



## OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

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### **Still Time to Submit Photos for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cream of the Crop Photo Contest**

*Snap and Submit Your Photos Before June 24 Deadline*

**SPRINGFIELD** – As the June 24<sup>th</sup> deadline quickly approaches, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs today encouraged young photographers to get out, explore, and snap a few photos (while social distancing) to submit for the *2020 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest*.

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual contest encourages young photographers to share their vision of agriculture in our state.

“We have received some great submissions but want to encourage more young photographers to snap a few pictures and send to us for our annual photo contest,” Frerichs said. “This is a fun way to showcase Illinois agriculture, explore local farms, and see all the beauty Illinois has to offer.”

The treasurer’s office is accepting electronic submissions for the *Cream of the Crop Photo Contest* from Illinois students, ages 8-18. Top photographs will be chosen in three age-based categories: ages 8-10, 11-14, and 15-18. Each student is allowed to submit up to two photos by June 24, 2020.

The photo contest is part of the Ag Invest program and offers an opportunity for Illinois students to submit their most innovative or scenic picture that depicts their vision of agriculture in our state. Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing materials and at the 2020 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest is one of the nation’s largest agricultural linked deposit programs. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. The treasurer’s office, through the Ag Invest program, partners with eligible lenders 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.

To read all the rules, terms, and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit our website at [www.CreamoftheCropContest.com](http://www.CreamoftheCropContest.com) or contact Rebecca Huston at 217.558.6217.

**About the Illinois Treasurer**

As Illinois State Treasurer, Frerichs is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$30 billion. The portfolio includes \$13 billion in state funds, \$11 billion in college savings plans and \$6 billion on behalf of local and state governments. The investment approach is cautious to ensure the preservation of capital and returns \$42 to the state for every \$1 spent in operations. Frerichs' office protects consumers by safeguarding more than \$3 billion in unclaimed property, encouraging savings plans for college or trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, assisting people with disabilities 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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