth-grade students were able to learn about local agriculture and leave with materials to continue the conversations. Each teacher received a box of materials that included Ag Mags on each of the topics covered in the eight sessions, hands-on activities, and a promotional flyer for www.agintheclassroom.org & www.watchusgrow.org. A live radio report was provided on a local radio station and coverage of the event was in the local newpaper.

**Fayette, "Farm to Family Ag Tours" -** For the first time, 4 CFBs partnered with the multi-county U of I Extension unit to begin hosting tours of local ag businesses and farms for home-schooled children. While our Ag in the Classroom program is successful in reaching hundreds of students in our country, it is limited to only those who are enrolled in the school system. We are trying to reach even more students who may not have the opportunities to learn about agriculture through AITC or school field trips. Parents are included on these trips and educated about agriculture as well. We held one tour each month, with a small break for summer, and each one focused on a different type of agriculture. We tried to include tour stops in each county that is in involved in the program. A lunch is provided that ties the meal back into the lessons learned on the tour, and ag education activities are presented during lunch. At the end of each tour, we give a survey to the students and parents to try to gauge their reaction to the tour and help improve future tours. January: Home school students and parents went on a tour of a maple syrup business where they learned how the maple is extracted from trees then processed to become the maple syrup they eat. They were served a pancake and sausage lunch, followed by a tour a greenhouse that grows mainly herbs and vegetable plants. February: The students and parents took a tour of meat processing plant, where they could see an real cow be harvested.They also toured a local cattle farm, where they learned what it takes to raise cattle. Hamburgers were served for lunch. After lunch they toured the local FS facility and learned about precision ag and drones. March: Students took a tour of a hog facility and learned about raising hogs. They were served pork burgers for lunch, then took a tour of a robotic dairy farm. April: Students toured a mill that makes different pre-packaged mixes for cakes, cookies, etc., pasta, and specialty mixes that are allergen free. Students were served pizza for lunch, then took a tour of a grain mill where there were able to see how wheat is turned into flour. August: Students visited with a beekeeper and learned about bees and how they make honey. They were served pizza for lunch, then visited a local apple orchard. We encourage the parents to continue discussing the lessons ag home and several families have said they do. The trips have been successful and well-received by students and parents, and we are continuing the tours this year.

**\*Livingston, "Flick on the Farm" -** What could be better than dinner and a movie? Dinner cooked by a local celebrity, free activities for all ages and a classic movie shown on the side of a gorgeous white barn on a perfect summer night! Flick on the Farm was a free event for all Farm Bureau members to enjoy a night of fun, community and a little education. The evening started with dinner sponsored by Illinois Pork Producers and Corn Growers. We raised $345 from the meal proceeds for our Foundation. Families could then enjoy free kid’s activities focused on different aspects of agriculture. The stations were as follows: 1. "Grow a Web". The kids traced a web (to go along with the movie) with glue on paper and then sprinkled garden seeds on them. They then got them wet and took them home to watch them germinate. We talked with them about the different seeds and how a plant grows. 2. Farm animal temporary tattoos were a fun way to have discussions with kids about animal byproducts and encouraged discussions on animal care and livestock in general with parents. Pork Producers had donated promotional items as well as brochures and recipe cards. 3. The next activity was all about different Ag Careers. On one side of the activity were 7 signs highlighting Ag Careers: mechanics, educator, scientist, meteorologist, food scientist, animal nutritionist and vet. On the other side were items that represented each area. They had to match up items, such as a stethoscope or hammer, with the career they thought it fit with. This really encouraged conversations on the many careers ag has to offer. 4. A game of corn hole/bags was a popular stop. Since the boards had a dairy theme, we had a poster with dairy facts with the game. 5. Ag Inspired props were the focus of our Photo Booth. We had signs with Flick on the Farm and 2016 as well. "Felfies", farmer selfies, have become quite popular so families could have a photo to remember the night. The local hospital also had a table with activities to get kids moving and learn about a healthy diet. The movie began about 8:15. Just before start time, we passed out ice cream and popcorn. It was the perfect evening! We plan to continue this event annually and hope for a larger crowd next summer!

**Kendall, "Farming for the Community" -** We had the opportunity to rent a farm from a local school district.. 14.4 acres. We had the IAA Attorney draw up a legal lease that was agreed upon and signed by both parties. The wonderful thing about this program the school district charged us no rent. Our goal was to get all inputs donated by local seed and fertilizer companies with all the farming supplied by the Young leader Committe members, and we have succeeded with this goal. This total program is being run through our local FB foundation. This school has no ag program and we felt this was a great way to introduce some type of agricultural program to this high school. Our end result was a very positive one, we were able to get public interest thru articles in the local paper and FARMWEEK. Initially we were trying to assist them in securing a summer enrichment program in turf and not enough students signed up. The crop was sold directly out of the field through 2 of our agri -businesses who also donated fertilizer and herbicides. Our total profit for the corn crop was $8942.57.....$3000 was donated to our AITC program, $1500 to the Catholic Charities Mobile food Pantry, $2000 was donated back to the Communities Rockin Xmas event where presents are purchased for the children in the community that will not receive much at Xmas and the remainder $2442,57 was given back to the Science club of the high school to purchase a drone. For the planting year of 2016 we again contacted our suppliers from the previous year to see if they would be able to help support our bean crop this year. We again had great support from our local agri-businesses and an additional one came on board last fall to supply the fall fertilizer. This fall when the bean crop is harvested we will again sell the crop through our local FS company and CHS. Wonderful support from the agricultural community and we are helping the local community fill some of its needs. A large sign is planted at the corner of the field thanking all our agricultural donors, the school district and young leaders who have done the work.

**Kankakee, "16th Annual Kids Day at the Farm Program" -** A committee consisting of our Ag Literacy Coalition donors and sponsors along with our AITC volunteers organizes and coordinates the 2-day event teaching about agriculture. Every 4th grade class including parochial schools and several home school groups in the county are invited. Taking place at the County Fairgrounds, the event includes 8-minute presentations on 30 different topics from volunteer presenters (including farmers, ag business professionals, and FFA chapters) using roughly 45 other volunteers (including Women’s Committee and Young Leaders) to ensure that the coordination of the event goes smoothly. State learning standards are consulted and matched with the presentations. Classes each receive 3.5 hours of ag education from the 30 different presentations which include such topics as soil and water conservation, renewable fuels, biotechnology, specialty agriculture, sod farming, chick embryology, beneficial insects, GPS and precision agriculture, and other commodity specific lessons. There were also 5 live animal exhibits including dairy cow and calf, pigs, sheep, goats, and horses. Young Leaders assisted with 3 presentations and helped set up for the event. A new presentation this year was from a 1st year volunteer who is a local historian. He gave an interactive presentation in 1800's farmer attire on Farm Chores - Then and Now with a quiz at the end. With 1,200 students from 48 classrooms attending, the project requires an immense amount of planning and coordinating. Teachers and presenters receive a survey asking for ways the event could be improved. “VIP Invitations” were sent to school principals and superintendents, school boards, the county gov’t board, legislators, mayors, and other community leaders to observe this program to increase their knowledge of agriculture. One school principal spent the entire day with us and he was very impressed with the program. Radio and print media did an excellent job covering and explaining the educational program.

**Whiteside, "Farm Camp for Kids" -** Our county organized six, week-long (Monday-Friday) Farm Camps for kids to learn about agriculture. Our Ag in the Classroom (AITC) school programs consists of providing free materials and classroom presentations. In addition to AITC programs/activities, Farm Camp also provided the unique opportunity of daily farm field trips. Farm field trips were done Monday-Thursday with Friday being a wrap-up day for the entire week. This on-the-farm exposure was the first time on a farm for most of our campers. The ability to see, smell, and touch animals and other things on the farm proved to be a tremendous learning experience for most campers. We met with staff from a local arts academy and four local library districts in February 2016 to discuss plans a schedule weeks for the camps. Each entity was very excited for the opportunity to participate. Two reasons for partnering with these entities: 1) they were geographically spread throughout the county and could provide a "hub" for each camp to work out of, and 2) they have an existing patron-base that already targeted kids through their summer programs. This allowed us to promote the camps to their patrons. Promotional materials were provided to partner site to share with their patrons. The camps were promoted on the CFB website and Facebook page, in the CFB newspaper, and in local newspapers. Registration forms were also sent to our partners and an online registration form was also developed. Once a parent enrolled their child(ren), an email was sent confirming the registration and also gather any missing information. Each camp started at 8am with parents checking in their kids. Once all campers had arrived, we briefly went over the day's activities and then boarded a school bus for that day's farm field trip. Transportation was contracted through the local school districts. Farm field trips consisted of: June 13-17: dairy, pigs, farm equipment, alpacas, honey bees June 20-24 (2 camps): dairy, farm equipment, pigs, flowers (Thurs & Fri) July 11-15: horses, sheep, goats, alpacas, chickens July 18-22: sheep, horses, Christmas trees, farm equipment July 25-29: chickens, alpacas, goats, farm equipment, honey bees Some examples of what the farm visits included: Horse Farm: Moved between stations learning how they care for the horses, fed the horses, tried roping, and were able to ride a horse. Dairy Farm: Got to feed calves, watch a cow being milked and learn about what cows eat. Chicken Farm: Got to hold and feed chickens and learn about egg production. Sheep Farm: Got the feed the sheep and took turns shearing a sheep. Alpaca Farm: Learned about their fiber and got to feed and pet the alpacas. Farm Equipment: Learned about farm machinery and were able to operate a back hoe and drive a tractor. On Fridays, we had a local honey producer that raises honey bees sells her own bottled honey, come talk with campers about caring for her bees and honey production. After each day's farm field trip/presentation, campers participated in hands-on AITC activities that corresponded with that day's field trip/presentation. Some examples include making their own cow hand puppets, cotton ball sheep, paper plate chickens, designed their own tractor, and building their own garden in bag. There was plenty of time for games and reading, too! Farm Bureau benefited from the opportunity to partner with four local libraries and an Arts Academy. Their participation broadened Farm Bureau's reach to a population base that had little to no connection to agriculture. Our local partners were very accommodating and shared their own enthusiasm for the program with their patrons. That is evident by the number of kids that participated. Local media coverage also helped promote the camps and bring others audiences to Farm Bureau. 170 campers attended.

**Bureau, "A Year on the Farm" -** Because we live in a rural area, most students are surrounded by farm fields but don't really understand what happens during the farming season. Knowing the students would love to learn about farming first hand, a farm family volunteered to host students on their farm in both the spring and fall. In the spring, 2nd graders were invited to a grain and livestock farm. Here they were broken up into three groups. One group headed out to the field to watch the planting process, one group checked out the animals and the final group learned with a hands on "garden in a glove" activity with the county Ag Literacy Coordinator and other volunteers. In the fall, the same students, now 3rd graders, came back to that same farm to witness harvest of that same field, take a scavenger hunt around the farm and again learn from another hands on activity with the Ag Literacy Coordinator, this time completing the "You can't go a day without ag" lesson. These 2nd and then 3rd graders were treated to lunch and sent home with goodie bags filled with agriculture information. Because the students were able to experience the farm first hand, these lessons will stay with them for quite some time.

**Randolph, "Flat Randy" -** The Farm Bureau Public Relations Committee wanted to have a platform to reach out to students that might not have an opportunity to learn about agriculture. The Flat Randy project was launched this year in an effort to reach those students. The Flat Randy project is fashioned from Flat Stanley. The committee's goal this year was to take him on trips and to events that the Farm Bureau hosted. Those 'experiences' were then put on social media through Facebook and Twitter. The committee has been looking into partnering with a teacher in the metro east to carry on the project, sending Randy to them to share his experience in agriculture. This year, interactions on social media were over 2000 people.

**Williamson, "Baseball & Agriculture" -** 17 CFB's worked to educate kids about the importance of Agriculture at a minor league baseball game. Over 5383 people attended the event. Baseball Farm Charms were made with attendees and their children to help them understand the relationship between everyone's favorite sport "Baseball and Agriculture". 9 volunteers set up a Baseball Farm Station at the ballpark, which collectively made over 200 baseball charms. The station had supplies to accommodate the crowd and to make the charms. Adults were given a flyer on the relationship between baseball and agriculture while the kids made their Baseball charms. A donation was made to the Ag in the Classroom program for over $1400 for the ticket sales made locally. The event was a success not only for the AITC program but for those that attended that learned more about agriculture through their favorite sport, "Baseball".

**\*Champaign, "Teen Teachers" -** A common view among agricultural groups is that today’s consumer is at least three generations removed from the farm. However, there is growing interest among consumers to know where their food originates. 4-H Youth Development Educators in Illinois partnered with Ag in the Classroom (AITC) coordinators to start the 4-H Agriculture Teen Teacher program. The goal of the program was to teach 8-11 year olds about farm-to-table agriculture concepts while providing teens experiential leadership experience through planning and teaching the lessons. The local AITC Coordinator and 4-H Youth Development Educator reached out to two high school agriculture teachers to set up informational meetings for students to get experience with one of the lessons and gauge their interest in the project. Students then attended training co-taught by the 4-H Youth Development Educator and AITC coordinator. The 4-H Educator led training on topics such as What is 4-H?, Ages and Stages, Team building, Group Management, positive youth development, Preparing to Teach and Experiential Learning. AITC coordinators identified curricula for teens to choose from, served as guides-on-the-side as teens prepared and taught lessons to their peers in the form of teach-backs, supported teens with timely and frequent feedback, and guided career exploration as teens deepened their own learning in agriculture. 4-H Agriculture Teen Teachers created and taught 12 lessons (six during the Fall semester and six during the Spring semester) developed from AITC resources to inform today's’ youth where their food comes from in a club environment. Topics included, but weren't limited to: soil, honey/pollinators, horses, dairy, water, pumpkins, vegetables, soybeans, and corn. Each lesson included an activity, craft, and snack related to the topic. Locally, 16 4-H Agriculture Teen Teachers from the county participated in the program in the inaugural year. They reached 148 youth at 4 delivery sites. One 4-H Teen Teacher remarked “I am now sure that I want to be a teacher. This experience helped me pick my future career path and that’s awesome.” Youth participants said the Ag in the Classroom activities: 88% know more about where their food comes from 85% helped them learn about the importance of agriculture 66% helped them learn about a future career in agriculture Teens completed surveys at the end of their teaching sessions. Data processing is currently ongoing. Final 4-H Agriculture Teen Teacher evaluation data will be available late Fall 2016. As a result of the success of the 4-H Agriculture Teen Teachers program, our county has added an additional school district for the 2016-2017 school year. The Teen Teachers will be located at three high schools and teaching lessons at four different After-School sites. Also new this year is the addition of a Junior High After-School site that will receive lessons and complete activities all about dairy cattle and dairy products.

**DuPage, "Problem Based Learning project - GMO's, are they good or bad?" -** This past year we were asked to participate in a problem based learning (PBL) project. The projects topic was: GMO's, are they good or bad? The PBL coach called us to ask us if we would speak on the pro GMO side. After several communications, it was decided that we would present to 526 7th graders on the benefits of GMO's. A few days after our presentation, an anti GMO activist spoke on the "bad science" of GMO's. After both presentations, students were tasked to come up with a public service announcement (PSA's) that they would put out in local papers. They had to design it around their beliefs of are they good or bad. After they had completed their PSA's, we were asked to come back in and listen to each groups presentation and respond. The Executive Director and one other volunteer sat on a panel with the anti GMO activist, a Trader Joe representative, a Whole Foods representative and a marketing executive. There was several anti GMO PSA's presented. After each presentation the Executive Director asked if the groups members had started eliminating GMO's from their diet. When every single groups members said no, she then explained that you can not advocate for something if you don't strictly follow it. The PSA's were never published.

**Winnebago-Boone, "Ag All Around Us" -** The CFB Outreach Team and AITC worked together to sponsor a National Ag Week kick off event for the public at a local children's museum. This community event was attended by 1500 people during a 3 hour period. The majority of the attendees were families with small children who live in an urban/suburban area. The expo included booths with a calf, piglets, tractors, skid loaders, and a UTV. Other displays included a crop display with a Beanie Baby activity, a soil display, a modern hog facility model, an "Ask a Farmer" booth, children's games and crafts. One activity included a scavenger hunt through out the expo where families could learn more about different ag commodities. The activities were manned by 30 FB board members, Young Leaders, FFA students, 4-Hers, Prime Timers, and FB staff. A local TV station covered the event along with a local newspaper. Our goal was to reach urban consumers, give a positive image of agriculture, and offer them the opportunity to ask questions about agriculture.

**McHenry, "Corn and The GMO Debate in the Classroom" -** Ag in the Classroom staff reached over 100 4th grade students and their teachers with a Corn Presentation featuring GMO topics and issues. The program was designed to expand the student’s basic knowledge of plant development and the products produced from corn. Show boards featuring information about btCorn and other GMOs were discussed. Students were encouraged to participate in debating the pros and cons of GMOs in general. Students also competed to make foil barges that held the most corn kernels.

**Sangamon, "Ag-Stravaganza" -** This year our Member & PR and our Young Leader committee's decided to combine three past events into one. We created an event called, Ag-Stravaganza. This event was designed to be a hands-on learning experience for the public to learn about agriculture. We invited over 40 day-cares and summer camps in the county and pursued numerous media outlets to promote our event. With a crowd of 450 people we held our event from 9a.m.-7p.m. The event was at a local church. Our stations included: dairy, beef, sheep, swine, gardening, corn, poultry, honey bees and equipment. Each station provided a lesson and gave event goers the opportunity to interact with the livestock and learn about the commodity. Prairie Farms donated chocolate milk and ice cream to go along with the dairy portion of our event. A local COUNTRY Financial Representative donated water and passed it out to event goers. The Illinois Pork Producers Council & Illinois Beef Association provided food samples for event goers to try. We provided the public with a Passport to Learn at the beginning with farm facts and the stations available to attend. Popcorn was passed out to attendees as they rode a hayrack to some of the stations. A local equipment dealer and farmer donated machinery for the day including: combine, sprayer, planter, semi, etc. so children had the opportunity to climb in and see what a farmer would see when harvesting his corn or planting his crop. We received excellent feedback from day cares and attendees and we plan to have a two day event next year.