

It's always a great time to take photos for the Cream of the Crop Photography Contest. State Treasurer Michael Frerichs encourages all young photographers in Illinois to capture the beauty of agriculture in our state year-round — summer, fall, winter, and spring — so start snapping pictures today!

The contest runs from mid-March to mid-June each year, and participants compete in three age categories: 8-10, 11-14, and 15-18. Once the contest opens each year, visit creamofthecropcontest.com to enter and upload your agriculture-focused photos. Maybe one of your photos even will be featured in the next calendar!



Bright Start College Savings scholarships will be awarded to the top winners in each of the three age categories.

The Cream of the Crop photo contest is part of the Treasurer's Ag Invest program. For more information on the contest, visit creamofthecropcontest.com or call **217.782.6738**.




Michael W. Frerichs
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

 @ILTreasurer

 @TreasurerMichaelFrerichs

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AG INVEST
2024-2025
PHOTOGRAPHY CALENDAR

Dear Friends,

We are proud to present to you our **2024-2025 Ag Invest Cream of the Crop Photography Calendar**.

The photos featured on the following pages were taken by students as part of our "Cream of the Crop" photography contest.

Agriculture has always been an important part of the Illinois economy and employs 1 in 17 jobs either directly or indirectly in the state. Illinois is consistently a national leader in both corn and soybean production. In this calendar, you will see agricultural photos taken by students that showcase their creativity around Illinois agriculture, and capture the beauty of our great state.

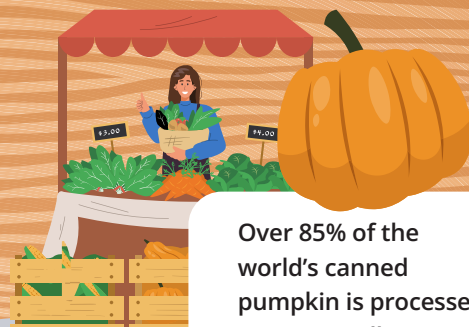
In the Treasurer's Office, our goal is to use our programs to provide opportunities for people to succeed. If you are interested in learning more about how the treasurer's office helps people invest in themselves, visit illinoistreasurer.gov.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the "Cream of the Crop" photography contest.

Sincerely,

Michael Frerichs

Fun Farm FACTS



Over 85% of the world's canned pumpkin is processed in Morton, Illinois.



Consuming two tablespoons of local honey can offer health benefits such as antioxidants, allergy relief, better wound healing, and anti-inflammatory properties.



The Illinois food and fiber industry employs nearly 1 million people. Of those, 75,087 are farm operations and 24,254 are women.

Cook County is home to numerous examples of urban agriculture, including the raising, cultivation, processing, and distribution of food in urban and suburban areas.





“Black Beauty”

Izzy B., Rockford, 13

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Du Quoin State Fair	2 Labor Day Du Quoin State Fair	3	4	5	6	7
8 Grandparents' Day	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 First Day of Fall	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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"Halloween Magic"

Mario B., Ottawa, 12

OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Rosh Hashanah Begins	3	4 Rosh Hashanah Ends	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Yom Kippur Begins	12 Yom Kippur Ends
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16 Boss's Day	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		



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"Fresh Eggs"

Mya M., Tamaroa, 12



"What's Up"

Aubrey G., West Chicago, 15

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 All Saints' Day	2
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29 Black Friday	30





“Laboring Farmer”

Alex G., Genoa, 18

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Cyber Monday	3 State of Illinois Birthday	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Winter
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Hanukkah Begins	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				



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"Copper Doeling"

Camille H., Mt Olive, 14



"Honey Resting in the Pasture"

Laura B., Allerton, 13

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Kwanzaa Ends New Year's Day	2 Hanukkah Ends	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Holocaust Remembrance Day	28	29	30	31	



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"Sunrise Over Bin"

Ruthie S., Jacksonville, 9



"Grandpa's 1954 Farmall Super M"

Trent S., Williamsfield, 16

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Groundhog Day						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Super Bowl			Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Presidents' Day					
23	24	25	26	27	28	
					Ramadan Begins	



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“Planting”

April V., Champaign, 17

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Casimir Pulaski Day	4 Mardi Gras	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Ramadan Ends	31 Eid al-Fitr Begins					



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“Rural Soil Preparation”

Claire M., Neoga, 9

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 April Fools' Day Eid al-Fitr Ends	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Passover Begins
13 Palm Sunday	14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Passover Ends	21	22 Earth Day	23 Administrative Professionals Day	24 Take Your Child to Work Day	25 Arbor Day	26
27	28	29	30			



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"The Beauty in Planting"

Adan S., Plano, 16

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31



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"Vibrant Strawberries"

Finn L., Rolling Meadows, 13



"Garden Fresh"

Audrey F., Bloomington, 11

JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Flag Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Father's Day				Juneteenth	First Day of Summer	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Islamic New Year Begins	Islamic New Year Ends	
29	30					





"Golden Fields"

Chase S., Forsyth, 10

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



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"County Fair"

Lily D., Indianola, 14



"Nap Time"

Anna P., Mason City, 14

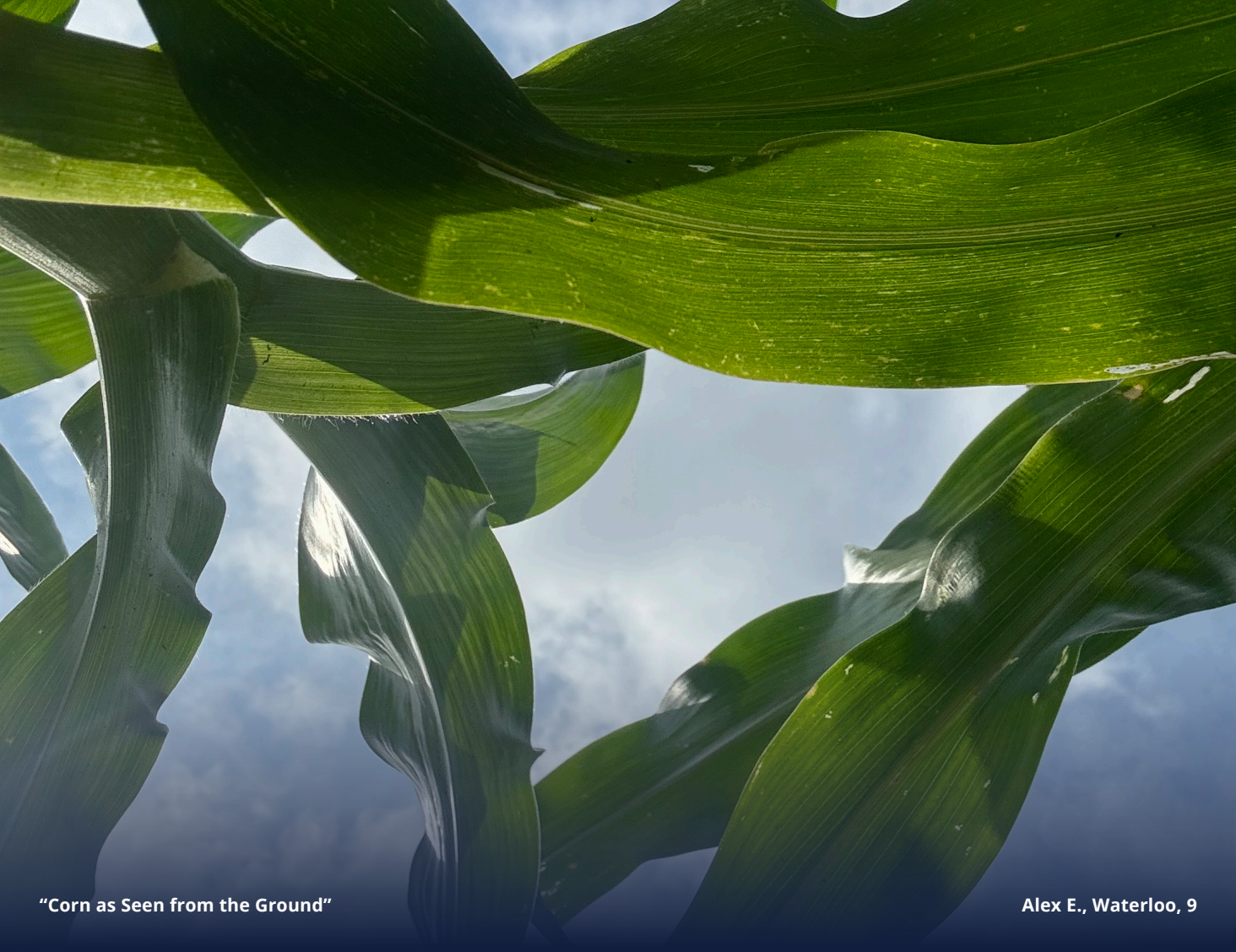
AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair	Illinois State Fair
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Illinois State Fair				Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Du Quoin State Fair						
31						
Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair	Du Quoin State Fair



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"Corn as Seen from the Ground"

Alex E., Waterloo, 9

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day Du Quoin State Fair	2	3	4	5	6
7 Grandparents' Day	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 First Day of Fall Rosh Hashanah Begins	23	24 Rosh Hashanah Ends	25	26	27
28	29	30				



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"This is How We Roll"

Allison H., Mulberry Grove, 15

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Yom Kippur Begins	2 Yom Kippur Ends	3	4
5	6 Columbus Day	7	8	9 Boss's Day	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	



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“Fields of Rye”

Lydia H., Morrison, 18

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 All Saints' Day
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



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"Mama and Baby"

Caroline L., Wellington, 12

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Cyber Monday	2	3 State of Illinois Birthday	4	5	6
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Hanukkah Begins	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27
28	29	30	31 New Years' Eve			



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