



Calendar of Events

AUG. 2018

7	District 3 Meeting
8	Know your Ag Environment
14	Ballots returned to office
20	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	Property assessments with Brenda Matherly; 10 a.m. RICFB office; call the office to register

SEPT. 2018

3	Labor Day; office closed
6	Kickoff to 2018-2019 Henry Rock Island Market Outlook with Jerry Gulke
17	Board Meeting Time to TBA based on harvest conditions

Questions about your farmland assessments?

Call the office to reserve your spot for an update on how farmland is assessed in the State of Illinois on Aug. 28 at the RICFB office 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Illinois Farm Bureau's Assistant Director of Local Government Brenda Matherly.

Call the office to reserve your spot (space is limited to 50 spots) 309-736-7432 or email accounts@ricofarmbureau.org.

103rd Annual Meeting

of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau

will be held on Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office at 1601 52nd Ave., Suite 3, Moline, IL, and will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. No meal will be served. Only a business meeting will take place.

Changes made regarding AgXPerience and AITC

In late April after discussions regarding funding issues with Extension, and Extension not being able to fund the AITC program, the RICFB made a commitment to take on AITC 100 percent.

With that change, the decision was made to discontinue the AgXPerience in 2018.

The event started in 2005 as a two-day morning event at the Rock Island County Fairgrounds. The goal was to bring a field trip from the farm to the city. The event grew from two days to three days, engaged the John Deere Pavilion and required a volunteer work-

force of over 100 individuals – presenters, livestock “suppliers,” classroom escorts, FFA chapters and pre- and post-setup/teardown.

As with any event – there is a lifespan.

The transition aims to provide a virtual field trip to area classrooms that would expand AITC and career exploration into more classrooms with “field trips on demand.”

As a result of this change, Rock Island County Farm Bureau hired Sheryl Solomonson part time to continue the AITC and consumer engagement. She is currently working with

local Farm Bureau families and experts and a local videographer to provide these 10-minute “virtual agperiences” in the coming year.

With this change in funding/support we are restructuring the local Ag in the Classroom program. We will still have Ag Mags available but will be refining our available kit/activity offerings. We will be focusing on middle school/junior high programs with careers in agriculture.

Sheryl can be reached at the RICFB office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at aitc@ricofarmbureau.org.

Next Market Outlook seminar Sept. 6 to feature Jerry Gulke

Jerry Gulke, The Gulke Group, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, Sept. 6, at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 U.S. Highway 6, Colona.

The evening will begin with a buffet dinner at 6:15 p.m., followed by an update from Gold Star FS Grain Merchandiser, Mike Schaver. Reservations must be made by Aug. 30 to guarantee a meal.

Jerry Gulke was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm near Ellendale, N.D. He received his degree in electrical engineering from North Dakota State

University and an MBA from Northern Illinois University. In 1976, he began farming full time in northern Illinois and is currently active in the corn and soybean production along with the overall management of the farm.

It was his common-sense ability to manage his farm and market his production successfully in some of the most troubling times in agriculture that ultimately led to contributing to Top Producer magazine. After gaining the respect and attention among producers, it led Jerry into the field of consult-

ing and the formation of The Gulke Group Inc.

Cost for the series is \$75, and a single session is \$25 (if not pre-registered, cost will be \$30).

To make reservations, please call the Henry County Farm Bureau 309-937-2411, Rock Island County Farm Bureau 309-736-7432 or Mercer County Farm Bureau 309-582-5116.

The Market Outlook Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees.

SWCD offers free nitrate tests

Farmers in the three-county area of Henry, Rock Island, and Mercer counties can have their tile water tested for nitrates on a once-a-month basis.

Water to be tested can be collected from field tiles, streams or ponds. The testing and results are for private land owners or operators only. This test is free and confidential. The SWCD or NRCS office will not keep the results. A sheet will be provided to the farmer to keep track of their own results.

Some important guidelines for farmers to know in collecting their water samples are:

- Sample containers should be clean and free of any residual chemicals or detergents.

- Samples need to be at least 8 ounces.

- Samples should be taken as close to the testing time as possible (preferably within 48 hours) and be kept refrigerated if not being tested immediately.

- Samples can be frozen if testing will take place after 48 hours.

An estimate of the flow will allow additional calculations (load in pounds per day) – simply record the seconds it takes to fill a 2-gallon bucket. A limited

supply of 2-gallon buckets are available at each office.

Henry County SWCD will run the tests on the second Tuesday of every month during the growing season. Rock Island County SWCD test date will be the third Tuesday of every month, also during the growing season. And Mercer County SWCD will be the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Dates for the first sample that can be brought into their offices are:

- Henry County – Aug. 14
- Rock Island County – Aug. 21
- Mercer County – Aug. 28

Times to bring in the samples for each test are scheduled for 8 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

This program was designed to engage farmers in the nutrient and water quality issues facing agriculture by providing information on possible nutrient losses from their production operations.

The sensors are being provided in part by IL Corn Growers Association and the Zea Mays Foundation. They are meant to provide a way for farmers and

landowners to confidentially test their water (tile, ditch and stream) for nitrate nitrogen.

By comparing their own water testing results to other known concentrations and research results, farmers can begin to understand their own impact on water quality and consider management practices which may reduce their losses. These results are simply a snapshot in time of ambient nutrient levels in water collected from tile drainage, surface runoff or nearby streams.

Nutrient levels in runoff water can vary greatly depending on the time of year, temperature, rainfall and in-field practices. A measurement of flow (the volume of water leaving a site) would also be needed to determine the total nutrient loading into a water body and a measurement of acreage being drained would be needed to know the pounds per acre leaving the field.

These test results are just a starting point for learning and for discussion of the practices available for farmers to reduce their nutrient losses.

For more information, call the Rock Island SWCD office at 309-764-1486, x3.