

Connect and Engage with your Municipalities



Table of Contents

An Introduction to Municipal Government	3
Roles of Municipal Officials	3
A History of Cities, Villages and Towns – Illinois' Three Types of Municipal Government	4
Forms of Municipal Government	5
Home Rule, Dillon's Rule and What it Means for You	7
Home Rule Municipalities	8
Municipal Government can be a Crucial Ally for Agricultural Interests	9
First Municipality Passes Pro-Ag Resolution	10
Illinois Farm Bureau Awards More than \$100,000 in Rural Development Grants to Local Projects	11

Contact Our Team



Brenda Matherly

Director of Local Government

309-557-3151
bmatherly@ilfb.org



Ryan Tate

Associate Director of Local Government

309-557-3274
rtate@ilfb.org



Mitchell Remmert

Associate Director of Local Government and Political Engagement

309-557-2075
mremmert@ilfb.org



Our Mission

To improve county Farm Bureau® influence in local government issues and advance county Farm Bureau leaders' awareness, capability, and involvement in local government through information and assistance in understanding and planning on local government issues.

Call to Action

We encourage you to share LINK with county Farm Bureau leadership and membership.

We invite you to share this publication with your local officials. This information may be a LINK to their success.

Upcoming Dates & Events

May 14-16:

[Illinois Association of County Officials Spring Conference](#)

May 26:

Memorial Day

June

First installment of property taxes due in early June for most counties

Many counties hold the meeting of the County's Farmland Assessment Review Committee in early June

June 30:

Deadline for Resolutions Committee submittals

July 4:

Independence Day

July 21:

Portal opens for Resolutions submittals for November committee meeting

July 22:

Resolutions Committee Meeting

August 7-17:

Illinois State Fair (Agriculture Day on August 8)

August 11-14:

[Midwest Community Development Institute \(Midwest CDI\)](#)

August 26-28:

Farm Progress Show



An Introduction to Municipal Government

Illinois has close to 7,000 units of local government – more than any other state. These units of government can be categorized as “general purpose” or “special purpose.”

As their name implies, special purpose governments are created to fulfill a specific need or function. These are your fire protection districts, park districts, sanitary districts, airport authorities, library districts and many, many more.

On the other hand, general purpose units of local government have a much broader scope in their legal power, taxing authority and in the range of services they provide.

Illinois’ three primary general-purpose governments are counties, townships and municipalities.

In past issues of LINK, we have spent a great deal of time discussing counties and townships, their officials and their impact on farmers and agriculture. This is to be expected as most agricultural operations occur within the unincorporated areas of the state.

However, with the April 1 consolidated election behind us and new municipal officials taking office in the weeks ahead, we feel it is time to discuss municipal government.

The mission of the LINK newsletter is “to improve county Farm Bureau influence in local government issues and advance county Farm Bureau leaders’ awareness, capability, and involvement in local government through information and assistance in understanding and planning on local government issues.”

With 1,294 municipalities - also known as cities, villages and towns - throughout the state, an understanding of this powerful and important unit of government is critical to fulfilling that mission.

This issue of LINK serves as an introduction to municipal government, its history, their officials and some of their authority as it relates to our membership. We hope that you find it useful as you interact with your municipal officials.

Roles of Municipal Officials

Mayor or Village President: The chief executive officer of a municipality. For cities, the chief executive is referred to as mayor. A village or town’s chief executive officer is referred to as president. However, the president may also be referred to as mayor.

Under most forms of municipal government, the mayor / president is a member of the municipality’s governing body, but generally only presides over the council’s or board’s deliberations. The mayor or president may cast a vote in the event of a tie

City Council / Village Board: The legislative body of the municipality and the default repository of all municipal powers that have not been specifically delegated to some other office or board of the municipality.

Manager (*under the Manager Form of government*): The chief administrative officer of the municipality responsible for the administration of all departments. The manager is appointed and serves at the discretion of the council or board.

Because the manager exercises control over all departments and divisions of the municipality, they must attend all meetings of the council or board and may take part in the discussions but may not vote.

The manager also has those powers and duties granted in the statutes to clerks and comptrollers with respect to the preparation of a report of estimated funds necessary to defray the expenses of the city or village for the fiscal year to be used by the corporate authorities in the preparation of an annual appropriation ordinance.

Continued on page 4 ►



Roles of Municipal Officials

Clerk: The official record keeper of the municipality, charged with safeguarding municipal documents, including ordinances, resolutions, meeting minutes and the municipal seal.

The clerk attends all meetings of the corporate authorities and keeps a full record of their proceedings in the form of minutes. Usually the clerk publishes all ordinances, either in the local newspaper or in pamphlet form. If no comptroller is elected or appointed, the clerk exercises general supervision over all officers of the municipality charged in any manner with the receipt, collection or disbursement of municipal revenues. Except under the manager form, it is also the clerk's duty to prepare an annual estimate of expenses for use in the preparation of the annual appropriation ordinance.

Treasurer (or other appointed finance officer): the custodian of all funds belonging to the municipality.

The treasurer is charged with keeping records of each fund or appropriation, issuing receipts for moneys received and filing copies with the clerk. The treasurer keeps separate accounts for taxes levied for a specific purpose, bond funds and special assessment funds. Under oath, the treasurer must make a monthly report, or issue reports more often if required by the corporate authorities, showing the state of the treasury and its remaining balance as of the date of the report.

*Special thanks to the Illinois Municipal League's "A Candidate's Guide to Municipal Government"

A History of Cities, Villages and Towns – Illinois' Three Types of Municipal Government

What comes to mind when you hear the word "village?" What about the word "city?"

While many people think of cities as large metropolitan areas, and villages conjure thoughts of quaint and small communities, the terms "city," "village" and "town" are distinct types of municipal government that have separate legal meanings per Illinois state law.

Functionally, there is little difference between the three, and, while the names might suggest otherwise, whether a municipality incorporates as a city or village, is not dependent on population. For example, the Village of Arlington Heights in Cook and Lake Counties has a population of 77,676, while the City of Nason in Jefferson County has a population of 199.

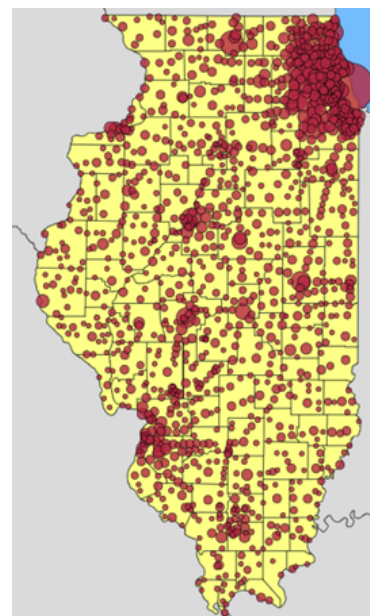
The primary distinction between Illinois' 1,294 cities, villages and towns is the historical state statute under which they incorporated. This determines their organizational structure – the titles of their officials and how they are elected.

Illinois' first constitution had no explicit instructions on the creation and powers of municipal governments. Instead, these governments were created by the legislature under special acts called charters. These detailed the size, scope of authority and taxing powers of a particular governmental unit. The state constitution of 1848 continued this practice.

However, the state constitution of 1870 prohibited the passage of special legislation, which eliminated the legislative ability to charter additional town governments. Alternatively, the legislature passed a general law, the 1872 Cities and Villages Act, concerning the creation, organization, financing, and powers of municipalities. Today, what remains of this Act is enrolled in a larger set of laws governing the operation of

municipal governments known as the Illinois Municipal Code.

While a handful of municipalities operating under their pre-1870 charters as incorporated towns have kept their town designation, the passage of the 1872 Act meant that any new municipality created after 1870 would either be a city or a village.



Municipalities across the state.

The structure a community incorporated under, whether as a city or as a village, determines its form of government – whether it operates with alderpersons elected by ward and a mayor elected at large or with trustees and a village president. More information on forms of municipal government is discussed in this issue of LINK.

At the time of this writing, of the 1,294 cities, villages and towns in Illinois, 14 are towns, 980 are villages and 300 are cities.

Whether you live in or near a city, village or town, the form of municipal government your community incorporated under tells a unique tale of its creation and the state statute that guides its governing authority.



Forms of Municipal Government

In the case of municipalities, the statute under which a community incorporates determines its form of government – the number of elected officials of its governing board and their titles, their terms of office and the broad administrative structure. Understanding these forms, and which type your community has adopted, may prove helpful as you seek to engage with your municipal officials.

Generally, most municipalities operate under a standard aldermanic-city form or a trustee-village form. There are variations possible under these standard forms, such as the number of members of the legislative body and the terms of office, as detailed below.

Trustee-Village Form

The elected body of a village typically consists of a board of six village trustees and a village president who are elected at large. The village treasurer is appointed. The village trustees, village president and village clerk serve four-year terms unless reduced to two years by referendum.

Villages with a population of less than 5,000 can reduce the number of trustees from six to four through referendum approval. Villages with a population of more than 5,000 have the option of electing each trustee by district instead of at large if approved by the voters.

Aldermanic-City Form

The elected body of a city consists of at least six alderpersons elected by ward. Typically, two alderpersons are elected per ward for four-year terms. These terms are staggered so that half the alderpersons are elected every two years. The number of alderpersons is determined by the population of the city. Cities with larger populations can elect more than six alderpersons, but not more than 20.

The mayor, city clerk and city treasurer are elected at large for a four-year term and the mayor serves as the chief executive officer of the city. Other offices and vacancies are filled by appointment by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council, although some communities may provide, by ordinance, for these offices to be filled by election.

Beyond these standard forms, voters in some municipalities can adopt, by referendum, complicated variations of municipal government. These variations are the Commission Form, the Managerial Form, and the Strong Mayor Form.

Commission Form

Only municipalities with a population of less than 200,000 can adopt the commission form of government. With this structure, voters are allowed to elect a mayor and four commissioners that serve as the municipality's council.

These elected officials self-designate themselves as the commissioner of administrative departments for the city (accounts and finances, public health and safety, streets and public improvement, and public property). The mayor serves as commissioner of public affairs. The council is allowed to appoint other officers whose appointments are not delegated by statute and each commissioner has control over the departments assigned to them.

Forms of Municipal Government (continued)

Managerial Form

Municipalities with a population of less than 500,000 may adopt the managerial form of government. When it does so, it may retain its governmental structure as an aldermanic-city form, trustee-village form or commission form while adopting the features of the managerial form.

Under the managerial form of municipal governance, the council or board serves as a legislative body, except that it is empowered to approve all expenses and liabilities of the

municipality. The municipal manager serves as the administrative and executive head of the government and is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the municipality and has the authority to appoint and remove all directors of departments and all officers not required to be elected by statute.

Strong Mayor Form

The strong mayor form of government has an elected mayor, clerk, and treasurer and, depending on the size of the community, eight to twenty

alderpersons elected from wards. The terms of elected officials are four years. This form of government grants the mayor significant executive authority, including the ability to appoint and remove administrative assistants, budget and finance directors, department heads, and all other officers of the municipality as well as members of commissions, boards, and agencies, except those covered by civil service without the advice and consent of the city council. The powers of the council are purely legislative.

Illinois has close to 1,300 cities, villages and towns. These municipalities encompass about 87% of the state's population. Each can vary based on their structure of government.

CITIES		VILLAGES		TOWNS
In most cities, officials represent wards.	More than 5,000 residents	Fewer than 5,000 residents	Officials elected at large	
	Officials often represent districts	Officials elected at large		
MUNICIPAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE				
Options for government structure of municipalities include – commission, managerial and strong mayor.				
COMMISSION FORM	MANAGERIAL FORM		STRONG MAYOR FORM	
Available in cities & villages	Available in cities, villages & towns		Available in cities, villages & towns	
Available in cities & villages of fewer than 200,000	Available in municipalities of fewer than 500,000		Available in municipalities of fewer than 500,000	
Officials are always elected at large	Officials can be elected at large or by district		Officials are always elected by district	

Home Rule, Dillon's Rule and What it Means for You

In Illinois, municipal governments derive their power from, and operate under, two different "rules" that dictate the extent of their governing authority: home rule and Dillon's Rule.

The general difference is whether a municipal government has broad, self-governing powers (home rule) or if it must strictly adhere to state-delegated authority (Dillon's Rule). Understanding these two rules is critical to understanding the extent of your local municipalities' ability to address a wide range of issues.

Dillon's Rule is named after Iowa Supreme Court Justice, John F. Dillon who, in an 1868 court ruling, strictly defined the power of local governments. This rule essentially maintains that local governments are a creation of the state and therefore cannot do anything unless expressly authorized by the state.

Home rule flips Dillon's Rule on its head. Where Dillon's Rule prohibits local governments from doing anything unless authorized by the state, home rule allows counties and municipalities to govern themselves in any manner unless prohibited by the state.

Home rule in Illinois

Prior to 1971, all Illinois municipalities operated under Dillon's Rule. With the growth of our state, delegates to the Illinois Constitutional Convention recognized a need to allow units of local government to attend to their affairs without the express permission of the state and included a home rule provision in the Illinois Constitution of 1970. This provision, which took effect on July 1, 1971, automatically granted home rule status to 60 municipalities with a population of more than 25,000.¹

"Except as limited by this Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs including, but not limited to, the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare; to license; to tax; and to incur debt."

- Illinois Constitution Article VII, Section 6

How Do Municipalities Achieve Home Rule Status?

Per the State Constitution, municipalities can achieve home rule status in one of two ways: 1) automatically when their recorded population reaches 25,001 or more, or 2) by a majority vote of their citizens via local referenda.

As of the time of this writing, there are 224 municipalities that have home rule status. The smallest home rule municipality is the Village of Muddy in Saline County (population 61) while the largest is the City of Chicago with a population of more than 2.7 million. The remaining 1,070 cities, villages and towns are subject to Dillon's Rule. Only one county, Cook County, has home rule status. Other counties have tried to gain home rule status via referenda but failed to gain voter support.

Home Rule and You

So, what does home rule mean for you? It would be nearly impossible to list the many ways that municipal governments can use their home rule powers to *"regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare, to license; to tax; and to incur debt"* as provided in the state constitution.

If you live in or near a home rule municipality, you should be aware that these communities have broader and more flexible authority over a variety of areas, including local finances, business and occupational licensing, building, zoning, sanitation, civil disturbances and certain criminal offenses.

While this authority gives municipal governments control over their own affairs, enabling them to create ordinances tailored to their specific needs and providing greater flexibility in terms of taxation and revenue generation, it can also lead to inconsistent regulations between municipalities and confusion for residents.

It is important to note that Illinois Farm Bureau policy does not take a position on Dillon's Rule or home rule. Instead, one point under our policy on Local Government (Policy 110) states that "We support the principle of strong local government."

Therefore, our state policy leaves room for county Farm Bureaus to engage with their units of government and membership if this question of local control is proposed at either the county or municipal level.

¹ Legal Q&A Home Rule, March 2007, Illinois Municipal League

Home Rule Municipalities

As of December 17, 2024

There are currently 224 home rule municipalities in Illinois.

Addison	Chicago	Glencoe	Mascoutah	Oswego	Heights
Algonquin	Chicago Heights	Glendale Heights	Matteson	Palatine	South Holland
Alsip	Chicago Ridge	Glenview	Maywood	Park City	Sparta
Alton	Christopher	Glenwood	McCook	Park Forest	Springfield
Arlington Heights	Cicero	Golf	McHenry	Park Ridge	Standard
Aurora	Collinsville	Granite City	Melrose Park	Pekin	Stickney
Bannockburn	Country Club Hills	Gurnee	Mettawa	Peoria	Stone Park
Barrington	Countryside	Hanover Park	Midlothian	Peoria Heights	Streamwood
Barrington Hills	Crainville	Harvey	Moline	Peru	Summit
Bartlett	Crystal Lake	Harwood Heights	Monee	Phoenix	Sycamore
Bartonville	Danville	Hazel Crest	Monmouth	Plainfield	Thornton
Batavia	Darien	Herrin	Morton Grove	Posen	Tilton
Bedford Park	Decatur	Highland Park	Mound City	Prairie Grove	Tinley Park
Belleville	Deerfield	Highwood	Mount Prospect	Quincy	Tuscola
Bellwood	DeKalb	Hillside	Mount Vernon	Rantoul	University Park
Belvidere	DePue	Hodgkins	Muddy	Richton Park	Urbana
Benton	Des Plaines	Hoffman Estates	Mundelein	River Grove	Valmeyer
Berkeley	Dolton	Homer Glen	Murphysboro	Riverdale	Vernon Hills
Berwyn	Downers Grove	Hometown	Naperville	Riverwoods	Volo
Bloomington	DuQuoin	Hopkins Park	Naples	Robbins	Warrenville
Bolingbrook	East Dundee	Huntley	Nauvoo	Rock Island	Washington
Bridgeview	East Hazel Crest	Inverness	New Lenox	Rockdale	Watseka
Bryant	East St Louis	Jacksonville	Niles	Rolling Meadows	Waukegan
Buffalo Grove	Edwardsville	Johnston City	Normal	Romeoville	West Chicago
Burbank	Elgin	Joliet	Norridge	Roselle	West City
Burnham	Elk Grove Village	Kankakee	North Chicago	Rosemont	West Dundee
Cahokia Heights	Elmhurst	Lake Barrington	North Utica	Round Lake Beach	West Frankfort
Calumet City	Elmwood Park	Lake Bluff	Northbrook	Saint Charles	Wheaton
Calumet Park	Elwood	Lake Forest	Northfield	Sauget	Wheeling
Carbon Cliff	Evanston	Lake in the Hills	Northlake	Savoy	Williamsville
Carbondale	Evergreen Park	Lansing	O'Fallon	Schaumburg	Willowbrook
Carlock	Fairview Heights	LaSalle	Oak Forest	Schiller Park	Wilmette
Carol Stream	Flora	Lincolnshire	Oak Lawn	Sesser	Winnetka
Carpentersville	Forest View	Lincolnwood	Oak Park	Sherman	Woodridge
Carterville	Freeport	Lockport	Oakbrook Terrace	Shorewood	Woodstock
Champaign	Galesburg	Manhattan	Old Mill Creek	Skokie	
Channahon	Gilman	Marion	Onarga	South Barrington	
	Glen Ellyn	Markham	Orland Park	South Chicago	

Municipal Government can be a Crucial Ally for Agricultural Interests

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) policy has long-supported efforts by local government officials, county Farm Bureaus and other organizations to increase public participation in the overall functions of local government.

In furtherance of those efforts, we seek to educate our members about local government functions and local officials' roles and responsibilities through educational programs and publications like LINK. We also launched the Allies in Agriculture program in 2022 to promote communication and relationships between county Farm Bureaus, farmers and local government officials. As you know, the first step in forming these partnerships is the passage of a Pro-Agriculture Resolution by the governing body of the local government.

Because most agricultural operations occur within the unincorporated areas of the county, it is natural for farmers to prioritize forming partnerships and relationships with their county governments and their elected county board members and commissioners. IFB has likewise prioritized the adoption of the Pro-Ag Resolution by county governments in two-year cycles following each county election.

However, it is important for our members to understand and appreciate the importance of establishing relationships with their local municipal governments and officials. In Illinois, cities, villages and towns have considerable authority to shape the local agricultural landscape through their ability to adopt regulations, policies and programs that impact agricultural operations, agribusiness and agritourism.

For example, in counties that are not zoned, municipalities that have adopted zoning can enforce their zoning regulations up to one and a half miles outside of their corporate limits. That reach, known as Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, can limit or outright restrict agricultural activity on land within that one and a half miles.

Municipalities are charged with maintaining local infrastructure and services such as road maintenance, water management (including stormwater drainage) and investing in transportation hubs, which can help or hinder the ability of farmers to get goods to consumers. They can adopt environmental regulations that impact farming such as restrictions on pesticide use, criteria for waste disposal and conservation efforts. They are also able to provide economic support and incentives, such as tax incentives and grants for local businesses, or the establishment of local farmers' markets.

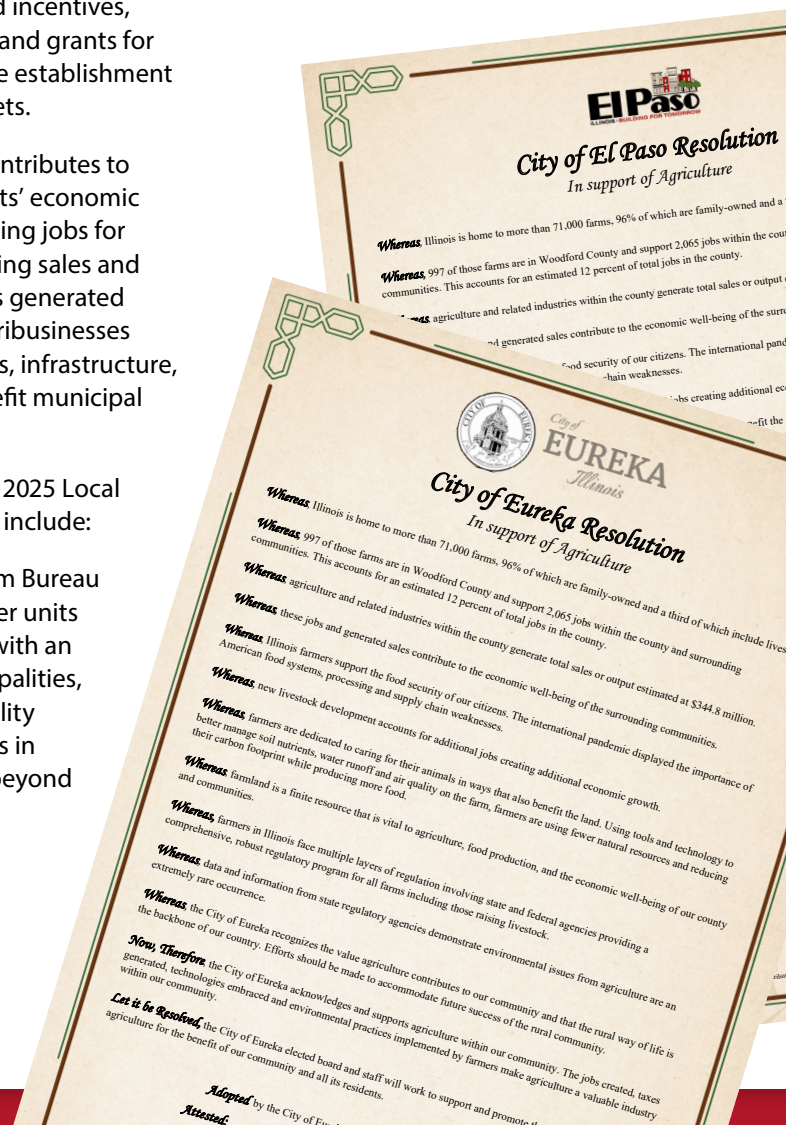
Agriculture, in turn, contributes to municipal governments' economic well-being by supporting jobs for residents and generating sales and output. Property taxes generated from farmland and agribusinesses help fund local schools, infrastructure, and services that benefit municipal residents.

For these reasons, our 2025 Local Government Priorities include:

"Exploring county Farm Bureau relationships with other units of local government, with an initial focus on municipalities, to determine the viability of expanding the Allies in Agriculture program beyond counties."

With nearly 1,300 municipal governments throughout the state, there may not always be a natural link or overlap between the municipality's operations and agricultural interests. However, in many communities, you can ensure that your voice is heard and that local policies benefit agriculture by partnering with your municipal officials.

If your county Farm Bureau is considering working with your municipal governments to become one of our Allies in Agriculture through the adoption of a Pro-Agriculture Resolution, please contact a member of IFB's local government team so we can provide you with a template resolution to review and customize prior to meeting with your local officials.



First Municipality Passes Pro-Ag Resolution



Autum Jones

Since 2022, the Allies in Agriculture program has strengthened partnerships between county Farm Bureaus and county governments across the state, improving communication, helping these officials better understand the significance of agriculture to their county, and encouraging farmers to better understand local government duties and structure.

Woodford County Farm Bureau has taken the Allies in Agriculture program one step further - to the municipal level. During National Ag Week, Autum Jones, manager of Woodford County Farm Bureau, worked with mayors and municipal boards to pass pro-ag resolutions at the most local level. We talked with Autum about how she did it, what it means, advice for others, and more.

How does your board engage the county board on a regular basis?

I worked in public government for nine years before I came into this role. I'm also on our county board, so I already knew that Woodford County Farm Bureau had a great relationship with the county board. Once a month, one WCFB board member goes to the county board meetings. We also have county board buddies – all of our directors are paired with a county board member so that they have a personal connection with somebody to talk to. When you consider all those things, it's pretty easy to get a pro-ag resolution passed at the county level.

Why did you decide to take the next step and move into municipality support?

I've been thinking for a while: Since it's pretty easy to pass pro-ag resolutions at the county level, what can we do to improve our local connections? In my previous job, I had connections with all the Woodford County mayors. I was able to contact them and point out that tax money from agriculture is benefiting the local economies, too, not just the county level. National Ag Week was coming up, so we targeted that week to pass these resolutions. A lot of members of those municipality boards are farmers, so they understood why we were passing this. It was great to strengthen those connections, and we got no pushback from any of the municipalities. Mitchell Remmert (IFB Associate Director of Local Government and Political Engagement) helped us create pro-ag resolution displays, and they're all displaying those proudly.

What advice would you give to someone else looking to do this?

All the counties know that you need to have a connection to get something on the agenda at the county level; it's the same thing at the municipal level. It starts by reaching out to either the mayor or the clerk, whoever is creating the agenda for the municipality board meetings. We showed the municipality boards the text of the resolution prior to when they actually put this on the agenda. We didn't just show up out of the blue and ask them to pass something right away. It's just a smaller government. When you're not asking for any money, and you're just asking for support, they are eager to help. We also sent someone, either a CFB board member or myself, to the meeting, as well, which puts a face to this resolution. There is meaning behind this and there are people behind this.

Why is this important?

You're showing people that there are farmers outside of their municipal boundaries, but they have the same zip code as you. And they are delivering taxpayer funds and bringing jobs into your community. That really matters. Farmers are doing a lot to help out without some citizens realizing it. In Woodford County, we have smaller villages and cities. But in many counties, with bigger municipalities, the everyday citizens aren't seeing farmers every day. They don't realize how much agriculture is providing for them and their community.

“The City of Eureka is proud to support our local agricultural community, recognizing the vital role farmers play in Woodford County’s economy and identity. We also appreciate our local Farm Bureau and the important work they do to support the broader agricultural community throughout Woodford County.”

- Eric Lind, Mayor of Eureka

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU AWARDS MORE THAN \$100,000 IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO LOCAL PROJECTS



Pictured left to right are Cumberland County Farm Bureau Board Members Dustin Shoemaker, Denny Ryan, Charlie Sappington, Greenup Fire Protection District Shirley Sherwood, Tony Wright, Patti Corder, Jacey Probst and Michael Carlen.



Pictured left to right: Blake Thornton, Baby Sarah's Playground committee member, Kinze Fox - Perry County Farm Bureau Manager, and Gloria Przygoda, Baby Sarah's Playground Committee Chair, and her daughter.



Pictured (left to right) Firefighter/EMR R. McCallister, Firefighter/EMT E. Smith, McLean County Farm Bureau Manager Anna Ziegler, McLean County Farm Bureau Vice President Darren Davis, Assistant Chief J. Crowell and Firefighter/EMR R. Brown.

In an effort to elevate rural communities, Illinois Farm Bureau partnered with county Farm Bureaus (CFBs) to award 23 Rural Development Grants totaling \$105,000 to support local projects across the state. Of the grants awarded, eight are fulfilling rural emergency services needs and 15 are projects focused on economic or community development.

"Illinois Farm Bureau is proud to collaborate with county Farm Bureaus to support these outstanding projects that will ultimately elevate the quality of life for those living in these communities," said Ryan Tate, IFB associate director of local government. "We are excited to see the long-term impact of these grants in the years ahead."

The Rural Development Grant Program provides resources, tools and support to help local communities

and counties overcome challenges inherent in rural development projects, such as lack of funding and volunteers, complicated grant applications and others. In selecting grants, IFB searches for projects that will meet a need in a community, county or rural area and get residents excited about what is happening in their community.

Grant recipients this year are:

- Xenia Fire Protection District, through Clay CFB
- Greenup Fire Protection District, through Cumberland CFB
- Edwards CFB received a grant for the Albion Rural Fire Department.
- Nauvoo Police Department, through Hancock CFB
- Williamsfield Fire Protection District (WFPD), through Knox CFB

- Alhambra Community Fire Protection District, through Madison CFB
- Mt. Hope-Funks Grove Fire Protection District, through McLean CFB
- Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency, through Montgomery CFB
- Bureau County 4-H Clubs, through Bureau CFB
- Douglas County Economic Development Corporation, through Douglas CFB
- Franklin CFB received a grant in collaboration with local fire chiefs
- Sycamore Acres, through Fulton CFB
- Boyd Healthcare Services, through Greene CFB
- Warsaw Mercantile, through Hancock CFB
- Jo Daviess Local Foods, through Jo Daviess CFB
- City of Mendota, through LaSalle CFB

- North Central Regional Betterment Coalition, through LaSalle CFB
- Boys and Girls Club of Livingston County, through Livingston CFB
- Massac County Youth Fair and Community Center, through Massac CFB
- West Prairie Water Cooperative, through McDonough CFB
- Greenview Civic Improvement Association, through Menard CFB
- Mercer County Better Together, through Mercer CFB
- Baby Sarah's Playground Planning Committee, through Perry CFB

For a full list of grant recipients and a description of how grant funds are being utilized visit www.ilfb.org/resources/farmer-rural-resources/rural-development-grant-program/.

Illinois Farm Bureau is a proud sponsor

Illinois Association of County Officials Spring Conference

MAY 14-16 | CROWNE PLAZA, SPRINGFIELD, IL | REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.IACOONLINE.ORG