



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 10 Centennial Planning Committee meeting Farm Bureau office 3:30 to 5 p.m.
- 15 Ag Roundtable 12:30 p.m.
Monthly board meeting; exec at 5:45 p.m.; full board 6:30 p.m.
- 24-25 Office closed; Merry Christmas!
- 31 Office closed

JANUARY

- 1 Office closed; Happy New Year 2015
- 18-20 QC Farm Show
- 19 Board meeting
- 26 Farm Bill meeting; 1:30 p.m. at Stoney Creek

Farm Bill questions?

Get answers at meetings

Mark these two dates on your calendars for meetings closest to you:
Jan. 26 Stoney Creek Moline; 1:30 p.m.
Feb. 9 Camden Center (Milan Community Center) 10 a.m. (offered by Country Financial's Steve Sim; to register call 309-764-3116)
To register for your meeting, call the RICFB

office to register — 309-736-7432 or email info@ricofarmbureau.org.

Landowners have until Feb. 27 to decide whether to reallocate base acreage or update payment yields. Farmers can choose between ARC (Ag Risk Coverage) and PLC (Price Loss Coverage) from Nov. 17 through March 31.

Those who don't make a decision will automatically be enrolled in PLC.

Visit ilffb.org/farmbill to get the upcoming dates for the IFB Farm Bill meetings.

Quick Picks



Women in Ag to feature Dr. David Kohl

If you are a woman involved in agriculture and want to network with ladies from throughout Iowa and Illinois, then save the date on your calendar.

For the fourth year, Rock Island County Farm Bureau is leading the coordination for the bi-state Women in Agriculture Conference on Friday, March 20, at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island. Registration is available at www.womeninagricultureconference.com or contact the RICFB office for more details at 309-736-7432 or email DeAnne@dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org.

Our featured speaker this year is nationally known agriculture expert and economist, Dr. David Kohl. Kohl received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from Cornell University. For 25 years, Kohl was professor of agricultural finance and small business management and entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. He was on special leave with the Royal Bank of



David Kohl

Canada working on advanced initiatives

for two years, and also assisted in the launch of the successful entrepreneurship program at Cornell University. Kohl is professor emeritus in the agricultural and applied economics department at Virginia Tech.

Kohl regularly writes for Corn and Soybean Digest and other ag lending publications.

Kohl has addressed the American Bankers Agricultural Conference for more than 35 consecutive years, and has appeared before numerous state bankers' schools and conferences throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the world. He has also been one of the top rated instructors at the LSU and Colorado Graduate Schools of Banking, and is Chancellor of Farm Credit University, which has trained over 700 lenders using an online and face-to-face educational approach.

Kohl is currently president of AgriVisions, LLC, a knowledge-based consulting business providing cutting-edge programs to leading agricultural organizations worldwide. He is also

a business coach and part owner of Homestead Creamery, a value-added dairy business in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

On a more personal note, Dave enjoys playing basketball and likes most sports, farms, dogs and covered bridges; he dislikes lazy students, administrative bureaucracies and paperwork!

For the second year, conference hosts are offering a Thursday night "couples" seminar with dinner on Thursday night with a different topic by Dr. Kohl.

Additional speakers will include: Cathy Ekstrand, Stewart Peterson Consulting

Martha Smith, University of Illinois Horticulture Educator, Tim Harris of Capital Agricultural Property Service, Rita Cook of Coalition to Support Iowa Farmer's and Lauren Lurkins of Illinois Farm Bureau.

Conference brochures will be mailed out after Jan. 1; visit the www.womeninagricultureconference.com website for more details.

Rock Island County Farm Bureau

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Website:

www.ricofarmbureau.org

Check us out on Facebook

HOURS

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed on holidays

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dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org

Office Manager/ Membership and Bookkeeping, Karen DeDecker — karen@ricofarmbureau.org

Part-time Administrative Assistant, Connie Searl

BUSHEL for HUNGER



August 1 - January 31

Tell a participating elevator that you would like to donate. Proceeds support the River Bend Foodbank. Participating elevators:

ADM
Atkinson Grain
Big River Resources
Cargill
CGB
Gold Star FS

Hillsdale Elevator
Michlig Grain
Patriot Renewable Fuels
River Gulf Grain
River Valley Cooperative
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Mielke gives talk on board downsizing

Rock Island County Board Member Drue Mielke addressed the RICFB Board of Directors' monthly meeting Nov. 17. Mielke provided background and update behind the downsizing of the county board from 25 to 15 members.

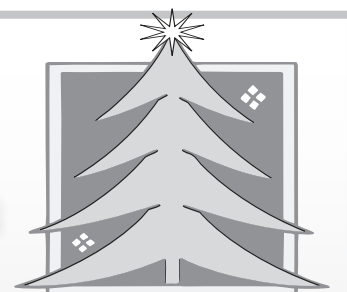
RICFB opposed the original proposal to downsize several years ago due to concerns over rural representation in a smaller board. The RICFB has been attending county board meetings for the past two years as well as several committee meetings to have a better understanding of how the county board members and leadership were solving county matters, especially those impacting the financial position.

Board members also inquired about the proposed negative budget that was to be approved Nov. 18, as well as the future of the Hope Creek Nursing Home after November election referenda results.

Watch for future surveys on the critical issues facing Rock Island County residents regarding Hope Creek and future building needs.

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Merry Christmas



from the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and staff — we wish you a blessed holiday with family and friends.

CLOSED HOLIDAYS

In observance of the upcoming holiday seasons, our office will be closed the following days:
Christmas Eve Day — Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014
Christmas Day — Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014
New Year's Eve — Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014
New Year's Day — Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015