



## Calendar of Events

### FEBRUARY 2015

16 Board meeting; 6:30 p.m.; Executive Committee; 6 p.m.  
25-26 Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference in Springfield

### MARCH 2015

4 Market Outlook with Elwynn Taylor at Lavender Crest  
16 Board meeting – 8 p.m.  
21 Women in Agriculture Conference at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island

## Seminar geared toward women in agriculture

Are you a woman who is involved in agriculture? Are you actively farming, working in the industry or married to a farmer? If so, then we have the conference for you! Join us for a one-day seminar for women in agriculture.

Join more than 200 women for the annual bi-state Women in Agriculture Conference on Friday, March 20, at the daylong conference at Jumer's Casino and Hotel, 777 Jumer Drive, Rock Island. This year's featured speaker is Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus at Virginia Tech. Dr. Kohl will speak about personal family budgets/living expenses, record keeping, investing in the future, advice on forming advisory teams and much more!

The conference planning committee is offering a Thursday night dinner and conversation with Dr. Kohl. The Women in Agriculture Conference Committee would like to invite Women in Agriculture attendees and their spouses to attend this evening designed just for farm couples.

The evening will begin with a social hour featuring a cash bar at 6 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by Dr. Kohl's presentation, "Building Resiliency and Agility." Kohl will discuss financial management and strategic factors that will position your operation and personal lives to be resilient.

Friday breakout sessions will include:

- Coalition to support Iowa Farmers; speaker: Rita Cook, Coalition to Support Iowa Farmers
- Farm Leases; speaker – Tim Harris, Capital Ag Property Services
- Work, Balance, Life; speaker: Jennifer Best, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
- Consumer Dialogue vs. Producer Monologue; speaker: Linda Olson, Illinois Farm Bureau
- Marketing "It's What Sets You Apart" (Marketing 101) AND "Does this Marketing Plan Look Good on

Me? (Marketing 201); speaker: Cathy Ekstrand, Stewart-Peterson Group

■ Vegetable Gardening; speaker: Martha Smith, University of Illinois Extension

■ Environmental Issues Facing Agriculture; speaker: Lauren Lurkins, Illinois Farm Bureau

■ Food Preservation: Canning; speaker: Vera Stokes & Rachel Walls, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Registration and a light breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. Friday's conference will begin with opening comments at 8:30 a.m. Our closing session and send off should conclude by 4 p.m.

The cost of the Thursday evening program will be \$30 per person (spouses and guests are invited). The cost for Friday's conference is \$50, which will include a light breakfast and a plated luncheon. Registration materials must be received by Feb. 28. Any registrations received after February 28 will be \$60. Walk-ins the day of the conference will be charged \$75. Seating is limited. To register, contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office at (309) 736-7432 or online at [www.womeninagricultureconference.com](http://www.womeninagricultureconference.com).

If you need a hotel room, Jumer's is offering a special rate for conference participants on Thursday night. To make your reservation, call 800-477-7747 by March 6th and ask for the Women in Agriculture Conference in March 2015.

River Valley Cooperative and John Deere are Platinum sponsors and original sponsors to this conference. Conference planning committee leadership is brought to you by the Bureau, Carroll, Fulton, Henry, Knox, Lee, Mercer, McDonough, Rock Island, Stark, Warren-Henderson, and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus in Illinois as well as the Scott County Farm Bureau in Iowa.

## Fowler scholarship offered

The Bernice E Fowler scholarship is open to a Rockridge High School graduating senior or graduate who is pursuing a degree of study in the education field. Bernice E. Fowler taught for 11 years in an Illinois City one room school house. She continued teaching second grade at Grant School in Moline where she retired with a 25 year teaching career.

This scholarship has been established

by her son and will yield a \$ 1,000 scholarship each year beginning in May of 2013.

This scholarship was established late in 2012 and the application can be downloaded at [www.ricofarmbureau.org](http://www.ricofarmbureau.org). Preferred candidates will be pursuing a degree in education.

For more details, please contact the RICFB office at 309-736-7432 or email [dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org](mailto:dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org).

## Reduced property taxes, conservation are vegetative filter strip benefits

The Vegetative Filter Strip Assessment Law, passed by the state of Illinois in 1997, provides tax incentives for vegetative filter strips. A "vegetative filter strip," will be valued at 1/6th of its productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland if it meets the requirements of the law and is certified by the soil and water conservation district.

This voluntary program applies to land that is between a farm field and an area to be protected,

including but not limited to surface water, a stream, a river, or a sinkhole. To qualify, the land must also meet the following: Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications; uniform ground cover; heavy fibrous root system; tolerant to field pesticides; conservation plan created and on file in SWCD office.

Interested landowners must request assistance of the Soil and Water Conservation District for

either developing or implementing a conservation plan, or in certifying an existing vegetative filter strip. The landowner must file the signed certification form with the County Supervisor of Assessments.

Vegetative filter strips are an extremely beneficial conservation practice. Filter strips protect and improve water quality, provide shelter for small birds and mammals, and reduce soil erosion.

## Farm Bureau in action

It's a new year and time to connect with our elected officials. On Jan. 13, Bill Onken and Brent Riewerts met with then Sen.-Elect Neil Anderson on the eve of his swearing in. Onken and Riewerts spent 90 minutes with Sen. Anderson talking about the agriculture issues that may likely come up in the session. Anderson was named Minority Spokesperson for the House Ag Committee and also serves on Transportation and Education.

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and her new district direc-

tor, Christopher Shallow, spent time at the QC Farm Show on Sunday, Jan. 18, meeting various farmers and vendors. President Marty McManus and Manager DeAnne Bloomberg talked with Bustos about upcoming coming TPA, WOTUS and also family farm continuation. Bustos' district director also attended the January board meeting where he talked with farmers about key issues in farming and agriculture.

Shallow is a Northwestern University graduate and a Chicago native.



## Office staff retires

Office staff retirements opened the new year as Karen DeDecker, left, office manager, retired Jan. 16 from the Farm Bureau organization with 15 years of service. Karen and her husband, Mark, farm with their son and daughter-in-law southeast of Cambridge.

Connie Searl, right, part-time seasonal clerical help, also retired from Farm Bureau after helping the Farm Bureau since 2004. Connie Searl resides with her husband, Rollo, on their farm outside of Port Byron. Prior to helping the Farm Bureau, Connie retired from Deere after

30-plus years.

DeAnne and the board are extremely grateful for the exceptional service they provided to the membership organization.

The bookkeeping service is being done by Carroll County Farm Bureau Manager Chas Welch through a six-month agreement. Due to changes in dues payments through combined billing, DeAnne and the board are reviewing their needs in office staffing for the first six months of the new year. Meanwhile, temp clerical staff is assisting DeAnne as needed.

## Apply for scholarships

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to announce the 2015 Foundation Scholarship Program. Applications for the scholarships are due to the Farm Bureau office in Moline through March 27, 2015 until 4 p.m.

Applications are available at [www.ricofarmbureau.org](http://www.ricofarmbureau.org). New this year – applicants can apply online and email more information as requested in the application.

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation will be awarding three \$1,000 scholarships. These scholarships have been established by the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation and are supported through contributions from local families. The applicant must be a high school senior. Applicant must be a member or dependent of a member in good standing of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau since January 2014. Applicant can be

majoring in any field.

Applicants may apply for the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship, as well as, the Keppy Scholarship. Scholarship applications will be judged separately, however, applicant can only win one scholarship from the RICFB Foundation per year. NOTE: An applicant can only win one Keppy scholarship per year and previous Keppy Scholarship winners are ineligible from receiving future Keppy Scholarship funds. Criteria for selection will be achievements in agriculture activities, including an essay, leadership in school and the community, scholastic achievement, and financial need.

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation also awards 2 scholarships for the Wilbert and Carol Keppy Foundation. Applicants may be a graduating high school senior or currently enrolled in an undergraduate college degree program.

## Market Outlook March 4

Dr. Elwynn Taylor, professor of ag meteorology at Iowa State University, will be the featured speaker on Wednesday, March 4, at the 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 F&S Grain Merchandiser, Mike Schaver.

Cost for a single session is \$25 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$30). Reservations must be made by February 25 to guarantee a meal. To make reservations, please call the Henry County Farm Bureau (309) 937-2411 or the Rock Island County Farm Bureau (309) 736-7432.

Dr. Elwynn Taylor is an Iowa State professor in agronomy and climatology. Taylor received a degree in botany and physics with a climatology minor from Utah State University, before moving on to receive his Ph.D. in botany and meteorology from Washington University in St. Louis.

Business or leisure, student or professional, you will benefit from the common sense approach Dr. Taylor has delivered by press, presentations, and radio over more than 30 years. His interviews in the Wall Street Journal on impacts of drought and flooding, his New York Times article on heat and AstroTurf, his full-color half-page photograph of Arches Monument in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and his down-to-earth weather outlooks in Country magazine express the scope of his understanding and experience. His explanations of global warming and related weather events and how they impact life and our economy are clear, insightful and concise.

Additional speakers for the series will include Andy Shissler, Roach Ag Marketing, on July 9.

Cost for a single session is \$25 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$30). Reservations must be made by Feb. 25 to guarantee a meal. To make reservations, call the Henry County Farm Bureau (309) 937-2411 or the Rock Island County Farm Bureau (309) 736-7432.

The Market Outlook Series is sponsored by the Henry and Rock Island County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees, Gold Star F&S, Bank Orion, Patriot Renewable Fuels, Steve Sim - Country Financial, 1st Farm Credit Services (Aledo & Geneseo); Big River Resources and Wells Fargo.