

OCTOBER 2020



PHOTO BY MICHAEL ZECHER

## Bin safety program successful

The Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureaus partnered with the Illinois Fire Service Institute and Sherrard FFA to host “Farmers and First Responders,” a grain bin safety program on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Sherrard High School. The program included a hands-on, live simulation grain bin entrapment demonstration provided by the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Two sessions were held: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to accommodate all who wanted to attend.

The movie “Silo” was shown digitally on Thursday and Friday evenings before the event.

Farmers and first responders from Rock Island and Mercer counties were invited to attend this free event. Between the two sessions, about 55 people attended.

Representatives from 11 fire departments were present. Attendees heard stories and statistics and learned about different entrapment situations. IFSI trainer Dave Newcomb then led a hands-on demonstration where attendees used a grain rescue tube to rescue a dummy trapped in a bin full of corn. Firefighters also learned proper technique for cutting into a grain bin during a rescue situation.

The program was sponsored by the Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureaus and Country Financial representatives: Brent Bigham, Tracy Bigham, Stacey Brown, Shirley Helmick, Tara Kain, Troy Mayhew, Michael Moorhusen, Chad Nelson, Jason Potter, Bart Reed, Randy Rursch, Steve Sim and John Waugh.

## Basting to lead Market Outlook

Brian Basting, economist with Advance Trading, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, Nov. 12 at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. It is mandatory that you register because group size is limited. Dinner will be served, followed by an update from Gold Star FS Grain Department Manager, Mike Schaver. Reservations must be made by Nov. 5 to guarantee your attendance. Face covering is also required.

Brian Basting was born and raised in Bloomington, Illinois, on a grain and livestock farm. He earned both bachelor and master's degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois. Prior to joining Advance, he worked for a farmer advisory service based in Wisconsin.

He currently is an economist responsible for wheat market fundamentals and domestic grain consumption trends assisting in feed grains and soybean analysis. He assists in the preparation of a weekly fundamental review of commodities for clients and brokers.



Brian Basting

He also writes a weekly summary of fundamental market developments and the importance of implementing disciplined risk management strategies.

Cost for the series is \$85 and a single session is \$30 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$35). To make reservations, please call the Henry County Farm Bureau 309-937-2411, Rock Island County

Farm Bureau 309-736-7432 or Mercer County Farm Bureau 309-582-5116.

Additional dates and speakers for the 2020-2021 series include March 11, Mike McClellan, Mobile Weather; and July 8, Joe Vaclavik, Standard Grain.

The Market Outlook Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees, BankORION, Steve Sim-Country Financial, Gold Star FS, Compeer Financial (Aledo & Geneseo offices), River Valley Cooperative, Wyffels Hybrids, Big River Resources and Central Bank.

Registration for the seminar is mandatory and group size is limited. Call today!

## RICFB director elected

Jeff Yeater was elected as District 2 director at the 105th Annual Meeting of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau. Jeff grew up and still lives and operates his family's farm south of Milan in Rural township. On the 180-acre farm, he raises corn, soybeans, hay, and feeder calves. He mostly does this himself but does have some help from family.

Jeff and his wife Laura have been married for 32 years and have two children. Kyle is a freshman at Black Hawk College starting a study in law enforcement field. He is also on the baseball team for Black Hawk College.

Emily is a senior at Sherrard High

school and is involved with the FFA at school.

Both Laura and Jeff work off the farm.

Laura works for the Dispatch/Argus newspaper. She is the newsroom data administrator assistant.

Jeff works for Martin Sullivan Inc. as a service repair technician, primarily working on John Deere equipment. He has been working in this profession for 32 years. Jeff has been a Rock Island County Farm Bureau member since 1988.

Jeff replaces Bradley Erickson in District 2. Bradley has served as a director since 2012.

“This Constitutional Amendment, or the so-called ‘Fair Tax,’ is bad news for us, the taxpayers. The proponents may claim that most Illinoisans’ taxes will not be changed. But we know better. Until our state’s politicians get their fiscal house in order, costs will continue to grow, and all our taxes will continue to increase. Rather than spend time on policies that raise taxes, Illinois’ politicians should focus on enacting policies that force our government to live within its means, just like all households across the state. They should focus on making life better — not worse — for working people by reducing income taxes, reducing property taxes, adding jobs, and growing our economy.”

— Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebort

**GET OUT  
THE  
VOTE**

We’d like to congratulate  
WRMJ 102.3 on their  
recent IBA Station of  
the Year and Best News  
Reporter Awards! Well  
deserved! And thank you  
for your continued sup-  
port of the Rock Island  
County Farm Bureau!

**We’d like to wish everyone  
a safe and healthy harvest!**

**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!

## Calendar of Events

### OCTOBER 2020

- 1 Bushels for Hunger campaign begins
- 6 Region 1 Managers’ Meeting; Zoom
- 12 Freezer Meal Fundraiser Pick up; RICFB, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 19 RICFB Board of Directors meeting; 7 p.m.

### NOVEMBER 2020

- 3 Election Day
- 5 Region 1 Managers’ Meeting; Zoom
- 5 Market Outlook RSVPs due
- 12 Market Outlook with Brian Basting; 6:15 p.m., Lavender Crest Winery
- 16 RICFB Board of Directors meeting; 7 p.m.
- 26-27 Office closed for Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER 2020

- 5 IAA Annual Meeting – held by district
- 21 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 24-25 Office closed for Christmas
- 31 Office closed for New Year’s Eve

### 11th Annual BUSHELS FOR HUNGER

Grand total  
Since 2010  
**\$238,000**

**October 1, 2020  
– January 31, 2021**

Tell your participating elevator  
that you would like to donate.

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

Proceeds benefit the  
**River Bend Foodbank**

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



## Show your support

Farm Bureau has Vote No on Progressive Income Tax yard signs available for display. If you would like a sign to display in your yard or along a field, please contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau today. Quantities are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.