

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **New 5K Race will Celebrate Farming, Family & Education**

BLOOMINGTON – The IAA Foundation is gearing up for a brand new 5K Race and family fun event. The first annual Grow & Go, which takes place on Saturday, May 14 at 9 a.m., will celebrate Illinois farm families and the important role they play in putting food on your table.

Hosted entirely on the grounds of the Illinois Farm Bureau, COUNTRY Financial and GROWMARK Headquarters on Towanda Avenue in Bloomington, the 5K course has a cross-country feel with well maintained grass, pavement and a few rolling hills. Finishing times and results will be provided by the Lake Run Club of Bloomington/Normal. Youth ten and under can participate in the Cock-a-Doodle Dash where everyone wins an award!

Participants will learn more about our roots in agriculture while supporting a great cause. Proceeds from this race will benefit Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, a program providing free resources to teachers in an effort to help students make the connection between food, fiber, fuel and farming.

After the race/walk participants are invited to join an indoor open house featuring a hot breakfast and family fun activities. Kids will enjoy interactive learning stations and activities led by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom staff and volunteers, autographs from the Normal CornBelters, an appearance by “Corny” the mascot, free photographs, awards and a silent auction.

The 5K registration fee is \$20; after May 2nd the fee increases to \$25. A \$5 entry fee covers youth participating in the Cock-a-Doodle Dash. Registered participants will receive a t-shirt, water stops, professional timing, and a hot breakfast. Those interested in attending the open house and breakfast only can purchase tickets for \$7. Runners can go the extra mile and raise funds to support IAITC and earn free registration and other rewards.

“We encourage runners and families to join us for a fun-filled morning of activity in celebration of farming and in support of education” noted Susan Moore, Director of the IAA Foundation.

Complete event details and online registration are available on the IAA Foundation website at [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org) or by calling the Foundation office at 309.557.2230.