



## Annual RICFB meeting held Aug. 24

The RICFB County Annual Meeting was held Monday, Aug. 24, at the FB office. There was no contested election in Districts 1, 2 and 3. Stan Woodburn retired from the board as District 3 representative. Elected in 2005, Stan has served as vice president for the last two years. Many thanks go out to Stan for his support and involvement on the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Board. Scott Bohnert will replace Stan as the new repre-

sentative for District 3. Scott and his wife, Karen, reside in East Moline near the family dairy farm, Bohnert Jerseys. They are the parents of Tyler, Cassie and Jake. Welcome, Scott! The following board members were re-elected to the board:

■ **District 1:** Bill Onken, Kevin Oak, David Mueller, Phil Fuhr and Brian Brown.  
■ **District 2:** Denny Van Daele, Marty McManus, Bradley Erickson, Andy DeKeyrel, and

Fred Nightingale.

■ **District 3:** Scott Bohnert, Brent Riewerts, Mike Saddoris, Mitch Jurevitz, Drew Hohenboken.

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau board is made up of 15 board members – five farmers representing three districts in Rock Island County. Six board members range in age from 24 to 40, six board members range in age from 41 to 55

and three board members range in age from 56 to 65. This represents a great cross section of our farmer base in Rock Island County.

Following the county annual meeting the board convened its August board meeting. A reorganization of the board followed with the election of officers: President, Marty McManus; Vice President – Brent Riewerts; Secretary – Dennis VanDaele; Treasurer – Fred Nightingale.

### Calendar of Events

#### SEPTEMBER

15	AgXPerience setup all day at Rock Island County Fairgrounds
16-18	AgXPerience 2015 Foundation Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m.
21	RICFB Board Meeting

### Farm Bureau Happenings

The RICFB Foundation sponsored its first college intern this summer. Ellen Whisman, University of Findlay Animal Science Senior, spent June and July developing the activities for the Copeland Center during the Rock Island County Fair, as well as coordinating volunteers for AgXPerience. The office hours and staff transition were a perfect fit for a college intern. The foundation board will review the position and possible internship needs in the future.

### Farmers donate by the bushel

This fall through Jan. 31, farmers throughout the area will donate bushels of grain as a fundraiser for the River Bend Foodbank through the program "Bushels for Hunger." When farmers bring harvested corn and soybeans to nearby grain elevators to be sold or for storage, the elevator clerk will ask if the farmer would like to donate bushels of grain to fight hunger. To learn more about the donation, contact the Henry, Rock Island, Mercer, Stark or Whiteside County Farm Bureau.



## Local celebrities learn from 4-Hers

4-Hers know the lessons learned in the show ring – being part of something bigger than yourself, taking pride in hard work, building endurance as you care for your animals both on the farm and at the fair; early mornings, late nights, the experience being in front of the judges, learning to lead and control an unpredictable animal, and doing your personal best are just a few.

Several local celebrities got to experience those lessons first-hand as they worked with 4-H members to show sheep on Saturday, July 18, at the Rock Island County Fair. 4-H members worked with the celebrities to help them learn the ins and outs of showmanship.

Judge Dayton Coyne said, "This event is about teaching outsiders from ag what we're all about, what the county fair is all about and teaching others what we do and why we do it."

Rock Island County Farm Bureau Manager DeAnne Bloomberg agreed, adding, "There are many lessons to be learned in this process – the interaction between the 4-Hers and the celebrities helps the kids learn how to communicate with adults; the entire process of raising their livestock and taking it to the fair builds their endurance and the fair itself helps to teach everyone the important role livestock plays in county fairs and the state of Illinois."

The Celebrity Showmanship event is planned by the Rock Island County 4-H Teen Federation and sponsored by the Rock Island County Farm Bureau. The 4-H members and celebrities work together to help raise funds for

various charities.

Here is the breakdown of this year's teams:

- 1st:** Bill Michaels – 97X, worked with 4-H member Chloe Bohnsack; won \$350 for Backwater Gamblers
- 2nd:** Jason Foy – RI Police Dept., coached by 4-H member Spencer Griffin; won \$200 for the Brandon M. Ballard Foundation
- 3rd:** Jim Taylor – WRMJ, worked with 4-H member Jacob Bohnsack; won \$100 for the Cole Peterson Recovery Fund
- 4th:** Jake Foy, worked with 4-H members Kameron Bohnsack and Cole Whisman; won \$75 for the Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation
- 5th:** Megan Noe – WQAD, worked with 4-H member Destiny Chard won \$50 for the River Bend Foodbank
- 6th:** Jim Niedelman – Channel 4, coached by 4-H member Owen Bull; won \$50 for the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life of Rock Island County
- 7th:** Roger Ruthhart – Dispatch/Argus, worked with 4-H member Maddy Rowe; won \$50 for the Dispatch Good Fellow Argus Santa Fund
- 8th:** Jonathan Ketz – WQAD, coached by 4-H member Maggie Pape; won \$50 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association

For more information about the Celebrity Showmanship or to help sponsor the 2016 event, contact Chris Zippe, the Rock Island County 4-H Program Coordinator, at [czippe@illinois.edu](mailto:czippe@illinois.edu).

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### Mercer and Rock Island Young Leaders meet with Bustos Aug. 22

From left, Nathan Oak, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, and Nick Erickson and Bradley Erickson talk about issues facing young farmers at The Depot in New Windsor during Rep. Bustos' visit on Saturday, Aug. 22. Prior to the roundtable she toured Young Leader Chad Bell's family farm. Chad and Mercer Rock Island County Young Leader Chair Joe Franks provided a field tour, where they emphasized the ephemeral stream that would be regulated by WOTUS and the unknown regulatory impact on farmers.