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AG IN THE CLASSROOM RETURNS TO DES MOINES COUNTY WITH CORN-FUELED CREATIVITY

The Des Moines County Farm Bureau kicked off its 2025–2026 Ag in the Classroom program last week with an engaging visit to Mediapolis Elementary. Second grade students were treated to a hands-on lesson exploring the world of field corn, led by County Outreach Coordinator Sarah Seitz.

The featured book, My Family’s Corn Farm, introduced students to the life cycle of corn—from planting and harvesting to storage—and highlighted the crop’s incredible versatility. Students were amazed to learn that field corn is used in over 4,000 products, including ethanol, cereal, tortilla chips, and even biodegradable packing peanuts.

To bring the lesson to life, each student created their own farm-themed sculpture using eco-friendly packing peanuts. With just a little moisture and a lot of imagination, students built everything from barns to tractors while learning about sustainability. The activity emphasized how these non-toxic, biodegradable materials offer a more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional packing products.

“This lesson is a great way to connect agriculture with science, sustainability, and creativity,” said Seitz. “It’s exciting to see students discover how something as simple as corn can have such a big impact on their everyday lives.”

Ag in the Classroom will continue throughout the school year, bringing agricultural literacy and hands-on learning to classrooms across Des Moines County.

DES MOINES COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS, HIGHLIGHTS OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Des Moines County Farm Bureau Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Sept. 9, 2025, at the Farm Bureau Office in Mediapolis. President Kendra Meisgeier called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Guests from the Mediapolis Board of Education attended to discuss the district’s G.O Bond Proposal. A quorum was reached, and the board approved the consent agenda, including meeting minutes and membership updates. Officer elections were held for the upcoming program year. Kendra Meisgeier will continue as President, joined by Michael Fosdick as Vice President, Jamie Brissey as Secretary, and Wyatt



The board meeting was held Sept. 9, 2025.

Orr as Treasurer. Policy discussions included a legislative update from laVerne Neal and a review of the issue-surfacing process led by

Regional Manager Lane Eads. The board approved the development of a video to encourage members to engage in identifying local issues.

Public relations updates included a recap of the Summer Ag Tour series and reflection on its involvement in the 2025 Farmers Market and expressed interest in continuing the programs. Outreach Coordinator Sarah Seitz provided updates on Ag in the Classroom and promotional efforts, while Eads delivered the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Report.

Calendar

Monday, noon
Deadline for ads, articles, and pictures for the following week’s issue.

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*Wolt, J.D. 2004. A meta-evaluation of nitrpyrin agronomic and environmental effectiveness with emphasis on corn production in the Midwest. Numbers cited are average results comparing nitrogen applications applied with Optinyte® technology vs. non-stabilized applications. Results may vary.

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