



State Legislative Wins

104th Illinois General Assembly

Illinois Farmers Union (IFU) is a grassroots organization advocating for Illinois family farmers and consumers' economic and social well-being and quality of life through education, cooperation, and legislation. We advocate for policies that support a positive future for all family farmers, growers, and consumers across the state.

This document provides a list of policy accomplishments that IFU advocated for throughout the 104th Illinois General Assembly legislative sessions. Each year, IFU members gather to consider and adopt IFU's policy priorities through a member-driven, democratic process. These legislative accomplishments reflect the priorities established and approved by IFU members.

Promoting Competition in the Marketplace

✓ **HJR0027 – Good Food Task Force**

- ❖ [HJR0027](#) establishes the Illinois “Good Food Purchasing Task Force” to further examine current food procurement practices by Illinois state agencies. The task force will explore how Good Food Purchasing practices can be implemented to maximize the procurement of healthy foods that are sustainably, locally, and equitably sourced, which will support Illinois farmers, strengthen local food security, and build supply chain resilience. While this bill is an important step forward, IFU supports the Good Food Purchasing Law and will work to ensure its passage in the next legislative session.

✓ **HB2196 – Meat and Poultry Inspection**

- ❖ [HB2196](#), dubbed the “Chicken Bill,” lifts restrictions on small poultry farms who wish to sell fresh poultry locally, exempting poultry farms that process fewer than 7,500 birds annually from state and federal inspections or from having to ship birds to USDA-approved processing facilities – up from the previous 5,000 bird threshold. The bill also allows farmers to sell beyond on their own farms at local outlets, including at farmers markets, roadside stands, and through delivery. This will increase the availability of local poultry products while creating new marketing opportunities for Illinois poultry growers.

Farmland Access and Protection

✓ **SB2372 – Farmland Transition**

- ❖ One of the greatest challenges facing beginning and young farmers is finding high quality, affordable land. [SB2372](#) establishes the Farmland Transition Commission that will examine current barriers individuals ages 21 to 40 experience when trying to purchase farmland, as well as review current initiatives and make policy recommendations to encourage the transfer of land to beginning and young farmers. IFU hopes to work with the new commission to help ensure the next generation of farmers can succeed.

✓ **SB710 – Hunting Permits**

- ❖ [SB710](#) provides farmers and landowners with greater flexibility to protect their crops from nuisance animals, including deer. The bill permits the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to issue hunting permits without charge to farmers, both who own or rent their farmland, to hunt nuisance deer on their properties, and allow farmers to hire certified third parties to hunt deer on their farmland using their permits. Nuisance deer can lead to costly damage and crop losses, and this legislation will streamline and simplify the permitting process, allowing farmers to more easily protect their crops and farmland.

✓ **Full Funding for Cover Crops**

- ❖ In the fiscal years 2026 and 2027 state budgets, the General Assembly maintained full funding for the “Fall Covers for Spring Savings,” program, which provides a \$5/acre crop insurance premium discount for farmers who plant cover crops. This voluntary, incentive-based program has been in high demand since its inception, as cover crops help enhance soil health, improve water quality, and promote environmental stewardship. Despite proposals to cut funding for the program, the legislature maintained full funding at \$960,000. IFU looks forward to strengthening and expanding this program in future legislative sessions.

Transportation and Labor

✓ **SB849 – CDL’s for Farm-Related Services**

- ❖ [SB849](#) brings restricted commercial driver’s licenses (CDL’s) in line with the practical needs of family farmers by extending the allowable period of operation to 210 days (up from 180 days) per year for farm-related service industries. This builds on recent progress made by the legislature to help Class B and C CDL drivers obtain Class A covered farm vehicles (CFV’s) without having to fully upgrade. This legislation will provide greater flexibilities for farm-related CDL drivers and help further alleviate the shortage of farm truck drivers in Illinois.