



AUGUST 2019 E-NEWSLETTER

Treasurer's Note

Congratulations!

One of the true pleasures of serving as the Illinois State Treasurer is being part of the annual Cream of the Crop photo contest.

The photo contest is part of the Ag Invest program and offers an opportunity for Illinois students to submit photos that depict their vision of agriculture in our state. First place photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material and be on display at the 2019 Illinois State Fair, Aug. 8-18. All winning photos will be featured in the 2019-2020 Ag Invest calendar.

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 Ag Invest, partners with eligible lenders to offer farmers annual and long-term, low-interest loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, processing, milling, transitioning, livestock purchases, and other costs.

I am proud to announce this year's winners:

Ages 8-10

- First Place: Payton Luebchow of Paxton with "A Day's Work."
- Second Place: Caleb Price of Auburn with "Peaches, Peaches."
- Third Place: Mia Tope of Campbell Hill with "Day's End."

Ages 11-14

- First Place: Austin Kammeyer of Manito with "Year 2019."
- Second Place: Drew Mickey of Taylorville with "A Harvest Sunset."
- Third Place: Drew Mickey, again, with "Nothing Runs Like a Deere."

Ages 15-18

- First Place: Tanner Mickey of Taylorville with “Sunset Harvest.”
- Second Place: Renee Gehrke of Byron with “Winter Wonderland.”
- Third Place: Alex Johannes of Ashley with “Triple Trouble.”

Winning photos can be seen [here](#).

To the winners, please accept my sincere congratulations. My thanks also go out to our judges, Gary Mueller of Havana National Bank, Rick Schramm of Illinois National Bank, and Mindy Bunselmeyer, FFA executive director.

To the families of the winners, know that your guiding hand can be seen in these images. Well done.

Sincerely,
Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer



Saving for Retirement

Secure Choice

Employers should know the next Secure Choice deadline is November 30.

Secure Choice is the retirement savings program that ***travels with the worker*** and helps a person save their own money for their own retirement when their employer does not offer a retirement savings plan.

By November 30, employers with a workforce between 25 and 99 individuals must offer a retirement savings plan or participate in Secure Choice. The deadline for employers with a workforce between 100 and 499 individuals was last month. The deadline for large employers was November, 2018.

Already, approximately 15,500 employees have saved \$3.6 million through Secure Choice.

When fully implemented, Secure Choice will give 1.2 million private-sector workers the ability to save at work. This is critically important to address the national retirement savings crisis because AARP research shows that workers are 15-times more likely to save if payroll deductions are offered.

Employers also are protected. Employers cannot contribute to the accounts, do not make decisions about how the program is managed or how the money is invested, and have no fiduciary liability.

Questions? Visit [here](#) or call (855) 650-6913.



ABLE

'When the Bus Stops Coming'

“When the bus stops coming” is a common phrase to some families with a child who has a disability.

It refers to the day when their child reaches the age of 18 or 22 and all school, educational support and intervention screeches to a halt.

“The bus stops coming” and the child and family are on their own.

Planning for that day is imperative. Illinois’ **Achieving a Better Life Experience** program provides saving and investment options without jeopardizing federal benefits.

\$15,000 can be contributed each year to an Illinois ABLE account. Contributions can come from parents, grandparents, family and friends. Earnings accrue tax-free and withdrawals from the account are tax-free when funds are used for disability-related expenses. Money can be used at any time – even before the bus stops coming.

To learn more about Illinois ABLE, visit www.illinoisABLE.com.



Save the Date

Live Auction Returns to State Fair

The live auction returns to the Illinois State Fair at the Lincoln Stage on Aug. 17 in Springfield.

Don't miss the opportunity to see Treasurer Frerichs and Illinois Agriculture Director John Sullivan serving as auctioneers on select items at the start of the auction. The auction preview begins at 9 a.m. The live auction begins at 11 a.m. and is likely to be completed by 2 p.m. The live auction booklet is [online](#) for collectors to review a complete list of unclaimed property items for auction.

The Illinois treasurer's office is the custodian of unclaimed property including lost bank accounts, insurance policy proceeds, and forgotten items in safe deposit boxes. Auctions are held because there is not enough room to secure all the items that we take in. Items such as baseball cards, jewelry and coins typically are auctioned after they have gone nearly a decade without being claimed.

The value of any item received in the auction will be available to the owner or heir forever because the state treasurer is legally required to return the property, or its value, no matter how long it takes.

2019 will be the fourth consecutive year the auction will be held at the fair after a 10-year hiatus.

Today, the treasurer's office safeguards more than \$3 billion worth of unclaimed property. Because thousands of items and millions of dollars in cash and securities are reported and remitted each year, residents should check I-Cash every six months. To find out if you have unclaimed property, visit www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH.