



Activator backs Anderson

Illinois Farm Bureau Activator announced State Sen. Neil Anderson (R-Moline) has been endorsed as a "Friend of Agriculture" by the local Activator trustee committee in the 36th State Senate District.

Local trustee members based their decision on Sen. Anderson's ongoing support of farmers in his district. Sen. Anderson's leadership on the Senate Agriculture committee has demonstrated that he understands agriculture and the issues farmers face.

"Neil Anderson continues to be a strong advocate for agriculture," said Brent Riewerts, member of the Activator Trustee Committee. "Our members appreciate his willingness to listen to the farmers in his district and work with us on many important ag issues."

The endorsement by IFB Activator places Anderson in a group of select individuals in the state who understand the leading role agriculture plays in Illinois. It proves that he comprehends the benefits of agricul-

ture, and that those benefits extend far beyond the vital function of feeding Illinois, the nation and the world.

Activator, Illinois Farm Bureau's Political Involvement Fund, is a voluntary, non-profit, segregated fund promoting the economic and social well-being of farmers that seeks to help elect pro-farm candidates no matter their party affiliation. Activator trustees are local Farm Bureau leaders representing each county in the Illinois General Assembly Legislative District.

Working with state elected officials

By Brent Riewerts

Vice President, Rock Island County Farm Bureau

Sen. Neil Anderson did something very simple this winter before he headed off to Springfield to start the General Assembly. He met with Bill Onken, Governmental Affairs chairman, and me.

Simple coffee and an hour of "what are your plans to bust through the gridlock in Springfield?"

During the conversation, Sen. Anderson asked Bill and me: What can we do in the General Assembly that won't cost the state anything and would help you?

Easy – do what Iowa does and pass an emergency harvest proclamation for the governor – that will last for maybe 45 days and allows farmers to get the crop out of the field without penalizing us because of weather obstacles. No ask for dollars – merely an easing of weight restrictions to help farmers get the crop out of the field and in the bin or to the river.

Sen. Anderson introduced the legislation, got it through committees, worked through the parameters of the regulations. It passed out of the Senate – no problem.

But now it's in the House. And it is stuck there. Bills get stuck in committee all the time in Illinois. Government does not function very well in Illinois. In fact – it is extremely top heavy, thick and cumbersome. There's government and then there's politics. We have failed as citizens, taxpayers and ultimately a state when we, the voters, stand aside without holding those at fault accountable.

The environment in Springfield is toxic, and its toxicity is spreading into other levels of government. It's spreading to the county budgets, it's been in the schools, affecting social service agencies and beyond. It's a nightmare.

We asked for help from our elected official. He pushed it forward. Now we want more leadership from more state elected officials to take back government in Illinois.

Your state can do nothing while they are doing it without you. That means you need to be more aware and help elected officials like Sen. Neil Anderson, who can make a difference and change the state of Illinois.

Bustos deemed 'Friend of Ag'

Illinois Farm Bureau Activator announced Oct. 3 at Bohnert Jersey's that it has designated Congresswoman Cheri Bustos a "Friend of Agriculture" and has endorsed her in her re-election campaign.

"Congresswoman Bustos has supported Farm Bureau positions on a wide range of issues," said Steve Fricke, Stephenson County Farm Bureau president and chair of the Activator Trustee Committee in the 17th Congressional District. "Her excellent voting record in support of Farm Bureau priority issues, and her continued outstanding effort and accessibility to farmers throughout her district make her an easy choice for the Friend of Agriculture award."

During her time in Congress, Rep. Bustos worked to restore the \$3 billion cut out of the federal crop insurance program in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement and voted to make Section 179 small business expensing a permanent part of the federal tax code.

Rep. Bustos also has thrown her weight behind the Renewable Fuels Standard, voted to repeal the Waters of the U.S. rule, and reject duplicative federal permits for some pesticide applications.

"Congresswoman Bustos is continuing to fight for farmers in her district by supporting trade, understanding that farmers — more than ever — need to find new markets and create more demand for our products," Fricke said. "She has been a leader in the effort to re-establish a strong agricultural trade relationship with Cuba and led a bipartisan congressional delegation to Cuba last year."

The designation as a Friend of Agriculture and endorsement by IFB Activator places Bustos in a group of select individuals who understand the leading role agriculture plays in Illinois. It proves that she comprehends the benefits of agriculture, and that those benefits extend far beyond the vital function of feeding Illinois, but also the nation and the world.

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Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

17 Regular Monthly Board Meeting – TBA based on harvest progress and conditions

NOVEMBER

16 Market Outlook with Naomi Blohm at Lavender Crest; 6:15 p.m.
21 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
24-25 Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER

3-6 IAA Annual Meeting @ Palmer House in Chicago
19 Farm Bureau Board Meeting
23 Office Closed for Christmas Eve
26 Office Closed for Christmas Day

Be ready to vote on these county-wide propositions:

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS

Shall a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a "sales tax") be imposed in The County of Rock Island, Illinois, at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes?

- YES
 NO

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

To pay for public safety purposes, shall Rock Island County be authorized to impose an increase on its share of local sales taxes by 1/2 percent? This would mean that a consumer would pay an additional 50 cents in sales tax for every \$100 of taxable retail purchases.

- YES
 NO

Foundation sets goal of \$100,000

At the Aug. 22 Centennial event for past and current board members, the RICFB Foundation kicked off the "100K for 100 years" scholarship campaign.

The annual budget for the Foundation is \$22,000. Each year more than 50 percent goes to scholarships, 50 percent goes toward Agriculture in the Classroom and Market Outlook/Education programs. No money is spent on staffing.

We have made it our goal to meet the 100K goal by the start of Jan. 1, 2018. In honor of our 100 years – and with the RICFB Foundation as the vehicle for our scholarship and grant funding expansion for AITC – our RICFB Foundation felt the best way to pave the way for future generations and leave a legacy of what Farm Bureau meant to past members and their support of agriculture was to create the 100K for 100 years scholarship endowment fund.

We are pleased to announce that two long-time members have pledged/donated \$30,000 to start our campaign. It is their wish to remain anonymous and we are honoring that request.