



YOUNG LEADER EXCHANGE AND MEETING WITH LEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

-- Rock Island County young farmer Todd Stegmiller (far left) listens to the Geneseo Brewing Co. brewmaster talk about the foundation needed to start brewing their own beer and how a local farmer started the business during the recent Young Leader Exchange. The Henry, Rock Island and Mercer Young Leaders met Feb. 20 at Sweet Pea's in Geneseo with the Lee County Farm Bureau Young Leaders to discuss ideas and programs in each other's county as well as socialize with other young farmers in the area. Following dinner, the group traveled to the Geneseo Brewing Co. to learn more about this new business and its growth in the past two years. Over 30 young leaders attended the event. The Mercer and Rock Island County Young Leaders is a group of young farmers and agribusiness professionals that meet four to five times a year to network and brainstorm projects for the area. Currently, the group is meeting at Brickhouse Pizza in Reynolds in the "off season for farming." If you are interested in being added to their meeting notices -- please contact the office or email dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org or contact Joe Franks Mercer and Rock Island Young Leader Chair.



CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER VISIT -- Congresswoman Cheri Bustos' Ag and Natural Resource Legislative Director Lyron Blum Evitts (center) is pictured with RICFB President Marty McManus (left) and IFB District 3 Director Jeff Kirwan (right) during a visit at Kirwan's farm March 10. Lyron spent an entire afternoon and evening touring a local farm and attending the Henry/Rock Island Market Outlook. Blum-Evitts, a native of northern Maine, was able to see first-hand what area farmers deal with in regard to regulations on their farm or with farm retailers. Blum-Evitts also toured Chad Bell's farm to see his conservation practices he's implemented on his farm to help with improving water quality.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE EVENT

-- March 18th marked the 5th for the Women in Agriculture event at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island. The Women in Agriculture conference is sponsored by Deere and Company and River Valley Cooperative and is headquartered at Rock Island County Farm Bureau with major efforts led by 11 additional county Farm Bureau managers in Illinois. This year's keynote speaker, Wisconsin DairyGirl Network founder and dairy farmer Laura Daniels (pictured), did a great job of encouraging women to focus on their strengths. Laura used the analogy of baler twine and barn time and encouraged us all to use those to live a life with purpose. She shared stories of good times and not-so-good times that allowed her to move forward in her life's path and life's dream of running her own dairy farm. Save the date for 2017 of March 17!



Rock Island County Board Members Drue Mielke (District 22) and DeWayne Cremeens (District 2) talks with Brent Riewerts and Denny Van Daele.



Rock Island County Board Member Kai Swanson and Brent Riewerts talking shop.



MACHINE SHED COOKOUT

Rock Island County Farm Bureau board members host 2nd annual Machine Shed Cookout with county board members and state representatives.

For the second year in a row, the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Committee and Board of Directors hosted Rock Island County board members and state representatives for an informal conversation about Rock Island County. This year's event was held March 31 at Todd DeClercq's machine shed in rural Hillsdale. Last year's event took elected officials to Bill Onken's machine shed near Illinois City. The board's plan was to move it to the upper end last year and they completed that project. Next year will feature a machine shed stop in the "beltway" section of Rock Island County. Those Farm Bureau members attending were: Brent and Lindy Riewerts, Marty McManus, Bill Onken, Dennis and Cherie Van Daele, Mitch and Laura Jurevitz, Gary Smeltzly, Travis Smeltzly, Mike Smeltzly, Arlan Cox, Todd and Char DeClercq, Drew Hohenboken, Steve Simpson, and Rich Morthland. District 1 County Board Member Chris Filbert has decided not to run again and the Farm Bureau is pleased to see Farm Bureau members Steve Simpson and Rich Morthland each running for that position.

MACHINE SHED EVENT

-- Pictured in photo at left, from left: Rock Island County Board Chairman Moose Maranda, RICFB Vice President Brent Riewert (hidden), Farm Bureau member Arlan Cox, Laura Jurevitz (hidden), RICFB Director Mitch Jurevitz, RICFB Governmental Affairs Chairman and Director Bill Onken, Rock Island County Board Member (District 16) Kai Swanson, Rock Island County Board Member (District 22) Nick Camlin.

FARMLAND VIEWING AT PUTNAM

-- (Rock Island County Farm Bureau teamed up with Mercer, Henry and Scott County (Iowa) Farm Bureau at the Putnam Museum on Friday, Feb. 19, for their monthly Science Night. The Science Night included make-and-takes, Agriculture in the Classroom displays and the main attraction was the free showing of the documentary, Farmland. Over 20 volunteers from the participating CFB's helped at the event, which drew over 100 parents and children to the science night and over 175 people viewing the Farmland movie. Following the 77-minute viewing of the movie, WQAD's Jim Mertens moderated a Question and Answer time with local farmers. RICFB's Phil Fuhr participated along with IFB Director Jeff Kirwan, Scott County farmer Robb Ewoldt, former Rock Island County resident Tara Bohnert Yoder and Henry County farmer Megan Seys Dwyer. Thanks to the Putnam for choosing to make their February science night all about agriculture!



KWQC WOMEN'S HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE FAIR -- Rock Island County Farm Bureau teamed with Mercer, Henry, Warren Henderson and Knox CFB's to participate for the second year in a row at KWQC's Women's Health and Lifestyle Fair at the Davenport Rivercenter. The reason for the involvement is for our farmers to build a connection with consumers and women who are involved in the purchase of their food budget. Over 1,200 measuring cups were handed out and the booth featured a display about hormones in food. The display is available on loan if necessary. The 1,200 measuring cups were gone by 11:45 a.m. due to the huge turnout!

Calendar of Events

APRIL 2016

18 Board meeting; 7:30 p.m.

Notice the slim calendar of Farm Bureau meetings -- it's the season for fieldwork and planting! Stay safe, everyone!