



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU

NEWS

June 2024

Editor: Tara Mayhew



Foundation Awards \$15,500 in College Scholarships

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2024 Scholarships. These awards are given to outstanding high school and college students who have achieved a well-rounded high school and collegiate career and understand the value of volunteerism. These applicants were selected based upon their academic, school, and community involvement by an independent committee appointed by the Rock Island County Farm Bureau® Foundation Board of Directors.

This year, the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation awarded one \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior. The 2024 Foundation Scholarship winner is:

- ▶ **Keegan Bohnsack**, son of Jay and Sarah Bohnsack, a 2024 graduate of Rockridge High School. He will attend Black Hawk College East Campus this fall, where he will study Agribusiness and Animal Science.

These scholarships have been made possible thanks to the financial gifts from several families. We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to the family of Myron and Helen Mueller who donated over \$5,000 to the Foundation in support of funding one of the Foundation Scholarships each year beginning in 2009. Currently, because of their additional giving, the funds have grown and will help fund a Foundation Scholarship each year until the funds are exhausted. The Lowell Johnson Charitable Foundation and the Churchill Family Foundation have annually contributed \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively towards the scholarships for the RICFB Foundation as well. The family of Glenn Mueller has also donated funds in support of Foundation Scholarships.

KEPPY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

This year, four students will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for their continuing education courtesy of the Wilbert and Carol Keppy Charitable Foundation. The 2024 Keppy Scholarship winners are:

- ▶ **Cassie Bohnert**, daughter of Scott and Karen Bohnert, a 2024 graduate of United Township High School. She will study Dairy Science at Iowa State University this fall.
- ▶ **Emily Sadoris**, daughter of Michael and Amy Sadoris, a 2024 graduate of Riverdale High School. She will attend Iowa State University this fall with plans to study Agriculture Studies.
- ▶ **Chloe Strachan**, daughter of William and Mary Strachan, a 2024 graduate of Rockridge High School. She will study Elementary Education at Monmouth College this fall.

Welcome Mia Freyermuth as New Ag Literacy Coordinator

Join us in welcoming Mia Freyermuth as our new Ag Literacy Coordinator! In her new role, she will oversee our Ag In The Classroom program, teacher workshops and Summer Ag Institutes, and the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Coalition Grant. She can be reached at aitc@ricofarmbureau.org. Mia is a previous recipient of both the Wilbert & Carol Keppy Foundation and George & Irene Stulz Family scholarships from the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation. She previously interned in our office during the summer of 2021, during which she took charge in planning our ag scavenger hunt at the fair. Read on to learn more about Mia and why she is excited about joining our Farm Bureau team:

I grew up in Illinois City, IL, and attended Rockridge High School. After completing my high school career, I completed my Associate of Arts at Illinois Central

- ▶ **Amelia Rursch**, daughter of Darrin and Keri Rursch, a 2023 graduate of Rockridge High School. She is studying Politics and Law at Rhodes College.

GEORGE AND IRENE STULZ FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

This year, two students will receive \$1,000 scholarships towards their post-secondary education courtesy of the George and Irene Stulz Family Scholarship. The 2024 Stulz Scholarship winners are:

- ▶ **Desiree Reid**, daughter of Joseph and Christina Reid, a 2022 graduate of Rockridge High School. She will be a junior at Iowa State University this fall, where she is majoring in Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine.
- ▶ **Jennifer Abbott**, daughter of Jason and Julie Abbott, a 2023 graduate of Orion High School. She will be a junior this fall attending the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign studying Agricultural Communications.

The Stulz Family Scholarship was established in 2018. The scholarship awards monies to post-secondary students enrolled as a Junior or Senior at a four-year university with a career focus in an agricultural field.

KENNETH BUSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This year, one graduating high school senior will receive a \$2,000 scholarship toward their post-secondary education courtesy of the Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship. The 2024 Bush Scholarship winner is:

- ▶ **Maya Hakes**, daughter of Daniel and Andrea Hakes, a 2024 graduate of Annawan High School. She will study Nursing at St. Ambrose University this fall.

The Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship was established in 2020 by the Kenny Bush Family. Kenny and Marilyn Bush have been long-time supporters of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau and its Foundation. Inducted into the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation in 2011, both served on the foundation board of directors for a number of years. Their belief of hard work, education, and the value of family and faith is of the utmost importance in life. Kenny also served as the Vice-President of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau from 1968-1970 and President from 1970-1974. Kenny Bush passed away in April 2020 and his family dedicated a generous scholarship contribution to be awarded annually in his honor.

For more information regarding the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation and their scholarships, visit www.ricofarmbureau.org/foundation.

College and transferred to Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. Leaving WIU, I have my Bachelor's in Agricultural Business with minors in Animal Science and Pre-MBA. I will be obtaining my Master's in Business Administration through Western Illinois University and graduate in the spring of 2025. While my time at WIU has been short, I have received numerous awards within the School of Agriculture and College of Business and Technology: Outstanding Senior (School of Agriculture) and the Michael P. Kelly Award (CBT). The agriculture industry has developed my skills, communication ability, and work ethic. I strive to be a good role model for those interested in our industry which is why I believe in connecting with the youth of our tomorrow through Ag in the Classroom.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE – DAIRY MONTH

- 10-13 Awesome Agriculture Summer Ag Institute – RI, Whiteside, Bureau, Lee, Marshall-Putnum CFBs
- 11-12 Ag In A Day Summer Ag Institute – RI, Henry, Mercer, Knox, Stark, Warren-Henderson CFBs
- 17 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 19-20 Audit Field Day
- 25 Market Outlook Planning Committee meeting, The O Kitchen, Orion
- 25 Registration deadline for Market Outlook seminar

JULY

- 2 Market Outlook seminar with Matthew Kruse, Lavender Crest Winery
- 4-5 Office closed for 4th of July
- 15 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 16-20 Rock Island County Fair
- 17 Meet Your Farmer program at fair
- 29-30 Presidents Conference
- 30 Policy Resolutions Committee Meeting during Presidents Conference

Market Outlook Seminar featuring Matthew Kruse

Matthew Kruse, President of Commstock Investments, will be the featured speaker on Tuesday, July 2 at 6:15 p.m. at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Dinner will be served followed by an update from Tom Parchert, River Valley Cooperative. Reservations are required and must be made by June 25 to guarantee your attendance.

Matthew Kruse is a 5th generation farm manager who grew up on a farm near Royal, Iowa. He is President of Commstock Investments, an agricultural risk management firm providing brokerage services, market research and crop insurance to clients throughout the United States.

Beginning in 2002, Mr. Kruse co-founded an investment company that purchased and operated farmland on the frontier of Brazil. As Chief Operational Officer, he lived and worked on-site in Brazil for nearly 14 years, overseeing production of approximately 22,000 acres of soybeans, corn and cotton. He is fluent in Portuguese and has earned dual Brazilian citizenship. Mr. Kruse is actively engaged in production agriculture through his family farm in both Iowa, as well as in Brazil, producing soybeans, corn, coffee and milk.

Mr. Kruse received two bachelor's degrees from Iowa State University in Political Science and Communications. He earned his Executive MBA from Walden University. He has participated in The Executive Program for Agriculture Producers at Texas A&M. He is an Accredited Farmland Manager through ASFMRA. He holds Series 3, 30, and 31 licenses.

Cost for the single session is \$35.00 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$40.00). To make reservations, please call the Rock Island County Farm Bureau (309) 736-7432.

The Market Outlook Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees in conjunction with: Gold Star FS; BankORION; COUNTRY Financial - Alan Davis, Crop Insurance; Central Bank; COUNTRY Financial - Brent Bigham, Tracy Bigham, Chad Nelson, John Waugh; Big River Resources; River Valley Cooperative; Diamond Ag; Wyffels Hybrids; Compeer Financial (Aledo & Geneseo offices); COUNTRY Financial - Dan Kniss, Mike Geuns, Eric Henderson, Julie Hessler, Tom McKie, Jerry Samuelson, Erin Spivey, Katie Spivey, Cassie Stahler; Blackhawk Bank & Trust; Hertz Farm Management.