



# OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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## MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

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## Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Opens 2023 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest

### Contest for Young Photographers Marks Its 11<sup>th</sup> Year

**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs is encouraging young Illinois photographers to submit photos for the 2023 *Cream of the Crop Photo Contest*, which offers students a creative way to share their vision of agriculture in our state. The treasurer’s office will accept electronic submissions for the contest starting March 22, and the entry deadline is June 12.

“Let’s seek photographs to showcase why Illinois is a leader in the agricultural industry with its rich soil, diversity in products, and millions of acres of farmland,” Frerichs said. “We want to encourage students to grab their cameras, get out, and explore the beauty Illinois has to offer.”

The treasurer’s office is accepting electronic submissions for the *Cream of the Crop Photo Contest* at [www.CreamoftheCropContest.com](http://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 12, 2023**.

Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> 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. More than 500 students have participated in the contest since it debuted in 2013, and they have submitted nearly 1,000 photos.

The *Cream of the Crop Photo Contest* is part of the Illinois State Treasurer’s Ag Invest program. Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material and next year’s Cream of the Crop calendar, as well as at the 2023 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest is one of the nation’s largest agricultural linked deposit programs, celebrating 40 years in 2023. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. The treasurer’s office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible financial institutions to offer farmers and ag businesses annual and long-term, low-interest loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses and livestock purchases.

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To read the rules, terms, and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit our website at [www.CreamoftheCropContest.com](http://www.CreamoftheCropContest.com) or contact Teri Whitfield at 217.900.0075.

### **About the Illinois Treasurer**

As Illinois State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs (FRAIR'-iks) 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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