



Illinois Agri-Women Coffee Chats – 2024  
[Register Here!](#)

## Rachel Berry

CEO, Illinois Hemp Growers Association



Rachel Berry is the founder and CEO of the Illinois Hemp Growers Association, a women-led benefit corporation and grassroots organization representing hundreds of grassroots members.

She is a first-generation regenerative farmer raising poultry, growing heirloom vegetables, native medicinal plants, and industrial hemp with her family on their 13 acre farm. Her work is dedicated to building the resources and relationships necessary to grow a sustainable and equitable Illinois hemp industry.

Rachel represented the Illinois Hemp Growers Association in an interview with Phil Ponce, host of WTTW's Chicago Tonight. She has also been featured in interviews by the Lancaster Farming Industrial Hemp Podcast, the National Hemp Growers Co-Op, the Global

Hemp Association, WCBU Peoria, Grow Greater Englewood's Grow Your Own Series, the iHemp Hour, the Mike Nowak Show, on NPR's The 21st, and in many more media and guest appearances. She has partnered with the IL Dept. of AG, IL Farm Bureau, McHenry County College's Center for Agrarian Learning, Chicago Cannabis Company, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Prairie Liberty Foundation, University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Olive Harvey College, Illinois College, Midwest Hemp Council, iHemp Michigan, IL Cannabis Training Center, and many others to provide educational and hands on experience.

In addition to being the Founder and CEO of a grassroots organization and regenerative farmer, Rachel is a community organizer, educator and dedicated volunteer. She serves on the board of directors for the [Illinois Stewardship Alliance](#) and believes local food matters and that hemp should be a part of local food systems in the future. She also served as Director of Regional Leaders for the [U.S. Hemp Building Association](#) as an advocate for hemp building professionals, projects, and materials in the United States. She sits on the [Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations for the National Hemp Association](#).

She provides education for children and students, including at the Illinois State Fair, National FFA Convention, Bureau County Soil & Water Conservation District, Critter Barn, Illinois colleges and universities, and more.

Rachel is a 2022 graduate of the Illinois Farm Bureau's [Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Program](#).