



Women in Ag Seminar March 18

Join over 200 women for the annual bi-state Women in Agriculture Conference on Friday, March 18, at the daylong conference at Jumer's Casino and Hotel, 777 Jumer Drive, Rock Island. This year's featured speaker is Laura Daniels, a mother, wife, farmer, dairy consultant and agriculture advocate. Laura will share her refreshingly honest views about life's ups and downs and will help you see that you need tools to cope, because life isn't all sunshine and roses.

The conference planning committee is offering a Thursday night "Work, Life, Balance- If There is Really Such a Thing" Social Hour. Friday morning will begin with Daniels as keynote speaker, and a market update by Cory Winstead from AgriVisor, followed by a range of breakout sessions. Again this year the event will wrap up with a live

"Confessions of a Farm Wife" Podcast.

Registration and a light breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. Friday's conference will begin with opening comments at 8:45 a.m. Our closing session and send off will conclude by 4 p.m.

The cost of the Thursday evening program is \$20 per person. The cost for Friday's conference is \$50, which will include a light breakfast and a buffet luncheon. Registration materials must be received by Feb. 28. Any registrations received after Feb. 28 will be \$60. Same-day registrations are \$75. Seating is limited. To register or get more details, contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office at (309) 736-7432 or online at www.womeninagricultureconference.com.

Weather analyst to lead Market Outlook March 10

Mark Russo, Senior Weather Analyst at Riskpulse, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, March 10, 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.

Riskpulse's mission is to synthesize commerce and climate. Based in Chicago, Russo works within the weather operations team to analyze weather trends and develop forecasts for the energy and agriculture markets along with supply chain/logistics risk management. Mark specializes in forecast applications that are unique to each customer and market.

Prior to joining Riskpulse, Russo was a key member of the weather team at Chesapeake Energy, where his duties included supporting the firm's hedging, marketing, and operations units. In addition, he provided accurate and timely weather forecasts and developing weather trends directly to high-stakes commodity hedgers, traders and analysts for agribusiness companies associated with an agriculture weather consulting service. Before starting up the weather department for Chesapeake Energy in 2003, Russo was a meteorologist with Citigroup/Smith Barney for over five years, where his duties included weather impacts on the energy,

agriculture and retail sectors.

Throughout his professional career, Russo has been active in the American Meteorological Society. Not only has he served in the private sector mentorship



Mark
Russo

program and energy committee, but also as president of the local Chicago chapter. Additionally, he has advised the National Academies of Science/ National Research Council regarding NOAA weather and climate data and has given numerous

presentations to energy and agriculture associations. Outside of work, Mark is a huge sports fan, especially baseball, and resides in the western suburbs of Chicago with his wife and three children.

Cost for a single session is \$25 (if not pre-registered, cost will be \$30). Reservations must be made by March 3 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.

Additional speakers for the series will include: July 12, 2016 – Dan Basse, Ag Resource Co.

You're invited!

COUNTRY Financial® presents Tom Hegna

"Don't Worry, Retire Happy. 7 Steps to Retirement Security"

At COUNTRY Financial® we care about keeping our customers informed when it comes to their future. That's why we'd like to invite you to learn about planning for a secure retirement with Tom Hegna, a bestselling author and retirement expert. Tom's message is about understanding retirement risks and setting a path to a secure financial future.

Where VFW Hall
106 S.W. 3rd Avenue, Aledo, IL 61231

When Tuesday, February 23, 2016 | 5:30 p.m.

RSVP **Rock Island County Farm Bureau - 309-736-9637**
Limited seating for dinner and presentation.



No cost to attend. This seminar is hosted for informational purposes and is not intended to promote any product or service. By reserving a place in this seminar, we may contact you about insurance or financial products in the future. The views and opinions of Tom Hegna are his own and are not adopted or endorsed by the COUNTRY Financial family of companies or their representatives. 0116-551H0

Friday Family Fun Night at the Putnam!

ROOTED IN AG

February 19 from 5-8:30 pm

Come to the museum and learn about ag with fun
hands-on activities!

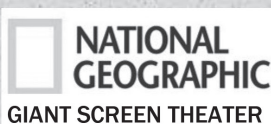
(General Admission and Package Pricing Apply)



Join us at 6:30 pm for a special GIANT screen viewing of "FARMLAND", a film by James Moll that explores the lives of young farmers and ranchers in America. This special viewing of the film is FREE of charge with a Q & A session following!



1717 West 12th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52804
(563) 324-1933



NEWS & NOTES

- Ralph Miller will be back at the RICFB on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning in February to prepare taxes. Contact Ralph directly to schedule an appointment. If you need his phone number – please contact the RICFB office at 309-736-7432 or email info@ricofarmbureau.org.
- January's board meeting included meeting with Rock Island County Board Member Richard Brunk to talk about the lingering discussion on downsizing the Rock Island County Board. Concerns have been raised by the Farm Bureau regarding the rural representation in the past. While downsizing the county board is getting a lot of press – Farm Bureau board members spent extra time pushing for continued emphasis on the need to reduce costs in county operations that are negatively impacting property taxes. County Board member Rod Simmer also addressed the board regarding Hope Creek's status.
- Have you seen "Farmland" (the movie) yet? Well, join us for a free showing at the Putnam Museum on Friday, Feb. 19! It's part of the Putnam's Family Science Night that will also feature hands-on activities like Farm Charm and Beanie Baby! A question-and-answer discussion will follow the movie, moderated by WQAD's Jim Mertens. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. and is a 77-minute showing!
- 2015 plat books for sale at FB — \$30 for Farm Bureau members! Cash or check!

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2016

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| 15 | Board Meeting; 7:30 p.m. |
| 19 | Putnam Museum's Science Night with the movie "Farmland" (movie starts at 6:30 p.m.); FREE |
| 20 | Henry, Lee, Mercer and Rock Island County Young Leader Exchange
Reservations required!; call RICFB office or email – accounts@ricofarmbureau.org
Rock Island County Fair Trivia Night Teamsters Hall in RI |
| 23 | Rock Island SWCD Nutrient Management workshop – Reynolds Legion |
| 23 | Tom Hegna Financial Workshop presented by Country; Aledo VFW, 5:30 p.m. – reservations required: contact RICFB or your local agent |

MARCH 2016

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| 10 | Market Outlook with EarthRisk Technologies Mark Russo at Lavender Crest 6:15 p.m. |
| 18 | Women in Agriculture Conference at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island |
| 19 | Centennial Farm Bureau Kids Day at John Deere Pavilion; 10 to 4 |
| 21 | Board Meeting |
| 23 | Foundation Board meeting; 5:30 p.m. |