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## PAGE/TAYLOR

# TCFB HOLDS NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

The Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors held its first meeting of the 2026 Farm Bureau year on Nov. 17 at the Farm Bureau office in Bedford. The meeting was called to order by President Emily Sybert. The Sept. 15 meeting minutes and the financial reports for Sept. and Oct. 2025 were approved.

2026 goals were set and Committees and FB Response

Team were approved. Other agenda items discussed were issue surfacing; pre-legislative training; pre-legislative meeting; scheduling holiday dinner for Jan. 13, 2026; Scholarships; Food Pantry Donations; and Membership Drive Incentives. District 9 Director Will Frazee gave a report, followed by Regional Manager Jason Wetzel's report. The meeting was then

adjourned. There will not be a meeting in Dec. and the next regular meeting will be Monday, Jan. 19, 2026.

The 2026 Board of Directors are Emily Sybert, Todd Brown, Stan Mattes, Alex Johnson, Andy Jackson, Garry Rankin, Jr., David Bredenstener, Tim Guillatt, Ryan Wilson, Amy Wilson, Dana Auffert, Louis Els, Roy Johnson, Ed Townsend, and Josh Miller.

# 2026 YOUNG FARMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Young farmer members ages 18-35 years old in Page and Taylor Counties – contact your county Farm Bureau office to register and reserve your hotel for the 2026 Young Farmer Conference to be held Jan. 23-24 at the Community Choice Convention Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Registration is open through the county Farm Bureau office Dec. 1 to Jan. 9.

This Conference is designed to connect young farmers across Iowa for a weekend of network-

ing, learning, and fun. There will be optional industry tours Friday afternoon, keynote speakers Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig and Iowa Farm Bureau President Brent Johnson; Dan Meers, widely known as the "KC Wolf" mascot for the Kansas City Chiefs; 16 breakout sessions regarding a variety of topics for farm, family, and future. Friday evening entertainment will be Illusionist Troy Peters, caricatures, yard games and door prizes.

Saturday evening will be live music by Cody Hicks, plus yard and card games.

Young farmer attendees have the opportunity to participate in the 2026 Young Farmer Discussion Meet competition (sponsored by GROWMARK and Iowa Farm Bureau), taking place on Saturday, Jan. 24.

More information about the conference and the Discussion Meet can be found at [www.iowa-farmbureau.com](http://www.iowa-farmbureau.com).

# NAIG URGES CARB TO IMPLEMENT E15 TO BENEFIT CALIFORNIA DRIVERS

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig submitted formal comments to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) urging swift action to make E15 available to California drivers.

CARB is currently evaluating its implementation plan for allowing the sale of E15, a cleaner-burning, lower-cost fuel that has been used safely and successfully in many states for more than a decade.

## KEY POINTS FROM NAIG'S COMMENTS:

### Iowa is the national biofuels leader

The state has 42 ethanol biorefineries and 10 biodiesel plants producing 4.6 billion gallons of ethanol and 353 million gallons of biodiesel annually. Iowa's renewable fuels industry provides value-added markets for corn and soybeans, supports thousands of jobs, and delivers homegrown,

low-carbon fuel to consumers.

### Consumer demand for E15 continues to accelerate

Iowa drivers have more than 13 years of experience with E15, and nearly half of all Iowa fuel retailers now offer it. Statewide E15 sales grew from 41.6 million gallons in 2019 to 256.7 million gallons in 2024, more than a six-fold increase. Once available, E15 quickly becomes a mainstream option.

### E15 saves families money

E15 is typically priced at about 15 cents per gallon below regular unleaded. In 2024 alone, Iowa drivers saved an estimated \$38.5 million by choosing E15 over E10.

### Existing equipment is broadly compatible with E15

After more than a decade of E15 use, Iowa has not encountered systemic infrastructure challenges. Fuel storage tanks, piping, and dispensers have proven durable

and compatible, and many upgrades cost share-funded through the state's Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program can cost less than \$10,000.

### Iowa's own E15 Access Standard is evidence of confidence in the fuel

Beginning January 1, 2026, most Iowa retailers will be required to offer E15 from at least one fueling position unless exempt due to age of equipment or small-retailer status. This policy underscores Iowa's trust in the fuel's performance and infrastructure readiness.

### CARB's action would expand access to cleaner, more affordable, domestically produced fuel

Streamlining E15 approval would give California drivers access to a proven, lower-cost, lower-emission fuel option already used safely and successfully in many states.

# USDA OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR DISASTER AID

Farmers can begin applying now for Stage 2 of the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) for qualified losses due to adverse weather in 2023 and 2024.

The second stage covers eligible row crop and specialty crop losses that were not covered under Stage 1 program provisions, including non-indemnified (shallow loss), un-

covered and quality losses.

The enrollment period opened Nov. 24 and closes April 30, 2026. Applications for SDRP Stage 1 assistance also remain open through April 30. Visit [fsa.usda.gov/sdrp](http://fsa.usda.gov/sdrp) for details.

Applications can be submitted in person at a county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices or electronically on the FSA website. Assistance is

also open for farmers who incurred milk and on-farm stored crop losses in 2023 and 2024. Information and fact sheets are available online at [fsa.usda.gov/mlp](http://fsa.usda.gov/mlp) for milk loss and [fsa.usda.gov/ofscplp](http://fsa.usda.gov/ofscplp) for on-farm stored commodity losses. The enrollment period to apply for both programs is open through Jan. 23, 2026, she said.

## AG IN THE CLASSROOM



Page County Ag in The Classroom visited Mrs. Hardee's 4th grade classroom in Shenandoah to discuss wild turkeys and domestic turkeys. Students had fun with a "Turkey Turmoil" activity to figure out which clues pertained to "Wild Tom" and "Domestic Nicholas".

# CREDENTIALS FILED

Stan Mattes, Taylor County Farm Bureau secretary, has signed the credentials for Andy Jackson as Voting Delegate to represent Taylor County Farm Bureau at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Dec. 9-10 in the official voting delegate sessions. If Jackson cannot attend, the credentials also list Emily Sybert, president, as first alternate delegate, and Todd Brown, vice president, as second alternate delegate for Taylor County Farm Bureau.

Page County Farm Bureau

secretary, Jackie Meier, signed the credentials for Aaron Williams as Voting Delegate to represent Page County Farm Bureau in the official voting delegate sessions of the IFBF Annual Meeting. If Williams cannot attend, Logan Henry, president, is listed as first alternate delegate, and Megan Ripley, vice president, as second alternate delegate for Page County Farm Bureau.

The credentials were filed with the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation in West Des Moines in November.

# FB MEMBER BENEFITS APP

Have your membership card, insurance card, and member benefit information at your fingertips with the FB Benefit app. The app allows you to show proof of membership and insurance as well as browse member benefits by category, name, or map location.

To download, go to the App Store or Google Play and select the FB Benefits app with the FB logo from Farm Bureau Management Corp. Select your state and enter your membership number and zip code. Contact your county office, agent, or call 866-598-3693 if you need assistance.

# SPOKESMAN TAKES ANNUAL BREAK

The Spokesman will take its annual break with no county pages on Dec. 24, 2025 and there will not be a Spokesman publication on Dec. 31, 2025.

Exchange ads received after Dec. 10 will be held for the Jan. 7, 2026 publication. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# Calendar

## Dec. 25-26

Page County and Taylor County Farm Bureau offices closed for Christmas holiday.

## Dec. 24 and 31

No Spokesman publications.

## Monday, 4 p.m.

Deadline for exchange ads and articles for Spokesman.