



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Opens 2022 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest

Contest Reaches 10-Year Milestone



SPRINGFIELD – Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs is calling on young Illinois photographers to submit photos for the 2022 *Cream of the Crop Photo Contest*, which encourages students to share their vision of agriculture in our state. The contest entry deadline is June 22.

“Illinois takes pride in its farming and agricultural diversity,” Frerichs said. “This contest provides students the opportunity to showcase the strength and beauty of our state’s rich agricultural landscape.”

The treasurer’s office is accepting electronic submissions for the *Cream of the Crop Photo Contest* at www.CreamoftheCropContest.com. Top photographs will be chosen in three age-based categories: ages 8-10, 11-14 and 15-18. Each student may submit up to two photos by **June 22, 2022**.

Now in its 10th year, the photo contest offers Illinois students an opportunity to showcase their most innovative or scenic pictures that depict their vision of agriculture in our state. Over the years, more than 500 students have participated, submitting nearly 1,000 photos.

The *Cream of the Crop Photo Contest* is part of the Ag Invest program in the treasurer’s office. Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material, as well as at the 2022 Illinois State Fair.

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Ag Invest, one of the nation's largest agricultural linked deposit programs, helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. Through Ag Invest, the treasurer's office partners with eligible financial institutions to offer farmers and ag businesses annual and long-term low-interest loans that can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses, and livestock purchases.

To read the rules, terms, and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit our website at www.CreamoftheCropContest.com or contact Teri Whitfield at 217.900.0075.

About the Illinois Treasurer

As Illinois State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$52 billion. The portfolio includes \$26 billion in state funds, \$17 billion in retirement and college savings plans and \$9 billion on behalf of local and state governments. Frerichs' office protects consumers by safeguarding more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property, encouraging savings plans for college or trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, assisting people with disabilities to save without losing government benefits, and removing barriers to a secure retirement. The Treasurer's Office predates Illinois incorporation in 1818. Voters in 1848 chose to make it an elected office.

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