

JANUARY 2021

## 2021 policy set at virtual IFB meeting

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Farm Bureau successfully held its 106th Business Meeting in an entirely virtual format to conduct its annual business session and set policy for the upcoming year.

Traditionally, the IFB Annual Meeting is held at the historic Palmer House hotel in Chicago over a four-day period. Thousands of members, farmer delegates, staff members and spouses travel upstate for an extended weekend of policy debate, networking and celebration of the year's successes.

The event was taken entirely virtual – a first for the organization – in 2020.

"Pandemic mitigation measures made it clear early on that we would not be able to hold our annual meeting in the same capacity that our members look forward to," said IFB President Richard Guebert Jr.

"While a live virtual event is not ideal for our business session, this is our best solution during circumstances that limit face-to-face gatherings,

which we know our members prefer."

The meeting kicked off with the President's Address, in which President Guebert acknowledged the accomplishments of the organization during the trying times of the pandemic.

"I'm proud of how Farm Bureau shifted and adjusted to continue serving our members," Guebert said.

Delegates voted on policy submittals virtually this year using an electronic balloting process. This action concluded prior to the start of the Saturday business meeting. Due to the bulk of policy discussion taking place ahead of time, delegates were able to approve policy resolutions during the live business session and present the finalized 2021 policy book.

Voting delegates for the meeting, totaling 336, decided on policy surrounding small business liability, crop protection, requiring notifications from highway authority, and dairy policy. The language

of these approved policies will be forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration during its upcoming annual meeting.

A recommendation for the creation of a Livestock Working Group was also submitted to the IFB board of directors for consideration. This group would focus on recent pricing issues and price disparity seen within the livestock industry this year.

"Each year our policy book receives a full review by our delegates, a process that starts months before the annual meeting," said Executive Director of Governmental Affairs and Commodities Mark Gebhards. "While we were not able to gather in person this year to debate policy changes in-person, we have adapted to make sure our members' voices are still heard."

Approximately 880 IFB members and staff attended the meeting virtually. County awards and several annual awards were suspended this year.

"While I was disappointed we could not meet in person, I'm impressed with how our county Farm Bureaus, delegates, directors and staff responded to make the virtual business session a success," Guebert said.

To finish up the day, delegates confirmed four new members to the IFB board of directors and five incumbent directors.

Don Meyer of Amboy in Lee County will represent District 4, which includes LaSalle, Lee and Bureau counties. Keith Mussman of St. Anne in Kankakee County will represent District 6, which includes Ford-Iroquois, Kankakee and Livingston counties. Richard Carroll of Brimfield in Peoria County will represent District 8, which includes Fulton, Knox, Peoria and Warren-Henderson counties. Larry Dallas of Tuscola in Douglas County will represent District 12, which includes Champaign, Douglas, Edgar and Vermilion counties.

## IFB creates presidential memorial scholarship

Illinois Farm Bureau's rich history includes a list of former presidents that reads like an honor roll of well-known and well-respected individuals. In recognition of the past presidents who shaped and influenced Illinois Farm Bureau, the board of directors, at the suggestion of the IAA Foundation Board of Trustees, recently voted to create the Illinois Farm Bureau Presidential Memorial Scholarship fund.

"As a tribute to all former presidents of this organization, we feel strongly that this scholarship is a meaningful gesture that acknowledges the leadership they provided," said Richard Guebert Jr., president, Illinois Farm Bureau. "It is a genuine privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture-

related fields."

Generally, the award amount will be \$1,000 and presented in honor of all former presidents of IFB. However, in the scholarship program year immediately following the passing of a former IFB president, the award amount will be \$2,500 and presented specifically in that person's memory.

An important consideration for the board was inviting contributions from individuals, organizations, and county Farm Bureaus who wish to pay tribute to a specific leader, or all former presidents. Guebert went on to say, "we feel strongly that this is an initiative that others will choose to support." Gifts to this fund can be accepted at any time on the IAA Foundation website or by contacting the

IAA Foundation.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their proven leadership experience and an emphasis will be placed on their work/internship experience as outlined in their application.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines for the 2021 Scholarship Program is available on the Foundation website, [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org).

**NEW TIMELINE:** The application period opens Jan. 1, 2020, and applications must be completed online by Feb. 15, 2021. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or email Jennifer Smith at [jsmith@ilfb.org](mailto:jsmith@ilfb.org).

### Calendar of Events

#### JANUARY 2021

- 1 Office closed for New Year's Day
- 10-13 AFBF Virtual Conference
- 18 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 31 Bushels for Hunger campaign ends

#### FEBRUARY

- 15 RICFB Board of Directors meeting

#### WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH UPCOMING EVENTS?

Send us your email to [accounts@ricofarmbureau.org](mailto:accounts@ricofarmbureau.org) and like us on Facebook!



### IFB Young Leaders LISTENING SESSION 2021

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

The IFB Mission Statement is  
"To improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life."

Governmental Affairs staff is working on issues important to members at the local, state, and federal levels, and we need to hear from you as young farmers and agriculturalists. Join us to share your thoughts on:

-  Post-Election Opportunities and Concerns
-  The Farm Economy and Pathways to Economic Success for Young Farmers and their Families
-  IFB Policy and Engaging in Policy Development on Issues Important to You

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**  
Virtual Session

Contact your County Farm Bureau to register



## Foundation offers scholarships

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau members, spouses and children are eligible to apply for 77 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$123,000 for the 2021-22 school year.

"We are pleased to recognize students through our growing scholarship program," said Jennifer Smith, development manager, IAA Foundation. "It is a privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture-related fields."

Students may apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships, where winners will each receive \$5,000 awards. Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner. In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of organizations such as Prairie Farms Dairy.

For 2021, the IAA Foundation is honored to administer the newly created Sara C. Andrews Memorial Scholarship and the H.R. Beeson Scholarship.

All applicants must be current high school seniors accepted for enrollment, or students already enrolled, at an accredited



college or university. Scholarships are awarded for exceptional academics, leadership experiences and community involvement. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available on the Foundation website, [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org).

**NEW TIMELINE:** The application opens Jan. 1, 2021, and must be completed online by Feb. 15, 2021.


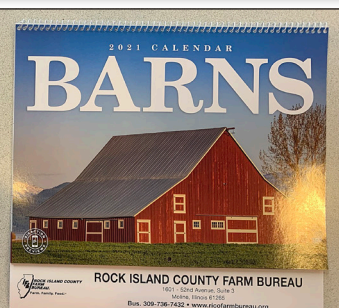
For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or email Jennifer Smith at [jsmith@ilfb.org](mailto:jsmith@ilfb.org).

## RICFB also offering scholarships

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to announce the 2021 scholarship lineup. Available scholarships include RICFB Foundation Scholarship, Keppy Scholarship awarded by the Wilbert and Carol Keppy Charitable Foundation, Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Marilyn Bush family, and the George and Irene Stulz Family Scholarship awarded by the

George and Irene Stulz family. Applicants must be a current member or dependent of a member in good standing of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau since January 2020.

More information and the online application will be available soon at [www.ricofarmbureau.org/scholarships.html](http://www.ricofarmbureau.org/scholarships.html).

**We have**

## 2021 calendars

**in our foyer free to our members!**

Please limit one per member while supplies last.