

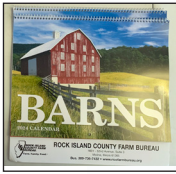
Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 1 Registration deadline for Market Outlook
- 8 Market Outlook featuring Ted Seifried
- 15 RICFB Foundation Board of Directors meeting
- 20 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 23-24 Office closed for Thanksgiving
- 29 Delegate Listening Session for IAA Annual Meeting

DECEMBER

- 2-5 IAA Annual Meeting
- 7 Section 3 FFA Leadership Training School – Acquaintance Day
- 18 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 25-26 Office closed for Christmas



We have 2024  
calendars available  
FREE to our members,  
while supplies last!

Stop in and see us to grab yours!

‘Bushels for Hunger’  
kicks off 14th drive

The Bushels for Hunger program is kicking off its 14th year of area farmers helping local families. Farmers can donate bushels of grain at participating elevators from Oct. 1, 2023, until Jan. 31, 2024. Proceeds from grain sales will benefit River Bend Food Bank and food pantries throughout the Quad City area. Since 2010, area farmers have donated over \$300,000 and provided over 1.6 million meals to those in need.

Mercer County farmer and Illinois Farm Bureau District 3 Director Jeff Kirwan is excited about the continued efforts of the campaign. “Fourteen years after its start, the Bushels for Hunger campaign is as strong as ever. Our local farmers continue to support the program and generously donate bushels of grain to help fight hunger in the Quad City communities,” Kirwan

says.

“We are extremely grateful for this partnership and all of the farmers who participate,” said Nancy Renkes, president and CEO of River Bend Food Bank. “It is another great example of the tremendous community support that can ultimately end hunger in our area.”

The Bushels for Hunger program is a joint program coordinated by the following three Illinois County Farm Bureaus: Rock Island, Henry and Mercer in conjunction with the following area grain elevators and ethanol plants: Atkinson Grain, Big River Resources, Cargill, CHS, Gold Star FS, Hillsdale Elevator, River Valley Cooperative and Rumbold & Kuhn. For more information, contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau.

D.C. trip beneficial  
for county managers

By TARA MAYHEW

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, I traveled with 18 other county Farm Bureau managers from across the state on our managers to Washington, D.C., trip. We landed and hit the ground running with a working lunch and briefings at the American Farm Bureau Federation building, hearing updates on the farm bill, renewables, WOTUS, pesticides and a farm economy update. We then spent an hour at the British Embassy learning about Britain’s ag industry and trade, and what agriculture has been like since Brexit.

After a group dinner, we traveled by trolley on the Monuments by Moonlight tour. The 2½-hour guided tour took us around Washington, D.C., to see various monuments and buildings. We had stops along the way so we could walk around and see some of the monuments up close. If you ever find yourself in DC with the opportunity to go on this tour, don’t pass it up! It was absolutely incredible and a wonderful way to see the city, all of the monuments, and what and who they stand for.

Wednesday was a full day, starting with IFB staff briefings. Rod Snyder, senior adviser for agriculture with the EPA joined us for updates on WOTUS, biofuels, pesticides and sustainable aviation fuels (SAF). Then we traveled

to PepsiCo, where we learned about the pep+ (PepsiCo Positive) initiative in which they are striving for positive action for the planet and its people. We learned that the company has contracts directly with farmers on corn, wheat, soybeans, beets and potatoes. They even have their own fleet of trucks and semis to transport products, which use large volumes of biofuels. They consider this their “Seed to Shelf” program. To learn more, visit goldengrowshare.com.

What was the most surprising about this stop was that PepsiCo has its own priorities relating to the farm bill: advancing regenerative agriculture, increasing access to nutritious foods and decreasing food waste, and promoting critical food and ag research for better food systems. We ended the morning with a tour of the Capitol by Rep. LaHood’s staff.

Wednesday afternoon brought some excitement as we were on the Hill when the new speaker was elected. We met with Senate Ag Committee member John Newton who says “we need to put more farm in the farm bill,” and House Ag Committee member Josh Maxwell, who stated that the new speaker has the farm bill as one of his priorities. He also applauded IFB’s efforts in political and lobbying engagement. We then spent some time visiting with House

GOP whip’s staff, who gave the group some advice when discussing bills with legislators. The day wrapped up in a meeting with United Airlines on sustainable aviation fuels and how much the aviation industry has committed to using ethanol-blended fuels to reduce their carbon footprint.

Thursday was the last day of the trip and the morning was spent at the USDA building. We met with NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer, learning about how the market-sensitive reports are put together. Then Foreign Agricultural Services Deputy Administrator Jeanne Bailey spoke about trade policy and geographic affairs and how US agriculture is linked to the rest of the world.

The last meeting of the trip was with Food and Nutrition Service Senior Technical Advisor, Susan Chittooran on food systems such as SNAP and WIC.

It was a fast and furious 3-day trip, but it was an incredible experience. I was reminded of the impact that Illinois Farm Bureau and its members have in our nation’s capital. I came home refueled and excited about IAA Annual Meeting and a busy upcoming winter season of programming. What we do makes a difference and we have to keep advocating for agriculture.

I look forward to this trip again in another four years!

Grants promote ag through AITC

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program continues to thrive as a resource for educating children about connections to agriculture. This week the program received funding to continue classroom lessons, thanks to IAA Foundation grants to local county coalitions.

Eighty coalitions serving 89 Illinois counties were awarded \$647,000 in grant dollars, which can be used for materials, training, educational lessons and activities taking place during the 2023-2024 school year.

“Providing these grants ensures teachers have the right resources to integrate accurate agricultural content into their classrooms,” said Kevin Daugherty, IAITC education director.

“The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation is a proud recipient of these grant dollars,” said Tara Mayhew, manager of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau and Foundation. “Approximately \$6,500 will go toward

Ag in the Classroom programming right here in our Rock Island County schools.”

Last school year, 582,594 students and 40,046 teachers engaged in ag literacy lessons through IAITC. County AITC programs presented 28,848 individual programs throughout the state. Classroom presentations, farm field trips, and agriculture expos add a new dimension to existing curricular standards.

“IAITC continues to help highlight Illinois’ No. 1 industry,” said Daugherty. “Student reach increased 182 percent, showing a positive trend as we adjust to post-pandemic education.”

County coalition grants are made possible through funding from the IAA Foundation, the charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau. The IAA Foundation raises money for the IAITC program each year, and in addition to county grants, provides funding for Ag Mags, teacher grants, Summer Ag Academics, and more.

“Consistent and sustainable funding is key for IAITC to have great results,” said Susan Moore, IAA Foundation director. “And knowing that so many Illinois students are making stronger connections to agriculture drives our donors to keep making ag literacy a priority, and we are grateful for that.”

Partner organizations of IAITC include Illinois Farm Bureau, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education, University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn Marketing Board, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Illinois Soybean Association, Midwest Dairy Association, Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In addition, annual donors include agribusiness partners and individuals with an interest in supporting the future of agriculture. For information on how individuals can contribute, visit [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). For information on IAITC, visit [www.aginthe classroom.org](http://www.aginthe classroom.org).

14th Annual  
BUSHELS  
FOR HUNGER

Grand total Since 2010  
\$300,723  
equaling 1.6 million meals.

October 1 – January 31

Tell your participating elevator  
that you would like to donate.

Atkinson Grain  
Big River Resources  
Cargill • CHS  
Gold Star FS  
Hillsdale Elevator  
River Valley Cooperative  
Rumbold & Kuhn

Proceeds benefit the  
River Bend Food Bank



Sponsored by the Henry, Mercer,  
and Rock Island County Farm Bureaus

We’d like to wish all of  
our members a very

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!

Our office will be closed Nov. 23-24.

