



FARM BUREAU'S "BUSHELS FOR HUNGER" MARKS 1.6 MILLION MEALS



Pictured L to R: Leslie Corlett, Director of Donor Relations of River Bend Food Bank; Chris Ford, Chief Operating Officer of River Bend Food Bank; Jeff Kirwan, IFB District 3 Director

Quad City Illinois farmers are helping local families with a donation to the River Bend Food Bank through the Bushels for Hunger program for the fourteenth straight year. After fourteen years, total contributions by the Bushels for Hunger program will exceed \$324,000 with this year's \$23,902 contribution. This year's total contribution now brings the total amount of meals donated to over 1.6 million.

Mercer County Farmer and Illinois Farm Bureau District 3 Director Jeff Kirwan presented the donation of \$23,902 to Chris Ford, Chief Operating Officer of the River Bend Food Bank in Davenport.

"Thanks to the generous donations of thousands of bushels of grain to the Bushels for Hunger campaign, local farmers worked together to fight hunger in the Quad City community with these funds" Kirwan said.

"We are extremely grateful to the Henry, Mercer

and Rock Island County Farm Bureaus and all of the Illinois Farmers who contribute to this donation year after year," said Nancy Renkes, President & CEO of River Bend Food Bank. "I am continually amazed at the generosity shown from our farming community. We appreciate and admire their commitment to solving hunger."

The Bushels for Hunger program is a joint program coordinated by the following three Illinois County Farm Bureaus: Henry, Mercer and Rock Island in conjunction with the following area grain elevators and ethanol plants: Atkinson Grain, Big River Resources, Cargill, CHS, Gold Star FS, Hillsdale Elevator, River Valley Cooperative and Rumbold & Kuhn.

Thank You!
14th Annual BUSHELS FOR HUNGER
 Total Meals Since 2010: 1,623,128
 This Year: 119,511 Meals Provided
\$23,902.35 Donated This Year
 Grand total Since 2010
\$324,626
 Proceeds benefit the River Bend Food Bank
 Sponsored by the Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island County Farm Bureaus

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 12 Freezer Meal pick up
- 15 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 21-27 National Volunteer Week
- 22 Earth Day
- 22-23 Rockridge FFA Ag Day

MAY – BEEF MONTH

- 1 Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship applications due
- 15 IVET applications due
- 20 RICFB Board of Directors meeting

Want to stay up to date with upcoming events? Send us your email to accounts@ricofarmbureau.org and like us on Facebook!



NURSING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE

The Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for nurse practitioner scholarships. This year, a total of 15 scholarships, each worth \$4,000, will be granted.

This scholarship program, which has been running for 32 years, aims to encourage and develop a strong pool of rural health practitioners to address primary healthcare needs in rural areas of Illinois. Recipients of the scholarships are required to practice for two years in an approved rural area within the state.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be Illinois residents and either accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as Registered Nurses. The funding for this program is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications can be obtained from county Farm Bureaus® across the state, the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by contacting Donna Gallivan, the Program Manager, at Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. The deadline for applications is May 1.

For further information, please feel free to reach out to Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or via email at dgallivan@iflb.org.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR VETERINARY STUDENT LOANS

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focusing on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

"Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals," said Tasha Bunting, IFB associate director of commodities and livestock programs. "To succeed, farmers need the services

of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an increase in demand in recent years."

Applications are due May 15 and can be found online at www.iflb.org/IVET. The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2023. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$590,000 to 28 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at 309-557-2993 or tbunting@iflb.org.