

Common Ground

JB Pritzker, Governor · John M. Sullivan, Acting Director

February 2019



A Note from the Director



Governor Pritzker created an agriculture transition committee following his election to identify ideas and recommendations to grow our state's agriculture economy. I served as co-chair of that committee, which recently released its final report. One thing is clear from the group's findings: our goal in everything we do should be to ensure that Illinois has a thriving agricultural and rural economy.

Our state's economy was largely built on agriculture, and we need to ensure the industry remains on a path toward success. The transition committee identified five critical areas that need to be addressed to make sure our ag economy stays on the right path:

- Better marketing and promotion of agriculture
- Investing in agricultural education
- Improving infrastructure, especially broadband access, in rural areas
- Promoting a culture of innovation
- Improving regulations that affect agriculture

With the path laid out by Governor Pritzker and our new administration, we can create a road map for the future of Illinois agriculture that will strengthen and expand our state's number one industry. I look forward to working with each of you as we move down that path.

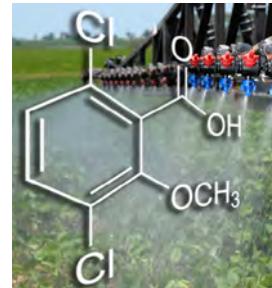
John M. Sullivan
Acting Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Sullivan".

IDOA Announces State-Specific Restrictions for Dicamba Use on Soybeans in 2019 Growing Season

IDOA will require Special Local Needs labels, including new restrictions, for the use of the herbicide dicamba in Illinois for the 2019 growing season. Dicamba is primarily used on soybeans to control post-emergence broadleaf weeds. The additional restrictions beyond federally-approved labels are:

1. The implementation of an application cutoff date of June 30, 2019.
2. Prohibiting application when the wind is blowing toward adjacent residential areas.
3. Required consultation of the FieldWatch sensitive crop registry before application, as well as compliance with all associated record keeping label requirements.
4. Maintaining label-specified downwind buffers between last treated row and nearest downfield edge of any Illinois Nature Preserves Commission site.
5. Recommendation to apply product when the wind is blowing away from sensitive areas, which include but are not limited to bodies of water and non-residential, uncultivated areas that may harbor sensitive plant species.



The intent of these additional restrictions is to reduce the potential for off-target movement of these products, thereby reducing the potential for possible adverse impacts to dicamba-sensitive crops/areas. For more information on these new restrictions, check out [IDOA's website regarding dicamba](#).

Sweet Beginnings Transforming Lives

Sweet Beginnings, LLC is giving the gift of a second chance to individuals with a criminal conviction. The company was founded in 2004 as a "social enterprise" in the North Lawndale community of Chicago. Honey is harvested from urban apiaries to make the beelove® family of products – an all natural line of raw honey and honey-infused body care products. All of these products are made by men and women recently released from incarceration.

At Sweet Beginnings, talented men and women develop a stable work history, learn marketable skills, and gain the confidence they need to re-enter the workforce. During the next five years, Sweet Beginnings will provide transitional employment to at least 60 citizens returning from incarceration and other hard-to-employ job seekers. Program participants gain skills in manufacturing, sales, inventory, quality control, food handling, customer service, and digital literacy. More than 75 percent of those who complete the company's transitional employment program will go on to secure permanent positions with other employers, start their own businesses, or enter post-secondary education.



Learn more about [Sweet Beginnings on its website](#), or check out beelove® products at the Illinois Products Expo, March 2-3, 2019, in the Orr Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

Five Concerts Announced So Far for 2019 IL State Fair Grandstand

A capella, country, rap, pop, and rock – five Grandstand concerts have been announced so far, set to perform at the 2019 Illinois State Fair in Springfield. The Grandstand will host 10 nights of concerts at the fair, August 8 through 18. Grandstand acts announced so far:

- **Dan + Shay on Sunday, August 11**
- **The Traveling Salvation Show - A Tribute to Neil Diamond FREE CONCERT on Monday, August 12**
- **Why Don't We on Tuesday, August 13**
- **Pentatonix on Wednesday, August 14**
- **Snoop Dogg & Friends on Friday, August 16**

Concert announcements will continue through March, and tickets for all Grandstand concerts go on sale this spring at the [Grandstand Box Office](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS @

the Illinois State Fairgrounds



Illinois Horse Fair 2019

March 1-3, Covered Arena



Illinois Products Expo

March 2-3, Orr Building

Hobnob Hoopla Market

March 8-9, Expo Building

Clash at the Coliseum Kart Racing

March 22-23, Covered Arena

Railsplitter Alpaca Show

March 23-24, Expo Building

More info here: [Year Round Calendar of Events](#)

