



# Messenger

2242 Westgate Drive, Bloomington, IL 61705 (309) 663-6497 www.mcfb.org Hours: M-F, 8 AM - 5 PM

United States®  
**Census  
2020**



## Get Counted!

### Have you completed your 2020 Census?

All households should have received an "Invitation to Respond" in the mail to complete the 2020 U.S. Census. Visit [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020 to get counted today!

#### Census data impacts:

- Legislative districts
- Transportation funding
- School funding
- Rural Development
- And more!

#### 3 Ways to Respond:



Online.

Phone.

Mail.

[www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)

## WHIP+ Quality Loss Payments

Illinois farmers are eligible to apply for WHIP+ Quality Loss Payments on yield loss due to excessive moisture during the 2019 crop year.

All Illinois counties are eligible due to a USDA disaster declaration last year. Payments from the program will take into account a farmer's crop insurance coverage and size of the loss.

The payment limitation is \$125,000 per person or legal entity per year. However, if 75 percent of income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry the per person or legal entity per crop year limitation is \$250,000.

For more information, contact the McLean County FSA office at (309) 452-3848 or visit [www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus](http://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus).



Addison Scaggs, a Ridgeview Elementary student, picks up an Earth Day 'Ag in a Bag' in early April full of learning activities to do at home from her school principal, Ben Hutley.



Volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington Normal fill Earth Day activity bags assembly line style to be handed out with family food boxes in early April.

## COVID-19 Resources Available

For the latest updates and changes in regulations, supply chain challenges and economic relief programs be sure to check the Illinois Farm Bureau resource page at [www.ilfb.org/covid19](http://www.ilfb.org/covid19).

The page is updated daily as policies and programs continue to evolve.

#### Topics include:

- Consumer Questions
- Environmental Resources
- Federal Stimulus
- Health and Safety
- Livestock Resources
- Local Foods & Specialty Crops
- Local Governance
- Market Considerations
- Transportation Resources
- USDA

For livestock farmers who may face the need to consider depopulation, be sure to check the resource page for essential steps to

follow including notification and farm registration.

Livestock farmers can also find information about eligibility to apply for EQIP funds through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist with mortality management issues.

Additional resources are available through University of Illinois Extension farmdoc including a series of webinars available at their website [www.farmdoc.illinois.edu](http://www.farmdoc.illinois.edu).

McLean County Farm Bureau members can also sign-up to receive our e-mail notifications with updates and information.

Please call us at (309) 663-6497 or send us an e-mail at [anna@mcfb.org](mailto:anna@mcfb.org) if you are not currently receiving McLean County Farm Bureau e-mails and would like to be added to the subscription list.

## McLean County Recovery Loans

The McLean County board established two loan programs for with up to \$600,000 for small businesses in McLean County.

- Micro-bridge Loans: up to \$5,000 for businesses with less than 10 employees
- Recovery Loans: up to \$20,000 for businesses with less than 50 employees, requires a partnership from a bank to cover 80 percent of the loan

Contact Bloomington Normal Economic Development Council for application information at (309) 452-8437 or [www.bnbiz.org](http://www.bnbiz.org).

## Golden Clover Nominations

McLean County Farm Bureau is accepting nominations for the 2020 Golden Clover Awards to recognize individuals for outstanding service to 4-H and the McLean County Fair.

Golden Clover Awards are presented in three categories:

- Golden Clover - volunteer of retirement age
- Emerald Clover - deceased person who has not previously received a Golden Clover
- Special Clover - Extension or fair staff

You can download the nomination form online at [www.mcfb.org/goldenclover](http://www.mcfb.org/goldenclover) or call (309) 663-6497 to request a hard copy. The nomination deadline is June 1.

## Office Closed

McLean County Farm Bureau office will not open to the public until at least June 1. Staff can be reached during regular business hours by phone at (309) 663-6497 or e-mail at [membership@mcfb.org](mailto:membership@mcfb.org)

## Upcoming Events

**May** - All meetings & programs cancelled  
Mon. 25 Memorial Day - Office Closed

**June**  
Mon. 1 Golden Clover Nomination Deadline  
Tues. 16 MCFB Board Meeting

## Ag in the Classroom Steps Up Efforts to Aid Remote Learning

As local schools shifted to remote and online learning this spring, McLean County Ag in the Classroom has stepped up to supply local teachers with resources to keep students learning.

"Hundreds of classes normally would have hatched eggs in the classroom and learned about embryology through the Chick it Out program this spring," says Bridget Caldwell, McLean County Ag in the Classroom coordinator.

Chick it Out is an annual program facilitated by University of Illinois Extension McLean County STEAM in the Classroom.

Instead of helping supply chicken and egg related lessons to classrooms, Caldwell helped coordinate a virtual hatching experience and provided teachers with Poultry 'Ag in a Bag' packets full of activities for students to do at home.

"We were able to connect Illinois Ag in the Classroom staff with an incubator and fertile chicken eggs," Caldwell says.

Chris Wyant, Illinois AITC Education Manager, and his

son, Lincoln, incubated the eggs and posted video updates every weekday during the 21-day incubation period plus clips of the chicks hatching.

To see all the videos, visit [www.mcleanaitec.org/poultry](http://www.mcleanaitec.org/poultry).

McLean County STEAM in the Classroom also incubated duck eggs and posted videos on their Facebook page.

"We also supplied materials for an Earth Day 'Ag in a Bag' with soil and conservation activities to several schools, preschools and the Bloomington Normal Boys and Girls Club," Caldwell says.

The Ag in a Bag packets are distributed with school lunches, handed out by teachers or made available for students to pick-up. Each one has an ag mag, suggested books and activity supplies.

"We also put together an Ag in a Bag for Baseball, Pollinators, Tractors, Dairy and Pizza," Caldwell says.

To learn more, visit [www.mcleanaitec.org](http://www.mcleanaitec.org) or find McLean County AITC on Facebook and Pinterest.