ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU
NEWS
July 2026 Editor: Tara Mayhew

Rock Island County Farm Bureau 110th Annual Meeting August 18, 2025

The 110th Annual Meeting of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau was held on Monday, August 18th at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau® office in Moline.

President Marty McManus welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge to the Flag was said. Secretary Dennis VanDaele certified that the notice of the 110th Annual Meeting was printed in the July issue of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau® News which was mailed to all members in July 2025 and certified that a quorum of members was present at the meeting. President McManus called the meeting to order.

President McManus stated the 109th Annual Meeting minutes printed and handed out. President McManus asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as printed. A motion was made to approve the 109th Annual Meeting minutes as printed. Motion passed. The draft audited financial statements for the year ending May 31, 2025 were printed and handed out at the January 2026 board of directors meeting. The Fiscal Year, ending May 31, 2025 reported total assets of $1,302,523 – liabilities of $119,374 and a profit of $ 80,344. A motion was made to accept the Financial Report as of May 31, 2025. Motion passed.

Continuing with the business meeting, President McManus entertained a motion to approve the acts and deeds of the Board of Directors of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau for the past year. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

A motion was made and seconded that the Board of Directors of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau be authorized to appoint the delegates to the Illinois Agricultural Association Annual Meeting to be held in December of 2025, and any other meetings that may be called. Motion carried.

President McManus then called on Trent Zwicker to report on the nomination and election of Directors. Trent reported that the Nominating Committee, comprised of Tyson Freyermuth, Trent Zwicker and Drew Hohenboken sent a call for nominations to all members entitled to vote in the election of Directors in the Rock Island County Farm Bureau July newsletter. Everyone who was nominated was contacted, and those who were otherwise qualified and willing to serve were placed in nomination for Director from the appropriate district. Election ballots were prepared and mailed to each voting member of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau®. He then announced the results of the election, stating the following individuals received the highest number of votes in each district:

District 1: Kevin Oak, Chris Reid, Joe Franks

District 2: Dennis VanDaele, Rodney Derrer, Ethan Coyne

District 3: Wes DeClercq, Scott Bohnert, Andrew Kruckenberg

Secretary Dennis Van Daele certified the results of the Election of Directors, and declared each of the individuals elected to the following terms on the Board of Directors:

One-year term: Kevin Oak, Dennis VanDaele, Wes DeClercq

Two-year term: Chris Reid, Rodney Derrer, Scott Bohnert

Three-year term: Joe Franks, Ethan Coyne, Andrew Kruckenberg

President McManus declared that the Board of Directors would hold their monthly meeting tonight, Monday, August 18th at which time the election of officers for the coming year would be held.

President McManus called for further business. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Van Daele - Secretary

Farm Bureau at the Fair!

We want to wish all of our 4Hers the best of luck at the Rock Island County Fair! We will have our booth in the Copeland Center again. Stop by and see us! You can renew your membership, grab information on member benefits and upcoming programs, snap a pic in our tractor cut out, and pick up a youth ag bag full of ag health and safety resources, along with a healthy snackle box (while supplies last)! 4H Club Leaders – we have "Mind Your Melon" books for each club. And don't forget the pedal tractor pull for kids age 12 and under on Wednesday, July 15th. Check-in starts at 2:30pm and the pull starts promptly at 3:30pm! Come join the fun!

STUDENT SUMMER SPOTLIGHT WITH EMILY SADDORIS

We are starting a new series this summer called Student Summer Spotlight! We have students doing amazing things over the summer and we want to hear all about it! Study abroad trip? Internship? We want to highlight our students' experiences and share them with our membership. Interested in sharing your summer? Email Tara at tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org to learn more. Our first Student Summer Spotlight is Emily Saddoris!

I am Emily Saddoris, a junior at Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Studies and International Agriculture. I am originally from Port Byron, Illinois. This past May, I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad for two weeks through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The program, Greece and Italy: Food, Culture, and Agriculture, allowed me to experience agriculture from a global perspective while exploring the history, culture, and food of both countries. My time abroad was filled with hands-on learning, unforgettable experiences, and great memories with fellow Iowa State agriculture students.

Highlights from Italy (Rome and Naples)

- Toured a dairy farm that produced and sold fresh mozzarella. We enjoyed a traditional farm-to-table meal featuring products made right on the farm while learning about their automated milking system and mozzarella production process.
- Explored a 950-acre plant nursery divided into six sections representing different continents, each showcasing the unique plants and growing conditions found around the world.
- Visited the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, where we learned about its role in addressing global food security, sustainable agriculture, and hunger challenges.
- Visited iconic historical sites including the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Vatican City, and Pompeii.
- Participated in a pasta and pizza cooking class, where we learned traditional Italian cooking techniques and enjoyed the dishes we created!

Highlights from Greece (Athens and Thessaloniki)

- Participated in an olive oil tasting and learned about the importance of olive production to Greece's economy and culture.
- Visited a rice farm to see agricultural practices and production methods used in the region.
- Toured a vineyard and winery, where we learned about grape production and the winemaking process. The vineyard we visited created 14 products from their grape vines but not wine.
- Explored historic landmarks including the Acropolis, the first Olympic Stadium, and Aegina Island, gaining a deeper appreciation for Greece's rich history and culture.
- Experienced Greek food, traditions, and agriculture firsthand while learning how the country's agricultural systems compare to those in the United States.

This study abroad experience expanded my understanding of global agriculture, introduced me to new cultures, and created memories that I will carry with me throughout my career and life. I am incredibly grateful to Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for providing students with opportunities like this. The experience strengthened my passion for agriculture and gave me a broader perspective on how agriculture connects people around the world. I look forward to studying abroad again in the future and applying the knowledge and experiences I gained to my future career.

111th Annual Meeting of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau

will be held Monday, Aug. 17, 2026 at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office, 1601 52nd Ave, Suite 3, Moline, Illinois.

The meeting will start promptly at 6:30pm.

No meal will be served.

Only a business meeting and official business will take place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

1	Birdies for Charity pledge forms due
3	Office closed for 4th of July
8	YL pedal tractor pull at Mercer County Fair
14-18	Rock Island County Fair
15	YL pedal tractor pull at RI County Fair
20	RICFB Board of Directors meeting
25	Millie Moo Foundation Golf Outing

AUGUST

5	District 3 meeting
12	District 3 Young Leaders Discussion Meet
13-23	Illinois State Fair
14	Ag Day at Illinois State fair
17	RICFB Annual Meeting, followed by regular board of directors meeting
19	RICFB Foundation Board of Directors meeting

WANT STAY UP TO DATE WITH EVENTS?

SEND US YOUR EMAIL TO ACCOUNTS@RICOFARMBUREAU.ORG AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!