



## Event targets women farmland owners

REYNOLDS, Ill. -- Women who own or manage farmland in Rock Island, Mercer and surrounding counties are invited to participate in a free conservation discussion and field tour Aug. 21 in Reynolds.

"With women now owning or co-owning between one-fourth and one-half of the farmland in the Midwest," said Jennifer Filipiak, natural resources conservationist for the American Farmland Trust, "our goal is to connect these women with the conservation resources they need to make sound decisions".

Women Caring for the Land meetings bring together women landowners in an informal, discussion-based learning format for a women-only morning discussion followed by a more in-depth look at two or three topics of high interest. Female conservation professionals are on hand to answer questions and share resources. "These meetings have been well-received in other parts of Illinois," remarked Rich Stewart, Area Conservationist with the Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District, "and we're looking forward to bringing this unique educational oppor-

tunity to our area."

Following lunch, area conservationists will lead a bus tour to view conservation practices on the ground.

Topics for discussion range from soil health and water quality, wildlife management and government cost-share programs, to how to talk with tenants about management practices. The meeting is presented in partnership with the Women Food and Agriculture Network, who pioneered the program in Iowa.

"We have worked with women landowners for 15 years," said Leigh

Adcock, WFAN executive director. "They are some of the most dedicated conservationists in the region, but are typically overlooked with traditional conservation outreach, which is targeted at the tenant farmer."

On Aug. 21, coffee and registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9. A free lunch is provided. The program will end with refreshments at 3 p.m.

RSVP by 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, to Sally Ferguson, Rock Island County SWCD, by calling 309-736-7432. If you need accommodations, please notify

Sally when you RSVP.

This session of Women Caring for the Land is sponsored by American Farmland Trust in partnership with the Women, Food and Agriculture Network, the Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Rock Island County Farm Bureau. Funding comes from a Conservation Innovation Grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

More information can be found at <http://womencaringfortheland.org/illinois/>

### Calendar of Events

#### AUGUST

- 11 Ballots returned to office
- 14 Nominating Committee meets to count ballots
- 18 Board Meeting and Annual Meeting/Election of Directors and officers  
6:30 p.m. – Annual Meeting; regular Board meeting and Election of Officers takes place immediately following adjournment of Annual Meeting
- 28 AgXPerience Presenter Orientation and Workshop; Rock Island County Fairgrounds – 6 to 7:30 p.m.; past and future presenters attend! Dinner provided!

#### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day; office closed
- 10 Foundation Board Meeting at 7 pm
- 15 Board meeting; 8 p.m.
- 15-16 AgXPerience setup
- 19 Farm Bill and On the Road seminar – see article this paper
- 17-19 AgXPerience 2014



#### Summer Ag Institute

The 14th Summer Ag Institute was held the first week in July under the direction of Rock Island County Ag Literacy Coordinator Sheryl Solomonson and her husband, Orion Ag teacher Jay Solomonson. These 14 area educators completed the week-long class that included stops at farms and businesses related to agriculture. Pictured, from left, are: Amy Hardin, Andrea Hogue, Dee Litchfield, Cheyenne Stockton, Leanne Hinton, Christenel Cain, Jay Solomonson, Gina Rowe, Tammy Gorham, Todd Rittenhouse, Jennifer Dean, Jennifer Schnell, Shelia Puls, Natalie Parrett, Karna Frerichs, Sheryl Solomonson. Not pictured: Pam Whittington.

## Farm Bill, On the Road seminars

The County Farm Bureaus of Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, Stark and Whiteside will hold informational seminars on Friday, Sept. 19, focusing on the Farm Bill and Motor Vehicle Laws for Illinois Farmers.

The seminars will take place at the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Campus, Riverfront Hall 103/104, 3300 River Drive, Moline, IL.

The Farm Bill Overview will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m. and the second session, "On the Road," will be 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

#### Farm Bill Overview – 10 a.m.

**SPEAKERS:** Doug Yoder, senior director of affiliate and risk management

at Illinois Farm Bureau; and Jonathan Coppess, clinical assistant professor of law and policy at University of Illinois

**TOPICS:** Update options; Safety Net choices; Payment Limits; Program Eligibility; Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO); Crop Insurance Changes

#### "On the Road" – 12:30 p.m.

**SPEAKER:** Kevin Rund, senior director of local government at Illinois Farm Bureau

**TOPICS:** Trucking Laws Important to Farmers; New & Pending Laws Impacting Motor Vehicle Operation including Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, USDOT

Number Registration, Unified Carrier Registration; and Recap of Fundamentals

Join us Friday, Sept. 19, at the WIU-QC Campus in Moline for these seminars covering two very important topics for area farmers. A complimentary lunch will be available for those individuals registering for both sessions.

The seminars are free, but advanced registration is requested. Individuals may attend one or both segments of the seminar.

Please contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau at (309) 736-7432 or email [info@ricofarmbureau.org](mailto:info@ricofarmbureau.org) to make your reservation.

## Join the conversation

We are farmers committed to having conversations with consumers, answering their questions about food and farming, and sharing what happens on today's Illinois family farms.



We need farmers like you to join us. Start at  
[www.watchusgrow.org/farmer](http://www.watchusgrow.org/farmer)  
[www.facebook.com/illinoisfarmfamilies](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisfarmfamilies)  
<http://twitter.com/Ilfarmfamilies>



Funded in part by the Illinois soybean checkoff, Illinois corn checkoff, Illinois pork checkoff, Illinois beef checkoff and the Illinois Farm Bureau.

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### STAY CONNECTED

Make sure we have your updated email address for email blasts. And remember our website address [www.ricofarmbureau.org](http://www.ricofarmbureau.org). Remember to use our website for access to theme park info, online Adventureland tickets, and more information regarding your Farm Bureau member benefits!

## 99th Annual Meeting

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau will be Monday, Aug. 18, 2014, at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office at 1601 52nd Ave., Suite 3, Moline, Ill., and will start promptly at 6:30 p.m.

No meal will be served. Only a business meeting and official business will take place.