Grow Your Leadership in Agriculture

Where Your Next Step Could Take You

Leadership grows when you say yes to the next opportunity. Below are real ways to keep building your leadership across Illinois agriculture — from committee service to statewide programs to board leadership. Wherever you start, each one stretches your skills and widens your impact.

Opportunities Within ISA & the LEAD Program

Opportunity	What It Is & How to Grow Toward It
Committee Service *Ongoing*	Join an ISA committee to shape programs and priorities. A natural first step into governance-style work — bring your voice, learn how decisions are made, and build relationships.
Soy Envoy *Seasonal*	Represent Illinois soybean by sharing agronomic and industry insights. Builds communication, advocacy, and subject-matter credibility.
20 Under 40 *Recognition*	Be recognized among Illinois agriculture's emerging leaders. Raises your visibility and connects you to a strong peer network.
Environmental Policy Task Force *Project-based*	Contribute to policy conversations shaping the industry's future. Sharpens strategic thinking and stakeholder awareness.
LEAD Ambassador / Mentor *Continued in LEAD*	Advance to the Ambassador pathway — mentor others, host sessions, and guide the next cohort. Deepens your leadership by developing others.
ISA Board of Directors *3-year term*	Help steward the association's mission and resources. The board's own journey mirrors your growth: Year 1 Learn, Year 2 Lead, Year 3 Mentor.

Broader Agriculture Leadership Paths

Opportunity	What It Is & How to Grow Toward It
Illinois Ag Leadership Foundation *2-year program*	A statewide leadership development experience for ag professionals — travel, seminars, and a powerful alumni network.
Farm Bureau Young Leaders *Ages 18–35*	Professional development, advocacy, and community engagement for young agriculture leaders across Illinois.
Cooperative & Community Boards *Ongoing*	Local co-ops, county groups, and community organizations always need capable, principled leaders. Excellent governance experience close to home.
Lead Where You Are *Every day*	Mentor a colleague, chair a project, or raise the bar on your own operation. Leadership is a habit before it is a title.

Your Next Move

- Pick ONE opportunity above that stretches you over the next 90 days.
- Talk with your LEAD facilitator or a mentor about how to step in.
- Add it to your 30-60-90 leadership plan — and say yes when the door opens.

"The future of our industry will be shaped by leaders like you. Grow with intention — and lead wherever you're called to."