



RICFB Board hosts machine shed cookout

For the fourth straight year, the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Board of Directors hosted a machine shed cookout for county board members and state elected representatives at Bill Onken's April 3. Onken served as an encore host for the second time. Eleven Farm Bureau directors spent two hours talking about county issues with the attending county board members. From left: Rock Island County Board Chairman Moose Maranda speaks with RICFB Director and Governmental Affairs Co-Chairman Bill Onken about his operation in the lower end of Rock Island County.

Food marketing workshops set

Fruit, vegetable and specialty crops farmers looking to better understand opportunities and risks in direct marketing are invited to attend one of three, one-day workshops across the state hosted by the Illinois Farm Bureau and FamilyFarmed.

"We're extremely excited about these workshops and the opportunities they'll offer for specialty crops farmers across the state," said Raghela Scavuzzo, manager, Local Foods Program, IFB. "The workshops will cover a variety of topics, including best practices in direct marketing, postharvest handling, and legal and food safety risk management; crop insurance options; developing risk management plans and strategies; and implementing specific best management practices on farms."

Facilitated by Minnesota farmer Pam Benike, the full-day workshops will be held May 10 at Henry County Farm Bureau, 128 N. Prospect St., Cambridge, 61238; all workshops begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude by 4 p.m.

"Farmers who market their products directly to consumers have to be a jack of all trades," Scavuzzo said. "These workshops will help them answer questions and learn more

about meeting customers' needs, seeking buyers and maintaining healthy relationships, and sorting and packing for wholesale markets, among other things."

In addition to the networking and information provided at each workshop, participants will:

- Receive two Risk Management news and resources e-blasts;

- Be introduced to the On-Farm Food Safety website, where they can create a free food safety plan;

- Be invited to join an online discussion group, where they can find technical assistance answer and participate in topic discussions; and

- Receive a copy of Direct Market Success: A Farmer's Guide to Farmers Market, CSA, Farmstand, Online and Restaurant Sales

"The information covered in these workshops is vital for any specialty crop farmer looking to expand his or her business," Scavuzzo said.

The workshops are free for interested participants, but registration is required by May 1. To register for any of the events, visit www.ilfb.org/LiveLocal.

Calendar of Events

MAY 2018

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| 8 | Scholarship Awards Luncheon; 11:30 a.m. at Happy Joe's in Milan |
| 10 | Direct Food Marketing Workshop Henry CFB – reservations required |
| 21 | Board meeting time to be decided based on planting and field progress |
| 28 | Memorial Day office closed |

JUNE 2018

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| 1 | Last Drop deadline for Summer Ag Institute for Teachers
Contact the FB office for details regarding fee schedule and dates |
| 18 | Board meeting; time to be decided |

JULY 2018

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| 4 | Independence Day; office closed |
| 6 | Celebrate Agriculture Night at QC River Bandits with WRMJ's Jim Taylor throwing out the first pitch! |
| 11 | Market Outlook with Al Kluis |
| 16 | Board meeting; time to be decided |
| 17-21 | Rock Island County Fair |



Riverdale FFA attend youth conference

Three hundred Illinois FFA members from 78 counties across the state participated in the 2018 Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Conference "Be Bold" April 16-17 in East Peoria. Attendees, who are juniors in high school, gained leadership, teamwork and communication skills through five breakout sessions and keynote speakers Keith "Doc" Patterson and Amberley Snyder. The conference Opportunity Fair offered students the chance to network with nearly 20 colleges, universities and agricultural organizations. Pictured, from left: Illinois FFA Vice President Rob Janssen and Riverdale students Mike Edwards and Matt Matkovich.

LOCAL FB HAPPENINGS

■ **"Food Evolution" screening** shared with 75 people at the Putnam Museum on April 11. The "Food Evolution" screening, thanks to a grant from Illinois Farm Bureau Consumer Communications Grant program, was a joint program with Henry and Mercer county Farm Bureaus. The event featured a question-and-answer event with local farmers. RICFB member Todd Stegmiller was the Rock Island County panelist and shared his experience in farming with convention and organic practices. The movie "Food Evolution" can be viewed via online through programs such as Amazon, Hulu, YouTube, GooglePlay and iTunes. The movie showcases the science facts behind GMO development.

■ **KWQC Women's Health and Lifestyle Fair** April 21: As part of the QC Regional Advertising Group, the Rock Island County Farm Bureau worked with six other county Farm Bureaus on hosting a booth at the April 21st KWQC Women's Health and Lifestyle Fair at the RiverCenter. The sponsorship featured a 10 a.m. presentation on the main stage by Dr. Lia Nightingale, Henry County Farm Bureau volunteer and professor of biochemistry at Palmer College. Her presentation focused on confusing labeling in today's food marketing world.

Cubs vs. Cardinals

bus trip to Wrigley Field



VS.



Friday, Sept. 28, 2018

Game time – 1:20 p.m.

Cost is \$100 per member
(Payment secures your seat)

*Offered and sponsored
by the RICFB and Mercer CFB*

FRIDAY JULY 6TH CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE NIGHT

Presented by:



GATES OPEN AT 5:35 PM

GAME TIME 6:35 PM

**POSTGAME FIREWORKS &
HOUSTON ASTROS WORLD SERIES**

RING GIVEAWAY

Show your Illinois Farm
Bureau card at the Modern
Woodmen Park Box Office
for \$3-off Admission!



RIVERBANDITS.com

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What's going on this summer?

Want to stay up to date
with upcoming events? Send
us your email to [accounts@
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us on Facebook!