

## **Allamans the Runners-Up in Excellence in Ag Award**

*The below is from the August 4, 2023 'Young Leader award winners announced' FarmWeek article.*

Clay and Alyssa Abbott of Kankakee County and Megan Dwyer of Henry County earned the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders' most prestigious awards.

The Abbotts won the 2023 Young Leader Achievement Award, which recognizes Young Leaders for their efforts in production agriculture, leadership ability and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations. A majority of their income must come from production agriculture.

Dwyer received the Excellence in Agriculture Award, which recognizes members who are outstanding leaders and actively contribute to Farm Bureau, other ag organizations and their communities. While these candidates can still farm, the majority of their net income cannot come from production agriculture.

IFB Young Leader Chair Sadie Asher and IFB Vice President Brian Duncan announced the winners via Facebook Friday afternoon. Duncan reflected on his time in Young Leaders and how the organization impacted his trajectory in Farm Bureau.

"It was the Young Leader activities that really pushed me outside my comfort zone and got me to want to be more involved in the organization and also gave me a great grounding in information about the organization," he said.

The runners-up for the awards were Ethan and Katie Brown of Montgomery County for Achievement Award, and Justin and Bobby Allaman of Warren-Henderson County for Excellence in Agriculture.

Winners will have the choice of \$2,000 and a John Deere riding lawnmower or the \$8,500 cash equivalent, sponsored by IFB and COUNTRY Financial. Additionally, GROWMARK sponsors a \$1,500 cash prize and the IAA Credit Union sponsors a \$300 gift card for the Excellence in Agriculture winner. The runners-up receive \$1,500, sponsored by IFB and COUNTRY.

The winners go on to represent Illinois at the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers national competition Jan. 19-24 in Salt Lake City.

***By Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek, August 4, 2023***

*More on the Allamans: Justin and Bobby reside on a multi-generational farm in Rozetta with their three daughters: Sophia, Adalina, and Emmeline. In addition to row crop production, Justin is a seed dealer for Golden Harvest Seeds in the Warren-Henderson area. Bobby works as the Education Program Coordinator with the University of Illinois Extension Office, serving 4-H Clubs in Warren and Henderson counties. They are co-owners of Fields of Fun, an inflatable bounce house rental business, and have recently added pastured poultry production to their farm operation. Justin serves as Chair of the Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau Young Leaders Committee.*

*Pertaining to their Farm Bureau involvement, Justin says: "After college, I decided to become involved because Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau had supported my education through the Foundation scholarship program. As I kept saying "yes" to opportunities in Farm Bureau, new doors were continuously being opened. We have now been able to host legislators at our farm to advocate for agriculture and participate in leadership development programs and contests at the state level. It cannot be overstated: If you value agriculture and our farming way of life, be proactive and get engaged in the conversations that Illinois Farm Bureau is having with our legislators and our communities."*



Justin and Bobby Allaman of Henderson County were recently named the 2023 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Excellence in Agriculture Award Runners-Up.