



FFA members work together to move a golf ball down a plastic track as part of team building activities at the 2020 Acquaintance Day program held January 23.



Don Meyer (right) gives a student tips to test drive a tractor during the annual Acquaintance Day event. About 130 students from nine local high schools had the chance to drive farm equipment courtesy of Birkey's Farm Store.

## FFA Members Explore Careers, Teamwork at Acquaintance Day

Local FFA members explored agricultural careers and gained team building experience at McLean County Farm Bureau's Acquaintance Day program held Jan. 23.

About 130 sophomores from nine local high schools participated in the annual event.

Students heard presentations from Dr. David Mouser, Superintendent, Tri-Valley Schools as well as Dr. Lucas Maxwell, and Cori Malone Illinois State University Ag Department.

Career Fast Track offered a look at the variety of careers in agriculture from ag professionals and college/university programs.

Students also had the chance to drive a tractor or combine, courtesy of Birkey's Farm Store.

Team building activities offered by 4-H Memorial Camp staff focused on communication, collaboration and leadership skills.

Acquaintance Day is an annual event designed to help FFA members understand the purpose of Farm Bureau and its programs.

## Upcoming Events

### February

Thurs. 13	6:30 p.m.	Landowner 101: Farmland/Leasing
Wed. 26	5 p.m.	Farm Succession Planning - Champaign
Thurs. 27	11:30 a.m.	Prime Timers Meeting @Denny's
	6:30 p.m.	Landowner 101: Basic Agronomy
Sat. 22	3:30 p.m.	ISU Redbird Basketball Game
Sat. 29	5:30 p.m.	MCFB Foundation Trivia Night

### March

Thurs. 5	6:30 p.m.	Landowner 101: Grain Marketing
Thurs. 12	5:30 p.m.	Ag After Hours: How I Built It: GrainCoat
Tues. 17		MCFB Board Meeting



## Board Update, Officers Elected

McLean County Farm Bureau board member Marie Denzer-Farley resigned her position effective January 23. Carly Rickard of Heyworth was appointed to fill the remainder of the term through December 31, 2022.

The board also elected officers at the January meeting: Mark Hines, President; Brian Dirks, Vice-President; J.C. Zimmerman, Secretary; and Carl Neubauer, Treasurer.

## ISU Basketball Game Feb. 22

McLean County Farm Bureau members are invited to attend an Illinois State University Basketball Game Saturday, February 22 at 3:30 p.m. at Redbird Arena.

Registration is \$5 per person and includes your game ticket plus pizza after the game the Ropp Ag Building.

Watch the Redbirds take on the Bulldogs of Drake University.

Kids and families are welcome to attend. Please register at [www.mcfb.org](http://www.mcfb.org).

## 2020 Census

McLean County Farm Bureau will serve as a Census Access Center to provide a way for those with limited access to the internet to respond to the 2020 Census starting March 16.

A tablet will be available during business hours Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the McLean County Farm Bureau office for members of the public to complete and submit their census survey.

2020 is the first time the U.S. Census Bureau is asking household residents to complete the survey online. Opportunities to respond via phone or mail will also be provided to those who do not complete the census online.

To learn more about the Census and why it matters to your community, visit [www.mcfb.org/2020census](http://www.mcfb.org/2020census).

## McLean County Farm Bureau Foundation

# TRIVIA NIGHT

### Team Spirit Theme:

### Superheros

Celebrate your favorite superhero(s) with costumes or table decorations!



**Sat., Feb. 29**

McLean County Fairgrounds

West Expo Building

**5:30 p.m. - Doors Open**

Light supper/snacks provided

**6:30 p.m. - Trivia Starts**

**\$160 per team**

(up to 8 people)

All participants must be 21+

Register at [www.mcfb.org](http://www.mcfb.org) or call (309) 663-6497

*All proceeds benefit local ag education efforts!*

## Landowner 101 Series to Offer Farm Management Resources

Expand your understanding and skills for managing your farmland with a series of Landowner 101 classes:

- Feb. 13 - Farmland Leasing
- Feb. 27 - Basic Agronomy
- March 5 - Grain Marketing

Classes will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the McLean County Farm Bureau building, 2242 Westgate Drive in Bloomington.

Cost for each class is \$20 per farm or \$50 per farm for all three

Landowner 101 sessions. More than one person per farm may attend the sessions.

Farm Bureau members will receive a discount on registration fees.

The registration fee covers all class materials and light refreshments during each session.

To sign-up, please contact McLean County Farm Bureau at (309) 663 - 6497 or register online at [www.mcfb.org](http://www.mcfb.org).

## Farm Legacy Seminars to Focus on Estate Planning Tips

Seventy percent of U.S. farmland will likely change hands during the next two decades.

To help farmers and farmland owners plan for the future, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and COUNTRY Financial will offer three Farm Legacy Seminars this month.

Each meeting will include a keynote presentation by Dr. Ron Hanson, Harlan agribusiness professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and professional speaker on farm legacy planning.

Meetings are set to take place in northern, central and southern Illinois.

The 2-hour seminars will each begin at 5 p.m. with dinner. Dates and locations are as follows:

- Feb. 25 - Hickory Grove Banquet & Conference Center, Rochelle
- Feb. 26 - I-Hotel & Conference Center, Champaign
- Feb. 27 - Kokopelli Golf Club, Marion

Registration is open to current and prospective IFB members and COUNTRY Financial clients.

The meetings will offer tools for legacy planning and tips for getting the conversations started with family members.

To register, please visit [www.ifb.org/farmplanning](http://www.ifb.org/farmplanning).