

Common Ground

Bruce Rauner, Governor • Raymond Poe, Director

September 2018



A Letter from the Director



Harvest season is once again in full swing, with families across our state returning to the fields to bring in another crop. Farming is a job that carries great responsibility. Without farmers, we would

not have food to eat or clothes to wear. The entire world depends on the products that Illinois farm families bring to market each year. As the harvest season rolls on, I ask all Illinoisans to share the road with the farmers who drive large, slow moving vehicles making their way to and from the field. A vehicle that big has plenty of blind spots, so the driver may have a hard time seeing you. Please hang back and give that driver plenty of room. Remember to help share the road so these hard working men and women can continue their mission of getting food from our farms to your family.

Raymond Poe
IDOA Director

A handwritten signature of Raymond Poe in black ink.

Focus on Farm Safety

Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. Governor Rauner once again proclaimed National Farm Safety and Health Week in Illinois for September 16-22, 2018, with the theme "Cultivating the Seeds of Safety."

IDOA highlighted important issues and topics on Facebook and Twitter each day during National Farm Safety and Health Week, including rural roadway safety, health and stress management, youth ag safety, safety in confined spaces, and tractor safety. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to get all the information you need to cultivate the seeds of safety.



Gov. Rauner Declares Harvest Emergency to Assist Farmers

On September 7, Governor Rauner declared a harvest emergency to help level the playing field between Illinois farmers and crop haulers, and those in neighboring states. The action bridges the gap between the 2018 harvest season and a new law that takes effect next



year. The emergency declaration is in effect from September 10 to December 31, 2018, and enables crop haulers to seek free Illinois Department of Transportation permits to exceed specific legal maximum weight limits by up to 10 percent on state and federal highways under IDOT's jurisdiction, excluding interstates. Permits will be issued at no charge, but applicants must obtain a route authorization number every two weeks. The harvest emergency permit and other information on the permitting process can be obtained through [IDOT's automated permitting web application](#).

Bicentennial Bash a Success: 2018 State Fairs Celebrated 200 Years of IL Farm Families

The 2018 State Fairs in Springfield and Du Quoin celebrated the Illinois Bicentennial, as well as 200 years of agriculture and farm families in Illinois. The Grand Marshals for the Twilight Parades at each fair location were families who have been farming the same ground in Illinois for the past 200 years, since Illinois became a state. Both the Brown and Wiseman family farms have received Bicentennial Farm designations from IDOA. On Agriculture Day at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, dozens of Centennial and Sesquicentennial farm families were also recognized for their longtime dedication to farming in Illinois. Click here to learn more about [IDOA's Illinois Farm Programs](#).



Bob Wiseman of Charleston serves as Grand Marshal in the IL State Fair Twilight Parade on August 9. The Wiseman Family Farm in Wabash County is one of two Bicentennial Farms in Illinois.



Gerald and Betty Brown of Jonesboro take part in the Ribbon Cutting for the Du Quoin State Fair on August 24. The Brown Farm in Union County was the first recognized Bicentennial Farm in Illinois.

Illinois
Department of
Agriculture
UPCOMING
EVENTS



Illinois Products Farmers Market

The Shed on IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield
Every Thursday from 4-7pm through Oct. 11

2018 Illinois Grain Industry Tour

International buyers tour farms, grain industry facilities, and Chicago Mercantile Exchange
September 30 - October 4

Illinois Ag Facts

#1 PRODUCER in pumpkins

71,000 farms



26.7 MILLION acres of farmland

Sweet Spotlight: September is National Honey Month

IDOA manages the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Program, designed to assist beekeepers with the management and protection of honeybee colonies. The domestic honeybee plays a vital role in our food and grain production, pollinating many of the plants which produce the food we eat, including almonds, apples, blueberries, cucumbers, melons, and pumpkins. During the past several years, diseases and pests of the honeybee have eliminated many wild honeybees, creating a significant negative impact on the pollination of these flowering plants. This lack of wild honeybees has greatly increased the need for managed honeybees to be used to help pollinate plants. Under the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act, IDOA offers free honeybee colony inspections to determine the general health of honeybee colonies. IDOA Apiary Inspectors closely examine beehives to detect diseases and pests, and provide advice on needed treatments. To find out how many colonies and apiaries are helping the honeybee population in your county, click here for the [IDOA Bees and Apiaries website](#).

