



## Top AITC volunteers

Darryl and Karen Anderson of Andalusia were presented the 2015 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Volunteer of the Year award during Illinois Farm Bureau's annual meeting in Chicago Dec. 5-8.

Darryl and Karen Anderson, who retired from teaching at Edison Junior High and Moline High School, respectively, have been involved with the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom program for more than 15 years. Karen serves as secretary-treasurer for the Quad Cities area Meat Goes to School program, coordinating funds for the 3,500 middle and high school students who participate annually.

Both Darryl and Karen have recruited volunteers and trained presenters for the county's annual AgXPerience program. Both have completed the Rock Island County Farm Bureau's Summer Ag Institute, which helps instruct teachers about new developments in agriculture. Karen is a member of the Teacher Advisory Council and Darryl welcomes students to AgXPerience each day during the three-day event.

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Volunteer of the Year award recognizes county volunteers who have done an outstanding job with Agriculture in the Classroom and agriculture literacy efforts. Since 1983, 81 individuals have been recognized for contributions to agriculture literacy.



Darryl and Karen Anderson were recognized as 2015 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Volunteers of the Year (shown here with IFB President Richard Guebert, left).



Rock Island County Farm Bureau recognized Rock Island County Farm Bureau President Martin McManus accepts a recognition plaque for its achievements during 2015. The Rock Island County Farm Bureau was recognized for its achievements during the 101st annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau held in Chicago on Dec. 5-9. A member of Membership Group V, Rock Island County received a bronze in Ag Literacy. Group V are those county Farm Bureaus with 5,516 and more members – the largest CFB membership group.

### Calendar of Events

#### JANUARY 2016

- 7 Young Leader Social 6:30 pm at Brickhouse Pizza in Reynolds; RSVP to dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org
- 8-13 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting – Orlando, Fla.
- 14 Teacher Advisory Council Meeting; FB office at 4:30 p.m.
- 17-19 QC Farm Show at QCCA Expo Center
- 18 Farm Bureau Board Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Rock Island County Board meets at 5:30 p.m. at third-floor County Office Building
- 22-23 IFB Young Leader Conference Peoria
- 30 Big Data Seminar featuring Growmark's Ron Milby and Precision Planting's Sean Arians at WIU QC campus – Riverfront rooms 103-104; 9:30 a.m. to noon; offered by Mercer and Rock Island County Young Leaders – open to all ages; RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR LUNCH PLANS
- 31 Last day to donate to Bushels For Hunger

#### FEBRUARY 2016

- 15 Board Meeting; 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Putnam Museum's Science Night with the movie Farmland

#### MARCH 2016

- 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
- 21 Board Meeting
- 23 Foundation Board meeting; 5:30 p.m.
- 19 Rock Island County Board meets at 5:30 p.m. at third-floor County Office Building

## Apply now for scholarships

Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship applications, available at [www.ricofarmbureau.org](http://www.ricofarmbureau.org), are due to the Farm Bureau office in Moline by March 31.

The scholarships were 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 and a member or dependent of a member in good standing of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau since January 2015. The 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. Applicants can only win one scholarship from the RICFB Foundation per year.

#### Rockridge students:

The Bernice E. Fowler Memorial Scholarship is open to a Rockridge High School graduating senior or graduate who is pursuing a degree in education. This scholarship has been established by Fowler's son and yields a \$1,000 scholarship each year.

Applications can be downloaded at [www.ricofarmbureau.org](http://www.ricofarmbureau.org).

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

### 1916/100 YEARS/2016

## RICFB's beginnings

By Caroline Neumann  
CENTENNIAL CORRESPONDENT

Picture rural life in the early years of the 20th century. Houses were heated by wood or coal. Water had to be pumped by hand for both people and livestock. Mother cooked on a wood-fired cookstove and lit the kerosene lantern for light. You may or may not have had a telephone. The outhouse was out in the back of the yard. Going to town might be a once-a-week event by horse and wagon over dirt roads. Horses provided the power for plowing and planting.

However, the world was changing. With the introduction of the Ford Model T in 1908, automobiles started to become available and affordable for middle-class Americans. In 1902, two engineers invented a tractor powered by an internal combustion engine and farm mechanization began. Henry Ford also got into the tractor business in 1917 with the Fordson tractor. With its light weight -- only one ton -- and low cost it soon dominated tractor sales.

Science also focused attention on improved methods of farming. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established the Cooperative Extension Service that provided educational programs for rural Americans about advances in agricultural practices and technology. Monetary funds and county agents were available to counties that organized farmers so that information could be shared.

On Jan. 25, 1916, the Rock Island Farm Bureau was formed, although its first name was the Rock Island County Agricultural League. The league changed its name to the Rock Island County Farm Bureau in 1919. The organizers of the Rock Island Farm Bureau held three early meetings which they devoted to perfecting the framework of the organization.

The organizers were:

- Charles Quick, Cordova
- Casper Eckhardt, Buffalo Prairie
- Samuel Woodburn, Port Byron
- Dr. R. C. J. Meyer, Moline
- Clarence Saddoris, Coe
- Charles King, South Moline
- Frank Schafer, Port Byron
- C.G. Buck, Coal Valley
- Seth Wilson, Canoe Creek
- J.W. Baily, Rural
- Homer Daily, Zuma
- L.E. Wilson, Blackhawk
- Albert Bowles, Bowling
- C.J. Searle, South Rock Island
- A.L. Freeburg, Bowling
- F.T. Shearman, Edgington
- John G. Powell, Drury
- Dan Parmenter, Andalusia

The organizers envisioned a place where farmers could join their efforts, share their ideas and solve mutual problems, as well as protect their interests in Washington, D.C. The Illinois Agricultural Association also formed in 1916 with a few early county Farm Bureaus forming the core of the organization. The first order of business for Rock Island County Farm Bureau was to secure a Farm Advisor. This person had to be approved by the Committee on Farm Advisors at the University of Illinois, must have actual farm experience, be a graduate of an Agricultural College, and have five years of successful agricultural experience following graduation. The Farm Bureau president, Sam Woodburn, appeared before the County Board of Supervisors and secured office space for the organization in the courthouse and an appropriation of \$1,000 per year for three years to secure the services of a Farm Advisor. P.R. Edgerton of Marion, Ind., was selected from seven candidates as the first Farm Advisor.

## NEWS & NOTES

- Rock Island County native Tara Yoder of Knox County was named the Young Leader discussion meet winner at the annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau in Chicago on Dec. 5-8. Yoder, who is in her final year of eligibility for the IFB Young Leader discussion meet, encouraged other young farmers to get involved early so they get a taste of the activities and how the discussion meet works. She will now represent Illinois in the national Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet at the AFBF annual meeting in January.
- 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](mailto:info@ricofarmbureau.org).

Stop and see us at the

### QC Farm Show

Jan. 17-19!

Stop by Rock Island County Farm Bureau booth (shared with Rock Island County SWCD and located in the northeast corner of the QCCA Expo Center) at Quad Cities Farm Show Jan. 17-19 and receive a free sandwich coupon (with paid 2016 Membership) at the concessions booth at the QCCA Expo Center during the Farm Show. 2015 plat books will also be for sale with current paid FB members receiving a \$5 off coupon.