

## ILLINOIS COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

**Amy Leman, Chair**  
(Adult Education) University of Illinois

**Brad Pilcher, Vice-Chair**  
(FFA) Bayer Crop Science

**Kevin Daugherty**  
(Ag Literacy)  
Illinois Farm Bureau, Ag in the Classroom

**Kaizad Irani**  
(College Agriculture Instructor)  
Parkland College

**Doug Hanson**  
(ILCAE) ProHarvest Seeds

**Allyn Buhrow**  
(ILCAE) Farmer, Pioneer Seed

**Aimee Shasteen**  
(ILCAE) Farm Credit Illinois

**Kim Haywood, Jr.**  
(ILCAE) Lovejoy Academy

**Erika Allen**  
(ILCAE) Urban Growers Collective

**Jody Heavner**  
(Secondary Agriculture Teacher)  
Pittsfield High School

**Suzanne Schafer**  
(Secondary Agriculture Teacher)  
Taylorville High School

**Gary Ochs**  
(University Agriculture Instructor)  
University of Illinois

(Required representation by state statute)

**Allyn Buhrow, Chair**  
Farmer, Pioneer Seed

**Greg Webb, Vice-Chair**  
Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)

**Michael Zecher, Secretary**  
Zecher Farms

**Erika Allen**  
Urban Growers Collective

**Dave Cattron**  
Educator (retired)

**Chad Colby**  
Colby AgTech

**Allen Dietz**  
Educator (retired), Dietz Farms

**Jeff Galle**  
Global Pork Production Enterprises

## ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

**Warren Graeff**  
Midland State Bank

**Doug Hanson**  
ProHarvest Seeds

**Jay Harris**  
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**Kenny Hartman**  
Glendell Farm

**Kim Haywood, Jr.**  
Lovejoy Academy

**Russel Higgins**  
University of Illinois Extension

**Chris Kendall**  
Peoria Educational Region for Employment  
and Career Training

**Mindy McDermott**  
The Climate Corporation

**Don Moffitt**  
State Representative (retired)

**Rod Riech**  
Brandt Consolidated, Inc.

**Karen Schieler**  
Compeer Financial

**Aimee Shasteen**  
Farm Credit Illinois

**Kay Shipman**  
FarmWeek

**Haley Siergiej**  
Nutrients for Life

**Holly Spangler**  
Prairie Farmer/Farm Progress

**Tyler Strom**  
Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

**Dan Swanson**  
Illinois State Legislature

**Cynthia Tucker**  
PepsiCo

**Kaitlin Weitekamp**  
John Deere



## FOUNDATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AS PART OF THE ILLINOIS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

**Senate Bill 255 passed and signed into law on September 19, 1986, creating Public Act 84-1452 and Chapter 122, Section 2-3.80 of the Illinois School Code stating:** The General Assembly recognizes that agriculture is the most basic and singularly important industry in the State, that agriculture is of central importance to the welfare and economic stability of the State, and that the maintenance of this vital industry requires a continued source of trained and qualified individuals for employment in agriculture and agribusiness. The General Assembly hereby declares that it is in the best interests of the people of the State of Illinois that a comprehensive education program in agriculture be created and maintained by the State's public school system in order to ensure an adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals and to ensure appropriate representation of racial and ethnic groups in all phases of the industry. It is the intent of the General Assembly that a State program for agricultural education shall be a part of the curriculum of the public school system preK through adult, and made readily available to all school districts which may, at their option, include programs in education in agriculture as a part of the curriculum of that district.

**House Bill 4986 passed amending Public Act 84-1452 and the Illinois School Code on January 20, 2006, stating:**

Provides that a school district that offers a secondary agricultural education program that is eligible for state and federal funding must ensure that, at a minimum, the following are available to its secondary agricultural education students: (1) an instructional sequence of courses approved by the State Board of Education; (2) a State and nationally affiliated FFA chapter that is integral to instruction and is not treated as an extracurricular activity; and (3) a mechanism for ensuring the involvement of all secondary agricultural education students in formal, supervised agricultural-experience activities and programs.

**Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act**

The federal reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act named Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act also known as Perkins V was signed into law by the President on July 31, 2018. This act includes Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources as a recognized career cluster, and AFNR programs are supported through these funds by their local Education for Employment (EFE) System.