

TEN STUDENTS RECEIVE 2026 FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Ten Bureau County students will receive financial assistance from the Bureau County Farm Bureau Foundation to help cover costs associated with continuing their education.

For the past thirty-one years, the Bureau County Farm Bureau Foundation has made a financial commitment to assist individuals interested in pursuing a career in agriculture. To date, $148,000 has been provided in scholarships. The Foundation funding is supported by fundraising campaigns, private contributions, including those from Bureau County Farm Bureau members.

Let's meet this year's recipients, receiving $15,000 in scholarships from the Bureau County Farm Bureau Foundation!



Troy Anderson is currently attending Iowa State University in Ames, IA majoring in Agricultural Engineering. Troy chose this area of study because of his ag background and the abililty to make an impact. He grew up on a family farm and wants to take advantage of the opportunity to leave the world better than he found it. In the future, his goal is to design machinery that is more sustainable and economically efficient while continuing to grow his own family farm operation.



Toby Behrends is currently attending Black Hawk College – East Campus in Kewanee, IL, studying Animal Science. Toby grew up surrounded by mentors in the cattle industry and involved in 4-H and FFA which helped shape her academic and career goals toward agriculture. She plans to build a lifelong career in the beef industry, with a focus on cattle research and management.



Ryan Carlson is currently attending Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby, IL, where he is studying classes in Ag Business and Finance with plans to transfer to a university in the future. Ryan chose this area of study because he grew up on a family farm. His future plans are to work in an ag-related profession using business analysis and risk management, while also expanding his focus in agronomy to help grow and sustain his own farm operation.



Lydia Hardy will graduate from Princeton High School this spring. She plans to attend the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, IL, to study Animal Science with a minor in Business. She has chosen this area of study because of her involvement in 4-H, Bureau County Farm Bureau, and FFA. In the future, her goal is to obtain a degree in veterinary medicine and utilize her practice as a rural veterinarian specializing in production animals within the Illinois Valley area.



Ryan Jagers will graduate from Princeton High School this spring. He plans to attend Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby, IL, to study Ag Business and Farm Management. Ryan chose this field of study because he has always found interest in agricultural technology and machinery. This summer he will intern as a drone operator to expand his knowledge in agricultural technology. In the future, he plans to implement his studies while working alongside his uncle with interest in taking over the family operation one day.



Nolan Kloepping currently attends the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR, studying Ag Business with focus in Prelaw. Nolan was involved in FFA and 4-H which helped him decide to further his studies in agriculture. In the future, he plans to attend law school with goals of becoming a lawyer for an agricultural company, specifically a legal defender.



Payton Monier will graduate from Bureau Valley High School this spring. She plans to attend Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, IL, studying Veterinary Science. Payton has been involved in FFA where she has gained knowledge and leadership experience in the ag industry. She has always looked up to her mom, grandma, and aunt who all worked in vet clinics, and has helped develop her passion for caring for animals. In the future, she wants to become a veterinary technician.



Riggens Shafer will graduate from Bureau Valley High School this spring. He plans to attend Illinois Central College in Jacksonville, IL, to study Diesel Mechanics. Riggens has decided this field of study because he finds interest in working on equipment, especially if it poses a challenge. In the future, he would like to own his own mechanic service truck while staying involved in his family's farm with aspirations to expand into cattle production.



Leah Stamberger will graduate from Mendota Township High School this spring. She plans to attend Iowa State University in Ames, IA, to study Agricultural Communications. She chose this area of study because she grew up on a family farm where she was exposed to the dedication, hard work, and long hours that go into a successful operation, but she has also seen firsthand the misrepresentation the industry often faces. In the future, she hopes to work for a company that allows her to positively represent the industry on many levels and bridge the gap between producers and consumers.



Katelyn Stoller currently attends the University of Wisconsin – Platteville in Platteville, WI studying Ag Business. Growing up, her grandparents farmed and that is where she grew appreciation for the many roles that everyone in the industry plays. She has had the opportunity to shadow her dad, a grain merchandiser, in meetings and through hands-on learning where she discovered a passion for commodity and price analysis. In the future, she would like to secure an entry-level grain business position and advance to grain merchandiser.

All these students were extremely active in extracurricular activities with strong backgrounds in a variety of programs such as FFA, 4-H, Collegiate Farm Bureau, as well as church and other school related programs. Congratulations go out to these ten well-deserving students.

LADY LANDOWNER SEMINAR

SLATED FOR MONDAY, JUNE 29

Are you a lady landowner who would like to learn more about crop position management and crop insurance insights? Plan to join us for our Spring Bureau County Lady Landowner seminar. It will take place at the Bureau County Farm Bureau on Monday, June 29th. The seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Join us for an informative morning focused on crop position management and crop insurance insights. Eric Meyer, Crop Position Manager for Apalis, will discuss strategies and current market considerations related to Crop Position Management. In addition, COUNTRY Financial agent Alan Davis will provide valuable information and updates regarding crop insurance coverage and options.

This free seminar is being co-sponsored by Bureau County Farm Bureau, Marshall-Putnam County Farm Bureau, Bureau County Farm Service Agency, Bureau County Soil and Water District, and Bureau County Natural Resources Conservation Service. Reservations are required by contacting the Bureau County Farm Bureau at (815) 875-6468 or email at bslightom@bureaucountyfarmbureau.org. Limited space available.

9TH ANNUAL MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

SLATED FOR FRIDAY, JULY 10

The Bureau County Farm Bureau and U of I Extension will host the Bureau County Master Showmanship Contest Friday, July 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m. (or approximately ½ hour after the end of the swine show) in the Swine/Sheep Livestock Barn at the Bureau County Fair Grounds.

The Master Showmanship Contest recognizes 4-H youth who have excelled at showing animals at the 4-H fair. The participants will be judged on their handling of each of three species of animals: beef, sheep and swine. They also are quizzed by the judge on their knowledge of animal husbandry and livestock production.

The registration deadline for 4-H Participants is June 18th. This can be done online or through the provided word document at the Extension Office.

A winner from each species will receive recognition and top prizes will be given to the top two overall showmen. The top overall winner will be eligible to represent Bureau County at the Illinois Master Showmanship contest at the Illinois State Fair to be held on Friday, August 14.